

.19 ROOMS USED FOR CHILD CARE

A. The provider may use an area of the home for child care only if it:

(1) Has been approved for use by the Office;

INTENT: Areas that have not been approved do not have to meet any requirements and therefore may not be safe or appropriate for child care.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Care in authorized area only"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Child care takes place only in approved areas of the home.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation to determine that all children are utilizing only approved play and napping space.

Notes:

- During an initial registration inspection, the Licensing Specialist should observe all areas of the home (including areas that will not be used for child care) to determine whether any potential child health or safety risk conditions are present.
- During a renewal inspection or a routine unannounced inspection (i.e., an "off-year", monitoring, or follow-up inspection), the Licensing Specialist should observe only those areas that are approved for child care. If the registration certificate specifies any restrictions on the use of other areas of the home, the Licensing Specialist should review those restrictions with you and make a note accordingly in the inspection report.
- During a complaint inspection, the Licensing Specialist should likewise observe only the areas approved for child care unless the nature of the complaint (for example, an allegation of overcapacity, or an unreported resident, or violation of a non-access agreement) suggests that another area of the home may be involved. If that is the case, then the Licensing Specialist should also observe that area.
- During any inspection, if the Licensing Specialist hears sounds (for example, thumps, crying, children's voices) coming from a part of the home not approved for child care, the Specialist should ask if there is anyone else present in the home and, if someone else is present, who that person is. If the person is not known to CCA as a resident of the home, the Specialist should observe the area where the person is located.

(2) Meets the requirements of all applicable fire codes;

INTENT: If an area cannot meet fire codes, it cannot be considered safe for care.

Note: See [Section .17A\(5\)](#) of this Manual for "Compliance Criteria" and "Assessment Method."

(3) Does not have a condition which may pose a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of children in care;

INTENT: Care may be provided only in areas and under conditions that are safe for children.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Free from health, safety hazards"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Each approved area is free of any condition that could harm a child. Potentially harmful conditions include the presence of certain pets or other animals, pet-related contamination of food areas, and the lack of proper pet sanitation.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation of all child care areas to determine if any potentially harmful condition is present.

Notes:

- You must not allow any child to have access to a reptile or a ferret.
- Birds may not be kept in, or allowed access to, child care areas.
- If a pet or other animal is kept at your home, you must:
 - Notify the parent of each child about each animal's presence;
 - Restrict the animal from food preparation surfaces and from storage areas containing food, plates, and eating utensils (NOTE: birds must be completely restricted from kitchen and dining areas);

- Ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal;
 - Ensure that the animal's cage or litter box is kept clean and located away from food storage/service and eating areas;
 - Ensure that animal waste is inaccessible to the children;
 - Ensure that the animal has been properly immunized, if required by State or local law; and
 - Immediately apply first aid or, if necessary, seek medical treatment for any injury the animal causes to a child.
- Additional guidance on maintaining pets and other animals in a child care environment is found in Circular Letter [96-09](#), "Animals in Child Care Facilities."

(4) Has windows or artificial lighting that provide sufficient illumination for a child's activities;

INTENT: Inadequate lighting is a safety risk.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Enough lighting"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: There is enough natural or artificial lighting for children to move about and engage in activities safely and easily.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation to determine how well children can see what they're doing.

(5) Has natural or mechanical ventilation to provide a healthy and comfortable environment;

INTENT: Stuffy or uncirculated air creates discomfort and promotes the spread of illness.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Natural/mechanical ventilation"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: The air in each child care area is not stuffy, rank, or contaminated with an odd or unusual odor. Children appear to be breathing normally and comfortably.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation to determine the children's level of comfort.

(6) Has sufficient floor area for the number and ages of the children approved for care in the home to allow the children to engage in active play without overcrowding; and

INTENT: Inadequate floor space creates overcrowding, which is not safe.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Enough floor area"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Each child is able to move about and participate in activities easily and safely.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation of child movement and activity.

Note: There must be enough available floor space so that:

- All children can move and play without constantly bumping into furniture or each other, or tripping over toys and materials on the floor; and
- Children under the age of 2 years can move and play on the floor without being tripped over by older children.

(7) Has a room temperature of not less than 65°F.

INTENT: To help ensure the health and comfort of children, a minimum air temperature must be maintained.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Room temperature at least 65 degrees"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: No part of any approved room is less than 65 degrees.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: The room temperature should feel comfortable. If a room feels cool, or a child appears to be cold, the Licensing Specialist should take an air temperature reading at floor level.

B. In rooms where a child younger than 5 years old is in care, the provider shall arrange the home so that:

(1) All electrical sockets within reach of a child are plugged or capped;

INTENT: Young children are not aware of the hazards of electrical outlets and may try to insert objects into them, causing electrocution.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Capped electrical sockets"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Each socket within reach of any child under 5 years old is suitably capped or covered.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation of each socket in the approved child care area.

(2) Suitable protective barriers are placed at locations accessible and potentially hazardous to children; and

INTENT: Young children must be kept from certain locations that are potentially harmful to them.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Protective barrier"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: An appropriate barrier in proper working condition is in place at each potentially hazardous location within the child care area. Hazardous locations include, but are not limited to, stairs, balconies, and fireplaces.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation to determine if barriers are in place as required.

(3) Child-proof devices are placed on cabinets and drawers accessible to children that contain items potentially hazardous to children.

INTENT: Young children must be kept from certain items and materials that are potentially harmful to them.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Child-proof device"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: A suitable child-proofing device in proper working condition is placed on each cabinet or drawer in the child care area that contains potentially hazardous items or substances.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation to determine if child-proof devices are in place as required.