

Core Protections for Children National Snapshot

March 25, 2014



Health & Safety Requirements:

Centers: Only 16 states address each of the 10 health and safety requirements recommended by pediatric experts to protect children in child care centers.

Family Child Care Homes: Only 15 states address each of the 10 health and safety requirements recommended by pediatric experts to protect children in family child care homes.

Pediatric Experts on Health and Safety in Child Care

Pediatric experts recommend a minimum of the following for child health protection: hand-washing, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, following universal health precautions (for bodily fluids), medication administration, access to toxic substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care, and incident reporting.

Pediatric experts recommend a minimum of the following for child safety protection: placing infants to sleep on their backs, appropriate discipline/child guidance, electrical hazards, water safety, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, supervision, transportation guidelines, and firearm access policies.

Background Checks: A comprehensive background check for child care providers helps ensure that children are safe in child care.

A comprehensive check includes: a fingerprint check against state and federal records, a check

of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.

State auditors conducting a cross-match in 4 states found 267 sex offenders in child care programs. (Illinois found 90 matches; Kentucky found 30, Massachusetts found 119 and Washington found 28).

- Only 12 states require a comprehensive check for staff working in centers.
- Only 11 states require a comprehensive check for family child care home providers.



Training: Training and education of the workforce is the single largest way to improve the quality of care.

Centers: 43 states require an orientation training. 38 states require training in child abuse prevention and reporting. 34 states require training in safe sleep practices. 13 states require training in the dangers of shaken baby syndrome. 9 states require CPR training for all staff.

Family Child Care Homes: 22 states require training in child abuse prevention and reporting. 33 states require training in basic health and safety. 36 states require CPR training. Some states have no topics that are

required in initial training before working with children.

Inspections: Regular monitoring promotes child safety as well as accountability for the expenditure of public dollars.

Centers: 10 states do not inspect child care centers at least once a year. For example, California inspects child care programs once every five years.

Family Child Care Homes: 17 states do not inspect family child care homes at least once a year. For example, California and Montana inspect family child care homes once every 5 years. Michigan inspects family child care homes once every 10 years.

About half the states post inspection reports on the internet so parents can make informed choices.

