
PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION MANUAL

The Child Care Licensing Division provides a Technical Assistance and Consultation Manual on the Licensing Rules for Child Care Centers and the Licensing Rules for Family and Group Child Care Homes. This manual is on the rules for child care centers. For each rule, you will typically find a rationale section, a technical assistance section and a consultation section. The rationale section describes the reason the rule was enacted. The technical assistance section outlines how to comply with the rule. The consultation section contains recommendations and best practices for going beyond rule requirements to improve the quality of care provided.

February 2020 UPDATE Table of Contents

The entire manual was updated.

Maintenance Instructions

Replace the entire manual.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION MANUAL
CHILD CARE CENTERS**

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Rule 101. As used in these rules:

- a) “Accredited college or university” means a college or university that has been accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting association recognized by the United States department of education.
- b) “Act” means 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.**
- c) “Adult” means a person 18 years of age or older.**
- d) “Ages” means all of the following:
 - i. “infant” – birth to 1 year.
 - ii. “toddler” – 1 year of age until 30 months of age.
 - iii. “preschooler” – 30 months of age until eligible to attend a grade of kindergarten or higher.
 - iv. “school-ager” – a child who is eligible to attend a grade of kindergarten or higher but less than 13 years of age. A child is considered a school-ager on the first day of the school year in which he or she is eligible.
- e) “Applicant” means an individual who applies for a license to operate a child care center.**
- f) “CEU” means a continuing education unit awarded by an accredited college or university sponsor of continuing education units or equivalent awarded by the state board of education.

As of May 18, 2012, State Board CEUs (SB-CEUs) became State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).

- SB-CEUs were calculated by dividing the total number of contact/instructional hours by the number 10. An eight-hour session was eligible to receive 0.8 SB-CEU.
- SCECHs are the total number of contact/instructional hours in a program. An eight-hour session is now eligible to receive 8 SCECHs.

- g) “Child care aide” means an individual who is 17 years of age, who provides services and participates in child care activities in a child care center, who shall not have unsupervised access or provide unsupervised care or supervision of children, and who has satisfactorily completed at least 1 year of a vocational-occupational child care aide training program approved by the department.**

Note: The vocational-occupational education careers (CIP 13.0000) training program approved by the Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education is equivalent to the vocational-occupational child care aide training program approved by

the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The child care aide program will end June 2014.

- h) “Child care administration” means educational courses in child care administration, education administration, or business administration.**
- i) “Child care background check system” means the database maintained by the department to document a comprehensive background check and eligibility determination pursuant to section 5n of the act, MCL 722.115n.**
- j) “Child care center” means that term as defined in section 1(h) of the act, MCL 722.111(h).**

"Child care center" means a facility, other than a private residence, receiving 1 or more children under 13 years of age for care for periods of less than 24 hours a day, where the parents or guardians are not immediately available to the child. Child care center includes a facility that provides care for not less than 2 consecutive weeks, regardless of the number of hours of care per day. The facility is generally described as a child care center, day care center, day nursery, nursery school, parent cooperative preschool, play group, before- or after-school program, or drop-in center. Child care center does not include any of the following:

- (i) A Sunday school, a vacation bible school, or a religious instructional class that is conducted by a religious organization where children are attending for not more than 3 hours per day for an indefinite period or for not more than 8 hours per day for a period not to exceed 4 weeks during a 12-month period.
- (ii) A facility operated by a religious organization where children are in the religious organization's care for not more than 3 hours while persons responsible for the children are attending religious services.
- (iii) A program that is primarily supervised, school-age-child-focused training in a specific subject, including, but not limited to, dancing, drama, music, or religion. This exclusion applies only to the time a child is involved in supervised, school-age-child-focused training.
- (iv) A program that is primarily an incident of group athletic or social activities for school-age children sponsored by or under the supervision of an organized club or hobby group, including, but not limited to, youth clubs, scouting, and school-age recreational or supplementary education programs. This exclusion applies only to the time the school-age child is engaged in the group athletic or social activities and if the school-age child can come and go at will.
- (v) *A program that primarily provides therapeutic services to a child.*

- k) “Child care staff member” means that term as defined in section 1(a) of the act, MCL 722.111(1)(a).**

"Child care staff member" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older to whom 1 or more of the following applies:

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- (i) *The individual is employed by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home for compensation, including a contract employee or a self-employed individual.*
 - (ii) *An individual whose activities involve the unsupervised care or supervision of children for a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
 - (iii) *An individual who has unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
 - (iv) *An individual who acts in the role of a licensee designee or program director.*
- l) “Child development associate credential” or “CDA” means a credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition or a similar credential approved by the department.**

The Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) is a nationally recognized credential that requires 480 hours of experience working with children and 120 clock hours of training. The clock hours can be obtained at the community college or higher level or through other organizations.

For more information about the CDA, contact the Council for Professional Recognition at (800) 424-4310 or go to their website at [Council for Professional Recognition](#).

- m) “Child-related field” means 1 of the following:**
- i. **For an early education program director, academic courses in elementary education, child guidance, child counseling, child psychology, family studies, or social work.**
 - ii. **For a school-age program director, academic courses in early childhood education, elementary education, secondary education, physical education and recreation, child development, child guidance, child counseling, child psychology, family studies, social work, human services, or youth development.**
- n) “Communicable disease” means an infectious disease that is transmissible from person to person by direct contact with an infected individual or the individual's discharges, or by indirect means through a vector. Communicable disease includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:**
- i. **Chicken pox.**
 - ii. **Hand, foot and mouth disease.**
 - iii. **Influenza.**
 - iv. **Measles.**
 - v. **Mumps.**
 - vi. **Pertussis, which is also referred to as whooping cough.**
 - vii. **Rubella.**
 - viii. **Tuberculosis.**

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- o) **“Comprehensive background check”** means a department review of an individual as required in sections 5n and 5q of the act, MCL 722.115n and MCL 722.115q.
- p) **“Conducive to the welfare of children”** means that term as defined in section 5m(13)(b) of the act, MCL 722.115m(13)(b).

“Conducive to the welfare of the children” means:

- (i) *The service and facility comply with this act and the administrative rules promulgated under this act.*
- (ii) *The disposition, temperament, condition, and action of the applicant, licensee, licensee designee, program director, child care staff member, and member of the household promote the safety and well-being of the children served.*

- q) **“Continuously employed child care staff member”** means an individual who has not been disconnected from the child care background check system for a period of more than 180 days and has continuously resided in Michigan as referenced in sections 5n(15) and 5n(16) of the act, MCL 722.115n(15) and 722.115n(16).
- r) **“Conviction”** means that term as defined in section 1(i) of the act, MCL 722.111(i).

“Conviction” means a final conviction, the payment of a fine, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere if accepted by the court, a finding of guilt for a criminal law violation or a juvenile adjudication or disposition by the juvenile division of probate court or family division of circuit court for a violation that if committed by an adult would be a crime, or a conviction in a tribal court or a military court.

- s) **“Criminal history check”** means that term as defined in section 1(j) of the act, MCL 722.111(j).

“Criminal history check” means a fingerprint-based criminal history record information background check through the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- t) **“Degrees and semester hours”** means only those degrees and hours from an accredited college or university.

A semester hour is the unit by which a college or university measures its course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class.

The US Department of Education website [Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs](#) provides a listing of schools that are accredited.

- If a college or university is not accredited, the center must determine whether any accredited colleges or universities will accept credits from the college/university in

question on a transfer basis. Written verification is required from the accepting college.

- Online and correspondence courses can be accepted only if from an accredited college or university or if an accredited college or university will recognize them. The center must provide documentation from an accredited college or university showing which credits would be accepted and the semester hour equivalency.
- Transcripts from other countries may be accepted. The center must provide written verification from a university or a private agency that determines equivalency to American credits. The following organizations evaluate international transcripts:
 - World Education Services, [World Education Services: International Credential Evaluation](#)
 - Educational Credential Evaluators, [Education Credential Evaluators](#)
- Transcripts from the following colleges are acceptable:
 - Bob Jones University.
 - Tennessee Temple College.
 - Marantha Bible College.
 - Hyles-Anderson College.

u) “Department” means the department of **licensing and regulatory affairs**.

v) “Developmentally appropriate” means age appropriate as well as appropriate to the individual child.

w) “**Early childhood program director**” means the program director of a center serving children of all ages.

x) “Easily cleanable” means that surfaces are readily accessible and made of such materials and finish and so fabricated that residue may be effectively removed by normal cleaning methods.

y) “**Eligible**” means that term as defined in section 1(m) of the act, MCL 722.111(m).

