

The 2007 Child Care Licensing Study

Alabama State Profile

LICENSING AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES AND LICENSED CAPACITY

Facility Type	Number of Licensed Facilities	Licensed Capacity
Child care centers	1,250	75,000
Small FCC homes	1,041	6,200
Large/group FCC homes	413	4,900
Other types of licensed facilities	0	0
Total	2,704	86,100

NUMBER OF LICENSING SUPERVISORS, STAFF, AND CASELOADS

Total number of full-time equivalent licensing supervisors	4
Total number of full-time equivalent line staff	23
Estimated caseload ratio (i.e., number of facilities per line staff)	54:1

Note: NCCIC/NARA calculated the estimated caseload by dividing the total number of licensed facilities (i.e., centers and FCC homes) by the total number of licensing line staff. The caseload ratio is based on the total number of child care centers. Alabama did not report the number of line staff assigned to inspect FCC homes.

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FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS BY TYPE			
Type	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Prior to issuing a license	✓	✓	✓
• Announced	✓	✓	✓
• Unannounced			
License renewal	✓	✓	✓
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓	✓	✓
Routine compliance	✓	✓	✓
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓	✓	✓
FREQUENCY OF REQUIRED INSPECTION VISITS BY FACILITY TYPE			
Type	Frequency		
Child care centers	Once every 2 years		
Small FCC homes	Once every 2 years		
Large/group FCC homes	Once every 2 years		
FREQUENCY OF LICENSE RENEWAL BY FACILITY TYPE			
Type	Frequency		
Child care centers	Once every 2 years		
Small FCC homes	Once every 2 years		
Large/group FCC homes	Once every 2 years		
REGULATIONS SUMMARY			
Regulations Title			Date
Child care center regulations			
State of Alabama Minimum Standards for Day Care Centers and Nighttime Centers Regulations and Procedures			1/1/2006
Small FCC home regulations			
Alabama Minimum Standards for Family Day Care Homes, Family Nighttime Homes, Group Day Care Homes, and Group Nighttime Homes			12/1/2005

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REGULATIONS SUMMARY, CON.		
Regulations Title	Date	
Large/group FCC home regulations		
Alabama Minimum Standards for Family Day Care Homes, Family Nighttime Homes, Group Day Care Homes, and Group Nighttime Homes	12/1/2005	
<p>Note: NCCIC/NARA used child care licensing regulations that were posted on the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education Web site between January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2007. Regulations titles were also copied directly from this site.</p>		
DEFINITION OF LICENSED FCC HOMES		
Small FCC homes		
Number of children allowed	1–6	
Maximum number of children to 1 provider	6	
Provider’s own children counted	Yes	
Maximum number of infants and toddlers to 1 provider	3 younger than 1 year	
Large/Group FCC homes		
Number of children allowed	7–12	
Ratio of children to 1 provider	7:2	
Provider’s own children counted	Yes	
CHILD-STAFF RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE BY AGE OF CHILDREN FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS		
Age of Children	Child-Staff Ratio	Group Size
6 weeks	5:1	NR
9 months	5:1	NR
18 months	7:1	NR
27 months	8:1	NR
3 years	8:1	NR
4 years	18:1	NR
5 years	21:1	NR
6 years	21:1	NR
7 years	21:1	NR
8–9 years	22:1	NR
10 years and older	22:1	NR

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CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY TYPE			
Type	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Criminal history records	✓	✓	✓
Fingerprints	✓	✓	✓
Child abuse and neglect registry	✓	✓	✓
Sex offender registry			
Signed statement about criminal status	✓	✓	✓

MINIMUM PRESERVICE QUALIFICATIONS AND ONGOING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS		
Role	Minimum Preservice Qualifications	Ongoing Training Hours
Child care center staff		
Director	Clock hours in ECE	24
Master teacher	NR	NR
Teacher	Clock hours in ECE	12
Assistant teacher	At least an 8th grade education	12
Aide	At least an 8th grade education	12
Small FCC home providers		
Provider	Clock hours in ECE	20
Assistant provider	NR	NR
Large/Group FCC home providers		
Provider	Clock hours in ECE	20
Assistant provider	Clock hours in ECE	12

Key:

CCP = Certified Child Care Professional Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association
 CDA = Child Development Associate Credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition
 ECE = Early childhood education
 FCC = Family child care
 GED = General Educational Development Test
 NA = Not applicable/not addressed
 NAC = National Administrators Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association

NARA = National Association for Regulatory Administration
 NC = No category of facility
 NCCIC = National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center
 NL = Not licensed
 NR = Not regulated
 SAC = School-age children