

This is an amendment to 8.16.2 NMAC, Sections 7, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 45 and 46, effective 7/1/2021.

Explanatory statement: ECECD will be issuing emergency rule amendments made pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 14-4-5.6 and effective on July 1, 2021. ECECD is amending this rule in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of children in child care settings and the general public. ECECD is also making these emergency amendments in order to prevent the anticipated loss of federal funding. This temporary emergency process does not permanently amend or repeal the existing rule. The emergency rule will only remain in effect until a permanent rule takes effect under normal rule making process.

8.16.2.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. Terms beginning with the letter “A”:

- (1) **“Abuse”** means any act or failure to act, performed intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, which causes or is likely to cause harm to a child, including:
 - (a) physical contact that harms or is likely to harm a child;
 - (b) inappropriate use of a physical restraint, isolation, medication or other means that harms or is likely to harm a child; and
 - (c) an unlawful act, a threat or menacing conduct directed toward a child that results or might be expected to result in fear or emotional or mental distress to a child.
- (2) **“Activity area”** means space for children’s activities where related equipment and materials are accessible to the children.
- (3) **“Adult”** means a person who has a chronological age of 18 years or older.
- (4) **“AIM HIGH”** is a voluntary quality child care improvement program that is no longer open to new registered or licensed child care programs. Recognition of AIM HIGH will terminate on December 31, 2017.
- (5) **“Assessment of children’s progress”** means children’s progress is assessed informally on a continuous basis using a series of brief anecdotal records (descriptions of the child’s behavior or skills in given situations). Children’s progress also can be assessed formally at least twice a year using a developmental checklist (checklist of behaviors that indicate physical, motor, language, cognitive, social and emotional development/progress).
- (6) **“Attended”** means the physical presence of a staff member or educator supervising children under care. Merely being within eyesight or hearing of the children does not meet the intent of this definition (See Supervision, Paragraph 12 of Subsection S of 8.16.2.7 NMAC).

B. Terms beginning with the letter “B”: [RESERVED]

C. Terms beginning with the letter “C”:

- (1) **“Capacity”** means the maximum number of children a licensed child care facility can care for at any one time.
- (2) **“Child”** means a person who is under the chronological age of 18 years.
- (3) **“Child care center”** means a facility required to be licensed under these regulations that provides care, services, and supervision for less than 24-hours a day to children. A child care center is in a non-residential setting and meets the applicable state and local building and safety codes.
- (4) **“Child with a disability or special needs”** means a child with an identified disability, health, or mental health conditions requiring early intervention, special education services, or other specialized services and support; or children without identified conditions, but requiring specialized services, supports, or monitoring.
- (5) **“Class A deficiency”** means any abuse or neglect of a child by a facility employee or volunteer for which the facility is responsible, which results in death or serious physical or psychological harm; or a violation or group of violations of applicable regulations, which results in death, serious physical harm, or serious psychological harm to a child.
- (6) **“Class B deficiency”** means any abuse or neglect of a child by a facility employee or volunteer for which the facility is responsible; or a violation or group of violations of applicable regulations which present a potential risk of injury or harm to any child.

(7) **“Class C deficiency”** means a violation or group of violations of applicable regulations as cited by surveyors from the licensing authority which have the potential to cause injury or harm to any child if the violation is not corrected.

(8) **“Clean”** means to physically remove all dirt and contamination.

(9) **“Conditions of operation”** means a written plan that applies to a licensed facility and is developed by the licensing authority when the licensing authority determines that provisions within these regulations have been violated. The plan addresses corrective actions that the licensee must take within a specified timeframe in order to come into compliance with licensing requirements. During this timeframe the licensing authority may increase its level of monitoring.

(10) **“Core hours”** means the daily hours of operation of the child care facility.

(11) **“Corrective action plan”** means the plan submitted by the licensee addressing how and when identified deficiencies will be corrected.

(12) **“Curriculum”** is what happens every day in the classroom and on the playground. It includes every aspect of the daily program. Curriculum derives from the program’s mission statement, philosophy (which, in turn, is based on assumptions about young children’s development and learning), and program goals and objectives. It includes how materials and equipment are used, activities that children and adults participate in, and interactions among children and between children and adults.

D. Terms beginning with the letter “D”:

(1) **“Deficiency”** means a violation of these regulations.

(2) **“Direct provider of care”** means any individual who, as a result of employment or contractual service or volunteer service has direct care responsibilities or potential unsupervised physical access to any care recipient in the settings to which these regulations apply.

(3) **“Director”** means the person in charge of the day-to-day operation and program of a child care center.

(4) **“Disinfect”** means to destroy or inactivate most germs on any inanimate object, but not bacterial spores. Mix four tablespoons of bleach with one gallon of cool water or use an environmental protection agency (EPA) registered disinfectant.

(5) **“Drop-in”** means a child who attends a child care facility on an occasional or unscheduled basis.

E. Terms beginning with the letter “E”:

(1) **“Educator”** means an adult who directly cares for, serves, and supervises children in a licensed child care facility. Educators are considered staff members.

(2) **“Environment”** means that the environment meets all required local, state, and federal regulations. It includes space (both indoors and outdoors) with appropriate equipment and materials that encourage children to engage in hands-on learning.

(3) **“Exploitation”** of a child consists of the act or process, performed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, of using a child’s property for another person’s profit, advantage or benefit without legal entitlement to do so.

(4) **“Expulsion”** means the involuntary termination of the enrollment of a child or family.

F. Terms beginning with the letter “F”:

(1) **“Facility”** means any premises licensed under these regulations where children receive care, services, and supervision. A facility can be a center, home, program, or other site where children receive childcare.

(2) **“Family child care home”** means a private dwelling required to be licensed under these regulations that provides care, services and supervision for a period of less than 24 hours of any day for no more than six children. The licensee will reside in the home and be the primary educator.

(3) **“FOCUS”** is a voluntary tiered quality rating and improvement program that is open to all registered and licensed child care programs.

G. Terms beginning with the letter “G”:

(1) **“Group child care home”** means a home required to be licensed pursuant to these regulations, which provides care, services, and supervision for at least seven but not more than 12 children. The licensee will reside in the home and be the primary educator.

(2) **“Group size”** is the number of children assigned to an educator or team of educators occupying an individual classroom or well-defined space within a larger room.

(3) **“Guidance”** means fostering a child’s ability to become self-disciplined. Guidance shall be consistent and developmentally appropriate.

H. Terms beginning with the letter “H”:

(1) **“Home”** means a private residence and its premises licensed under these regulations where children receive care, services, and supervision. The licensee will reside in the home and be the primary educator.

(2) **“Homeless children and youth”** means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which includes:

(a) Children and youth who are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (excludes mobile homes), or camping ground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(b) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

(c) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(d) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in Paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection.

I. Terms beginning with the letter “I”: “Infant” means a child age six weeks to 12 months.

J. Terms beginning with the letter “J”: [RESERVED]

K. Terms beginning with the letter “K”: [RESERVED]

L. Terms beginning with the letter “L”:

(1) **“License”** means a document issued by CYFD to a child care facility licensed and governed by these regulations and granting the legal right to operate for a specified period of time, not to exceed one year.

(2) **“Licensee”** means the person(s) who, or organization which, has ownership, leasehold, or similar interest in the child care facility and in whose name the license for the child care facility has been issued and who is legally responsible for compliance with these regulations.

(3) **“Licensing authority”** means the child care services bureau - licensing section of the early childhood services division of the New Mexico children, youth and families department which has been granted the responsibility for the administration and enforcement of these regulations by authority of Children, Youth and Families Department Act, Section 9-2A-1 to 9-2A-16 NMSA 1978, as amended.

M. Terms beginning with the letter “M”:

(1) **“Mission statement”** describes what the program aspires to do and whom the program aspires to serve.

(2) **“Media”** means the use of televisions, video games, and non-educational on-line streaming such as video and social media.

N. Terms beginning with the letter “N”:

(1) **“National accreditation status”** means the achievement and maintenance of accreditation status by an accrediting body that has been approved by CYFD. CYFD determines the program criteria and standards to evaluate and approve accrediting bodies.

(a) The following are the only national accrediting bodies that are approved by CYFD:

(i) the association of Christian schools international (ACSI);
(ii) the council on accreditation (COA) for early childhood education and after school programs;

(iii) the international Christian accrediting association (ICAA);
(iv) the national accreditation commission for early care and education programs (NAC);

(v) the national association for the education of young children (NAEYC) academy for early childhood program accreditation;

(vi) the national association of family child care (NAFCC); or
(vii) the national early childhood program accreditation (NECPA).

(b) Effective July 15, 2014 accrediting bodies that have been previously approved by CYFD that are not on the above list will no longer be CYFD approved national accrediting bodies.

(2) **“Night care”** means the care, services and supervision provided by a licensed child care facility to children between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

(3) **“Neglect”** means the failure to provide the common necessities including but not limited to: food, shelter, a safe environment, education, emotional well-being and healthcare that may result in harm to the child.

(4) **“Notice of provisional employment”** means a written notice issued to a child care center or home applicant indicating the Background Check Unit reviewed the applicant’s fingerprint based federal or New Mexico criminal record and made a determination that the applicant may begin employment under direct physical supervision until receiving background eligibility. A notice may also indicate the applicant must receive a complete background eligibility prior to beginning employment.

(5) **“Notifiable diseases”** means confirmed or suspected diseases/conditions as itemized by the New Mexico department of health which require immediate reporting to the office of epidemiology which include but are not limited to: measles, pertussis, food borne illness, hepatitis and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

O. Terms beginning with the letter “O”:

(1) **“Orientation”** means a process by which the employer informs each new employee, volunteer and substitute, in advance of assuming their duties, of the mission, philosophy, policies, and procedures of the program, including clear direction about performance expectations.

(2) **“Out of school time program”** means a school age program at a specific site, usually a school or community center, offering on a consistent basis a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are both educational and recreational.

P. Terms beginning with the letter “P”:

(1) **“Parent handbook”** is a written communication tool that provides valuable information to families of the children the program serves. It includes all matters of relevance to family members regarding the program and is updated annually, or as needed.

(2) **“Pest”** means any living organism declared a pest pursuant to the Pesticide Control Act.

(3) **“Pesticide”** means any chemical substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest.

(4) **“Philosophy statement”** describes how the program’s mission will be carried out. It reflects the values, beliefs, and convictions of the program about how young children learn and describes the components of the program that contribute to that learning. It provides the program’s perspective on early care and education and the nature of how children learn. The program’s philosophy is implemented through the curriculum.

(5) **“Policy”** is a written directive that guides decision-making. Policies form the basis for authoritative action.

(6) **“Premises”** means all parts of the buildings, grounds, and equipment of a child care facility licensed pursuant to these regulations.

(7) **“Procedure”** is a series of steps to be followed, usually in a specific order, to implement policies.

(8) **“Professional development”** is an on-going plan for continued professional development for each educator, including the director.

(9) **“Program administrator”** means the person responsible for planning or implementing the care of children in the program. This includes but is not limited to making contact with parents, keeping appropriate records, observing and evaluating the child’s development, supervising staff members and volunteers, and working cooperatively with the site director and other staff members toward achieving program goals and objectives. This definition applies to out of school time programs only.

(10) **“Punishment”** means the touching of a child’s body with the intent of inducing pain. This includes but is not limited to pinching, shaking, spanking, hair or ear pulling. It also includes any action which is intended to induce fear, shame or other emotional discomfort.

Q. Terms beginning with the letter “Q”: [RESERVED]

R. Terms beginning with the letter “R”:

(1) **“Ratio”** is the maximum number of children one educator can be responsible for.