“Eligible” means that the individual obtained the checks and clearances described in sections 5n and 5q and is considered appropriate to obtain a license, to be a member of the household of a group child care home or family child care home, or to be a child care staff member.

z) “Field trip” means children and **personnel** leaving the child care center premises for an excursion, trip, or program activity.

aa) “First aid kit” means a kit containing, at a minimum, all of the following: sterile gauze pads, assorted sizes, a roll of gauze, adhesive bandages, assorted sizes, adhesive cloth tape, an elastic bandage, tweezers, and scissors. A first aid kit is prohibited

from containing any non-prescription or prescription medications as defined under R 400.8152.

bb) “Group size” means the specified number of children assigned to a **child care staff member** or team of **child care staff members** occupying an individual classroom or well-defined space for each group within a larger room. Two or more groups may be combined for collective activities as long as appropriate **child-to-staff** ratios are maintained in the room or area.

cc) “Hours of experience” means experience serving the ages and developmental abilities of children for which the center is licensed.

dd) “Immediately available” means a parent or guardian remains onsite at the address of the child care center.

ee) “Ineligible” means that term as defined in section 1(n) of the act, MCL 722.111(n).

"Ineligible" means that the individual obtained the checks and clearances as described in sections 5n and 5q and is not considered appropriate to obtain a license, to be a member of the household of a group child care home or family child care home, or to be a child care staff member due to violation of section 5n, 5q, or 5r.

ff) “Infant” means an individual from birth through 12 months of age.

R 400.8102 Definitions; J through R.

Rule 102. As used in these rules:

a) “Lead caregiver” means a child care staff member who is responsible for planning and implementing the daily program of activities for a group of children in a child care center.

b) “Licensee” means that term as defined in section 1(q) of the act, MCL 722.111(q).

"Licensee" means a person, partnership, firm, corporation, association, nongovernmental organization, or local or state government organization that has been issued a license under this act to operate a child care organization.

c) “Licensee designee” means that term as defined in section 1(cc) of the act, MCL 722.111(cc).

"Licensee designee" means the individual designated in writing by the board of directors of the corporation or by the owner or person with legal authority to act on behalf of the company or organization on licensing matters. The individual must agree in writing to be designated as the licensee designee. All license applications must be signed by the

licensee in the case of the individual or by a member of the corporation, company, or organization.

- d) **“Michigan school age or youth development credential” means a credential issued by the Michigan Afterschool Association or similar credential approved by the department.**

The Michigan School-Age/Youth Development credential is issued by the Michigan AfterSchool Association.

For more information about the Michigan School-Age/Youth Development credential, contact the Michigan After School Association at their website at [Michigan Afterschool Association](#)

- e) **“MiRegistry” is the electronic data system for child care providers that is maintained by the department of education to verify and track employment, training, and educational accomplishments. MiRegistry offers a statewide calendar of online and classroom training opportunities. MiRegistry can be accessed online at [MiRegistry](#)**
- f) **“Montessori credential” means a credential issued by the Association Montessori International (AMI), American Montessori Society (AMS), or any Montessori teaching or training institution recognized by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) that meets or exceeds 270 hours of academic training.**
- g) **“Parent” or “parental” means a child’s natural or adoptive parent who is legally responsible for the child or the child’s legal guardian.**
- h) **“Playspace” means a piece or pieces of age-appropriate toys, play equipment, and materials that 1 child can use independently for 15 minutes.**
- i) **“Personnel” means a licensee, licensee designee, child care staff member, and child care aide.**

Personnel includes volunteers, which is part of the child care staff member definition.

- j) **“Portable crib” means a crib that can be folded or collapsed, without disassembly, to occupy a space less than it occupies when it is used. Products with mesh, fabric or non-rigid sides, such as a bassinet or play yard, are not considered a portable crib.**
- k) **“Preschooler” means an individual who is 31 months of age until eligible to attend school in a grade of kindergarten or higher.**

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- l) **“Program components”** means the different services offered by a center. They include, but are not limited to infant and toddler, preschool, and school-age care and education; nighttime care; food service; swimming; and transportation.
 - m) **“Program director”** means a licensee or child care staff member who is responsible for the general management of the center and ensures compliance with the act and these rules.
 - n) **“Routine transportation”** means regularly scheduled travel on the same day of the week, at the same time, to the same destination. Any deviation is non-routine transportation.

R 400.8103 Definitions; S through Z.

Rule 103. As used in these rules:

- a) **“Sanitized”** means to wipe or spray the surface with a sanitizing solution, let the surface air dry or wipe dry after 2 minutes with a single service towel, or according to the manufacturer’s directions.
- b) **“School”** means a building or part of a building that is owned or leased by, or under the control of, a public or private school or school system for the purpose of instruction as required by the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1853, which is occupied by 6 or more students, and which is used 4 or more hours per day or more than 12 hours per week.
- c) **“School-age child”** means that term as defined in section 1(aa) of the act, MCL 722.111(1)(aa).

“School-age child” means a child who is eligible to attend a grade of kindergarten or higher, but is less than 13 years of age. A child is considered to be a school-age child on the first day of the school year in which he or she is eligible to attend school.

- d) **“School-age program director”** means the program director of a center serving only school-age children.
- e) **“Site supervisor”** means an individual who oversees the daily operation of a school age program when a multi-site director has been named. The site supervisor must meet all requirements as defined under R 400.8119.
- f) **“Staff”** means any compensated employee of a center.

Includes only compensated employees, not volunteers.

- g) **“Supervised volunteer”** means a person 16 years of age or older, who provides service for a child care center that is not compensated, and who is supervised at all times when children are in care.

A supervised volunteer does not include the rare occasions when parents accompany their child on a special activity such as a classroom party or field trip, when the parent is only with their child and has no responsibility for classroom activities.

A supervised volunteer cannot be used to maintain child care staff member to child ratio.

- h) “Toddler” means an individual who is 13 through 30 months of age.**
- i) “Unsupervised volunteer” means an individual who is 18 years of age or older, who provides service for a child care center that is not compensated, and who has been determined eligible by the department to be unsupervised with children.**

An unsupervised volunteer can be used to maintain the child care staff member to child ratio as long as they meet the definition of a child care staff member including completing all required professional development.

- j) “Well-defined space” means space designed and used exclusively for a specific group of children.**

R 400.8104 Rule variances.**Rule 104 (1)**

- 1) Upon written request of an applicant or licensee, the department may grant a variance from an administrative rule if the alternative proposed provides clear and convincing evidence that the health, welfare, and safety of children is protected.

Rationale

Allows a center to meet the intent of a rule by an alternative means when special circumstances exist.

Technical Assistance

The center is responsible and accountable for:

- Submitting a written request for a variance to a particular rule. The written request must be sent to the local office.
- Describing the alternative proposed which will meet the intent of the rule in a different way.
- Assuring that the proposed alternative does not compromise the safety of children.
- Assuring that the proposed change is not initiated until written confirmation from the department is received approving the variance.

If the variance is requested on a rule regarding environmental health or fire safety, a recommendation may be needed from an environmental health sanitarian or a fire safety authority regarding the proposed options.

Rule 104 (2)

- 2) The decision of the department, including the conditions under which the variance was granted, shall be kept on file at the **child care** center.

Rationale

Assures that the program director and other appropriate center staff are aware of the terms of any variances.

Rule 104 (3)

- 3) The granted variance may remain in effect for as long as the licensee continues to comply with the conditions of the variance or may be time-limited.

Rationale

Allows flexibility in determining the appropriateness of the duration of a variance.

Technical Assistance

Reasons for rescinding a variance may include:

- Failure of a licensee to comply with the terms of the variance.
 - The variance is no longer necessary or appropriate.
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Rule 104 (4)

- 4) Variances will not be granted from statutory requirements.

R 400.8107 Applicant qualifications.**Rule 107 (1).**

1. **An** applicant shall meet all of the following qualifications:
 - a) Be suitable to meet the needs of children.
 - b) Be able to **ensure** that the proposed services and facilities are conducive to the welfare of children.
 - c) **Act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.**
 - d) Demonstrate a willingness and ability to comply with **the act** and **these** rules.

Rationale

Assures:

- The safety and welfare of children.
- That the applicant exhibits responsible behavior and has the ability to respond appropriately to children's needs.

Technical Assistance

To assess if an applicant is suitable and conducive to the welfare of children the applicant will complete a comprehensive background check through the department at Child Care Background Check (CCBC). [CCBC website](#)

Suitable means the applicant:

- Is truthful to the department and the public.
- Does not have a criminal history which could affect the safety and welfare of children in care.
- Is capable of making appropriate judgements.
- Is knowledgeable of the developmental needs of children of varying ages.
- Conducts self in a way so that rule requirements are met.
- Is not on central registry as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect.

*To assess an applicant's **conduciveness** and suitability, the applicant will print, complete, and have on file at the facility the Consent and Disclosure form. The applicant will then request fingerprinting and schedule a fingerprint appointment online through the applicant's online childcare background check account. The applicant must also submit a completed Childcare Licensing Information Request form (BCHS-CC-001) and submit to the department.*

Note: *The comprehensive background check and consent and disclosure forms are required for all School district and ISD/ESD employees whose activities involve unsupervised care or supervision of children and volunteers who have unsupervised access to children.*

The Childcare Licensing Information Request form (BCHS-CC-001) is required for all program directors, licensees and licensee designees. You can get this form from your consultant.

