

## **Quick Facts VT Child Care Programs**

*There are several programming options for child care in the State of Vermont, each with their own unique set of regulations. The following are short descriptions of child care in Vermont. This is not a full list of the regulations or exceptions.*

### **Types of Programs and Key Licensing Standards**

#### **Registered Home:**

Child care is in the child care provider's home. The registered provider must provide the majority of the care to the children enrolled in the program. The program must meet Vermont's Registered Day Care Home regulations. The regulations include health and safety criteria. All people in the home over the age of 16, and all helpers must pass a criminal record check.

#### **Required Staff/Child Ratio:**

The caregiver (the registrant) is allowed to have up to 6 children full time at the same time. Of those 6 children only 2 can be under the age of 2 years (*this would include a provider's own child in that age group*). In addition to the 6 full time children, they may have four school-age children. The school age children can attend before and after school (but only up to 4 hours per day).

#### **Licensed Home:**

A licensed home is an early childhood program licensed for up to 12 children in a home. The owner is one of the main caregivers. The child care provider must be at least 18 years of age. The program must meet Vermont's Licensed Home regulations. The regulations include health and safety standards. All caregivers must be at least 18 years of age. They must pass a criminal record check. The program may receive occasional unannounced visits by Vermont's Child Development Division.

#### **Required Staff/Child Ratio:**

Two staff members must be present when the number of children exceeds 6. No more than 2 children under the age of 24 months per staff person are allowed, including the child(ran) of the owner.

#### **Early Childhood Program**

This includes part-day and full-day programs for young children, and preschools. The program must meet Vermont's Early Childhood Program regulations which include health and safety criteria. Primary teachers, (known in the Early Childhood Program regulations as Teaching Associates), must have a minimum level of related education and experience. All caregivers must be at least 18 years of age. They must pass a criminal record check. Typically, Early Childhood Programs receive annual inspections from Vermont's Child Development Division.

#### **Required Staff/Child Ratios:**

<b>Children's Ages</b>	<b>Maximum in Group</b>	<b>Staff: Child Ratio</b>
6 weeks - 23 months	8	1:4
24 - 35 months	10	1:5
3 years - kindergarten	20	1:10
1st grade - 15 years	No Maximum	1:13

**After School Program**

These include before and after school programs. It also includes part and full day programs in the summer and vacations. The program must meet Vermont’s After School regulations including health and safety criteria. All caregivers must be at least 16 years of age. They must pass a criminal record check. Typically, regulated After School Programs receive annual inspections from Vermont’s Child Development Division.

Required Staff/Child Ratios:

<b>Children's Ages</b>	<b>Maximum in Group</b>	<b>Staff: Child Ratio</b>
Kindergarten	20	1:10
1st grade to 15 years old	No Maximum	1:13

**Non-recurring care:**

These are child care programs that provided short-term, non-regular care. These programs usually are in tourist locations, such as ski resorts or shopping centers. The programs must meet Vermont’s Non-recurring regulations which include health and safety criteria. All caregivers must be at least 18 years of age. They must pass a criminal record check. Typically, Non-recurring child care programs receive annual inspections from Vermont’s Child Development Division.

Required Staff/Child Ratios:

<b>Children's Ages</b>	<b>Staff: Child Ratio</b>
6 weeks - 23 months	1:4
24 - 35 months	1:5
3 years - kindergarten	1:10
1st grade - 15 years	1:13

**Legally Exempt Child Care Provider:**

A family that is eligible for assistance through Vermont’s Child Care Subsidy Program may use a child care that is not required to be regulated by the State of Vermont.

Child Care Subsidy payments may be made to a person who meets the criteria for Legally Exempt Child Care Provider (LECC).

Care might be in the provider’s or the child’s home. If the care is in the child’s home no other children can be cared for.

If the care is in the provider’s home the provider can care for not more than two families.

The provider must pass a criminal record check and meet minimal Vermont health and safety standards defined for Legally Exempt Care.

### **Unregulated care:**

A person providing care for children of not more than two families is exempt from licensure in the state of Vermont. Many summer camps and recreation activities are exempt from licensure. The State of Vermont doesn't regulate any nanny or Au Pair services. For more information about programs that may be exempt from licensing in the State of Vermont visit our website at: [www.cddvt.org](http://www.cddvt.org).

## **Guidance and Discipline**

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

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

## **Training and Experience Requirements**

Regulated child care programs in Vermont have minimum training and education requirements for staff working with children as defined by Vermont Child Care Regulations. Requirements typically vary depending on the position of the person and the type of regulated child care program. Child Care providers are required to complete training every year. Please refer to the regulations for specifics about each type program. For a copy of the regulations you can call 1-649-2642, or visit us on the web at: [www.cddvt.org](http://www.cddvt.org).

## **Accreditation and Quality Rating**

Child Care programs can become accredited. Accredited means they have demonstrated to a national organization that they go above and beyond the basic child care regulations. Accreditation is an investment by the child care program in the quality of the child care they provide. There are several types of accreditation for the different types of child care programs. They include:

- National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Afterschool Association (NAA)

National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

Vermont also has a quality rating system for child care called **STARS** (STep Ahead Recognition System). Programs that participate in STARS are stepping ahead -- going beyond the regulations to provide professional services to meet the needs of children and families. Programs receive one to five stars based on points earned in five areas of child care. The five areas of child care are:

- regulatory history
- qualifications and training
- families and community
- program assessment
- administration

Parents are encouraged to ask child care programs about specific STARS achievements. It can be inter-

esting and informative to discuss areas of strength as well as plans for continued improvement.

### **Questions or Concerns**

Vermont's Child Care Consumer Concern Line is a place for parents to receive information about Vermont Child Care Providers. It is also an avenue for anyone to voice concerns about child care providers in Vermont.

#### **Who can call?**

Anyone can call the consumer line toll free in Vermont: 1-800-540-7942 or from other locations: 802-241-2367. Email contact is [cccl@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:cccl@ahs.state.vt.us) or visit our website at [www.brightfuturesinfo.org](http://www.brightfuturesinfo.org).

Option 1: Information about child care in Vermont, including public information about specific child care providers

Option 2: Make a complaint about a child care provider.

For more information on child care regulations in the State of Vermont visit <http://www.dcf.state.vt.us/cdd/>