

Quick Facts

VT Child Care Program Regulations

The State of Vermont, in its desire to have every child receive the highest quality child care, has a comprehensive set of regulations. The following are shortened descriptions of some types of care available in Vermont and some differences in the regulations for each type. This is not a full listing of the regulations but, is a list of some which may be of interest to you. .

Types of Child Care

Unregulated care:

A person providing care for children of two or fewer families is exempt from licensure by the State of Vermont. Most summer camps and recreation activities are exempt from licensure. The State of Vermont doesn't regulate any nanny/Au Pair services.

Legally Exempt Child Care

This type of care is provided for the children of two or fewer families which are eligible for child care subsidy. The provider of this care must meet minimal health and safety standards. They are subject to a criminal background check.

Non-recurring care

This care is designed specifically to meet the short-term needs of families arising from tourism, recreation, or shopping, such as the care provided at ski or other recreation areas.

Registered Home Child Care

This child care option takes place in the home of the registrant. This type of provider must have a CPR certification, pass a criminal records background check and receive training each year in the areas of child development and allied subjects. They must meet Vermont's regulations for quality and safety for registered home.

- **Required Staff/Child Ratio**

The caregiver (the registrant) may have up to 6 children under the age of 6 years (2 of the 6 can be under 2 years old). They can also have 4 additional school-age children, before and after school.

Licensed Home Care

An early childhood program licensed for up to 12 children in the residence of the licensee where the licensee is one of the primary caregivers. Must meet Vermont's regulations for quality and safety for licensed home.

- **Required Staff/Child Ratio** - Two staff members must be present when the number of children exceeds 6. No more than 2 children under the age of 24 months per staff person. (Over please)

Licensed Center

This includes part-day and full-day programs, after-school programs, and preschools. Most center-based programs are licensed to care for a larger number of children. The center must meet Vermont's regulations for quality and safety for licensed child care. This type of care does NOT take place in the home of the licensee.

- Required Staff/Child Ratios

Children's Ages	Maximum in Group	Staff to Child
6 weeks - 23 months	8	1:4
24 months - 35 months	10	1:5
3 years - Kindergarten	20	1:10
1 st grade - 15 years	No Maximum	1:13

Guidance and Discipline

All regulated child care providers are expected to use guidance that is appropriate to each child's level of development. They shall use positive methods of guidance & discipline.

Child care providers shall not use any form of inappropriate discipline or corporal punishment, such as, but not limited to: hitting, biting, spanking, withholding necessary food, water, rest or toilet use, inflicting mental or emotional punishment such as humiliating, shaming, threatening or frightening a child.

Concerns

If you have a concern about a provider or questions about regulations you can call the Child Care Consumer Concern Line at 1-800-540-7942 or 802-241-2367.

For more information on child care regulations in the State of Vermont visit <http://www.state.vt.us/srs.childcare/index.htm>