The consent and disclosure forms as well as the comprehensive background check are used for the following:

- *Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)*
- *Michigan State Police (MSP)*
- *National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Sex Offender Registry Check*
- *Michigan Public Sex Offender Registry (PSOR)*
- *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Central Registry*
- *Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Disciplinary Action Registry Check (red screen)*
- *State Criminal History Registry Check for any state an applicant has resided in during the past five years.*
- *National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) for applicants who have resided out of state during the past five years.*
- *Registry Check/Self Certification form for any applicant who has resided out of the country in the past five years.*

Results of the Comprehensive Background Check

The department must not issue an original license if the comprehensive background check deems the applicant ineligible.

Note: If the applicant has his/her name expunged from the central registry, he/she may be issued a license *after an eligibility determination has been made*. An expungement is requested by the individual named on central registry to the Department of Health and Human Services office that placed the person on central registry.

Rule 107 (2) - (4).

2. **An applicant for a license to operate a child care center shall complete, sign, and submit the department's child care application form, along with the fee pursuant to section 20161 of the code, MCL 333.20161, to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, P.O. Box 30664, Lansing, MI 48909-8164.**
3. **If the applicant elects a licensee designee pursuant to section 1(cc) of the act, MCL 722.111(cc), then the applicant shall also complete, sign and submit the department's child care licensee designee form.**
4. **The department's child care application form and child care licensee designee form are available at no cost on the department's website www.michigan.gov/michildcare. They are also available at no cost by calling the department at (517) 284-9738 or (866) 685-0006. They are also available at no cost at the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs,**

Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 W. Ottawa St, Lansing, MI 48933-1070.

Technical Assistance

To apply, visit the child care licensing's website for the application process: [License Application Packet](#)

The licensee designee form (BCAL-5003) can be found at [Child Care Forms](#)

Rule 107 (5).

5. Before issuance of the original license, **and before the renewal of a license, an applicant or licensee** shall comply with applicable **laws and** administrative rules.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and welfare of children.

R 400.8110 Applicant; licensee; licensee designee; requirements.**Rule 110 (1)**

1. The licensee or licensee designee shall do all of the following:
 - a) **Act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.**
 - b) Comply with sections **5n and 5q of the act, MCL 722.115n and 722.115q, which requires a comprehensive background check.**
 - c) Be responsible for compliance with **the act**, and **these** rules.
 - d) Report to the department within 3 business days after any arraignment or **conviction of 1 or more of the crimes listed in section 5r of the act, MCL 722.115r, and any subsequent conviction.**

Rationale

Assures:

- The safety and welfare of children.
- That the licensee exhibits responsible behavior and have the ability to respond appropriately to children's needs.

Technical AssistanceTo view the entire Child Care Organizations Act: [Act 116 of 1973](#)**To be in compliance with (1)(a):****722.115m(b)** "Conducive to the welfare of the children" means:

- (i) *The service and facility comply with this act and the administrative rules promulgated under this act.*
- (ii) *The disposition, temperament, condition, and action of the applicant, licensee, licensee designee, program director, child care staff member, and member of the household promote the safety and well-being of the children served.*

Conducive to the welfare of children also includes the licensee:

- *Is truthful to the department and the public.*
- *Is capable of making appropriate judgements.*
- *Is knowledgeable of the developmental needs of children of varying ages.*
- *Conducts self in a way so that rule requirements are met.*

722.115m(3) *To assess whether the service, facility, applicant, licensee, child care staff member, or member of the household is conducive to the welfare of the children, the department may utilize available information, including, but not limited to, any of the following:*

- a) *Investigative report, such as a law enforcement report and a children's protective services report.*
- b) *Medical report.*
- c) *Public record.*
- d) *Child care center, group child care home, or family child care home record.*

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- e) *Inspection of the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*

MCL 722.120

(1) *The department may investigate, inspect, and examine conditions of a child care organization and may investigate and examine the books and records of the licensee. The licensee shall cooperate with the department's investigation, inspection, and examination by doing all of the following:*

(a) *Admitting members of the department into the child care organization and furnishing all reasonable facilities for thorough examination of its books, records, and reports.*

(b) *Allowing the department to perform routine investigative functions during the course of an investigation, inspection, or examination. Routine investigative functions include, but are not limited to, interviewing potential witnesses, such as staff and household members, and taking photographs to assess and document the conditions of the child care organization and its compliance with this act and the rules promulgated under this act.*

(c) *Providing accurate and truthful information to the department, and encouraging witnesses, such as staff and household members, to provide accurate and truthful information to the department.*

To be in compliance with (1)(b):

722.115n (1) *Except as otherwise provided in subsection (13), when a person, partnership, firm, corporation, association, governmental organization, or nongovernmental organization applies for or applies to renew a license to operate a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home under section 5m and before a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be a member of the household, or a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home allows an individual to become a child care staff member, the department shall do all of the following:*

(a) *Review its database of individuals with previous disciplinary action within a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home or an adult foster care facility.*

(b) *Conduct a search of the individual through the national sex offender registry.*

(c) *Request a search of the individual through all state criminal registries or repositories for any states of residence in the past 5 years.*

(d) *Request that the department of state police perform a criminal history check on the individual, child care staff member, or adult member of the household.*

(2) *If the individual, child care staff member, or adult member of the household has resided out of the United States within the preceding 5 years, equivalent clearances of those described in subsection (1)(b) and (d) and section 5q from each country must be provided, if available. If the country does not have the equivalent clearance, the individual must sign a self-certifying statement that he or she is not ineligible to receive a license, to be an adult member of the household, or to be a child care staff member as prescribed by sections 5q and 5r. An individual who provides or is determined to have provided false information or knowingly omits information in the self-certification statement is ineligible for that application.*

(3) Each individual listed in subsection (1) shall give written consent at the time of the license application and before a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be a member of the household, or before becoming a child care staff member to allow the department of state police to conduct the criminal history check required under subsection (1). The department shall require the individual to submit his or her fingerprints to the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the criminal history check as required in subsection (1).

(4) The department shall request a criminal history check required under this section on a form and in the manner prescribed by the department of state police.

(5) Within a reasonable time after receiving a complete request for a criminal history check on a person under this section, the department of state police shall conduct the criminal history check and provide a report of the results to the department. The report shall contain any criminal history record information on the person maintained by the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(6) The department of state police may charge the department a fee for a criminal history check required under this section that does not exceed the actual and reasonable cost of conducting the check. The department may pass along to the individual fingerprinted the actual cost or fee charged by the department of state police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or a vendor approved by the department of state police for performing a criminal history check required under this section.

(7) The department shall provide whether the individual is eligible or ineligible as provided by sections 5q and 5r within 45 days after the date on which the request was submitted.

(8) The individual may serve as a child care staff member pending the results of the record and database checks required by this section and section 5q if the individual is supervised at all times.

(9) Within 45 days after the date on which the request was submitted, the department shall provide a statement to the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home that indicates whether the individual is eligible or ineligible to be, a licensee, an adult member of the household, or a child care staff member as provided under sections 5q and 5r without revealing any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the individual.

(10) If the individual is ineligible due to the records or database checks required under this section and section 5q, the department shall provide information related to each disqualifying item in a report to the individual who has been determined ineligible.

(11) An individual who has been determined to be ineligible as provided under sections 5q and 5r may request a redetermination by the department if he or she believes that the basis for the ineligible determination is inaccurate. The individual shall file the request for redetermination with the department within 30 calendar days after receiving the written notice that he or she was determined to be ineligible. If an individual has been determined to be ineligible based upon a conviction that has been expunged or set aside or a central registry case that has been expunged, the individual shall provide the supporting court, law enforcement, or department of health and human services, or equivalent department from another state, documents along with the request for redetermination. The individual shall not be determined to be ineligible based upon a conviction that has been set aside

or expunged or a central registry case that has been expunged. The department shall review the request and issue a written decision within 30 business days after receiving the request for redetermination. The decision of the department is final.

(12) Each ineligible individual shall be given instructions about how to complete the request for redetermination process as provided in subsection (11).

(13) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not later than September 30, 2017, every child care center licensee, group child care home licensee, family child care home licensee, child care staff member, and adult member of the household shall submit his or her fingerprints to the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to carry out the records and database checks required under this section and section 5q. If the department of education obtains an extension on the implementation of this program from the federal government, the provisions of this section may be implemented no later than September 30, 2018.

(14) If a licensee, licensee designee, or program director of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home applying for a new license or to renew a license to operate a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home has previously undergone a criminal history check required under subsections (1) and (13) and has remained continuously licensed after the criminal history check has been performed, that licensee, licensee designee, or program director of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home is not required to submit to another criminal history check upon renewal of, or application for, the license obtained under this act.

(15) Upon consent of an applicant as required in subsection (3) and upon request from a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home, the department shall review the information received from the criminal history check, if any, and notify the requesting child care center, group child care home, or family child care home of the information in the manner prescribed in subsection (7). Until the Federal Bureau of Investigation implements an automatic notification system as outlined in section 5k, a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home may rely on the criminal history record information provided by the department under this subsection and a new request as provided under this section is not necessary if all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The criminal history check was conducted during the immediately preceding 5-year period.