(2) **“Requirements”** means the criteria and regulations developed by children, youth and families department in 8.16.2 NMAC; to set minimum standards of care, education and safety for the protection and enhancement of the well-being of children receiving care, services or supervision.

(3) **“Restriction”** means to control enrollment, service type, capacity, activities, or hours of operation.

(4) **“Revocation”** means the act of making a license null and void through its cancellation.

S. Terms beginning with the letter “S”:

- (1) **“Sanction”** means a measure imposed by the licensing authority for a violation(s) of these standards.
- (2) **“Sanitize”** means to reduce germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations. Mix one and one half teaspoons of bleach with one gallon of cool water or use an EPA registered sanitizer.
- (3) **“Serious injury”** means the death of a child or accident, illness, or injury that requires treatment by a medical professional or hospitalization.
- (4) **“School-age”** means a child in care who is age five to 18 years.
- (5) **“Staff evaluation”** means that each staff member is evaluated by the director, using criteria from the individual’s job description. The individual being evaluated knows ahead of time the criteria and procedures (which may include self-evaluation) for which they are being evaluated. The director discusses evaluation results with each staff member, and results are considered when determining salary increments and are incorporated into the individual’s professional development plan.
- (6) **“Staff member”** means any person, including educators, who are employed by the licensee and who are present at any time when children are present.
- (7) **“Substitute”** means an adult who directly cares for, serves, and supervises children in a licensed child care facility, who works in place of the regular educator, and who works less than an average of 40 hours per month in a six month period.
- (8) **“Suspension”** means a temporary cancellation of a license pending an appeal hearing or correction of deficiencies.
- (9) **“Site director”** means the person at the site having responsibility for program administration and supervision of an out of school time program. This definition applies to out of school time programs only.
- (10) **“Star level”** means a license indicating the level of quality of an early childhood program. A greater number of stars indicates a higher level of quality.
- (11) **“Substantiated complaint”** means a complaint determined to be factual, based on an investigation of events.
- (12) **“Supervision”** means the direct observation and guidance of children at all times and requires being physically present with them. The only exception is school-age children who will have privacy in the use of bathrooms.
- (13) **“Survey”** means a representative of the licensing authority enters a child care facility, observes activity, examines the records and premises, interviews parents and staff members and records deficiencies.
- T. Terms beginning with the letter “T”:** **“Toddler”** means a child age 12 months to 24 months.
- U. Terms beginning with the letter “U”:**
- (1) **“U/L”** means the underwriters laboratory, which is a standards organization which tests electrical and gas appliances for safety.
- (2) **“Unattended”** means an educator is not physically present with a child or children under care.
- (3) **“Unsubstantiated complaint”** means a complaint not determined to be factual based on an investigation of events.
- V. Terms beginning with the letter “V”:** **[RESERVED]**
- (1) **“Variance”** means an allowance granted by the licensing authority to permit non-compliance with a specified regulation for the period of licensure. The granting of variances is at the sole discretion of the licensing authority.
- (2) **“Volunteer”** means any person who is not employed by the child care facility, spends six hours or less per week at the facility, is under direct physical supervision and is not counted in the facility ratio. Anyone not fitting this description must meet all requirements for staff members or educator.
- W. Terms beginning with the letter “W”:** **“Waiver”** means an allowance granted by the licensing authority to permit non-compliance with a specified regulation for a specified, limited period of time. The granting of waivers is at the sole discretion of the licensing authority.

[8.16.2.7 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.7 NMAC, 10/1/2016, A, 10/1/2019; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.23 PERSONNEL AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS:

A. PERSONNEL AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) An employer will not allow any employee involved in an incident which would disqualify that employee under the department's most current version of the background check and employment history verification provisions pursuant to 8.8.3 NMAC to continue to work directly or unsupervised with children.

(2) All educators will demonstrate the ability to perform essential job functions that reasonably ensure the health, safety and welfare of children in care.

(3) Educators who work directly with children and who are counted in the staff/child ratios must be 18 years of age or older.

(4) Clerical, cooking and maintenance personnel who also care for children and are included in the staff/child ratio will have a designated schedule showing their normal hours in each role. Educators counted in the staff/child ratios will not have as their primary responsibility cooking, clerical or cleaning duties while caring for children.

(5) Volunteers shall not be counted in the staff/child ratios or left alone with children unless they meet all requirements for an educator.

(6) Substitutes and part-time educators counted in the staff/child ratios will meet the same requirement as regular educators except for training requirements, professional development plan and evaluations. Substitutes, volunteers, and educators routinely employed in a center but working 20 hours or fewer a week, will complete half the required training hours. Such employees working more than 20 hours a week will meet full training requirements and have professional development plans and evaluations. See Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of 8.16.2.23 NMAC for additional training requirements.

(7) A director is responsible for one center only. Directors who are responsible for more than one center on the date these regulations are promulgated shall continue in that capacity. The director or co-director must be on the site of the center for a minimum of fifty percent of the center's core hours of operation. See Paragraph (2) of Subsection F of 8.16.2.22 NMAC.

(8) During any absence, the director will assign a person to be in charge and will post a notice stating the assignment.

(9) A program will maintain staff/child ratios and group sizes at all times. Children must never be left unattended whether inside or outside the facility. Staff will be onsite, available and responsive to children during all hours of operation.

(10) A center will have a minimum of two staff members present at all times, with one being an educator. If the center has fewer than seven children, the second staff member may conduct other activities such as cooking, cleaning, or bookkeeping.

(11) A center will keep a list of at least two people who can substitute for any staff member. The list will include the people's names, telephone numbers, background check, health certificates and record of orientation.

(12) Each room of the center and its premises shall be inspected at closing time on a daily basis to assure the center is secure, free of hazards, and that no child has been left unattended.

B. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING:

(1) DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS:

(a) Unless exempted under Subparagraph (b) below, a child care center will have a director who is at least 21 years old and meets the requirements outlined in the table below.

Professional Preparation			Experience
Program Administration The first of three AA-level Early Childhood Program Administration courses in the Early Childhood Program Administration career pathway: <i>Program Management 1</i> Or The National Administrator Credential (NAC)*	and	Child Development/Early Childhood Education <i>Child Growth, Development and Learning</i> (one of the AA-level "common core courses")**	
The Provisional AA-Level NM Early Childhood Program Administration Certificate (All three AA-level Early Childhood Program Administration Courses and Practicum: <i>Program Management 1, Effective Program Development for Diverse Learners and Their Families & Practicum, Professional Relationships & Practicum</i>)			Two-years experience in an early childhood growth and development setting

The New Mexico Child Development Certificate (CDC) (Includes the following four courses as well as additional non-coursework requirements: <i>Child Growth, Development and Learning; Health, Safety and Nutrition; Family and Community Collaboration; and Assessment of Children and Evaluation of Programs</i>)		
The Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate		
The Child Care Professional (CCP) certificate		
The New Mexico Early Childhood Program Administration Certificate		
Montessori Teacher Certification		
The New Mexico One-Year Vocational Certificate		
Associate of Arts (AA) or Applied Sciences (AA or AAS) in child development or early childhood education		
Or		
A bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field. Related fields include: early childhood special education, family studies, family and consumer sciences, elementary education with early childhood endorsement or other degree with successful completion of courses in early childhood.	and	One year of experience in an early childhood growth and development setting

*The NAC and two years of experience in an early childhood growth and development setting will be accepted as sufficient qualification for a director under the following conditions: a) The NAC was received prior to November 30, 2012 and b) the NAC has been maintained and has not expired subsequent to November 30, 2012.

**Directors shall be given until the end of the first full academic semester following their start date to successfully complete this course.

(b) Current directors in a licensed center not qualified under these regulations will continue to qualify as directors as long as they continuously work as a director. Current directors having a break in employment of more than one year must meet the requirements as specified in Subparagraph (a) above.

(2) TRAINING:

(a) The director will develop and document an orientation and training plan for new staff members and volunteers and will provide information on training opportunities. The director will have on file a signed acknowledgment of completion of orientation by employees, volunteers and substitutes as well as the director. New staff members will participate in an orientation before working with children. Initial orientation will include training on the following:

- (i) scope of services, activities, and the program offered by the center;
- (ii) emergency first aid procedures, recognition of childhood illness and indicators of child abuse;
- (iii) fire prevention measures, emergency evacuation plans and disaster preparedness plans;
- (iv) review of licensing regulations;
- (v) policies regarding guidance, child abuse and neglect reporting, and handling of complaints;
- (vi) review of written policies and procedures as defined in Subsection C of 8.16.2.22 NMAC;
- (vii) center/parental agreement;
- (viii) sanitation procedure;
- (ix) written goals of the program;
- (x) personnel handbook;
- (xi) parent handbook;
- (xii) names and ages of children;
- (xiii) names of parents;
- (xiv) tour of the facility; and
- (xv) introduction to other staff and parents.

(b) All new educators regardless of the number of hours per week will complete the following training within three months of their date of hire. All current educators will have three months to comply with the following training from the date these regulations are promulgated:

- (i) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization);
- (ii) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices;

consent;

(iii) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent;

(iv) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food or other allergic reactions;

(v) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;

(vi) prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma;

(vii) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from natural or man-caused disasters;

(viii) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants;

(ix) precautions in transporting children (if applicable);

(x) first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) [~~certification~~]

awareness with a pediatric component; and

(xi) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

(c) New staff members working directly with children regardless of the number of hours per week will complete the 45-hour entry level course or approved three-credit early care and education course or an equivalent approved by the department prior to or within six months of employment. Substitutes are exempt from this requirement.

(d) Each staff person working directly with children and more than 20 hours per week, including the director, is required to obtain at least 24 hours of training each year. For this purpose, a year begins and ends at the anniversary date of employment. Training must address all seven competency areas within two years. The competency areas are [~~4~~]

- (i) child growth, development, and learning; [~~2~~]
- (ii) health, safety, nutrition, and infection control; [~~3~~]
- (iii) family and community collaboration; [~~4~~]
- (iv) developmentally appropriate content; [~~5~~]
- (v) learning environment and curriculum implementation; [~~6~~]
- (vi) assessment of children and programs; and [~~7~~]
- (vii) professionalism.

(e) Training must be provided by individuals who are registered on the New Mexico trainer registry.

(f) Training provided by center employees and directors shall count for no more than half of the required 24 hours of training each year.

(g) On-line training courses shall count for no more than 16 hours each year. If the 45-hour entry level course or its equivalent is taken online, it is exempt from the online training limitation.

(h) Online first aid and CPR training will not be approved, unless there is a hands-on component included. In-person requirements may be waived in case of an emergency.

(i) Identical trainings shall not be repeated for the purpose of obtaining credit.

(j) Directors may count hours in personnel and business training toward the training requirement.

(k) Infant and toddler educators must have at least four hours of training in infant and toddler care annually and within six months of starting work. The four hours will count toward the 24-hour requirement.

(l) A center will keep a training log on file with the employee's name, date of hire, and position. The log must include date of training, clock hours, competency area, source of training, and training certificate.

(m) A college credit hour in a field relevant to the competency areas listed above will be considered equivalent to a minimum of 15 clock hours. Basic level pre-requisites, such as math and English courses, leading to a degree in early childhood development will be considered equivalent to a minimum of 15 clock hours per credit hour.

(n) See Paragraph (6) of Subsection A of 8.16.2.23 NMAC for requirements for centers that operate less than 20 hours per week.

