Early Childhood National Centers

NATIONAL CENTER ON
Early Childhood Quality Assurance

Resources and Tools for Revising and Aligning Early Childhood Program Standards

January 11, 2017

Our Priorities

- Advance strong health, safety, and quality standards and licensing regulations
- Support the development and enhancement of state quality initiatives
- Enhance quality assurance systems through the use of technology, data analysis, and research

Presenters

- **Nina Johnson**

- **Sheri Fischer**

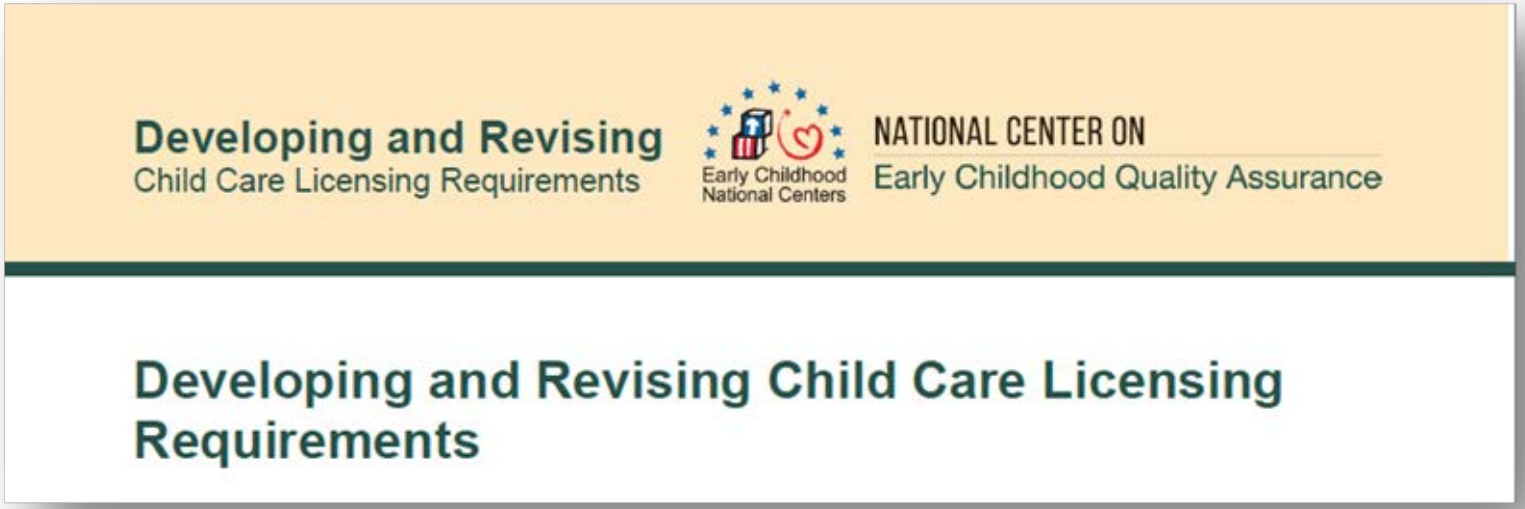
Presentation Overview

- Regulatory review process
- Tools for conducting research
  - Reviewing literature and guidance documents
  - Comparing state licensing regulations
  - Reviewing other child care program standards

Reasons for revisions

- Incorporate new federal requirements or policy guidance, e.g.,
  - Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014
  - Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule
- Align with other program standards
- Reflect the type of care setting and are culturally and linguistically responsive

Developing and Revising Child Care Licensing Requirements



- New brief to be published February 1, 2017

Contents of Brief

- Getting Started
- The Licensing Requirement Review Process
- Formatting Licensing Requirements
- Finalizing Licensing Requirements
- Rolling Out New Licensing Requirements
- Use of Interpretive Guides

Components of the Review Process

- Conducting research
- Creating a collaborative workgroup
- Establishing review criteria

Focus on Conducting Research

- Analysis of current requirements
- Review of literature
- Comparison of licensing requirements from other states
- Review of other requirements that affect child care programs

Additional resources

- Building Support for Licensing
  - https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/building-support-licensing
  - ECQA Center, update available Feb. 2017
- Best Practices in Human Care Regulation
  - http://www.naralicensing.org/best-practices
  - Collaboration between NARA and ECQA Center