(b) The applicant has been continuously employed by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home since the criminal history check was conducted in compliance with this section.

(c) The applicant can provide evidence acceptable to the department that he or she has been a resident of this state for the immediately preceding 5-year period.

(16) The checks and clearances required in subsection (1)(a) to (c) and section 5q shall be updated at least every 5 years if the individual has been continuously licensed, has continuously been serving as a child care staff member, or has continuously been an adult member of the household.

NOTE: if a person is found ineligible, he/she cannot be connected to the center per Rule 400.8112(4)

To be in compliance with (1)(c)

The department continually monitors the licensee *and/or licensee designee* for any criminal activity or placement on central registry as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect. The department must initiate steps to revoke or refuse to renew the license if a central registry clearance reveals that an active licensee is listed on central registry or if a criminal history clearance reveals a conviction for the *exclusionary offenses*. *A list of exclusionary offences can be found below and at [CCBC/Forms and Resources](#).*

Note: If the licensee has his/her name expunged from the central registry, he/she may hold a license. An expungement is requested by the individual named on central registry to the Department of Health and Human Services office that placed the person on central registry.

To be in compliance with (1)(d)

Reporting an Arraignment of Licensee

A licensee *and licensee designee* must report to the department within three business days after he or she has been arraigned for one or more exclusionary crimes as specified in the Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116). A person who fails to report as required is guilty of a felony or a misdemeanor, depending on the offense.

Arraignment is when an individual is formally charged and appears in a court of law and enters a plea.

The following offenses that must be reported to the department or center within three days of being arraigned:

- ***Felony*** consisting of 1 or more of the following or any other state or federal equivalent for the following:
 - 1) *Murder or Homicide.*
 - 2) *Child Abuse or Child Neglect.*
 - 3) *A crime against a minor child including, but no limited to, child pornography.*
 - 4) *Spousal abuse or domestic violence.*
 - 5) *A crime involving rape or sexual assault.*
 - 6) *Kidnapping.*
 - 7) *Arson.*
 - 8) *Physical assault or battery.*
 - 9) *Human Trafficking or Involuntary Servitude.*
- ***Violent Misdemeanor*** against a child, including, but not limited to, 1 or more of the following crimes:
 - 1) *Child Abuse.*
 - 2) *Child Endangerment.*

-
- 3) *Sexual Assault.*
 - 4) *Misdemeanor Child Pornography.*

Felonies or an Attempt or Conspiracy to Commit 1 or more of the following

- 1) *Felony harm or threatened harm to an individual.*
 - 2) *Felony involving the use of a firearm or dangerous weapon.*
 - 3) *Felony involving cruelty or torture of any person.*
 - 4) *Felony involving a substantial misrepresentation of any material fact, bribery, fraud, larceny, embezzlement, theft, home invasion, breaking and entering, receiving and concealing stolen property or a crime of similar statute.*
 - 5) *Felony involving operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated or impaired causing serious injury or death.*
 - 6) *Felony involving the use of a computer or the internet to commit a crime.*
 - 7) *Felony involving the cruelty to animals, including, but not limited to, fighting, killing, torturing, and abandoning.*
 - 8) *Felony involving aggravated stalking, aggravated indecent exposure by a sexually delinquent person, pandering, transporting an individual for prostitution, and keeping, maintaining or operating a house of ill fame.*
 - 9) *Felony as a Habitual Offender.*
-
- 1) *Felony Drug Offense, or an Attempt or Conspiracy to Commit a Felony Drug Offense.*

Misdemeanors, an Attempt or Conspiracy to Commit any of those Misdemeanors, or any other state or federal equivalent:

- 1) *Operating under the presence of a controlled substance.*
- 2) *Use or possession of a controlled substance.*
- 3) *Selling or furnishing a controlled substance to a minor.*
- 4) *Using computers to commit a crime.*
- 5) *Substantial misrepresentation of a material fact.*
- 6) *Embezzlement.*
- 7) *Breaking and Entering.*
- 8) *Any other fraudulent crime except Retail Fraud 3rd Degree, Petty Theft, or Shoplifting.*
- 9) *Stalking.*
- 10) *Assault.*
- 11) *Spousal Abuse.*
- 12) *Domestic Violence.*
- 13) *Weapons Offense.*

14) *Harboring Runaways.*

15) *Aiding and Abetting.*

16) *Arson.*

It is the licensee's responsibility to assure that all employees are aware of their requirement to report an arraignment for the above listed crimes to the center.

Consultation

The Employee Notification to Child Care Center of Arraignment (BCAL-1486) may be used by center staff to notify the center of an arraignment. *The form can be found at [Child Care Forms](#).*

Rule 110 (2)

2. The **applicant, licensee, and licensee designee** shall have the administrative capability to operate the center in order to provide the services and facilities that are conducive to the welfare of children.

Rationale

Assures for the welfare of children.

Technical Assistance

Lack of administrative capability means the repeated inability to maintain compliance with the licensing rules and the Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116). This includes, but is not limited to, the inability to:

- Maintain accurate records.
 - Maintain utilities.
 - Ensure financial obligations are met.
 - Correct physical problems in the center.
 - Address issues with staff.
 - *Provide an appropriate learning environment to ensure the safety of children.*
-

Rule 110 (3)

3. **All of the following must** be in a place, accessible, and visible to parents:
 - a) The current license and, if applicable, the letter extending the license beyond the expiration date.
 - b) A copy of **these** rules and a copy of **the last page of** any variances granted.
 - c) A notice stating that the center requires a **comprehensive background** check on its employees and **unsupervised** volunteers.

Rationale

Informs the parents of the following:

- The capacity, terms and status of the license.
- The rules and regulations the center is required to meet.
- The rules the center is complying with in an alternative manner.

-
- The extent that the center goes to assess employees and volunteers for criminal history.

Technical Assistance

A visible place means a location where parents, staff and others can easily see it. In a place accessible to parents, includes but is not limited to, having the required documents available in a location parents have access to in any of the following manners:

- Posted.
- In a binder with the contents clearly labeled.
- On a desk, table or shelf.

The extension letter notifies the licensee that the license has been extended beyond the expiration date. The Administrative Procedures Act (1969 PA 306 *as amended*) states that when a licensee makes timely and sufficient application for the renewal of a license, the existing license does not expire until the department makes a decision on the application.

Rule 110 (4)

4. There **must** be a licensing notebook on the premises **that** includes all licensing inspection and special investigation reports and related corrective action plans **for the last 5 calendar years**, and a summary sheet outlining the documents contained in the notebook. The notebook **must** be in a **place accessible** to parents and prospective parents at all times during the center's normal hours of operation.

Rationale

Effective May 27, 2010, the Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116) requires providers to maintain a licensing notebook. *The notebook is a resource accessible onsite to parents to review all inspections and investigations.*

Technical Assistance

All of the following must be filed in your licensing notebook:

- Original Inspection Report
- Addendum to the Original Inspection Report
- Change of Use Space Request for School-Age Programs located in Schools (BCAL-4342)
- Renewal Inspection Report
- Interim Inspection Report
- Special Investigation Report
- Confirming Letter
- Any corrective action plans related to the above documents.

The notebook must be assessible to parents, meaning parents should have access without needing to ask for it. The notebook should be in plain view.

A summary sheet or index of all reports and corrective active plans must be included in the licensing notebook.

Consultation

The Licensing Notebook Summary Sheet (BCAL-5052) may be used as the required summary sheet in the licensing notebook. The BCAL-5052 is available on the licensing website at [Child Care Forms](#).

It is recommended that when inspection reports and related CAPs are added to the licensing notebook, the center notify parents within three business days of the receipt of the report or approval letter for the CAP.

Rule 110 (5)

5. The actual number and ages of children in care at any time **must** never exceed the number and ages of children for which the center is licensed.

Rationale

Assures that appropriate care and supervision is provided to all children and assures the safety and welfare of all children.

Technical Assistance

The overlapping of children's schedules, which puts the number of children above the licensed capacity, is not permitted at any time.

Consultation

The following best practices are recommended:

- Enroll children carefully so there is no overlapping of schedules that exceeds the license capacity.
- Inform parents that a back-up care plan is necessary when parents are not able to drop off or pick up their children at the agreed upon time.
- A written policy, distributed to parents, regarding attendance and the necessity to follow the agreed upon schedule for drop-off and pick-up may prevent misunderstandings and conflicts.

Children Age 13 and Older

Programs serving children age 13 and older are not required to be licensed under the Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116) because "center" is defined as a facility receiving 1 or more children under 13 years of age for care. However, some programs may choose to serve children age 13 and older. If the program is licensed for schoolage children and serves both children age 12 and younger and children age 13 and older:

- The licensing rules don't apply to children age 13 and older if the children who are age 13 and older are in their own well-defined space.
- **ALL** licensing rules apply to all the children, including required records for children, if children age 12 and younger and children age 13 and older are mixed in the

same well-defined space. The caregiver-to-child ratio for the youngest child present would apply.