C. STAFF/CHILD RATIOS AND GROUP SIZES:

(1) Ratios and group sizes shall be observed as outlined in the tables below:

Centers where children are grouped by age

Age Group	Adult to child ratio	Maximum group size
infants	1:6 or fraction of group thereof	12*
toddlers	1:6 or fraction of group thereof	12*
two years	1:10 or fraction of group thereof	20
three years	1:12 or fraction of group thereof	24
four years	1:12 or fraction of group thereof	24
five years	1:15 or fraction of group thereof	30
six years and older	1:15 or fraction of group thereof	30

Centers Where Age Groups Are Combined		
Age Group	Adult to child ratio	Maximum group size
six weeks through 24 months	1:6 or fraction of group thereof	12*
two through four years	1:12 or fraction of group thereof	24
three through five years	1:14 or fraction of group thereof	28
six years and older	1:15 or fraction of group thereof	30
18 to 24 months with children ages 24 through 35 months	1:6 or fraction of group thereof	12*

*Providers whose group size exceeds the maximum group size for infants and toddlers indicated above prior to the date these regulations are promulgated shall continue with their current group size as long as ratios are maintained at all times. Providers whose group size meets the maximum group size for infants and toddlers indicated above prior to the date these regulations are promulgated must continue to meet the maximum group size. All new licensed providers and those requesting an infant or toddler capacity change after the date these regulations are promulgated must meet the maximum group size as indicated above.

(2) The number of children who may be in a group and the number of caregivers is specified in Paragraph (1) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.23 NMAC. More than one group of children may occupy a room, provided the following conditions are met:

(a) the room is divided so that different activity/interest areas are well-defined (i.e. creative art, dramatic play, books, manipulatives, blocks, science, and math);

(b) each activity/interest area will have a posted capacity, which may vary according to the activity and size of the space, and will not exceed the group size requirement as specified in Paragraph (1) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.23 NMAC;

(c) placement of cabinets, tables, carpeting, room-dividers, or shelving clearly define the different activity/interest areas;

(d) individual children may freely move from one activity/interest area at their own pace as long as the capacity of any individual interest area is not exceeded;

(e) a single educator is responsible for supervising up to the number of children allowed in the adult to child ratio age grouping specified in Paragraph (1) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.23 NMAC in one or more interest area as long as every child is in direct eyesight of the educator; and

(f) the total number of children in a larger room must not exceed the room capacity based on activity space. For example, if a three to five year old classroom has a capacity of 40, and the maximum group size is 28, the room must be divided by at least two well-defined spaces that include various activity/interest areas and be supervised by at least three educators, who are spread out so that every child is "attended."

(3) Child care facilities not meeting the requirements as specified in Paragraphs (1) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.23 NMAC, must be able to clearly demonstrate the intent of group sizing through written procedures that must be approved by CYFD. The written procedures will address the following:

(a) maintenance of adult to child ratio within the group size in Paragraph (1) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.23 NMAC to facilitate adult to child interaction and constructive activity among children;

(b) assignment of a group of children to an educator or team of educators; and

(c) demonstrate how the educators will meet the needs of all children in the assigned classroom and account for all children at all times.

(4) A center will schedule staff to minimize the number of primary educators a child has during the day and the week. A child will have no more than three primary, consecutive educators in any day including educators in the early morning and late afternoon. Each child must have an educator who is aware of details of the child's habits, interests, and any special concerns.

(5) The same educator who cares for the children under age two years will supervise those children when they play with children over two years.

[8.16.2.23 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.23 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.24 SERVICES AND CARE OF CHILDREN IN CENTERS:

A. GUIDANCE:

(1) A center will have written policies and procedures clearly outlining guidance practices. Centers will give this information to all parents and staff who will sign a form to acknowledge that they have read and understand these policies and procedures.

(2) Guidance will be consistent and age appropriate.

(3) Guidance shall be positive and include redirection and clear limits that encourage the child's ability to become self-disciplined. The use of physical or mechanical restraints is prohibited unless due to documented emergencies or medically documented necessity.

(4) A center will not use the following disciplinary practices:

(a) physical punishment of any type, including shaking, biting, hitting, pinching or putting anything on or in a child's mouth;

(b) withdrawal of food, rest, bathroom access, or outdoor activities;

(c) abusive or profane language, including yelling;

(d) any form of public or private humiliation, including threats of physical punishment; or

(e) unsupervised separation.

B. NAPS OR REST PERIOD: A center will provide physical care appropriate to each child's developmental needs that will include a supervised rest period.

(1) Children under the age of six years in the centers for more than five hours will have a rest period.

(2) A center will allow children who do not sleep to get up and participate in quiet activities that do not disturb the other children.

(3) Cribs, cots or mats shall be spaced at least 30 inches apart to permit easy access by adults to each child. If the room used for sleeping cannot accommodate 30 inches of spacing between children, educators shall space children as far as possible from one another. There must be enough room to permit easy access to all children without moving cribs, cots or mats.

(4) Each child will have an individual bed, cot, or mat clearly labeled to ensure each child uses the same items between washing.

(5) Cots or mats will have a nonabsorbent, cleanable surface. Mats will be at least three-fourths of an inch thick. Mats and cots shall be cleaned and ~~[linens will]~~ sanitized after each use regardless of the same child using the mat or cot. Linens may be used multiple times over the course of a week but must be laundered before being used by another child.

(6) Educators shall ensure that nothing covers the face or head of a child aged 12 months or younger when the child is laid down to sleep and while the child is sleeping. Educators shall not place anything over the head or face of a child over 12 months of age when the child is laid down to sleep and while the child is sleeping.

(7) Children with disabilities or medical conditions that require unusual sleeping arrangements will have written authorization from a parent or physician justifying the sleeping arrangement.

(8) Staff must be physically available to sleeping children at all times. Children must not be isolated for sleeping or napping in an un-illuminated room unless attended by an educator.

(9) Illumination equivalent to that cast by a soft night light shall be operational in areas that are occupied by children who are napping or sleeping.

(10) Staff/child ratios and group sizes shall be maintained at naptime.

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

(1) The center will provide a crib for each infant and, when appropriate, for a toddler.

(2) Cribs will meet federal standards and be kept in good repair. The center will not use plastic bags or lightweight plastic sheeting to cover a mattress and will not use pillows in cribs. Stacking cribs is prohibited.

(3) No child will be allowed to sleep in a playpen, car seat, stroller or swings.

(4) Children under the age of 12 months shall be placed on their backs when sleeping unless otherwise authorized in writing by a physician.

(5) Toys that are mouthed by infants and toddlers will be cleaned after mouthing by one child before other children do the same.

(6) A center will not admit any child under the age of six weeks except with the written approval of a licensed physician.

(7) A center will care for children under age two years in rooms separate from those used by older children. Children age six weeks to 12 months may be in the same room with children age 13 to 24 months, when they are physically separated from the older children. A center may group toddlers ages 18 to 24 months with children ages 24 through 35 months.

(8) Throughout the day, an educator will give each infant and toddler physical contact and attention. A caregiver will hold, talk to, sing to and take inside and outside walks with the child. A caregiver will respond immediately to all cries of infants and to the cries of all children within two minutes.

(9) An educator will use routine activities such as nap time, feeding, diapering and toileting as opportunities for language development and other learning.

(10) Infants shall not be allowed to be confined to one area for prolonged periods of time unless the infant is content and responsive.

(11) Each infant shall be allowed to form and observe his/her own pattern of feeding, sleeping and waking periods.

(12) A center will arrange the sleeping and play areas so that children in the play area do not disturb sleeping children.

(13) Infants shall either be held or fed sitting up for bottle-feeding. Infants unable to sit shall always be held for bottle-feeding. Infants and toddlers shall not be placed in a laying position while drinking bottles or sippy cups. The carrying of bottles and sippy cups by young children throughout the day or night shall not be permitted.

(14) Foods served will meet the nutritional needs of the infant or toddler. Foods will be developmentally appropriate for each infant served.

(15) A center shall provide an evacuation crib.

D. DIAPERING AND TOILETING:

(1) An educator will plan toilet training with a parent so the toilet routine is consistent. A center will not attempt to toilet train a child who is not developmentally ready.

(2) A center will change wet and soiled diapers and clothing promptly. Staff members will wear non-porous, single-use gloves when changing a diaper and wash their hands after changing a diaper. Food service gloves are not permissible for diaper changing.

(3) A center will have a change of clothes on hand, including dry, clean clothing and diapers sufficient to meet the needs of each child. A center will label diapers and diapering supplies for each child and store them properly. Diaper bags will be inaccessible to children. Soiled diapers will be stored in a secure container with a tight-fitting lid to assure proper hygiene and control of odors.

(4) An educator will change a child's diaper on a clean, safe, waterproof surface and discard any disposable cover and disinfect the surface after each diaper change.

E. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

(1) Child care facilities are responsible for staff awareness of community resources for families of children with disabilities, including children under the age of five years as well as those of school age. If center staff believe that a child may have a delay or disability, possible resources for referral and assistance are provided to parents when appropriate. No referral for special needs services to an outside agency will be made without a parent's consent. Family Education Right and Privacy Act (FERPA) will be respected at all times.

(2) Child care facilities are responsible for staff awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it relates to enrolling and caring for children with disabilities.

F. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NIGHT CARE:

(1) A center that provides night care will have 50 square feet of activity area per child for night care.

(2) Staff will be awake and immediately available to children who need attention during the night.

(3) The beds and cots provided for children shall be completely furnished with mattress, waterproof mattress protectors, sheets under and over the child, blanket, pillow and pillowcase.

(4) Linens shall be changed immediately in case of soiling.

(5) The same menu shall not be used for lunch and supper.

G. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:

(1) Environment shall be organized into age appropriate functional identifiable learning areas. If any of the selected learning areas are not represented at a given time, the areas shall be rotated to provide children with the opportunity to gain skills supported by a variety of learning experiences. The areas may include:

(a) dramatic play;

(b) creative art;

(c) books;

(d) blocks and accessories;

(e) manipulatives;

(f) music;

(g) science;

(h) math/number; and

(i) sensory.

(2) Each center is clearly defined, using shelves and furniture.

(3) Adults can visually supervise all centers at all times.

(4) The capacity of each room will be posted in an area of the room that is readily visible to parents, staff members and visitors.

(5) Learning areas have adequate space and noisy and quiet areas are arranged so that children's activities can be sustained without interruption.

(6) Materials are well cared for and organized by type. Where appropriate, materials are labeled with words or pictures. Adaptations to materials are made when needed to accommodate various abilities of all children. Unused materials are stored in inaccessible storage.

(7) Examples of children's individually expressed artwork are displayed in the environment at the children's eye level.

(8) Floor surface is suitable for activities that will occur in each learning area.

(9) File and storage space is available for educators' materials.

H. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT:

(1) Educators remain calm in stressful situations.

(2) Educators are actively engaged with children. Educators talk, actively listen and respond to children appropriately by responding to children's questions and acknowledging their comments, concerns, emotions and feelings.

(3) Educators help children communicate their feelings by providing them with language to express themselves.

(4) Educators model appropriate social behaviors, interactions and empathy. Educators respond to children that are angry, hurt, or sad in a caring and sensitive manner. Educators make appropriate physical contact to comfort children who are distressed.

I. EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAM:

(1) Toys and equipment must be safe, durable, and easy to clean, non-toxic and sanitized daily. Toys will be disinfected, at a minimum of, once per week. Frequency of disinfection of toys must be increased in the event of a communicable disease, following appropriate guidance.

(2) A center will not use accordion-style baby gates.

(3) A child care center will provide activities that encourage children to be actively involved in the learning process and to experience a variety of developmentally appropriate activities and materials.

(4) A center will provide sufficient equipment, materials, and furnishings for both indoor and outdoor activities so that at any one time, each child can be individually involved.

(5) Each child at a center will have a designated space for storage of clothing and personal belongings.

(6) A center will store equipment and materials for children's use within easy reach of the children, including those with disabilities. A center will store the equipment and materials in an orderly manner so children can select and replace the materials by themselves or with minimal assistance.

