

Higher Quality Standards

Better

Minimum Standards

| Professional Development <small>Qualifications of Teaching Staff* * Exception for practicum/technical child care program students</small> | Developmental Learning | Parent/Family Engagement | Business Management | Program Assessment | Child Health and Well-being |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| THREE STAR RATING | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary educator has, at a minimum, a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). Primary educators and administrators have an annually updated Professional Development Plan and training hours that support the goals of the plan. Primary educator completes 20 hours of training each year in addition to the Department's annual training requirements. The primary educator maintains membership and documented participation in a family care support group and/or local, state, or national association. Complies with 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary educator holds an Early Childhood Technical Certificate with a minimum of eighteen (18) cumulative credit hours or equivalent. The primary educator has a technical certificate in a related field. The primary educator has an associate's degree or higher. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain copies of the applicable developmental learning standards on site and available to staff. 100% of teaching staff, including the primary educator, shall participate in 3 hours of DHS approved training on the applicable developmental learning standards. The primary educator shall observe and document the use of the applicable developmental learning standards. In programs with a single educator, the use of the applicable developmental learning standards shall be documented annually. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an orientation meeting for parents / families /children new to the agency. Provides written communication to parents monthly. Offers and documents 1 group parent meeting per licensing year for all parents of enrolled children. Offers and documents 3 individual parent conferences per licensing year that focus upon the child's developmental status or needs. Provides parent education handouts to all parents. Offers and documents 1 project or activity for families. Provides a list of current community resources for enrolling parents. Offers parents an annual opportunity to evaluate the curriculum, structure, and parent involvement aspects of the program. Provides a quarterly updated bulletin board for communications/announcements to parents. Offers and documents monthly opportunities for parents to participate in the program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a parent packet that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalized contracts between the child care agency and the parent. Agency policies. Agency's philosophy. Parent resources. If children with special needs are enrolled or applying for enrollment, information on resources for such children. Maintains a financial and program record-keeping system. Maintains documentation of orientation for staff substitutes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency was assessed by trained observers using a scale that indicates the level of quality in the room or group as being either "Inadequate," "Minimal," "Average," "Good" or "Excellent." This agency received a score of at least 5.0. This score indicates a level of quality observed in this child care agency that was at least GOOD or higher as compared to national findings. Following the annual agency assessment, has developed an improvement plan based upon the agency's Assessment Results. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of all staff has current certification in CPR and First Aid. The agency meets requirements for Gold Sneaker certification. |
| TWO STAR RATING | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary educators and administrators have an annually updated Professional Development Plan and training hours that support the goals of the plan. The primary educator shall have 30 hours of family child care training, or documented enrollment therein, through TECTA, a Tennessee Technology Center, National Association for Family Child Care Foundation accreditation training, or other training as approved by the Department. Every year the primary educator shall complete 10 hours of annual training in addition to the 30 hours of training required above and the minimum training hours required by Department regulations. Completes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain membership in a family care support group and/or local, state, or national association. 12 cumulative credit hours toward an Early Childhood Technical Certificate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain copies of the applicable developmental learning standards on site and available to staff. 75% of teaching staff, including the primary educator, shall participate in 3 hours of DHS approved training on the applicable developmental learning standards. The primary educator shall observe and document the use of the applicable developmental learning standards. In programs with a single educator, the use of the applicable developmental learning standards shall be documented annually. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an orientation meeting for parents / families /children new to the agency. Provides written communication to parents every two months. Offers and documents 1 group parent meeting per licensing year for all parents of enrolled children. Offers and documents 1 individual parent conference per licensing year that focuses upon the child's developmental status or needs. Provides parent education handouts to all parents. Provides a quarterly updated bulletin board for communications/announcements to parents. Completes 2 additional items from the 3 Star category. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a parent packet that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalized contracts between the child care agency and the parent. Agency policies. Agency's philosophy. Parent resources. If children with special needs are enrolled or applying for enrollment, information on resources for such children. Maintains a financial and program record-keeping system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency was assessed by trained observers using a scale that indicates the level of quality in the room or group as being either "Inadequate," "Minimal," "Average," "Good" or "Excellent." This agency received a score of 4.50 to 4.99. This score indicates a level of quality observed in this child care agency that was between AVERAGE and GOOD compared to national findings. Following the annual agency assessment, has developed an improvement plan based upon the agency's Assessment Results. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of all staff have current certification in CPR and First Aid. Agency displays updated child health and well-being practices throughout the program. Agency has a daily lesson plan that reflects health and well-being practices. Agency provides parent information on health and well-being monthly. |
| ONE STAR RATING | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary educators and administrators have an annually updated Professional Development Plan and training hours that support the goals of the plan. The primary educator shall have 30 hours of family child care training, or documented enrollment therein, through TECTA, a Tennessee Technology Center, National Association for Family Child Care Foundation accreditation training, or other training as approved by the Department. Completes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 hours of annual training in addition to the 30 hours of training required above and the minimum training hours required by Department regulations. 6 cumulative credit hours toward an Early Childhood Technical Certificate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain copies of the applicable developmental learning standards on site and available to staff. 50% of teaching staff, including the primary educator, shall participate in three 3 hours of DHS approved training on the applicable developmental learning standards. The primary educator shall observe and document the use of the applicable developmental learning standards. In programs with a single educator, the use of the applicable developmental learning standards shall be documented annually. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an orientation meeting for parents / families /children new to the agency. Provides written communication to parents quarterly. Offers and documents 1 individual parent conference per licensing year that focuses upon the child's developmental status or needs. Provides a quarterly updated bulletin board for communications/announcements to parents. Completes 1 additional item from the 3 Star category. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a parent packet that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalized contracts between the child care agency and the parent. Agency policies. Agency's philosophy. Parent resources. If children with special needs are enrolled or applying for enrollment, information on resources for such children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency was assessed by trained observers using a scale that indicates the level of quality in the room or group as being either "Inadequate," "Minimal," "Average," "Good" or "Excellent." This agency received a score of 4.0 to 4.49. This score indicates a level of quality observed in this child care agency that was AVERAGE compared to national findings. Following the annual agency assessment, has developed an improvement plan based upon the agency's Assessment Results. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of all staff have current certification in CPR and First Aid. Agency provides parent information on health and well-being monthly. |
| COMPLIES WITH LICENSING STANDARDS | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All educators complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training in Adverse Childhood Experiences every 5 years. 3 hours pre-literacy/literacy skills and education implementation annually. 6 hours of health and safety training annually. Minimum annual training hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Educator – 18 clock hours. Educator – 12 clock hours. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff completes 3 hours of training on the applicable developmental learning standards within first 3 months. Primary educators observe and document use of the applicable developmental learning standards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing communication with parents/guardians to include curriculum, changes in personnel and any changes affecting children's routine care. Provides information about the benefits of immunizing children against influenza each August or September to parents/guardians of all children enrolled in the child care agency. Has a written expulsion policy. Documents use of a developmental checklist as a guide for conducting annual individual parent meetings to discuss the child's progress and development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides proposed budget demonstrating adequate funding for preliminary and on-going costs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum licensing standards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff obtains First Aid and CPR training within 90 days of employment. At least one staff member who has current certification in First Aid on-site at all times. At least one staff member who has current certification in CPR on site at all times. "No Smoking" signs posted conspicuously at each child care entrance. |