Rule 110 (6)

6. **The licensee or licensee designee shall maintain accurate daily records detailing arrival times and departure times for each child care staff member, child care aide, and volunteer.**

Rationale

To aid in verification of compliance with center regulations.

Technical Assistance

Full and first and last names shall be used.

Centers can keep attendance records electronically. It is the center's responsibility to demonstrate all of the following:

- *The electronic attendance records are reliable.*
- *How attendance records would be maintained if the system was down.*
- *How attendance records would be accessed if the system was down or in an emergency.*
- *If electronic attendance records are not available during an on-site inspection, the center is in violation of this rule.*

Consultation

It is best practice to record the exact arrival and departure times the child care staff member works in each well-defined space throughout the day.

Rule 110 (7) & (8)

7. A child shall only be released to persons authorized by the **child's parent or guardian**.
8. A child shall be released to either parent **or the child's guardian**, unless a court order prohibits release to a particular parent. A copy of the order prohibiting release **must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and welfare of children and protects the center from becoming an unwitting accomplice in custody disputes or kidnapping.

Technical Assistance

Both parents have a right to pick up the child regardless of whether they are listed on the Child Information Record (BCAL-3731 or a comparable substitute) unless a court order is on file prohibiting release to a particular parent.

Parents and/or guardians can request an individual who is not listed on the child information card to pick up a child via phone call.

Consultation

It is best practice to require prior written authorization from parents before releasing a child to the identified person. The center may establish a mechanism for identifying a person for whom the parents have given prior authorization to pick up their child, such as:

- Require photo identification.
- Require the use of a password.

The following best practices are recommended in dealing with child custody conflicts:

- Maintain your role as the child's advocate.
- Limit any discussion with either parent to the child and the effects the conflict may be having on the child.
- Limit all discussions with the parent to a time when the child is not present.
- Request a copy of the court order that establishes custody.
- Do not answer questions regarding the child over the phone.
- If the non-custodial parent wishes to obtain information regarding the child, schedule an appointment and require identification.

If a center receives a verbal request, it is best practice to have the parent and/or guardian follow up with text or email containing the written request and permission for the individual not listed on the child information card to pick up the child.

It is best practice that the center create a policy regarding the expectation for the release of children and parental permission requirements. The center may want to consider the use a "code word" when making changes to who is picking up the child.

If a parent and/or guardian contacts the center to provide permission to release a child to an individual not listed on the child information card, the person who takes the phone call from parent, should document date and time of phone call as well as name of individual the parent is requesting release to.

Rule 110 (9)

9. Within 5 business days, the licensee shall notify the department of the separation of a **licensee designee**, program director, or a central administrator approved **pursuant to R 400.8113(16)**, and a plan for replacement of the **individual**.

Rationale

Assures that the center notifies the department of program director or the central administrator changes in a timely manner. A trained and qualified program director or central administrator is essential to assure optimal program functioning.

Rule 110 (10)

10. Written approval from the department **must** be obtained before making any changes in the terms of the license, including but not limited to, adding use space, changing age groups served, changing program components, changing the capacity of the center, or making changes to a room or well-defined space that will result in a change in capacity of the room or well-defined space.

Rationale

Assures that children have safe and adequate space for daily activities and room to move. Assures that department is aware of the services offered by the center and that the center is in compliance with rules related to newly added components.

Technical Assistance

The center is responsible for submitting a modification request and obtaining approval from the licensing consultant prior to using new space and previously unapproved space or other changes to the terms of the license or program components. The center must notify the department prior to making changes to a room or well-defined space (e.g., switching classrooms, etc.) that will result in a change in capacity of the room or well-defined space.

Consultation

The Request for Modification of the Terms of the License/Registration (BCAL-5054) and the Change of Use Space Request for School-Age Programs Located in Schools (BCAL-4342) forms are available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#).

Rule 110 (11) & (12)

11. The records required by **the act** and **these rules** must be retained **for a minimum of 2 calendar years or longer as specified in these rules**, and made available to the department upon request.

12. The following records must be retained and available to the department:

- a) The name, address, and telephone number for each child enrolled and each employee for at least 2 years after **the individual leaves** the center.
- b) Staff and volunteer health records, as required by R 400.8128, and documentation of qualifications **must** be retained until **the individual leaves** the center.
- c) The licensing notebook **must** be maintained and retained until the license is closed.

Rationale

The department may need past records when conducting complaint investigations. Past records will assist the center in resolving licensing issues.

Technical Assistance

In most circumstances, records are to be on-site at the center for review. If there are extenuating circumstances, *such as but not limited to, a fire or a flood that destroyed the*

records where some documents are not kept on-site, the records must be made available to the department upon request at the time of an on-site inspection or another designated time.

Training records must be kept for the past two full calendar years. For example, at a renewal inspection on July 1, 2016, your licensing consultant will review training records for calendar year 2014 and 2015.

Consent and disclosure forms must be retained for four years after the person has left employment.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to store inactive files on children and staff separately from active files.

Records for other programs (e.g., Child Development and Care payments, Child and Adult Care Food Program, etc.) and for taxes purposes may need to be kept longer than two years.

Rule 110 (13)

13. Smoking **and vaping must** not occur in or during **both** of the following:
- a) In the child care center or on real property that is under the control of the center and upon which the center is located.
 - b) On field trips and in vehicles when children are present.

Rationale

The Child Care Organizations Act (MCL 722.113b) prohibits an individual from smoking in a child care center or on the real property under control of the center.

The hazards of second-hand smoke warrant the prohibition of smoking in proximity of child care areas at any time. Residual toxins from smoking at times when children are not using the space can trigger asthma and allergies when children do use the space.

Technical Assistance

Smoking must not occur in the child care center or on the premises (real property) of the child care center, including when children are **not** in care. The licensee must assure that employees, volunteers, parents, and visitors comply with this rule.

*MCL 333.12601 (Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978) defines smoking as:
"Smoking" or "smoke" means the burning of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other matter or substance that contains a tobacco product.*

"Tobacco product" means a product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, noncigarette smoking tobacco, or

smokeless tobacco, as those terms are defined in section 2 of the tobacco products tax act, 1993 PA 327, MCL 205.422, and cigars.

MCL 722.644 (Youth Tobacco Act. Act 31 of 1915) defines vaping as: "Vapor product" means a noncombustible product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor from nicotine or any other substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. Vapor product includes an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device and a vapor cartridge or other container of nicotine or other substance in a solution or other form that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device. Vapor product does not include a product regulated as a drug or device by the United States Food and Drug Administration under 21 USC 351 to 360fff-7.

Rule 110 (14)

- 14. A center shall post a notice in a place accessible and visible to parents, staff, and visitors stating that smoking and vaping are prohibited in the center and on the center's property.**

Technical Assistance:

The licensee/licensee designee must post a notice indicating that smoking and vaping will not occur in the center or on the real property that is under control of the child care center.

R 400.8112 (1) Comprehensive background check; fingerprinting.**Rule 112 (1)**

1. Pursuant to sections 5n and 5q of the act, MCL 722.115n and 722.115q, prior to an individual having any unsupervised contact with children, the department shall determine the individual's eligibility to be any of the following:
 - a) A licensee.
 - b) A licensee designee.
 - c) A child care staff member.
 - d) A child care aide.
 - e) An unsupervised volunteer.

Technical Assistance:

- a) "Licensee" means a person, partnership, firm, corporation, association, nongovernmental organization, or local or state government organization that has been issued a license under this act to operate a child care organization.
- b) "Licensee designee" means the individual designated in writing by the board of directors of the corporation or by the owner or person with legal authority to act on behalf of the company or organization on licensing matters. The individual must agree in writing to be designated as the licensee designee. All license applications must be signed by the licensee in the case of the individual or by a member of the corporation, company, or organization.
- c) "Program director" means a licensee or child care staff member who is responsible for the general management of the center and ensures compliance with the act and these rules.
- d) "Child Care Staff" means any compensated employee of a center.
- e) "Unsupervised volunteer" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older, who provides service for a child care center that is not compensated, and who has been determined eligible by the department to be unsupervised with children.

Eligibility is determined through the comprehensive background check process. In order to receive a determination, the individual must be entered into the Child Care Background Check (CCBC) system by the person authorized to use the system and then fingerprinted under the Child Care Licensing (CCL) Reason Code. Upon receipt of the fingerprint results, all remaining registry checks will be completed by the department. Any applicant who has resided out of state or country within the past 5 years is required to submit additional information in order to complete the comprehensive background check. This may include the submission of additional forms and fees required by state(s) in order to complete the remaining components of the comprehensive background check.