(7) A center will provide children with toys and other materials that are safe and encourage the child's creativity, social interaction, and a balance of individual and group play.

(8) A center will post a daily activity schedule. A center will follow a consistent pattern for routine activities such as meals, snacks and rest.

(9) Media viewing will not be permitted for children under two years of age. ~~Media~~ Non-educational viewing for children two years and older will be limited to six hours per month, but not to exceed one full length film in one day. Programs, movies, music and music programs shall be age appropriate and shall not contain adult content. Media viewing includes all of the above as well as computers, tablets, phones, smart devices and screen-based learning equipment. An exception is media that is used for curriculum-based purposes or led by an educator.

(10) Children and family members shall be acknowledged upon arrival and departure.

(11) Full-time children shall have a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity daily, preferably outside. Part-time children shall have a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity daily, preferably outside.

(12) Equipment and program requirements apply during all hours of operation of the licensed facility.

J. OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS:

(1) Outdoor play equipment used in child care centers shall be:

(a) intended for public (non-residential) use and installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

(b) if intended for residential use, shall be safe and securely anchored.

(2) A center will enclose the outdoor play area with a fence at least four feet high and with at least one latched gate available for an emergency exit.

(3) A center will place sufficient energy absorbing surfaces beneath climbing structures, swings, and slides (as determined by Subsection P of 8.16.2.8 NMAC).

Critical Heights of Playground Equipment for Various Types and Depths of Resilient Surfaces Based on Information from the U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC Publication No. 325), Handbook for Public Playground Safety. When no requirement is provided for a specific height of equipment, we have used the requirement for the next higher height, so requirements are conservative, erring on the side of safety.						
Equipment Height	Wood Chips	Double Shredded Bark	Uniform Wood Chips	Fine Sand	Coarse Sand	Fine Gravel
Uncompressed Depths of Materials In Fall Zone						
Five feet or less	5 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches
Six feet	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	12 inches	12 inches	6 inches
Seven feet	6 inches	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	9 inches
Eight feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	12 inches	12 inches
Nine Feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	N/A	12 inches
Ten Feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	N/A	N/A	12 inches
For poured or installed foam or rubber surfaces, the materials must meet the ASTM F1292 requirements with written verification from the manufacturer.						

(4) Playground equipment shall be inspected and inspections documented weekly.

(5) An outdoor play area for children under age two years will have an area protected from the general traffic where the children can crawl in safety.

(6) The use of a trampoline is prohibited at any time during the hours of operation or by any children receiving care at the facility.

(7) Children shall be protected from the sun during outdoor play, as instructed by the child's parent or guardian.

K. SWIMMING, WADING AND WATER:

(1) Each child will have written permission from a parent or guardian before the child enters the pool.

(2) If a center has a portable wading pool:

(a) a center will drain and fill the wading pool with fresh water daily and disinfect pool before and after each use;

(b) a center will empty a wading pool when it is not in use and remove it from areas accessible to children; and

(c) a center will not use a portable wading pool placed on concrete or asphalt.

(3) If a center has a built in or above ground swimming pool, ditch, fishpond or other water hazard:

(a) the fixture will be constructed, maintained and used in accordance with applicable state and local regulations;

(b) the fixture will be constructed and protected so that, when not in use, it is inaccessible to children; and

(c) when in use, children will be constantly supervised and the number of adults present will be proportional to the ages and abilities of the children and type of water hazard in use.

(4) The following ratios shall be observed for swimming pools more than two feet deep:

Ratio for swimming pools more than two feet deep		
Age of the youngest child	Number of educators, lifeguards or volunteers	Number of children
0-23 months	1	1
2 years	1	2
3 years	1	6
4 years	1	8
5 years	1	10
6 years and older	1	12

L. FIELD TRIPS:

(1) A center will ensure the children's safety on field trips and excursions. See Subparagraph (h) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection E of 8.16.2.22 NMAC for requirements for permission slips.

(2) Children will not go to a private residence unless accompanied by two adults. [8.16.2.24 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.24 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.26 HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS:

A. HYGIENE:

(1) Children and staff members will wash their hands with soap and warm running water as needed. Water basins shall not be used as an alternative to running water. Staff and children will wash their hands whenever hands are contaminated with body fluids and always:

- (a) after using a toilet, assisting a child with toilet use, or changing a diaper;
- (b) before and after caring for a sick child;
- (c) before any food service activity, including setting the table;
- (d) before and after eating;
- (e) before and after feeding a child; ~~and~~
- (f) after handling pets or animals or items used by animals such as water and food

bowls[-] ; and

(g) after handling trash.

(2) A center will label with the child's name and store separately any item used for an individual child's personal hygiene.

(3) If a center promotes tooth brushing activities, the center will store toothbrushes so that they do not drip on other toothbrushes and so that they are separate from one another, with bristles exposed to the air to dry, labeled and not in contact with any other surface.

B. FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS:

(1) All educators, staff, and management in direct contact with children must be certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a pediatric component. From the date of hire, staff will have three months to obtain the first aid and CPR certification. All staff must maintain first aid and CPR certification with a pediatric component. Prior to licensure, at a minimum, the director will have first aid and CPR certification.

(2) A center will keep a first-aid kit and a first-aid manual together in the center in a location inaccessible to children and easily accessible to adults. The first aid kit will contain, at a minimum, band aids, gauze pads, adhesive tape, scissors, soap, nonporous gloves, and a thermometer.

(3) A center will treat blood spills cautiously and promptly disinfect the area. Staff members will wear non-porous, single-use gloves when handling a blood spill, bloody diarrhea, bloody nose, or any other blood. A center will clean contaminated surfaces first with hot soapy water then with a disinfecting solution effective against HIV and hepatitis B.

C. MEDICATION:

(1) All staff and children's medications must be labeled. A center will keep all medications in a locked and identified container inaccessible to children and will refrigerate medications when necessary. If the refrigerator is inaccessible to children, medications do not need to be in a locked container in the refrigerator.

(2) Facilities will give medication only with written permission from a parent or guardian, to be administered according to written directions from the prescribing physician. In the case of non-prescription medication, written instructions must be provided by the parent or guardian. For the purpose of this requirement (Paragraph (2) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.26 NMAC) only, non-prescription medications include sunscreen, insect repellent and diaper creams or other over the counter medications. With written authorization from the child's parent or guardian, sunscreen and insect repellent may be shared. Diaper cream shall not be shared.

(3) A designated staff member will be responsible for giving medication to children. The designated staff member will ensure non-prescription and prescription medications have a label with the child's name and the date the medication was brought to the center. A center will keep non-prescription and prescription medication in the original container with written instructions, including the name of medication, the dosage, and the hours and dates the child should receive the medicine.

(4) The designated staff member will keep and sign a written record of the dosage, date and time a child is given medication with the signature of the staff who administered the medication. This information will be provided to the parent or guardian who will initial/date acknowledgment of information received on the day the medication is given.

(5) When the medication is no longer needed, it shall be returned to the parents or guardians or destroyed. The center shall not administer expired medication.

[8.16.2.26 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.26 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.27 ILLNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS:

A. Children or staff members absent due to any notifiable disease will not return to the center without a signed statement from a physician.

B. A center will separate and constantly observe a child who becomes sick at the center and promptly notify a parent or guardian of the child's illness.

C. A center will send a child home when:

(1) the child's oral temperature is 101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater or armpit temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater and the child shows signs of illness or behavior changes; or

[b] (2) an educator observes signs of contagious disease or severe illness.

D. The center will have a cot or mat available for sick children and it will be disinfected thoroughly after each use.

E. The center must perform daily health check/screenings of all children in care. Findings will be documented and maintained for review.

[8.16.2.27 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.27 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.28 TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS:

A. When a center provides transportation to children, it is responsible for the care of children from the time of pick up to delivery to a responsible adult. All vehicles used for transportation of children will have an operable fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, first-aid manual, water and blanket.

B. A center will license all vehicles used for transporting children and will meet all applicable state vehicle laws. A child shall be transported only if the child is properly secured in a child passenger restraint device or by a safety belt as follows. School buses that are not equipped with passenger restraint devices are exempt from this requirement.

(1) Children less than one year of age shall be properly secured in a rear-facing child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards, in the rear seat of a vehicle that is equipped with a rear seat.

If the vehicle is not equipped with a rear seat, the child may ride in the front seat of the vehicle if the passenger-side air bag is deactivated or if the vehicle is not equipped with a deactivation switch for the passenger-side air bag.

(2) Children one year of age through four years of age, regardless of weight, or children who weigh forty pounds, regardless of age, shall be properly secured in a child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards.

(3) Children five years of age through six years of age, regardless of weight, or children who weigh less than 60 pounds, regardless of age, shall be properly secured in either a child booster seat or an appropriate child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards.

(4) Children seven years of age through 12 years of age shall be secured in a child passenger restraint device or by a seat belt.

C. Vehicles used for transporting children will be enclosed and properly maintained. Vehicles shall be cleaned and inspected inside and out.

D. Vehicles operated by the center to transport children shall be air-conditioned whenever the outside air temperature exceeds 82 degrees Fahrenheit. If the outside air temperature falls below 50 degrees Fahrenheit the center will ensure the vehicle is heated.

E. A center will load and unload children at the curbside of the vehicle or in a protected parking area or driveway. The center will ensure children do not cross a street unsupervised after leaving the vehicle.

F. No one will smoke in a vehicle used for transporting children.

G. A second adult will accompany the driver of the vehicle when a center transports five or more children under age five years.

H. Children may be transported only in vehicles that have current registration and insurance coverage. All drivers must have current driver's license and comply with motor vehicle and traffic laws. Persons who have been convicted in the last seven years of a misdemeanor or felony DWI/DUI cannot transport children under the auspices of a licensed facility/program.

I. At least one adult transporting children, shall be currently certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a pediatric component.

[8.16.2.28 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.28 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.31 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOMES:

A. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) APPLICATION FORM: An applicant will complete an application form provided by the licensing authority and include payment for the non-refundable application fee. Applications will be rejected unless all supporting documents are received within six months of the date indicated on the application. A 45 day extension will be granted if the licensee provides documentation to the licensing authority that documents were submitted to the appropriate agencies in a timely manner but, through no fault of their own, they have not received responses from these agencies.

(2) A home will submit a new application to the licensing authority before changing anything required to be stated on the license such as dates, capacity, operator, or address.

(3) BACKGROUND CHECK: In addition to the basic requirements at 8.16.2.19 NMAC of the general provisions an applicant will apply for a national criminal records check. The licensing authority will provide a copy of the most current version of the department's background check and employment history verification provisions (8.8.3 NMAC), regulations, fingerprint instructions, and forms for recording an employment history. The licensee will be responsible for obtaining background checks on all staff members, educators, volunteers, and prospective staff members, educators, volunteers, any person who may have unsupervised physical access to children, and all adults residing in the home as per the requirements outlined in the department's most current version of the background check and employment history verification provisions. A household member reaching the age of 18 must submit their background check in accordance with the most current provisions of 8.8.3 NMAC within 30 days after their eighteenth birthday. All requirements of the current background check and employment history verification provisions pursuant to 8.8.3 NMAC must be met prior to the issuance of an initial license. Prior to a staff member's employment, a staff member must receive a notice of provisional employment or obtain a background check in accordance with 8.8.3 NMAC. A background check must be conducted in accordance with 8.8.3 NMAC at least once every five years on all required individuals.

(4) ZONING AND OTHER APPROVALS: An applicant will have:

(a) current written zoning approval from the appropriate city, county or state authority;

(b) current written approval of the state fire marshal office or other appropriate city, county or state fire-prevention authority if applicable;

(c) current written approval from the New Mexico environment department or other environmental health authority for:

(i) Private water supply, if applicable;

(ii) private waste or sewage disposal, if applicable; and

(iii) a swimming pool, if applicable.

