Licensed Child Care Program

Definition of a Licensed Child Care Program – Licensed

South Dakota law defines a Group Family Day Care and Day Care Center (referred to as Licensed Child Care Programs) as the providing of group care and supervision of children on a regular basis for part of a day as a supplement to regular parental care, with or without compensation, for 13 or more children, including children under the age of six living in the home and children from more than one unrelated family received for care in any facility, including a family home.

- A child care program may be located in the provider's own home or in a separate facility.
- Child Care Programs are mandated by law to be licensed prior to operating, regardless of funding source.
- Programs are inspected each year.
- A child care program may be operated as a nonprofit organization or as an independent, proprietary facility.

Health and safety regulatory requirements met by a child care program:

- ARSD 67:42:17 Child Care Licensing
- ARSD 61:15:05 Day Care Center construction requirements
- ARSD 61:15:06 Group family construction requirements
- SDCL Chapter 26-6 Children's Homes and Welfare Agencies

Guide to Child & School Age Care Licensing Rules and Resources

- Floor Plan Review Guide (This is for viewing only. Provider will complete this in the Provider Portal.)
- Monitoring and inspections

Sample Monitoring Forms

- Program Inspection Sample
- Facility Safety Inspection Sample

Background checks required

For more information, please visit our Office of Licensing & Accreditation Constituent Portal to start the licensing process.