Rule 112(2)(a)**2. An applicant or licensee shall do all of the following:**

- a) **Ensure that each individual who requires an eligibility determination pursuant to subrule (1) of this rule completes, signs, and submits all of the information required in subrule (5) of this rule, and in subrule (6) of this rule if applicable, on a form prescribed by the department. The forms are available on the department's website for the child care background check system, www.michigan.gov/ccbc. The form or forms must be signed and dated prior to the individual's appointment to be fingerprinted.**

Rationale

Assures for the safety and welfare of children.

Technical Assistance

*Each individual who requires a comprehensive background check must accurately and thoroughly complete the **Consent and Disclosure form** which can be found at www.michigan.gov/ccbc under [Forms and Resources](#).*

This form must be signed and dated prior to the individual being fingerprinted to be compliant with this rule. As the licensee(s) are also entered into the CCBC System, the licensee is also required to accurately and thoroughly complete the Consent and Disclosure form.

Rule 112(2)(b) & (c)

- b) **Maintain a copy of the completed and signed form or forms for each individual entered into the child care background check system under the license.**
- c) **Provide to the department, upon request, a copy of the individual's completed and signed form or forms.**

Technical Assistance

The Consent and Disclosure form can be found at [CCBC Forms and Resources](#)

This form is important for several reasons:

- 1) *The Consent and Disclosure form provides instructions to the applicant on how to appeal their criminal history record information if they feel that there is an inaccuracy in their record.*
- 2) *The form reminds applicants and licensees of the statutory requirement under MCL 722.115e to report arraignments and convictions for crimes listed in section 5r within 3 business days.*
- 3) *The form contains personal information required for completing a comprehensive background check. Omitting or providing false information on this form will result in a determination of ineligible for that application. Therefore, the department may*

request a copy of the Consent and Disclosure form to ensure that the applicant did not knowingly falsify or omit information such as, but not limited to, names previously used or states previously resided in.

This form shall be maintained for a minimum of four (4) years after the individual has left employment/connection with the child care facility.

Michigan State Police (MSP), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and LARA will periodically request a copy of this form to ensure compliance. MSP and the FBI have Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) policies which require a Consent form. Both MSP and the FBI audit LARA to assure that individuals fingerprinted under the child care reason code are aware of their rights and responsibilities as documented in this form. As the department is periodically audited by the FBI/MSP to ensure compliance with CJIS policies, we may request that a copy of the Consent and Disclosure form be provided.

On occasion, the department may become aware of additional aliases or states of residency not disclosed into the CCBC system. When this occurs, the department may request a copy of the Consent and Disclosure form to assess whether or not the individual was knowingly attempting to falsify or omit information in connection with the background check.

Falsifying and omitting information in connection with a comprehensive background check will result in an applicant being found ineligible for that application. If there are concerns that an applicant may have omitted or falsified information in the Consent and Disclosure form and by extension the CCBC System, the department may request to view the form.

Consultation

Once an applicant completes the Consent and Disclosure form, they should be provided a copy of their form for future use.

Rule 112(d), (e) & (f)

- d) Establish and activate an account and accurately enroll each individual listed in subrule (1) of this rule in the child care background check system.**
- e) Within the department's child care background check system, accurately complete and maintain the connection, disconnection, or withdrawn status of each individual associated with the license.**
- f) Immediately disconnect each individual from the system once he or she is no longer a licensee, licensee designee, child care staff member, child care aide, or an unsupervised volunteer under the license.**

Technical Assistance

*Accurately completing and maintaining the connection, disconnection, or withdrawn status of each individual associated with the license is required. Once an individual has been entered into the system for a facility, you will be notified in writing of the applicant's eligibility. The letter states that you need to log into the Child Care Background Check system and finalize your "Action" in the system once you have made your final decision regarding employment. Once a person has been found eligible, you must **"Connect"** them to your facility in CCBC if the person will be a child care staff member, unsupervised volunteer or licensee designee. If you are no longer going to have them in one of the previously mentioned rolls, you will **"Disconnect"** them. If you no longer wish to pursue a background check for an individual, you would **"Withdraw"** them.*

The CCBC [Forms and Resources](#) has a PowerPoint training guide for using the Child Care Background Check System.

For questions, contact the CCBC unit at 844-765-2247.

Frequently Asked Questions for using the CCBC system can be found here [FAQ](#)

Rule 112 (3)

3. **An individual may serve as a child care staff member pending an eligibility determination by the department, pursuant to sections 5n(8) and 5q of the act, MCL 722.115n(8) and 722.115q, and shall be supervised at all times by the licensee or a child care staff member who has been determined eligible.**

Technical assistance:

*While awaiting results of the comprehensive background check an individual may serve as a child care staff member if the individual is supervised **at all times** by an eligible staff member. Supervised at all times means the eligible staff member can see and hear the individual at all times. Example: if the eligible staff member needs to use the restroom another eligible staff member must step in to supervise the individual prior to them leaving the room.*

Rule 112 (4)

4. **For an individual who is determined ineligible by the department, a licensee shall immediately do all of the following:**
 - a) **Prohibit the individual from being on the premises of the child care center.**
 - b) **Prohibit the individual from having any contact with children in care.**
 - c) **Disconnect the individual from the child care background check system.**

Technical Assistance

Failure to disconnect an ineligible individual, or prohibit an ineligible person from being on the premises of the child care center or from having contact with the children in care, may result in disciplinary action against your license and/or loss of any subsidy payments.

Rule 112(5) & (6)

5. An individual who requires a comprehensive background check pursuant to section 5n and 5q of the act, MCL 722.115n and 722.115q, shall submit to the department, on a form prescribed by the department, all personally identifiable information necessary to conduct the comprehensive background check, including all of the following:
 - a) Full legal name.
 - b) All other names used in the past, including any maiden name or alias, the approximate date the other name was used, and the reason for the name change.
 - c) Suffix, if applicable.
 - d) Social Security number.
 - e) Date of birth.
 - f) Place of birth.
 - g) Country of citizenship.
 - h) Height.
 - i) Weight.
 - j) Hair color.
 - k) Eye color.
 - l) Sex.
 - m) Race.
 - n) Current address.
 - o) If the individual resided outside the state of Michigan during the last 5 years, then provide each of those addresses.
 - p) Driver's license identification number and state issuing the license or a state identification number and state issuing it, if available.
 - q) Phone number.
 - r) Email address, if available.
 - s) Any other information deemed reasonably necessary by the department to determine the eligibility of the individual based on a name-based registry match.

6. The department shall maintain the confidentiality of all personally identifiable information submitted pursuant to this rule to the extent permitted by law.

R 400.8112a Department; information; eligibility determination.

Rule 112a. The department may request information from an applicant, licensee, licensee designee, child care staff member, child care aide, or unsupervised volunteer regarding any of the conditions listed in sections 5n, 5q, 5r and 11 of the act, MCL 722.115n, 722.115q, 722.115r and 722.121, and any similar or equivalent conditions that occurred in another state or legal jurisdiction in which the individual resided, on a form prescribed by the department, and limited to information necessary to ascertain whether the individual should be deemed ineligible pursuant to the statutory requirements.

Rational:

Determine eligibility/conducive to the welfare of children.

Technical Assistance

The department may request additional information from the applicant, licensee, licensee designee, child care staff member, child care aide or unsupervised volunteer if investigating conditions listed below:

722.115n Application for or renewal of license to operate child care center, group child care home, or family child care home; household member or child care staff member; criminal history check; requirements; duties of department.

Sec. 5n.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (13), when a person, partnership, firm, corporation, association, governmental organization, or nongovernmental organization applies for or applies to renew a license to operate a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home under section 5m and before a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be a member of the household, or a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home allows an individual to become a child care staff member, the department shall do all of the following:
 - a. Review its database of individuals with previous disciplinary action within a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home or an adult foster care facility.
 - b. Conduct a search of the individual through the national sex offender registry.
 - c. Request a search of the individual through all state criminal registries or repositories for any states of residence in the past 5 years.
 - d. Request that the department of state police perform a criminal history check on the individual, child care staff member, or adult member of the household.
2. If the individual, child care staff member, or adult member of the household has resided out of the United States within the preceding 5 years, equivalent clearances of those described in subsection (1)(b) and (d) and section 5q from each country must be provided, if available. If the country does not have the equivalent clearance, the individual must sign a self-certifying statement that he or

she is not ineligible to receive a license, to be an adult member of the household, or to be a child care staff member as prescribed by sections 5q and 5r. An individual who provides or is determined to have provided false information or knowingly omits information in the self-certification statement is ineligible for that application.