(5) SCHEDULE: All applications for a new license will include a description of the home's proposed activities and schedule.

(6) INITIAL SURVEY: The licensing authority will schedule a survey for a home when it receives a complete application with all supporting documents.

B. CAPACITY OF A HOME:

(1) The number of children in a home, either in total or by age, will not exceed the capacity stated on the license.

(2) The licensing authority will count all children in the care of the licensed home, including the educator's own children under the age of six, in the capacity of a home, even if the children are on a field trip or other outing outside the home. The licensed capacity must not be exceeded by the presence of non-residential school age children.

(3) A home may be licensed for up to 12 children.

(4) A home licensed as a family day care home under these regulations providing care for a maximum capacity of six children may care for up to four children under the age of two providing a second educator is present in the home and the home is licensed to provide such care. A home licensed as a group day care home under these regulations providing care for a maximum of 12 children may care for up to four children under age two providing a second educator is present in the home and the home is licensed to provide such care.

(5) A home must have 35 square feet of activity and sleeping space per child, excluding bathrooms, kitchens, halls and other built-in fixtures and offsets, with total capacity limited to no more than 12 children. A home must have at least one bathroom with a toilet and sink. For a home licensed for no more than six children, one activity room will be measured. For a home licensed for 12 children, no more than two rooms will be measured.

(6) The home will have an outdoor play area, which must be fenced in.

C. INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) The licensee will report to the appropriate authorities the following incidents. After making a report to the appropriate authorities, the licensee shall notify the licensing authority of the incident giving rise to its report as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the incident occurred. A report should first be made by telephone and followed with written notification. The licensee shall report any incident that has threatened or could threaten the health and safety of children and staff members, such as, but not limited to:

(a) a lost or missing child;

(b) a serious injury;

(c) the abuse or neglect of a child;

(d) fire, flood, or other natural disaster that creates structural damages to a home or poses a health hazard;

(e) any of the illnesses on the current list of notifiable diseases and communicable diseases published by the office of epidemiology of the New Mexico department of health;

(f) any legal action against a home, household member, or staff members;

(g) any incident that could affect the background check eligibility of any cleared person related to this license;

(h) the use of physical or mechanical restraints, unless due to documented emergencies or medically documented necessity; or

(i) any known change in an educator's health condition or use of medication that impairs his or her ability to provide for the health, safety or welfare of children in care.

(2) A home will notify parents or guardians in writing of any incident, including notifiable illnesses, that has threatened the health or safety of children in the home. Incidents include, but are not limited to, those listed in Paragraph (1) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.31 NMAC.

(3) Incident reports involving suspected child abuse and neglect must be reported immediately to children's protective services and local law enforcement. The licensing authority follows written

protocols/procedures for the prioritization, tracking, investigation and reporting of incidents, as outlined in the complaint investigation protocol and procedures.

[8.16.2.31 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.31 NMAC, 10/1/2016, A, 10/1/2019; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.33 PERSONNEL AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR HOMES:

A. PERSONNEL AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) A licensee will not allow any staff member, including the licensee, or any other adult living in the home involved in an incident which would disqualify that staff member or other adult under the department's most current version of the background check and employment history verification provisions pursuant to 8.8.3 NMAC to continue to work directly or unsupervised with children or to reside in the home.

(2) All staff members will demonstrate the ability to perform essential job functions that reasonably ensure the health, safety and welfare of children in care.

(3) Educators who work directly with children and who are counted in the staff/child ratios must be 18 years of age or older.

(4) The licensee shall be in the licensed child care home during at least seventy-five percent of the home's core hours of operation.

(5) Substitutes, volunteers and part time second educators counted in the staff/child ratios shall meet the same requirements as regular staff members, except for training requirements. Substitutes and part time second educators routinely employed in the home but working 20 hours or less a week shall complete half the required training hours. Such employees working more than 20 hours per week shall complete all required training hours. The primary educator in a licensed home shall complete all required training hours, regardless of the number of hours worked.

(6) A home licensed to provide care for six or fewer children will have at least one educator in the home at all times. A home licensed to provide care for more than two children under the age of two will have at least two educators in the home at all times.

(7) A home licensed for seven to 12 children will have at least two educators at the home when more than six children are present or when more than two children under the age of two are present.

(8) Children will never be left unattended. An educator will be with the children at all times whether activities are inside or outside of the home. Educators will be onsite, available and responsive to children during all hours of operation.

B. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING:

(1) All new educators regardless of the number of hours per week will complete the following training within three months of their date of hire. All current educators will have three months to comply with the following training from the date these regulations are promulgated:

- (a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization);
- (b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices;
- (c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent;
- (d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food or other allergic reactions;
- (e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;
- (f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma;
- (g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused;
- (h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants;
- (i) precautions in transporting children (if applicable);
- (j) first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) [~~certification~~] awareness with a pediatric component; and
- (k) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

(2) A home will keep a training log on file including the date of the training, name of educator, hours earned, subject/competency area, source of training, and training certificates.

(3) Educators working for a home will receive at least 12 documented hours of training during each year, including six hours in child growth and development and three hours in health, safety, nutrition, and infection control. The three remaining training hours must be within the seven competency areas. The competency areas are: [4]

- (a) child growth, development and learning; [2]
- (b) health, safety, nutrition and infection control; [3]
- (c) family and community collaboration; [4]
- (d) developmentally appropriate content; [5]
- (e) learning environment and curriculum implementation; [6]
- (f) assessment of children and programs; and [7]
- (g) professionalism.

(4) An educator cannot count more than three hours in first aid or CPR training toward the total hours required. Online first aid and CPR training will not be approved unless there is a hands-on component included. In-person requirements may be waived in case of an emergency. For this purpose, a year begins and ends at the anniversary date of employment. Training must be provided by individuals who are registered on the New Mexico trainer registry. On-line training courses shall count for no more than eight hours each year. If the 45-hour entry level course or its equivalent is taken online, it is exempt from the online training limitation. Identical trainings shall not be repeated for the purpose of obtaining credit. The 12 hours of annual training will be waived for educators if employed by a program currently under FOCUS consultation.

[4] (5) Infant and toddler educators must have at least two hours of training in infant and toddler care within six months of starting work. The two hours will count toward the 12-hour requirement in Paragraph (2).

[5] (6) The primary educator will complete the 45-hour entry level course or approved three-credit early care and education course or an equivalent approved by the department prior to or within six months of employment.

[6] (7) A home must have all educators certified in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a pediatric component. Staff shall obtain the first aid and CPR certification within three months of being hired. All staff shall maintain current first aid and CPR certification. Prior to licensure, the primary caregiver shall have CPR certification.

[8.16.2.33 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.33 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.34 SERVICES AND CARE OF CHILDREN IN HOMES:

A. GUIDANCE:

(1) A home will have written policies and procedures clearly outlining guidance practices. Care-givers will give this information to all parents and staff who will sign a form to acknowledge that they have read and understand these policies and procedures.

(2) Guidance will be consistent and age appropriate.

(3) Guidance shall be positive and include redirection and clear limits that encourage the child's ability to become self-disciplined. The use of physical or mechanical restraints is prohibited unless due to documented emergencies or medically documented necessity.

(4) A home will not use the following disciplinary practices:

(a) physical punishment of any type, including shaking, biting, hitting, pinching or putting anything on or in a child's mouth;

(b) withdrawal of food, rest, bathroom access, or outdoor activities;

(c) abusive or profane language, including yelling;

(d) any form of public or private humiliation, including threats of physical punishment; or

(e) unsupervised separation.

B. NAPS OR REST PERIOD:

(1) A home will provide physical care appropriate to each child's developmental needs that will include a supervised rest period.

(2) A home shall allow children who do not sleep to get up and participate in quiet activities that do not disturb the other children.

(3) Each child will have an individual bed, cot, or mat that is sanitized after each use, regardless of the same child using the mat or cot. Linens can be used multiple times over the course of a week but must be laundered before being used by another child.

(4) Cribs, cots or mats shall be spaced at least 30 inches apart to permit easy access by adults to each child. If the room used for sleeping cannot accommodate 30 inches of spacing between children, educators shall space children as far as possible from one another. There must be enough room to permit easy access to all children without moving cribs, cots or mats. Cots or mats will have a nonabsorbent, cleanable surface. Mats will be

at least three-fourths of an inch thick. Mats and cots shall be cleaned and linens must be laundered before being used by another child.

(5) Educators shall ensure that nothing covers the face or head of a child aged 12 months or younger when the child is laid down to sleep and while the child is sleeping. Educators shall not place anything over the head or face of a child over 12 months of age when the child is laid down to sleep and while the child is sleeping.

(6) Children with disabilities or medical conditions that require unusual sleeping arrangements will have written authorization from a parent or physician justifying the sleeping arrangement.

(7) Illumination equivalent to that cast by a soft night light shall be operational in areas that are occupied by children who are napping or sleeping.

(8) Children shall be directly supervised during naptime.

(9) All children shall sleep in the licensed area of the home. No children shall be allowed to sleep behind closed doors.

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS:

(1) The home will provide a crib for each infant and, when appropriate, for a toddler.

(2) Cribs will meet federal standards and be kept in good repair. A home will not use plastic bags or lightweight plastic sheeting to cover a mattress and will not use pillows in cribs.

(3) No child will be allowed to sleep in a playpen, car seat, stroller or swing.

(4) Children under the age of 12 months shall be placed on their backs when sleeping unless otherwise authorized in writing by a physician.

(5) A home will not admit any child under the age of six weeks except with the written approval of a licensed physician.

(6) Throughout the day, an educator will give each infant and toddler physical contact and attention. An educator will hold, talk to, sing to and take inside and outside walks with the child. An educator will respond immediately to all cries of infants and to the cries of all children within two minutes.

(7) An educator will use routine activities such as nap time, feeding, diapering and toileting as opportunities for language development and other learning.

(8) Infants shall not be allowed to be confined to one area for prolonged periods of time unless the infant is content and responsive.

(9) A home will arrange the sleeping and play areas so that children in the play area do not disturb sleeping children.

(10) Infants shall either be held or be fed sitting up for bottle-feeding. Infants unable to sit shall always be held for bottle-feeding. Infants and toddlers shall not be placed in a laying position while drinking bottles or sippy cups. The carrying of bottles and sippy cups by young children throughout the day or night shall not be permitted.

(11) Each infant shall be allowed to form and observe his or her own pattern of feeding, sleeping, and waking periods.

(12) Food served shall meet the nutritional needs of the infant or toddler. Foods shall be developmentally appropriate for each infant served.

D. DIAPERING AND TOILETING:

(1) An educator will plan toilet training with a parent so the toilet routine is consistent. A home will not attempt to toilet train a child who is not developmentally ready.

(2) A home will change wet and soiled diapers and clothing promptly. Staff members will wear non-porous, single use gloves when changing a diaper and wash their hands after changing a diaper. Food service gloves are not permissible for diaper changing.

(3) A home will have a supply of dry, clean clothing and diapers sufficient to meet the needs of the child. A home will label diapers and diapering supplies for each child and store them separately. Diaper bags will be inaccessible to children.

(4) An educator will change a child's diaper on a clean, safe, waterproof surface and discard any disposable cover and disinfect the surface after each diaper change. Soiled diapers shall be stored in a secure container with a tight-fitting lid to assure proper hygiene and control of odors.

E. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

(1) Child care facilities are responsible for staff awareness of community resources for families of children with disabilities, including children under the age of five years as well as those of school age. If family or group home educators believe that a child may have a delay or disability, possible resources for referral and assistance are provided to parents when appropriate. No referral for special needs services to an outside agency

will be made without a parent's consent. Family Education Right and Privacy Act (FERPA) will be respected at all times.