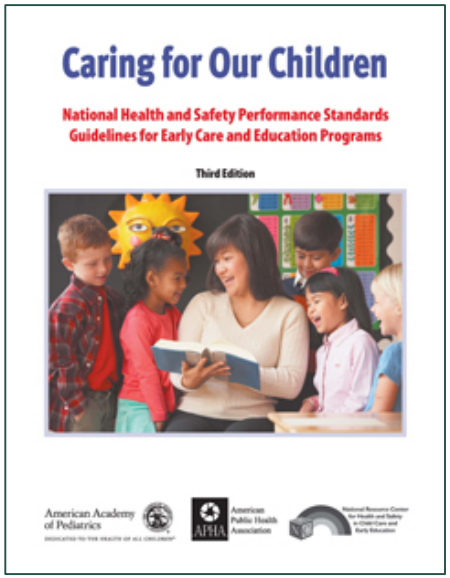
Tools and Resources for Regulatory Review Process

Tools for Conducting a Literature Review

- Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines
- CCDF health and safety requirements briefs

Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines

- *Caring for Our Children*
  - Full set: 686 standards
  - Stepping Stones (subset): 138 essential standards
  - http://cfoc.nrckids.org/
- *Caring for Our Children Basics* (CFOCB)
  - Smaller set of minimum standards
  - http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/caring-for-our-children-basics



Purpose of Health and Safety Briefs

To support licensing administrators and CCDF Administrators as they consider revisions to state standards for licensed and license-exempt providers

CCDF Health and Safety Requirements Briefs

CCDF Health and Safety Requirements Brief #1

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Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases

This brief, one in a series of nine addressing health and safety requirements specified in the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014*, provides an overview of prevention and control of infectious diseases for center-based and home-based child care settings. Licensing administrators and Child Care and Development Fund Administrators may find the brief helpful as they begin to assess and consider future revisions to state standards for both licensed and license-exempt providers. It may also be of value to early childhood and school-age care and education programs and providers in understanding and improving the health and safety of their learning environments.

https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/new-briefs-about-health-and-safety-topics

CCDF Health and Safety Requirements Briefs

- Nine briefs based on CCDF health and safety topics
- Each brief has these sections:
  - Research and guidance on topic
  - Excerpts from *Caring for Our Children Basics*
  - Links to *Caring for Our Children* standards
  - Trends data on child care licensing requirements
  - Examples of state licensed child care requirements
  - Examples of state license-exempt child care requirements
  - Additional resources

Health and Safety Requirements Briefs

- Brief 1: Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases
- Brief 2: Administering Medications
- Brief 3: Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions
- Brief 4: Reducing the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Using Safe Sleeping Practices

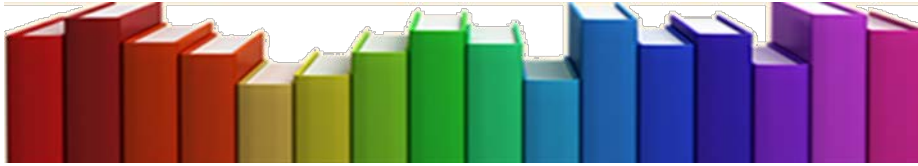
Health and Safety Requirements Briefs

- Brief 5: Building and Physical Premises Safety
- Brief 6: Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning
- Brief 7: Handling, Storing, and Disposing of Hazardous Materials and Biological Contaminants
- Brief 8: Transportation of Children
- Brief 9: Health and Safety Training

Tools for comparing state licensing requirements

- National Database on State Child Care Licensing Regulations
- Trends in Licensing Regulations and Policies for 2014
- Data Explorer

https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/licensing



Features

- Direct links to all states' licensing regulations and some statutes
- Downloadable and searchable PDFs of all licensing regulations
- Search content of licensing regulations by keyword
- Filter search by State, facility type, date, and regulation type

Kansas

Licensing Contact Information

Agency Name: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Child Care Licensing Program

Address: 1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 200, Topeka, KS - 66612-1274

Phone: (785) 296-1270; for county contacts, see http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/download/county_contacts.pdf.

Agency Web Page: http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/

Child Care Search Page: http://www.ks.childcareaware.org/for-parents-families/search-for-child-care/

Notes: Some cities and/or counties in Kansas have additional regulations. Please check with your city and county government for more information.