3. Each individual listed in subsection (1) shall give written consent at the time of the license application and before a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be a member of the household, or before becoming a child care staff member to allow the department of state police to conduct the criminal history check required under subsection (1). The department shall require the individual to submit his or her fingerprints to the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the criminal history check as required in subsection (1).
4. The department shall request a criminal history check required under this section on a form and in the manner prescribed by the department of state police.
5. Within a reasonable time after receiving a complete request for a criminal history check on a person under this section, the department of state police shall conduct the criminal history check and provide a report of the results to the department. The report shall contain any criminal history record information on the person maintained by the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
6. The department of state police may charge the department a fee for a criminal history check required under this section that does not exceed the actual and reasonable cost of conducting the check. The department may pass along to the individual fingerprinted the actual cost or fee charged by the department of state police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or a vendor approved by the department of state police for performing a criminal history check required under this section.
7. The department shall provide whether the individual is eligible or ineligible as provided by sections 5q and 5r within 45 days after the date on which the request was submitted.
8. The individual may serve as a child care staff member pending the results of the record and database checks required by this section and section 5q if the individual is supervised at all times.
9. Within 45 days after the date on which the request was submitted, the department shall provide a statement to the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home that indicates whether the individual is eligible or ineligible to be, a licensee, an adult member of the household, or a child care staff member as provided under sections 5q and 5r without revealing any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the individual.
10. If the individual is ineligible due to the records or database checks required under this section and section 5q, the department shall provide information related to each disqualifying item in a report to the individual who has been determined ineligible.

11. An individual who has been determined to be ineligible as provided under sections 5q and 5r may request a redetermination by the department if he or she believes that the basis for the ineligible determination is inaccurate. The individual shall file the request for redetermination with the department within 30 calendar days after receiving the written notice that he or she was determined to be ineligible. If an individual has been determined to be ineligible based upon a conviction that has been expunged or set aside or a central registry case that has been expunged, the individual shall provide the supporting court, law enforcement, or department of health and human services, or equivalent department from another state, documents along with the request for redetermination. The individual shall not be determined to be ineligible based upon a conviction that has been set aside or expunged or a central registry case that has been expunged. The department shall review the request and issue a written decision within 30 business days after receiving the request for redetermination. The decision of the department is final.
12. Each ineligible individual shall be given instructions about how to complete the request for redetermination process as provided in subsection (11).
13. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not later than September 30, 2017, every child care center licensee, group child care home licensee, family child care home licensee, child care staff member, and adult member of the household shall submit his or her fingerprints to the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to carry out the records and database checks required under this section and section 5q. If the department of education obtains an extension on the implementation of this program from the federal government, the provisions of this section may be implemented no later than September 30, 2018.
14. If a licensee, licensee designee, or program director of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home applying for a new license or to renew a license to operate a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home has previously undergone a criminal history check required under subsections (1) and (13) and has remained continuously licensed after the criminal history check has been performed, that licensee, licensee designee, or program director of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home is not required to submit to another criminal history check upon renewal of, or application for, the license obtained under this act.
15. Upon consent of an applicant as required in subsection (3) and upon request from a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home, the department shall review the information received from the criminal history check, if any, and notify the requesting child care center, group child care home, or family child care home of the information in the manner prescribed in subsection (7). Until the Federal Bureau of Investigation implements an automatic notification system as outlined in section 5k, a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home may rely on the criminal history record information provided by the department under this subsection and a new request as provided under this section is not necessary if all of the following requirements are met:

- a. The criminal history check was conducted during the immediately preceding 5-year period.
 - b. The applicant has been continuously employed by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home since the criminal history check was conducted in compliance with this section.
 - c. The applicant can provide evidence acceptable to the department that he or she has been a resident of this state for the immediately preceding 5-year period.
16. The checks and clearances required in subsection (1)(a) to (c) and section 5q shall be updated at least every 5 years if the individual has been continuously licensed, has continuously been serving as a child care staff member, or has continuously been an adult member of the household.

722.115q Child care center, group child care home, or family child care home; contact with child by licensee, child care staff member, or household adult member prohibited; conditions.

Sec. 5q.

- 1) Except as provided in section 5n(8), a licensee, child care staff member, or adult member of the household may not have contact with a child who is in the care of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home, until the department obtains documentation from the department of health and human services that he or she has not been named in a central registry case as the perpetrator of child abuse or child neglect. Upon request by the department, the licensee, child care staff member, or adult member of the household shall provide the department with an updated authorization for a central registry clearance. If a central registry clearance documents that a licensee, child care staff member, or adult member of the household is named in a central registry case as a perpetrator of child abuse or child neglect, he or she is ineligible to receive a license to operate a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member.
- 2) If the licensee, child care staff member, or adult member of the household has resided outside of this state as an adult within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of application for a license, or the date that he or she was hired as a child care staff member or resided in a group child care home or family child care home, except as provided in section 5n(8), the individual may not have contact with a child who is in the care of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home until the department obtains documentation equivalent to the department of health and human services central registry clearance for the states of previous residence that he or she has not been named in a central registry case as the perpetrator of child abuse or child neglect. If the documentation equivalent to the department of health and human services central registry clearance for the states of previous residence indicates that the individual is named as a perpetrator of child abuse or child neglect, the individual is ineligible to receive a license, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member.

- 3) Each child care center, group child care home, or family child care home that has volunteers on site shall establish and maintain a policy regarding supervision of volunteers including volunteers who are parents of a child receiving care at the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.
- 4) As used in this section, "child abuse" and "child neglect" mean those terms as defined in section 2 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.622.

722.115r Individual required to undergo criminal history check or database check; individual ineligible to receive license, be adult member of household, or be child care staff member; conditions.

Sec. 5r.

- (1) An individual required to undergo a criminal history check as described in section 5n is ineligible for that application only, to receive a license, be an adult member of the household or be a child care staff member if the individual does either of the following:
 - (a) Refuses to consent to the criminal history check or central registry check as required under section 5q.
 - (b) Knowingly makes a materially false statement or knowingly omits information in connection with a criminal history check or central registry check as required under section 5q.
- (2) An individual required to undergo a database check as required under section 5n(1)(a) who has a confirmed history of disciplinary action or violations as outlined in section 11(5) and (6) may be considered ineligible to receive a license, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member.
- (3) An individual required to undergo a criminal history check as described in section 5n is ineligible to receive a license, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member if the individual satisfies 1 or more of the following:
 - (a) Is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or repository or the national sex offender registry.
 - (b) Has been convicted of a felony consisting of 1 or more of the following or any other state or federal equivalent:
 - (i) Murder or homicide.
 - (ii) Child abuse or child neglect.
 - (iii) A crime against a minor child, including, but not limited to, child pornography.
 - (iv) Spousal abuse or domestic violence.
 - (v) A crime involving rape or sexual assault.
 - (vi) Kidnapping.
 - (vii) Arson.
 - (viii) Physical assault or battery.
 - (ix) Human trafficking or involuntary servitude.

- (c) Has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor against a child, including, but not limited to, 1 or more of the following crimes:
 - (i) Child abuse.
 - (ii) Child endangerment.
 - (iii) Sexual assault.
- (d) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving child pornography.
- (4) An individual required to undergo a criminal history check as described in section 5n is ineligible to receive a license, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member if the individual has been convicted of 1 or more of the following felonies, an attempt or conspiracy to commit 1 or more of the following felonies, or any other state or federal equivalent, unless 10 years have lapsed since the conviction, before the date of application or before the date a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be an adult member of the household, or a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home allows an individual to be a child care staff member:
 - (a) A felony involving harm or threatened harm to an individual.
 - (b) A felony involving the use of a firearm or dangerous weapon.
 - (c) A felony involving cruelty or torture of any person.
 - (d) A felony involving a substantial misrepresentation of any material fact, bribery, fraud, larceny, embezzlement, theft, home invasion, breaking and entering, receiving and concealing stolen property or a crime of similar statute.
 - (e) A felony involving operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated or impaired causing serious injury or death.
 - (f) A felony involving the use of a computer or the internet to commit a crime.
 - (g) A felony involving cruelty to animals, including, but not limited to, fighting, killing, torturing, and abandoning.
 - (h) A felony involving aggravated stalking, aggravated indecent exposure, indecent exposure by a sexually delinquent person, pandering, transporting an individual for prostitution, and keeping, maintaining, or operating a house of ill fame.
 - (i) A felony as a habitual offender.
- (5) An individual required to undergo a criminal history check as described in section 5n is ineligible to receive a license, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member if the individual has been convicted of a felony drug offense, an attempt or conspiracy to commit a felony drug offense, or any other state or federal equivalent, unless 7 years have lapsed since the conviction before the date of application or before the date a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be an adult member of the household or a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home allows an individual to be a child care staff member.

- (6) An individual required to undergo a criminal history check as described in section 5n is ineligible to receive a license, be an adult member of the household, or be a child care staff member if the individual has been convicted of 1 or more of the following misdemeanors, an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of those misdemeanors, or any other state or federal equivalent, unless 5 years have lapsed since the conviction before the date of application or before the date a group child care home or family child care home allows an individual to be an adult member of the household or a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home allows an individual to be a child care staff member:
- (a) A misdemeanor involving operating under the presence of a controlled substance, use or possession of a controlled substance, and selling or furnishing a controlled substance to a minor.
 - (b) A misdemeanor involving using computers to commit a crime, a substantial misrepresentation of a material fact, embezzlement, breaking and entering, and any other fraudulent crime except retail fraud in the third degree, petty theft, or shoplifting.
 - (c) A misdemeanor involving stalking, assault, spousal abuse, domestic violence, weapons offense, harboring runaways, aiding and abetting, and arson.