(2) Child care facilities are responsible for staff awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it relates to enrolling and caring for children with disabilities.

F. NIGHT CARE: In addition to all other requirements, a home providing night care will have an educator onsite, physically available and responsive to children who need attention during the night.

G. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:

(1) Environment shall be organized into functional identifiable learning areas. Family child care homes that have dedicated space shall have at least four of the following learning areas. Family child care homes that do not have dedicated space shall have at least three of the following learning areas:

- (a) a place for messy play;
- (b) a place for loud, active play;
- (c) a place for playing quietly;
- (d) a place to pretend; and
- (e) a place to read.

(2) Each learning area is clearly defined, using shelves and furniture.

(3) Adults can visually supervise all centers at all times.

(4) Learning areas have adequate space and noisy and quiet areas are arranged so that children's activities can be sustained without interruption.

(5) Materials are well cared for and organized by type. Where appropriate, materials are labeled with words or pictures. Adaptations to materials are made when needed to accommodate various abilities of all children. Unused materials are stored in inaccessible storage.

(6) Examples of children's individually expressed artwork are displayed in the environment at the children's eye level.

(7) Floor surface is suitable for activities that will occur in each learning area.

(8) File and storage space is available for educators' materials.

H. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT:

(1) Educators remain calm in stressful situations.

(2) Educators are actively engaged with children. Educators talk, actively listen and respond to children appropriately by responding to children's questions and acknowledging their comments, concerns, emotions and feelings.

(3) Educators help children communicate their feelings by providing them with language to express themselves.

(4) Educators model appropriate social behaviors, interactions and empathy. Educators respond to children that are angry, hurt, or sad in a caring and sensitive manner. Educators make appropriate physical contact to comfort children who are distressed.

I. EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAM:

(1) Toys and equipment must be safe, durable, and easy to clean, non-toxic and sanitized daily. Toys shall be disinfected, at a minimum of, once per week. Frequency of disinfection of toys must be increased in the event of a communicable disease, following appropriate guidance.

(2) A home will not use accordion-style baby gates.

(3) A home will provide sufficient equipment, materials, and furnishings for both indoor and outdoor activities so that at any one time, each child can be individually involved.

(4) A home will store equipment and materials for children's use within easy reach of the children, including those with disabilities. A home will store the equipment and materials in an orderly manner so children can select and replace the materials by themselves or with minimal assistance.

(5) A home will provide children with toys and other materials that are safe, developmentally appropriate, and encourage the child's creativity, social interaction, and a balance of individual and group play.

(6) A home will post a daily activity schedule. A home will follow a consistent pattern for routine activities such as meals, snacks and rest.

(7) Media viewing will not be permitted for children less than two years of age. Media viewing for children two years and older will be limited to six hours per month, but not to exceed one full length film in one day. Programs, movies, music and music programs shall be age appropriate and shall not contain adult content. Media viewing includes all of the above as well as computers, tablets, phones, smart devices and screen-based learning equipment. An exception is media that is used for curriculum-based purposes or led by an educator.

(8) Children and family members shall be acknowledged upon arrival and departure.

(9) Full-time children shall have a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity daily, preferably outside. Part time children shall have a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity daily, preferably outside.

(10) Equipment and program requirements apply during all hours of operation of the licensed facility.

J. OUTDOOR PLAY:

(1) Outdoor play equipment used in child care homes shall be:

(a) intended for public (non-residential) use and installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

(b) if intended for residential use, shall be safe and securely anchored.

(2) A home will enclose the outdoor play area with a fence at least four feet high and with at least one latched gate available for an emergency exit.

(3) A home will place sufficient energy absorbing surfaces beneath climbing structures, swings and slides (as determined by Subsection P of 8.16.2.8 NMAC).

Critical Heights of Playground Equipment for Various Types and Depths of Resilient Surfaces Based on Information from the U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC Publication No. 325), Handbook for Public Playground Safety. When no requirement is provided for a specific height of equipment, we have used the requirement for the next higher height, so requirements are conservative, erring on the side of safety.						
Equipment Height	Wood Chips	Double Shredded Bark	Uniform Wood Chips	Fine Sand	Coarse Sand	Fine Gravel
Uncompressed Depths of Materials In Fall Zone						
Five feet or less	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches
Six feet	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	12 inches	12 inches	6 inches
Seven feet	6 inches	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	9 inches
Eight feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	12 inches	12 inches
Nine Feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	N/A	12 inches
Ten Feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	N/A	N/A	12 inches
For poured or installed foam or rubber surfaces, the materials must meet the ASTM F1292 requirements with written verification from the manufacturer.						

(4) The use of a trampoline is prohibited at any time during the hours of operation or by any children receiving care at the facility.

(5) Children shall be protected from the sun during outdoor play, as instructed by the child's parent or guardian.

K. SWIMMING, WADING AND WATER:

(1) Each child will have written permission from a parent or guardian before the child enters a pool.

(2) If a home has a portable wading pool:

(a) a home will drain and fill the wading pool with fresh water daily and disinfect the pool regularly;

(b) a home will empty a wading pool when it is not in use and remove it from areas accessible to children; and

(c) a home will not use a portable wading pool placed on concrete or asphalt.

(3) If a home has a built in or above ground swimming pool, ditch, fishpond or other water hazard:

(a) the fixture will be constructed, maintained and used in accordance with applicable state and local regulations;

(b) the fixture will be constructed and protected so that, when not in use, it is inaccessible to children; and

(c) when in use, children will be constantly supervised and the number of adults present will be increased to ensure adequate safety for the ages, abilities and type of water hazard in use.

(4) The following ratios shall be observed for swimming pools more than two feet deep:

Ratio for swimming pools more than two feet deep		
Age of the youngest child	Number of educators, lifeguards or volunteers	Number of children
0-23 months	1	1
2 years	1	2
3 years	1	6
4 years	1	8
5 years	1	10
6 years and older	1	12

L. FIELD TRIPS:

(1) A home will ensure the children's safety on field trips and excursions. See Subparagraph (g) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection D of 8.16.2.32 NMAC for information on permission slips.

(2) Children will not go to a private residence other than the licensed home unless accompanied by two adults.

[8.16.2.34 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.34 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.36 HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOMES:

A. HYGIENE:

(1) Children and staff members will wash their hands with soap and warm running water as needed. Water basins shall not be used as an alternative to running water. Staff and children will wash their hands whenever hands are contaminated with body fluids and always:

- (a) after using a toilet, assisting a child with toilet use, or changing a diaper;
- (b) before and after caring for a sick child;
- (c) before any food service activity, including setting the table;
- (d) before and after eating or feeding a child; ~~and~~
- (e) after handling pets or animals or items used by animals such as water and food

bowls[-] ; and

(f) after handling trash.

(2) A home will label with the child's name and store separately any item used for an individual child's personal hygiene.

B. FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS:

(1) A home will keep a first-aid kit and a first-aid manual together in the home in a location inaccessible to children and easily accessible to adults. The first aid kit will contain, at a minimum: band aids, gauze pads, adhesive tape, scissors, soap, non-porous gloves, and a thermometer.

(2) A home will treat blood spills cautiously and promptly disinfect the area. Staff members will wear non-porous, single-use gloves when handling a blood spill, bloody diarrhea, bloody nose, or any other blood. A home will clean contaminated surfaces first with hot soapy water then with a disinfecting solution, which is effective against HIV and hepatitis B.

C. MEDICATION:

(1) A home will keep all medications in a locked and identified container inaccessible to children and will refrigerate medications when necessary. If the refrigerator is inaccessible to children, medications do not need to be in a locked container in the refrigerator.

(2) Homes will give medication only with written permission from parents or guardian, to be administered according to written directions from the prescribing physician. In the case of non-prescription medication, written instructions must be provided by the parent or guardian. For the purpose of this requirement (Paragraph (2) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.36) only, non-prescription medications include sunscreen, insect repellent and diaper creams or other over the counter medications. With written authorization from the child's parent or guardian, sunscreen and insect repellent may be shared. Diaper cream shall not be shared.

(3) The licensee will be responsible for giving medication to children. The designated staff member will ensure non-prescription and prescription medications have a label with the child's name and the date the medication was brought to the home. A home will keep non-prescription and prescription medication in the original container with written instructions, including the name of medication, the dosage, and the hours and dates the child should receive the medicine.

(4) The licensee will keep and sign a written record of the dosage, date and time a child is given medication. This information will be provided to the parent or guardian who will initial/date acknowledgment of information received on the day the medication is given.

(5) When the medication is no longer needed, it shall be returned to the parents or guardians or destroyed. The home shall not administer expired medication.

D. ILLNESS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES:

(1) Children or staff members absent due to any notifiable disease will not return to the home without a signed statement from a physician.

(2) A home will separate and constantly observe a child who becomes sick at the home and promptly notify a parent or guardian of the child's illness.

(3) A home will send a child home when:

(a) the child's oral temperature is 101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater or armpit temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater and the child shows signs of illness or behavior changes; or

(b) the educator observes signs of contagious disease or severe illness.

[8.16.2.36 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.36 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.37 TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HOMES:

A. When a home provides transportation to children, it is responsible for the care of children from the time of pick up to delivery to a responsible adult. All vehicles used for transportation of children will have an operable fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, first-aid manual, water and blanket.

B. A home will license all vehicles used for transporting children and will meet all applicable state vehicle laws. A child shall be transported only if the child is properly secured in a child passenger restraint device or by a safety belt as follows.

(1) Children less than one year of age shall be properly secured in a rear-facing child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards, in the rear seat of a vehicle that is equipped with a rear seat. If the vehicle is not equipped with a rear seat, the child may ride in the front seat of the vehicle if the passenger-side air bag is deactivated or if the vehicle is not equipped with a deactivation switch for the passenger-side air bag.

(2) Children one year of age through four years of age, regardless of weight, or children who weigh forty pounds, regardless of age, shall be properly secured in a child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards.

(3) Children five years of age through six years of age, regardless of weight, or children who weigh less than 60 pounds, regardless of age, shall be properly secured in either a child booster seat or an appropriate child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards.

(4) Children seven years of age through 12 years of age shall be secured in a child passenger restraint device or by a seat belt.

C. Vehicles used for transporting children will be enclosed and properly maintained. Vehicles shall be cleaned and inspected inside and out.

D. A home will load and unload children at the curbside of the vehicle or in a protected parking area or driveway. The home will ensure children do not cross a street unsupervised after leaving the vehicle.

E. No one will smoke in a vehicle used for transporting children.

F. Children may be transported only in vehicles that have current registration and insurance coverage. All drivers must have current driver's license and comply with motor vehicle and traffic laws. Persons who have been convicted in the last seven years of a misdemeanor or felony DWI/DUI cannot transport children under the auspices of a licensed facility.

G. At least one adult transporting children shall be currently certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation with a pediatric component.

[8.16.2.37 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.37 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.41 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR OUT OF SCHOOL TIME CARE:

A. ADMINISTRATION RECORDS: A licensee shall display in a prominent place that is readily visible to parents, staff and visitors:

(1) all licenses, certificates, and most recent inspection reports of all state and local government agencies with jurisdiction over the program;

(2) the current child care regulations;

(3) dated weekly menus for meals and snacks;

(4) the guidance policy; and

(5) the current list of notifiable diseases and communicable diseases published by the office of epidemiology of the New Mexico department of health.

B. MISSION, PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM STATEMENT: All licensed facilities must have a:

- (1) mission statement;
- (2) philosophy statement; and
- (3) curriculum statement.

