

EXHIBIT F



Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

P.O. Box 1437, Slot S140 · Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
501-682-8590 · Fax: 501-683-6060



Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Report for Act 131, 2019

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education has reviewed promulgated Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers and Family Homes. Attached is the report. In 2013, Child Care Aware of America released “We Can Do Better”, a report that ranks states on meeting national standards for child care licensing. AR was ranked 41st overall-1st for oversight standards (monitoring of licensed facilities) and 49th for program standards. The reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant which provides state’s federal funding for child care assistance and a focus on improving the quality and professional development in child care and early childhood education added new requirements for licensing. AR receives \$80 million from the Child Care Development Funds. While AR does not exceed the nation in any licensing area, some of the new requirements have positioned the licensing standards to meet federal requirements/national standards.

References:

- Child Care Aware of America-<https://usa.childcareaware.org/>
- National Association of the Education of Young Children-
<https://www.naeyc.org/>
- Caring for Our Children- National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out of Home Child Care Programs-
<https://nrckids.org/CFOC>
- AR Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers -
<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece>

Child Care Centers Oversight Standards

Federal Requirements/National Program Standards	E/M/DNM	Notes
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	M	DCCECE only visits 3x but fire/health is included.
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	DNM	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	M	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	M	

***Exceeds-E, Meets-M, Does Not Meet-DNM**

Child Care Centers Program Standards

Federal Requirements	E/M/DNM	Notes
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	M	Section 100 of AR Minimum Licensing Requirements (MLR)
2. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	M	Section 300/MLR
3. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	M	Section 400/MLR
4. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	M	Section 300 & 1100/MLR
5. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	M	Section 1200/MLR
6. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and given written policies to parents.	M	Section 400/MLR

Exceeds-E, Meets-M, Does Not Meet-DNM

Child Care Centers Program Standards

National Program Standards (Not Federal Requirement)	E/M/DNM	Notes
1. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	Partially M	AR grandfathered in individuals who do not meet this requirement as well as allowing experience to count. Section 300/MLR
2. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	DNM	Section 300/MLR
3. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hour or more of annual training in specific topics.	DNM	Section 300/MLR
4. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	DNM	Section 300/MLR
5. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	DNM	Section 300/MLR

Exceeds-E, Meets-M, Does Not Meet-DNM