Licensing Regulations

Title	Date
Regulations for Licensing School Age Programs	07/01/2015
Child Care Licensing Laws	07/01/2015
Regulations for Licensing Day Care Homes and Group Day Care Homes	07/01/2015
Regulations for Licensing Preschools and Child Care Center	07/01/2015

Additional Standards

Title	Type
Kansas Quality Rating Improvement System Rating Criteria Chart	QRIS
Pre-K Program Standards and Requirements : Kansas Preschool Program	PREK
Four Year Old At-Risk Program Standards and Requirements: Kansas Preschool Program	PREK
Kansas Department of Children and Families Child Care Provider Handbook	CCDF

Trends in Licensing Regulations and Policies for 2014

- Compilation of requirements from regulations
- 2014 NARA Survey of Licensing Programs and Policies
- Research briefs by facility type

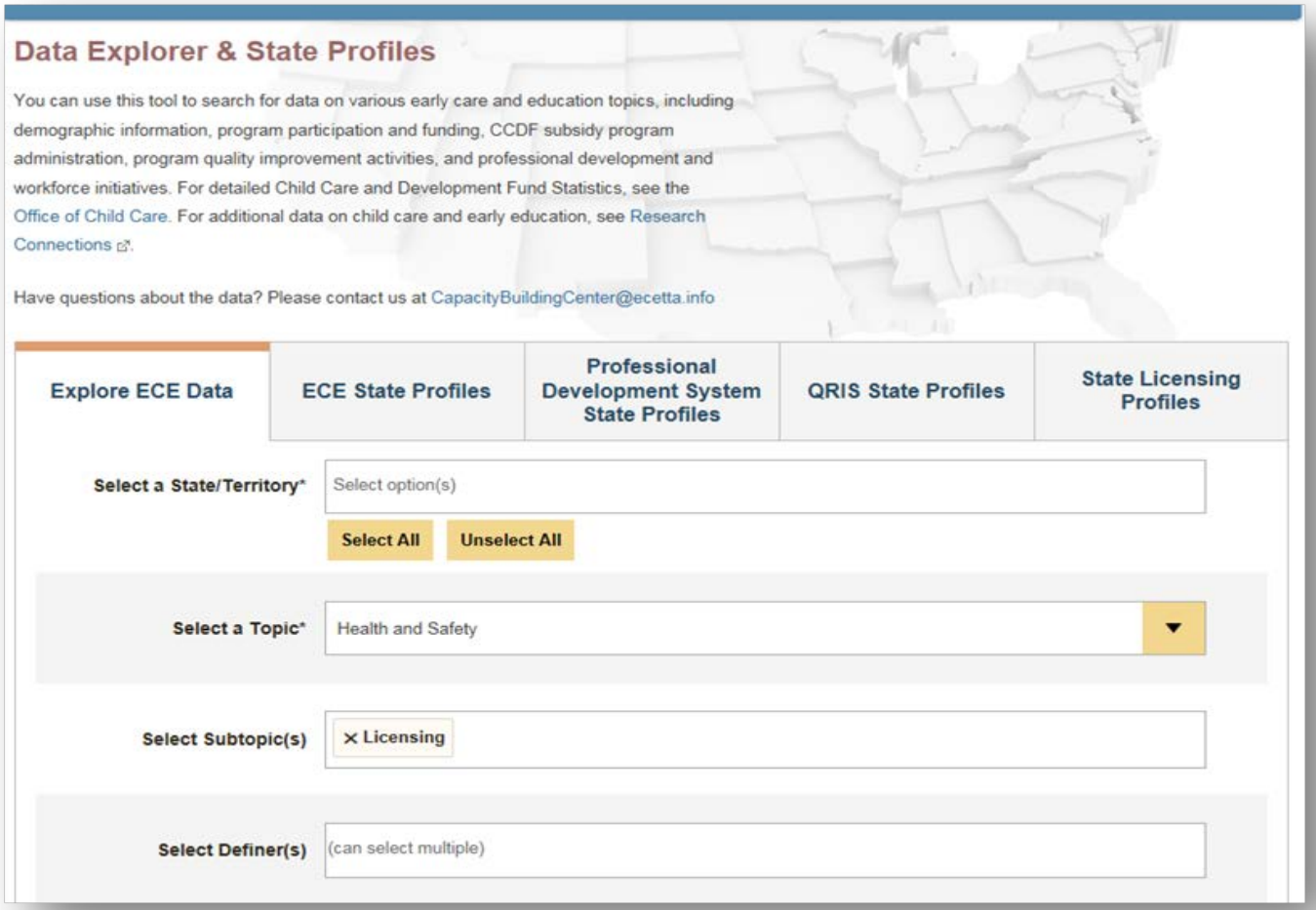
Trends Research Briefs by Facility Type

- Child care centers https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/research-brief-1-trends-child-care-center-licensing-regulations-and-policies-2014
- Family child care homes https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/research-brief-2-trends-family-child-care-home-licensing-regulations-and-policies-2014
- Group child care homes https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/research-brief-3-trends-group-child-care-home-licensing-regulations-and-policies-2014