C. PARENT HANDBOOK: All facilities using these regulations must have a parent handbook which includes the following.

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (a) mission statement;
- (b) philosophy statement;
- (c) program information (location, license information, days and hours of operation, services offered);
- (d) name of director and how he/she may be reached;
- (e) meals, snacks and types of food served (or alternatively, guidelines for children bringing their own food);
- (f) daily schedule;
- (g) a statement supportive of family involvement that includes an open door policy to the classroom;
- (h) appropriate dress for children, including request for extra change of clothes;
- (i) celebrating holidays, birthdays and parties; and
- (j) disclosure to parents that the licensee does not have liability or accident insurance coverage.

(2) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

- (a) enrollment procedures;
- (b) disenrollment procedures;
- (c) expulsion procedures;
- (d) fee payment procedures, including penalties for tardiness;
- (e) notification of absence;
- (f) fee credits, if any (e.g. for vacations, absences, etc.);
- (g) field trip policies;
- (h) health policies (program's policies on admitting sick children, when children can return after an illness, administering medication, and information on common illnesses);
- (i) emergency procedures and safety policies;
- (j) snow days and school closure;
- (k) confidentiality policy;
- (l) child abuse/neglect reporting procedure;
- (m) guidance policy; and
- (n) emergency procedures, safety policies, and disaster preparedness plan.

D. CHILDREN'S RECORDS: A program will maintain a complete record for each child, including drop-ins, to be completed before the child is admitted. Records will be kept at the program, unless otherwise indicated in the list below, for 12 months after the child's last day of attendance. Records will contain at least:

(1) PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- (a) name of the child; date of birth, gender, home address, mailing address and telephone number;
- (b) names of the parents or guardians, the parents or guardian's current places of employment, addresses, and pager, cellular and work telephone numbers;
- (c) a list of people authorized to pick up the child and an authorized form signed by parent or guardian; identification of person authorized by the parent or guardian to pick up the child shall be verified at pick up;
- (d) date the child first attended the program and the date of the child's last day at the program;
- (e) a record of any accidents, injuries or illnesses that require first aid or medical attention and any observations of recent bruises, bites or signs of abuse or neglect, both of which must be reported to a parent or guardian; these records may be kept at a central location;

(f) written authorization from the child's parent or guardian to remove a child from the premises to participate in off-site activities; authorization must contain fieldtrip destination, date and time of fieldtrip and expected return time from fieldtrip;

(g) a record of the time the child arrived and left the program and dates of attendance initialed by a parent, guardian, or person authorized to pick up the child; and

(h) an enrollment agreement; this form will be signed by a parent or guardian with an outline of the services and the costs; these forms may be kept at a central location.

(2) EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

(a) information on any allergies or medical conditions suffered by the child; the name and telephone number of two people in the local area to contact in an emergency when a parent or guardian cannot be reached; emergency contact numbers must be kept up to date at all times;

(b) the name and telephone number of a physician or emergency medical facility authorized by a parent or guardian to contact in case of illness or emergency;

(c) a document giving a program permission to transport the child in a medical emergency and an authorization for medical treatment signed by a parent or guardian;

(d) if applicable, legal documentation regarding the child, including but not limited to: restraining orders, guardianship, powers of attorney, court orders, and custody by children's protective services.

E. PERSONNEL RECORDS:

(1) A licensee will keep a complete file for each staff member, including substitutes and volunteers having direct contact with the children. A program will keep the file for one year after the staff member's last day of employment. Unless otherwise indicated, a licensee may keep the items listed below in a central location. Records will contain at least the following:

(a) name, address and telephone number;

(b) position;

(c) current and past duties and responsibilities;

(d) dates of hire and termination;

(e) documentation of a background check and employment history verification. If a background check is in process, then documentation of the notice of provisional employment showing that it is in process must be placed in the file. A background check must be conducted at least once every five years on all required individuals. A copy must be kept onsite;

(f) an annual signed statement that the staff member would or would not be disqualified as a direct provider of care under the most current version of the background checks and employment history verification provisions pursuant to 8.8.3 NMAC. A copy must be kept onsite;

(g) documentation of first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation [~~training~~] with a pediatric component. A copy must be kept onsite;

(h) documentation of all appropriate training by date, time, hours and area of competency;

(i) emergency contact number;

(j) universal precaution acknowledgement; and

(k) a written plan for ongoing professional development for each staff member, including the director, that is based on the seven areas of competency, consistent with the career lattice, and based on the individual's goals.

(2) A program will maintain current work schedules and daily sign in sheets for the director, all staff, all educators, and volunteers and keep the records on file for at least 12 months. The record will include the time the employee arrived at and left work and include breaks and lunch.

F. PERSONNEL HANDBOOK: The educator will give each employee a personnel handbook that covers all matters relating to employment and includes the following critical contents:

(1) organizational chart;

(2) job descriptions of all employees by title;

(3) benefits, including vacation days, sick leave, professional development days, health insurance, break times, etc.;

(4) code of conduct;

(5) training requirements

(6) procedures and criteria for performance evaluations;

(7) policies on absence from work;

(8) grievance procedures;

- (9) procedures for resignation or termination;
 - (10) copy of licensing regulations;
 - (11) policy on parent involvement;
 - (12) health policies related to both children and staff;
 - (13) policy on sexual harassment;
 - (14) plan for retention of qualified staff; and
 - (15) an up-to-date emergency evacuation and disaster preparedness plan, which shall include steps for evacuation, relocation, shelter in place, lock-down, communication, reunification with parents, individual plans for children with special needs and children with chronic medical conditions, and continuity of operations (see waivers, Subsection D of 8.16.2.14 NMAC). The plan shall be approved annually by the licensing authority and the department will provide guidance on developing these plans; and
 - (16) policies and procedures for expulsion of children. Policies and procedures shall include how the program will maintain a positive environment and will focus on preventing the expulsion of children age five. The program must develop policies that include clear, appropriate, consistent expectations, and consequences to address disruptive student behaviors; and ensure fairness, equity, and continuous improvement.
- [8.16.2.41 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.41 NMAC, 10/1/2016, A, 10/1/2019; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.42 PERSONNEL AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR OUT OF SCHOOL TIME CARE:

A. PERSONNEL AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) An employer will not allow any employee involved in an incident which would disqualify that employee under the department's most current version of the background check and employment history verification provisions pursuant to 8.8.3 NMAC to continue to work directly or unsupervised with children;
- (2) All educators will demonstrate the ability to perform essential job functions that reasonably ensure the health, safety and welfare of children in care.
- (3) Educators (staff members) who work directly with children and who are counted in the staff/child ratios must be 18 years of age or older.
- (4) Clerical, cooking and maintenance personnel included in the staff/child ratio will have a designated schedule showing their normal hours in each role. Educators counted in the staff/child ratios will not be responsible for cooking, clerical or cleaning duties while caring for children.
- (5) Substitutes, volunteers and part-time educators counted in the staff/child ratios will meet the same requirement as regular staff members except for training requirements. Substitutes and educators routinely employed in a facility but working 20 hours or fewer a week, will complete half the required training hours. Such employees working more than 20 hours a week will meet full training requirements. See Paragraph (4) of Subsection C of 8.16.2.42 NMAC for additional training requirements.
- (6) Each site will have a site director. The site director or a designated co-director who meets the same qualifications as the site director will be on site 50 percent of the program's core hours of operation.
- (7) A program will maintain staff/child ratios and group sizes at all times. Children must never be left unattended whether inside or outside the facility.
- (8) A program will have a minimum of two staff members present at all times, with one being an educator. If the program has less than seven children, the second staff member may be engaged in other duties.
- (9) Each site will have one adult for every 15 children age five or older. Maximum group size of 30.
- (10) The number of children who may be in a group and the number of caregivers is specified in Paragraph (9) of Subsection A of 8.16.2.42 NMAC. More than one group of children may occupy a room, provided the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The room is divided so that different activity/interest areas are well-defined (i.e. art, dramatic play, fine motor, homework, science, math, and quiet homelike area);
 - (b) Each activity/interest area will have a posted capacity, which may vary according to the activity and size of the space, and will not exceed 30;
 - (c) Placement of cabinets, tables, carpeting, room-dividers, or shelving clearly define the different activity/interest areas;
 - (d) Individual children may freely move from one activity/interest area at their own pace as long as the capacity of any individual interest area is not exceeded;
 - (e) A single educator is responsible for supervising up to 15 children in one or more interest area as long as every child is in direct eyesight; and

(f) The total number of children in the larger room must not exceed the room capacity based on activity space. For example, if the larger room has a capacity of 90, and the maximum group size is 30, the room must be divided by at least three well-defined activity/interest areas and be supervised by at least six caregivers, who are spread out so that every child is “attended”.

B. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS:

(1) Unless exempted under Paragraph (3) below, an out of school time program will have an administrator/director who is at least 21 years old and has proof of a current copy of:

(a) a child development associate (CDA) certificate, a certified child care professional credential (CCP), a Montessori teacher, a national administrator credential (NAC), or an associate of arts or applied science degree in child development or early childhood education and at least two years of experience in an early childhood growth and development setting; a school-age child care growth and development setting; or

(b) a bachelor’s degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field with at least one year of experience in an early childhood growth and development setting or a school-age child care growth and development setting; early childhood growth and development settings include, but are not limited to, licensed or registered family child care programs, licensed center-based early childhood education and development programs, and family support programs.

(2) Every site of an out of school time program will have a site director who has at least a high school diploma or GED and proof of at least three years of experience working with children.

(3) Program administrators and site directors employed in a licensed program on the date these regulations become effective but who are not qualified will continue to qualify in their positions as long as they continuously work as program administrators or site directors. Current program administrators and site directors having a break in employment of more than one year must meet the requirements.

C. TRAINING:

(1) The program administrator will develop and document an orientation and training plan for new staff members and will provide information on training opportunities. New staff members will participate in an orientation before working with children. Initial orientation will include training on the following areas:

(a) scope of services and activities offered by the program;
(b) emergency first aid procedures;
(c) indicators of child abuse and neglect;
(d) fire prevention measures, emergency evacuation plan and disaster preparedness plan;

(e) review of licensing regulations;
(f) review of policies regarding guidance;
(g) child abuse and neglect reporting;
(h) handling of incidents and complaints; and
(i) health and safety, including infection and injury prevention and control.

(2) All new educators regardless of the number of hours per week will complete the following training within three months of their date of hire. All current educators will have three months to comply with the following training from the date these regulations are promulgated:

(a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization);
(b) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent;
(c) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food or other allergic reactions;
(d) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;
(e) abusive head trauma;
(f) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from natural or man-caused disasters;
(g) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants;
(h) precautions in transporting children (if applicable);
(i) first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) [~~certification~~] awareness with a pediatric component; and
(j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

(3) A program will keep a training log on file with the employee’s name, date of hire and position. The log must also include the date, hours of training, subject, training source and training certificate.

(4) All educators are required to obtain at least 24 hours of training each year. For this purpose, a year begins and ends at the anniversary date of employment. Training must address all seven competency areas within two years. Training shall be relevant to school age children. Identical trainings shall not be repeated for the purpose of obtaining credit. The competency areas are:

- (a) child growth, development, and learning;
- (b) health, safety, nutrition, and infection control;
- (c) family and community collaboration;
- (d) developmentally appropriate content;
- (e) learning environment and curriculum implementation;
- (f) assessment of children and programs; and
- (g) professionalism.

(5) The 24 hours of annual training will be waived for educators if employed by a program currently under FOCUS consultation.

(6) Training must be provided by individuals who have education or experience in the competency area (or areas) in which they train. Employees or relatives of employees who provide training must have prior approval by the department.

(7) Program administrators may count hours in personnel and business training toward the training requirement.

