

## Description of Eligible Child Care Providers

### **Licensed Child Care Centers**

Child care centers are licensed facilities that are routinely monitored and inspected by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Child care centers may care for 13 or more children under age 14 for less than 24 hours. The application process requires that child care center providers receive orientation and background checks. A license is issued after DFPS licensing staff completes on-site inspection(s) to ensure minimum standards are met. Child care centers are inspected every 5–12 months, or more frequently if a report is received related to child abuse or neglect or standards violations.

### **Licensed Child Care Homes**

Licensed child care homes are also licensed facilities that are routinely monitored and inspected by DFPS. Licensed child care homes provide care for 7–12 children under age 14 for less than 24 hours per day. The application process requires that a licensed child care home provider complete an orientation class and receive clearances on background checks. A license is issued after DFPS licensing staff completes on-site inspection(s) to ensure minimum standards are met. Licensed child care homes are inspected every 5–12 months, or more frequently if a report is received related to child abuse or neglect or standards violations.

### **Registered Child Care Homes**

Registered child care homes provide care for up to six children under age 14 in the caregiver's home; they may also take in up to six more school-age children. The number of children allowed in a home is determined by the ages of the children. No more than 12 children can be in care at any time, including children of the caregiver. The application process requires that a registered child care home provider complete an orientation class and receive clearances on background checks. A registration certificate is issued after DFPS licensing staff completes an on-site inspection to ensure minimum standards are met. Registered child care homes are inspected every 1–3 years, or more frequently if a report is received related to child abuse or neglect or standards violations.

### **Other Regulated Providers**

Additionally, Boards are encouraged to make parents aware of providers licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services as a youth day camp, and those operated and monitored by the United States military.

### **Unregulated Relative Care**

The Texas Workforce Commission's Child Care and Development rules define unregulated relative care as care provided by a relative who is at least 18 years of age and is one of the following:

- The child's grandparent
- The child's great-grandparent
- The child's aunt
- The child's uncle
- The child's sibling, if the sibling does not reside in the same household as the child