



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 | | |
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| 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 to learn more.

* Situations may vary based on individual provider.