[8.16.2.42 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.42 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.43 SERVICES AND CARE OF CHILDREN IN OUT OF SCHOOL TIME CARE:

A. GUIDANCE:

(1) A program will have written policies and procedures clearly outlining guidance practices. Facilities will give this information to all parents and staff who will sign a form to acknowledge that they have read and understand these policies and procedures.

(2) Guidance will be consistent and age appropriate.

(3) Guidance shall be positive and include redirection and clear limits that encourage the child's ability to become self-disciplined. The use of physical or mechanical restraints is prohibited unless due to documented emergencies or medically documented necessity.

(4) A program will not use the following disciplinary practices:

(a) physical punishment of any type, including shaking, biting, hitting or putting anything on or over a child's mouth;

(b) withdrawal of food, rest, bathroom access, or outdoor activities;

(c) abusive or profane language, including yelling;

(d) any form of public or private humiliation, including threats of physical punishment; or

(e) unsupervised separation.

B. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:

(1) Environment shall be organized into age appropriate functional identifiable learning areas. If any of the selected learning areas are not represented at a given time, the areas shall be rotated to provide children with the opportunity to gain skills supported by a variety of learning experiences. The areas may include:

(a) dramatic play;

(b) creative art;

(c) books;

(d) blocks and accessories;

(e) manipulatives;

(f) music;

(g) science;

(h) math/number; and

(i) sensory.

(2) Each center is clearly defined, using shelves and furniture.

(3) Adults can visually supervise all centers at all times.

(4) The capacity of each room will be posted in an area of the room that is readily visible to parents, staff members, and visitors.

(5) Learning areas have adequate space and quiet areas are arranged so that children's activities can be sustained without interruption.

(6) Materials are well cared for and organized by type. Where appropriate, materials are labeled with words or pictures. Adaptations to materials are made when needed to accommodate various abilities of all children. Unused materials are stored in inaccessible storage.

(7) Examples of children's individually expressed artwork are displayed in the environment at the children's eye level.

(8) The floor surface is suitable for activities that will occur in each learning area.

(9) File and storage space is available for educators' materials.

C. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT:

(1) Educators remain calm in stressful situations.

(2) Educators are actively engaged with children. Educators talk, actively listen and respond to children appropriately by responding to children's questions and acknowledging their comments, concerns, emotions and feelings.

(3) Educators help children communicate their feelings by providing them with language to express themselves.

(4) Educators model appropriate social behaviors, interactions and empathy. Educators respond to children that are angry, hurt, or sad in a caring and sensitive manner. Educators make appropriate physical contact to comfort children who are distressed.

D. EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAM:

(1) A program will provide sufficient equipment, materials, and furnishings for both indoor and outdoor activities so that at any one time each child can be individually involved. Toys shall be disinfected, at a minimum of, once per week. Frequency of disinfection of toys must be increased in the event of a communicable disease, following appropriate guidance.

(2) Each child at a program will have a designated space for storage of clothing and personal belongings.

(3) A program will store equipment and materials for children's use within easy reach of the children, including those with disabilities. A program will store the equipment and materials in an orderly manner so children can select and replace the materials by themselves or with minimal assistance.

(4) A program will provide children with toys, educational materials, equipment and other materials and activities that are safe, developmentally appropriate, and encourage the child's educational progress, creativity, social interaction, and a balance of individual and group activity. Program staff must be onsite, available and responsive to children during all hours of operation.

(5) A program will post a daily activity schedule. A program will follow a consistent pattern for routine activities such as meals, snacks and rest.

(6) Media viewing will be limited to six hours per month, but not to exceed one full length film in one day. Programs, movies, music and music programs shall be age appropriate and shall not contain adult content. Media viewing to include all of the above as well as computers, tablets, phones, smart devices and screen-based learning equipment. An exception is media that is used for curriculum-based purposes or led by an educator.

(7) Children and family members shall be acknowledged upon arrival and departure.

(8) Equipment and program requirements apply during all hours of program operation.

E. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

(1) Child care facilities are responsible for staff awareness of community resources for families of children with disabilities, including children under the age of five years as well as those of school age. If staff believe that a child may have a delay or disability, possible resources for referral and assistance are provided to parents when appropriate. No referral for special needs services to an outside agency will be made without a parent's consent. Family Education Right and Privacy Act (FERPA) will be respected at all times.

(2) Child care facilities are responsible for staff awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it relates to enrolling and caring for children with disabilities.

F. OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS:

(1) Outdoor play equipment used in out of school time programs shall be:

(a) intended for public (non-residential) use and installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

(b) if intended for residential use, shall be safe and securely anchored.

(2) A program will place sufficient energy absorbing surfaces beneath climbing structures, swings and slides (as determined by Subsection P of 8.16.2.8 NMAC).

Critical Heights of Playground Equipment for Various Types and Depths of Resilient Surfaces Based on Information from the U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC Publication No. 325), Handbook for Public Playground Safety. When no requirement is provided for a specific height of equipment, we have used the requirement for the next higher height, so requirements are conservative, erring on the side of safety.						
Equipment Height	Wood Chips	Double Shredded Bark	Uniform Wood Chips	Fine Sand	Coarse Sand	Fine Gravel
	Uncompressed Depths of Materials In Fall Zone					
Five feet or less	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches
Six feet	6 inches	6 inches	6 inches	12 inches	12 inches	6 inches
Seven feet	6 inches	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	9 inches
Eight feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	12 inches	12 inches
Nine Feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	12 inches	N/A	12 inches
Ten Feet	9 inches	9 inches	12 inches	N/A	N/A	12 inches
For poured or installed foam or rubber surfaces, the materials must meet the ASTM F1292 requirements with written verification from the manufacturer.						

(3) The use of a trampoline is prohibited at any time during the hours of operation or by any children receiving care at the facility.

G. SWIMMING, WADING AND WATER:

- (1) Each child will have written permission from a parent or guardian before the child enters the pool.
- (2) If a program has a portable wading pool:
- (a) a program will drain and fill the wading pool with fresh water daily and disinfect the pool regularly;
 - (b) a program will empty a wading pool when it is not in use and remove it from areas accessible to children; and
 - (c) a program will not use a portable wading pool placed on concrete or asphalt.
- (3) If a program has a built in or above ground swimming pool, ditch, fishpond or other water hazard:
- (a) the fixture will be constructed, maintained and used in accordance with applicable state and local regulations;
 - (b) the fixture will be constructed and protected so that, when not in use, it is inaccessible to children; and
 - (c) when in use, children will be constantly supervised and the number of adults present will be proportional to the ages and abilities of the children and type of water hazard in use.
- (4) The following ratios shall be observed for swimming pools more than two feet deep:

Ratio for swimming pools more than two feet deep		
Age of the youngest child	Number of educators, lifeguards or volunteers	Number of children
5 years	1	10
6 years and older	1	12

H. FIELD TRIPS:

(1) A program will ensure the children's safety on field trips and excursions. See Subparagraph (f) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection D of 8.16.2.41 NMAC for requirements concerning field trip permission slips.

(2) Children will not go to a private residence unless accompanied by two adults.
[8.16.2.43 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.43 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.45 HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR OUT OF SCHOOL TIME CARE:

A. HYGIENE: Children and staff members will wash their hands with soap and warm running water as needed. Water basins shall not be used as an alternative to running water. Staff and children will wash their hands whenever hands are contaminated with body fluids and always:

- (1) after using a toilet;
- (2) before and after caring for a sick child;
- (3) before any food service activity, including setting the table;
- (4) before and after eating; ~~and~~
- (5) after handling pets or animals or items used by animals such as water and food bowls[-] ;

and

- (6) after handling trash.

B. FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS:

(1) A program will have all educators certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a pediatric component. Online first aid and CPR training will not be approved, unless there is a hands-on component included. In-person requirements may be waived in case of an emergency. Staff shall obtain the first aid / CPR certification within three months of being hired. All staff shall maintain current first aid / CPR certification. Prior to licensure, at a minimum, the site director shall have first aid/ CPR certification.

(2) A program will keep a first-aid kit and a first-aid manual together in the program in a location inaccessible to children and easily accessible to adults. The first aid kit will contain, as a minimum, band aids, gauze pads, adhesive tape, scissors, soap, non-porous gloves, and a thermometer.

(3) A program will treat blood spills cautiously and promptly decontaminate the area. Staff members will wear non-porous, single-use gloves when handling a blood spill, bloody diarrhea, bloody nose, or any other blood. A program will clean contaminated surfaces first with hot soapy water then with a disinfecting solution which is effective against HIV and hepatitis B.

C. MEDICATION:

(1) A program will keep all medications in a locked and identified container inaccessible to children and will refrigerate medications when necessary. If the refrigerator is inaccessible to children, medications do not need to be in a locked container in the refrigerator.

(2) Programs will give medication only with written permission from parents or guardian, to be administered according to written directions from the prescribing physician. In the case of non-prescription medication, written instructions must be provided by the parent or guardian.

(3) A designated staff member will be responsible for giving medication to children. The designated staff member will ensure non-prescription and prescription medications have a label with the child's name and the date the medication was brought to the program. A program will keep non-prescription and prescription medication in the original container with written instructions, including the name of medication, the dosage, and the hours and dates the child should receive the medicine.

(4) The designated staff member will keep a written record of the dosage, date, and time a child is given medication with the signature of the staff who administered the medication. This information will be provided to the parent or guardian who will initial/date acknowledgment of the information received on the day the medication is given.

(5) When the medication is no longer needed, it shall be returned to the parents or guardians or destroyed. The program shall not administer expired medication.

D. ILLNESSES:

(1) Children or staff members absent due to any notifiable disease will not return to the program without a signed statement from a physician.

(2) A program will separate and constantly observe a child who becomes sick at the program and promptly notify a parent or guardian of the child's illness.

(3) A program will send a child home when:
(a) the child's oral temperature is 101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater or armpit temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater and the child shows signs of illness or behavior changes; or
(b) an educator observes signs of contagious disease or severe illness.

(4) The program will have a cot or mat available for sick children and it will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly after use.

[8.16.2.45 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.45 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]

8.16.2.46 TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OUT OF SCHOOL TIME CARE:

A. All vehicles used for transportation of children will have an operable fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, first-aid manual, water and blanket.

B. A program will load and unload children at the curbside of the vehicle or in a protected parking area or driveway. The program will ensure children do not cross a street unsupervised after leaving the vehicle.

C. No one will smoke in a vehicle used for transporting children.

D. A program will license all vehicles used for transporting children and will meet all applicable state vehicle laws. A child shall be transported only if the child is properly secured in a child passenger restraint device or by a safety belt as follows. School buses that are not equipped with passenger restraint devices are exempt from this requirement.

(1) Children five years of age through six years of age, regardless of weight, or children who weigh less than 60 pounds, regardless of age, shall be properly secured in either a child booster seat or an appropriate child passenger restraint device that meets federal standards.

(2) Children seven years of age through 12 years of age shall be secured in a child passenger restraint device or by a seat belt.

E. Vehicles used for transporting children will be enclosed and properly maintained. Vehicles shall be cleaned and inspected inside and out at least weekly.

F. Vehicles operated by the program to transport children shall be air-conditioned whenever the outside air temperature exceeds 82 degrees Fahrenheit. If the outside air temperature falls below 50 degrees Fahrenheit the program will ensure the vehicle is heated.

G. Children may be transported only in vehicles that have current registration and insurance coverage. All drivers must have current driver's license and comply with motor vehicle and traffic laws. Persons who have been convicted in the last seven years of a misdemeanor or felony DWI/DUI cannot transport children under the auspices of a licensed facility/program.

H. At least one adult transporting children shall be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a pediatric component.

[8.16.2.46 NMAC - Rp, 8.16.2.46 NMAC, 10/1/2016; A/E, 7/1/2021]