Data Explorer

- State-level data from 2014 trends
  - Number and capacity of facilities
  - Ratios and group sizes
  - Preservice qualifications
  - Ongoing training hours
  - Background checks
  - Frequency and types of inspections
  - Additional data topics in process
- https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/data

Data Explorer Search



Data Explorer Results

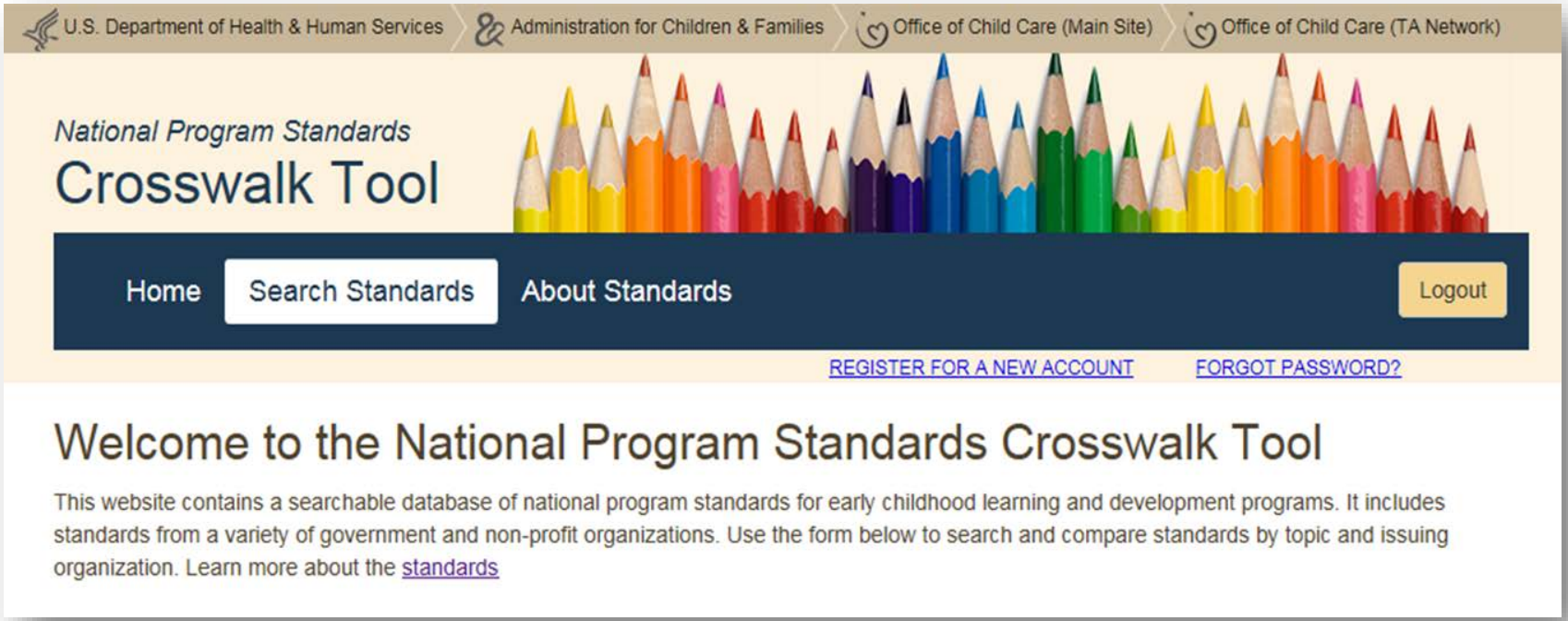
Search Results

Licensing / Group Size In Child Care Centers					
State	Infants (11 months)	Toddlers (35 months)	Preschool-age (59 months)	School-age (6 years)	School-age (10 years and older)
Alabama	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated
Alaska	10	12	20	28	36
Arizona	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated
Arkansas	12	18	24	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated
California	Group size not regulated	12	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated	Group size not regulated
Colorado	10	14	20	30	30
Connecticut	8	8	20	20	20
Delaware	8	16	20	30	30
District of Columbia	8	8	16	30	30

