

Director of Licensing Standard of Practice – Family Child Care

This Standard of Practice is made under the authority of section (4) (1) (e) of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, which provides that the Director of Licensing may specify policies and standards of practice for all community care facilities or a class of community care facilities.

1. Family Child Care is the provision of care in a licensee’s personal place of residence, with the licensee personally providing care. It includes opportunities for the social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth of children. The importance of a home-like environment and the provision of family centered activities are emphasized.
2. The licensee must meet the requirements of a “responsible adult” as specified in the Child Care Licensing Regulation.
3. A home-like environment includes, at minimum, a living room, kitchen, bedroom, and a bathroom. It is an expectation that children will have reasonable access to these areas.
4. The size of the area that is designated to be used by the children in care should, at a minimum, meet the basic physical space requirements of group child care (*i.e. 3.7 m² per child of usable floor area, 6m² per child of outdoor play area*)
5. There must be adequate equipment to safely meet the varying developmental needs of the children receiving care.
6. A licensee’s personal residence does not include outbuildings such as a separate mobile home, renovated barn, garage, or other detached physical structure, which may be connected to the principal residence by means of a covered walkway.
7. Family Child Care is not to be located in public buildings such as schools, recreation centers or churches.
8. The maximum number of children to receive care at any given time is seven. For rural and remote areas where no other service is available, and where a greater licensed capacity is required, the operator could apply for a Group Child Care or Multi Age Child Care licence, and concurrently apply for an exemption to staffing requirements. Each application for such an exemption would be considered on its own merits, and must meet the test of no increased risk to health and safety.
9. Multiple service types in a Family Child Care setting are not permitted to run concurrently.