



# Licensed Childcare Explained


*What is licensed childcare? Which providers are unregulated?*

Choosing a childcare provider for your family is an important decision. When touring childcare providers, it's important to determine if the school you're visiting is licensed.

Licensed childcare, like The Sunshine House, must meet stringent standards, such as staff-to-child classroom ratios, facility background checks, and strict sanitation practices, among other important regulations.

Not all childcare providers are required to be licensed. And if a provider is not licensed, they are often unregulated. Examples of common non-licensed providers *may* include\*:

- Small home providers
- Churches, ministries and vacation bible schools
- After-school programs (including programs at elementary schools)
- Summer camp programs
- Specialty programs or camps including karate, gymnastics, dance, horseback riding, etc.
- Gyms or other drop-in or short-term care
- Anyone providing care less than 4 hours per day

Regulations required for licensed childcare providers		
Regulation		Unlicensed
Background checks must be performed on all faculty, including fingerprint checks against state and federal records, child abuse registry, and sex offender registry.	Yes	No
State staff-to-child ratios must be maintained in each classroom.	Yes	No
Children must be supervised at all times.	Yes	No
Lead teachers must be at least 18 years old and hold a high school diploma or higher.	Yes	No
Faculty trained in CPR and standard first aid must be present at all times.	Yes	No
Staff must provide a medical statement verifying they are healthy, free of communicable disease, and are able to work with children.	Yes	No
Center must notify parent/guardian if their child is injured.	Yes	No
Center must provide a statement to parents regarding their insurance liability coverage.	Yes	No
Center must have a written procedure for the arrival and release of children.	Yes	No
The facility must pass State Fire Marshall building inspection and Department of Health and Environmental Control building and grounds inspection.	Yes	No
Center must post and follow a daily schedule of developmentally-appropriate activities for each age level of children.	Yes	No
Meals must meet USDA child and adult food program guidelines.	Yes	No
Center must provide written policies to parents outlining their approaches to discipline.	Yes	No
Center directors and teaching faculty must receive annual professional development.	Yes	No



At The Sunshine House, we're honored families have trusted us with their children for more than 40 years. Our programs focus on school readiness, social and emotional development, literacy, problem solving, and what every child needs – love and care! Visit us at [sunshinehouse.com](http://sunshinehouse.com) to learn more.

\* Situations may vary based on individual provider.