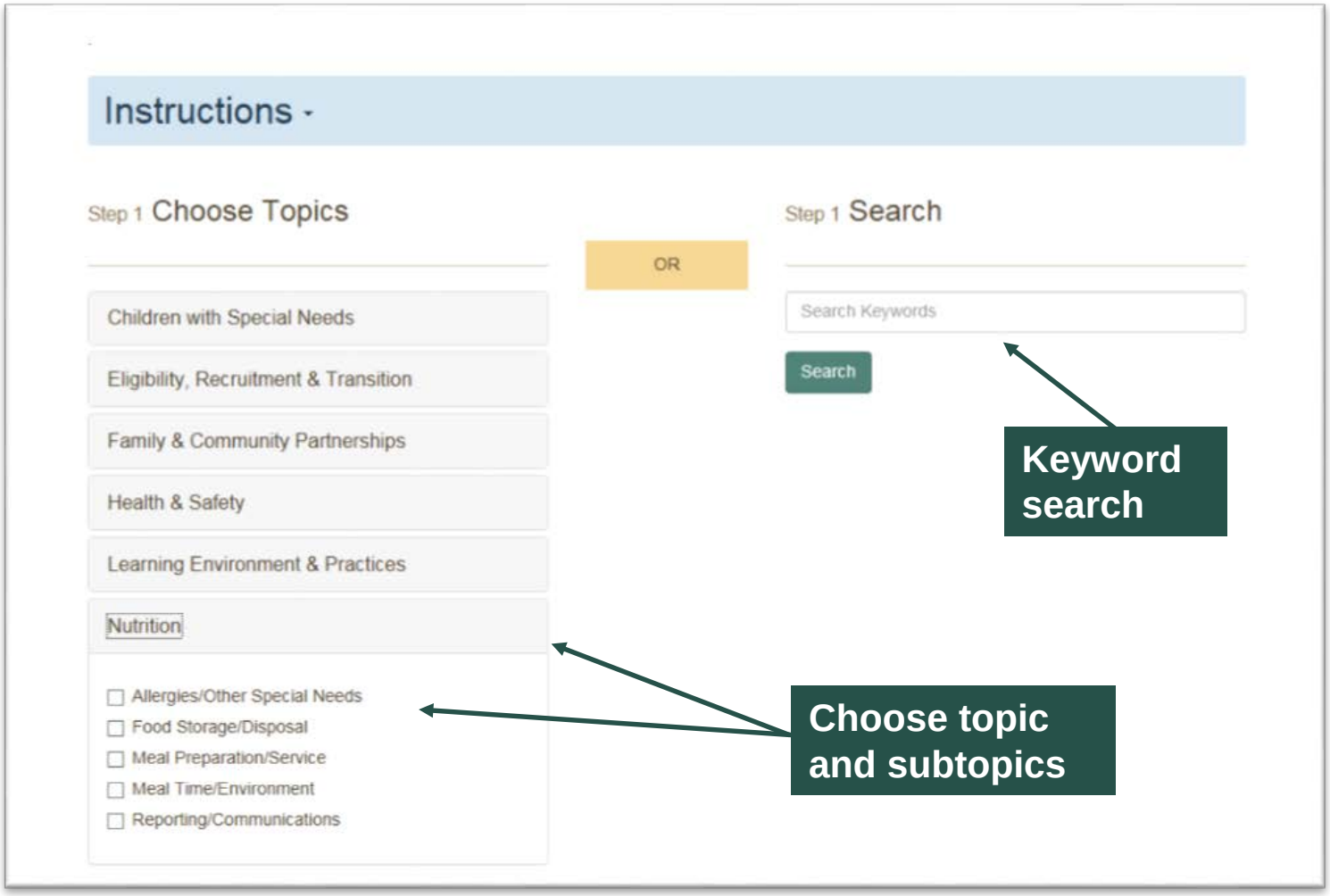
Tools for Reviewing Other Child Care Program Standards

- National Program Standards Crosswalk Tool
- *Caring for Our Children Basics* Health and Safety Standards Alignment Tool

National Program Standards Crosswalk Tool



- Website: https://qrisguide.acf.hhs.gov/crosswalk/
- Demo webinar: https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehs-ccp/webinars/office-hours-8.html


Instructions -
Step 1 Choose Topics
OR
Step 1 Search
Children with Special Needs
Eligibility, Recruitment & Transition
Family & Community Partnerships
Health & Safety
Learning Environment & Practices
Nutrition
Allergies/Other Special Needs
Food Storage/Disposal
Meal Preparation/Service
Meal Time/Environment
Reporting/Communications
Search Keywords
Search
Keyword search
Choose topic and subtopics

Nutrition

Topic	ACSI	CFOC3	CFOCB	COA-AS	DOD	NAC	NAFCC	NAEYC	NECPA	CCDF
Allergies/Other Special Needs	0	4	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1

Choose Standards to Compare Step 3

Choose up to three standards:

- [ ] Association for Christian Schools International, REACH Standards and Indicators (ACSI)
- [ ] Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule (CCDF)
- [ ] Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards, Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 3rd Edition; and Stepping Stones to Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition (CFOC3)
- [ ] Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education (CFOCB)
- [ ] Council on Accreditation After School Program Standards (COA-AS)
- [ ] Department of Defense Instruction and Effective Rating and Improvement System (DOD)
- [ ] National Accreditation Commision for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC)
- [ ] National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NAEYC)
- [ ] National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation (NAFCC)
- [ ] National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

Compare Standards

Table shows number of criteria

New Search | Modify Search | Excel | Print

Nutrition Allergies/Other Special Needs

Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education (CFOCB)	Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule (CCDF)	National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation (NAFCC)
4.2.0.10 Care for Children with Food Allergies Each child with a food allergy should have a written care plan that includes: a) Instructions regarding the food(s) to which the child is allergic and steps to be taken to avoid that food; b) A detailed treatment plan to be implemented in the event of an allergic reaction, including the names, doses, and methods of prompt administration of any medications. The plan should include specific symptoms that would indicate the need to administer one or more medications. Based on the child's care plan and prior to caring for the child, caregivers/teachers should receive training for, demonstrate competence in, and implement measures for: a) Preventing exposure to the specific food(s) to which the child is allergic; b) Recognizing the symptoms of an allergic reaction; c) Treating allergic reactions.	§ 98.41 Health and safety requirements. (a) Each Lead Agency shall certify that there are in effect, within the State (or other area served by the Lead Agency), under State, local or tribal law, requirements (appropriate to provider setting and age of children served) that are designed, implemented, and enforced to protect the health and safety of children. Such requirements must be applicable to child care providers of services for which assistance is provided under this part. Such requirements, which are subject to monitoring pursuant to § 98.42, shall: (1) Include health and safety topics consisting of, at a minimum: (iv) Prevention and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions	4.77 - Children's food allergies are posted in the food preparation and eating areas.

Caring for Our Children Basics Health and Safety Standards Alignment Tool

https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/caring-our-children-basics-health-and-safety-standards-alignment-tool-child-care-centers

Users of the alignment tool

- Professional development program staff when reviewing training content
- Licensing staff and policy developers when drafting new standards or best practice guidelines and training new staff
- Quality rating and improvement system staff when developing and evaluating quality standards
- Training and technical assistance professionals in their work with child care providers
- Advocates and advisory councils as a blueprint for long-term planning

Sample CFOCB Standard

CFOCB 1.4.3.1, First Aid and CPR Training for Staff

> "All staff members involved in providing direct care to children should have up-to-date documentation of satisfactory completion of training in pediatric first aid and current certification in pediatric CPR. Records of successful completion of training in pediatric first aid and CPR should be maintained in the personnel files of the facility."

(Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2015)

Alignment Example

Compare state licensing or quality rating and improvement system standards to CFOCB. The notes section can be used to document gaps in state standards or ways state standards exceed CFOCB standards.

Check Alignment Level	State Standard	Notes
☒ **Full Alignment** ☐ **Partial Alignment** ☐ **No Alignment**	The state standard reads, "All caregivers with direct care responsibilities must have current certification in pediatric CPR and documentation of current training in pediatric first aid. Training records must be on file at the operation and available for review upon request."	The following elements are found in both standards: applies to *all* persons who provide *direct care*, requires *pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR*, training must be *current*, and *documentation* must be *at the facility.*

Accessing Tools

- All tools and resources are available on the Child Care Training and Technical Assistance website at https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/.
  - National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance: https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/national-center-early-childhood-quality-assurance
- Contact us for more information about resources and technical assistance:
  - Sheri Fischer, sheri.fischer@icf.com
  - Nina Johnson, nina.johnson@icf.com

References

Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). *Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education.* Retrieved from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/caring-for-our-children-basics

Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014*, 42 USC 9801. Retrieved from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-113publ186/pdf/PLAW-113publ186.pdf

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