722.121 Denial, revocation, or refusal to renew license; grounds; notice; appeal; hearing; decision; protest; denial of license for noncompliance; complaint by legislative body of city, village, or township; procedure; previous revocation of license or certificate of registration; issuance of license to individuals prohibited; conditions; immediate revocation or refusal to renew license or denial of application; issuance of subpoena; order; definitions.

Sec. 11.

- (1) An original license shall not be granted under this act if the issuance of the license would substantially contribute to an excessive concentration of community residential facilities within a city, village, township, or county of this state.
- (2) The department may deny, revoke, or refuse to renew a license of a child care organization when the licensee or applicant falsifies information on the application or willfully and substantially violates this act, the rules promulgated under this act, or the terms of the license. A license shall not be revoked, a renewal of a license shall not be refused, or an application for a license shall not be denied, unless the licensee or applicant is given notice in writing of the grounds of the proposed revocation, denial, or refusal. If revocation, denial, or refusal is appealed within 30 days after receipt of the notice by writing addressed to the department director, the department director or his or her designee shall conduct a hearing at which the licensee or applicant may present testimony and confront witnesses. If the proposed revocation, refusal, or denial is not appealed, the license shall be revoked, the license shall be refused renewal, or the application shall be

denied. The proposed revocation, refusal, or denial must be appealed within 30 days after receipt by writing the department director or his or her designee. Upon receipt of the written appeal, the department director or his or her designee must initiate the provisions of chapters 4 and 5 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to 24.292. Notice of the hearing shall be given to the licensee or applicant by personal service or delivery to the proper address by certified mail not less than 2 weeks before the date of the hearing. The decision of the director shall be made as soon as practicable after the hearing, and forwarded to the licensee or applicant by certified mail not more than 10 days after that. The formal notice and hearing requirements in this subsection do not apply if the licensee or applicant and the department comply with the provisions of subsection (7).

- (3) The department shall deny a license to a child caring institution or foster family group home that does not comply with section 206 of the Michigan zoning enabling act, 2006 PA 110, MCL 125.3206.
- (4) The legislative body of a city, village, or township in which a child caring institution or foster family group home is located may file a complaint with the department to have the organization's license suspended, denied, or revoked according to the procedures outlined in this act and the rules promulgated under this act. The department director shall resolve the issues of the complaint within 45 days after the receipt of the complaint. Notice of the resolution of the issues shall be mailed by certified mail to the complainant and the licensee. Failure of the department director to resolve the issues of the complaint within 45 days after receipt of the complaint shall serve as a decision by the director to suspend, deny, or revoke the organization's license. If the decision to suspend, deny, or revoke the license or the resolution of the issues is protested by written objection of the complainant or licensee to the department director within 30 days after the suspension, denial, or revocation of the license or the receipt of the notice of resolution, the department director or a designated representative of the director shall conduct a hearing according to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, at which the complainant and licensee may present testimony and cross-examine witnesses. The director's decision shall be mailed by certified mail to the complainant and the licensee. If the resolution of the issues by the department director is not protested within 30 days after receipt of the notice of the resolution, the resolution by the department director is final.
- (5) The department shall not issue a license to or renew a license of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home if the applicant or licensee has had a previous license or certificate of registration revoked or refused renewal or an application denied due to a violation of this act, the rules promulgated under this act, or the terms of the license or certificate of registration that resulted in the severe physical injury, sexual abuse, or death of a child while under its care.

- (6) The department shall not issue a license to an individual who worked in a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home at the time of a violation of this act, the rules promulgated under this act, or the terms of a license that resulted in the severe physical injury or death of a child or resulted in a child being sexually abused if the individual had direct care and supervision of that child at the time of the violation.
- (7) The department may immediately revoke or refuse to renew a licensee or deny an application for a license without providing written notice of the grounds of the proposed action or giving the licensee or applicant 30 days to appeal if the licensee or applicant, in writing, does all of the following:
 - (a) Waives the requirement that the department provide written notice of the grounds for the proposed action.
 - (b) Waives the 30-day time frame in which to submit a written appeal to the proposed action.
 - (c) Waives the right to implement the provisions of chapters 4 and 5 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to 24.292.
- (8) The director or his or her designee may issue a subpoena to do either of the following:
 - (a) Compel the attendance of a witness to testify at a contested case hearing.
 - (b) Produce books, papers, documents, or other items relevant to the investigation or hearing.
- (9) If a subpoena is disobeyed, the director or his or her designee may petition the circuit court to require the attendance of a witness or the production of books, papers, documents, or other items. The circuit court may issue an order requiring a person to appear and give testimony or produce books, papers, documents, or other items. Failure to obey the order of the circuit court may be punished by the court as a contempt of court.
- (10) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Substantially violates" means repeated violations or noncompliance of this act, a rule promulgated under this act, or the terms of a license that jeopardizes the health, safety, care, treatment, maintenance, or supervision of individuals receiving services or, in the case of an applicant, individuals who may receive services.
 - (b) "Willfully violates" means, after receiving a copy of the act, the rules promulgated under the act and, for a license, a copy of the terms of a license, or a previous citation for a violation of this act or a rule promulgated under this act, a licensee or an applicant knew or had reason to know that his or her conduct was a violation of the act, rules promulgated under the act, or the terms of a license.

R 400.8112b Eligibility determination; individual who resided out of the United States; self-certifying statement.

Rule 112b. An individual who requires an eligibility determination pursuant to section 5n of the act, MCL 722.115n, and resided out of the United States within the preceding 5 years, shall also, pursuant to section 5n(2) of the act, MCL 722.115n(2), complete, sign and submit, on a form prescribed by the department, a self-certifying statement that the individual does not have any of the disqualifying conditions set forth in sections 5n, 5q, 5r and 11 of the act, MCL 722.115n, 722.115q, 722.115r and 722.121.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and welfare of children.

Technical Assistance:

The Out of Country Self-Certification form can be found on the Child Care Background Check website at [CCBC Forms and Resources](#)

R 400.8113 Program director qualifications; responsibilities.

Rule 113 (1)

1. Before hiring a new program director, a **licensee or licensee designee** shall submit a **completed BCHS-CC 001 form, titled Child Care Licensing Information Request, and** the credentials of the proposed program director to the department for review and approval.

Rationale

A trained and qualified program director is essential to assure optimal program functioning.

Technical Assistance

Before hiring a new program director, the center must submit the credentials of the proposed program director to the department. The department must review the proposed program director's credentials and give approval prior to the center hiring the individual as the program director.

To have a program director approved, the following documents must be submitted to your licensing consultant:

- A copy of the proposed program director's *official* transcripts.
- If the proposed program director will qualify under 400.8113(7)(b, c, e, f) or 400.8113(8)(b, d-g) indicate which courses the center believes qualify. The course must be specifically labeled in the title as child development or early childhood education course for programs serving children of all ages or a child-related field for school-age only programs. If it does not, the course catalog description or course syllabus must be provided and must demonstrate that the course content specifically addresses child development or early childhood education or for school-only programs, a child-related field. Refer to subrule (9) and (10) of this rule for more information on courses that may qualify.
- A copy of any applicable credentials: Montessori credential, CDA, School-Age/Youth Development credential.
- Documentation of how the proposed program director meets the child care administration course requirement - at least 2 semester hours or a minimum of 3.0 CEUs in child care administration or an administrative credential approved by the department. Documentation includes the following:
 - A copy of the proposed program director's transcripts.
 - Written documentation of completed CEUs.
 - Copy of the administrative credential.

Note: If there is a central administrator, see R 400.8113(12).

- Documentation of applicable hours of experience. Documentation must be proof of previous or current license or registration as a family or group child care home or written verification from previous employer(s), internships, volunteer experiences, etc.

When submitting transcripts, official transcripts, copies of transcripts and those stamped "Issued to Student" are acceptable. Those downloaded from a school's website are not acceptable.

Note: If the center is unsure if the proposed program director meets the education requirements of subrules (7) or (8) of this rule, the proposed program director can wait to be fingerprinted until after the licensing consultant reviews the proposed program director's credentials.

The BCHS-CC 001 form, titled Child Care Licensing Information Request, can be obtained for your child care licensing consultant.

Consultation

Once a proposed program director's credentials have been reviewed and approved and the individual has been deemed eligible to work at the center, the center and the individual are provided an approval letter. Retaining the program director approval letter is best practice.

Rule 113 (2)

2. A program director shall be present in the center in the following manner:
 - a) Full time for programs operating less than 6 continuous hours.
 - b) At least 50% of the time children are in care but not less than a total of 6 hours per day for programs operating 6 or more continuous hours.

Rationale

The director of a center plays a pivotal role in ensuring smooth day-to-day functioning of the facility within the framework of appropriate child development principles and knowledge of family relationships. The wellbeing of children, the confidence of the parents and the high morale and consistent professional growth of staff depend largely on the knowledge, skills and dependable presence of a director who is able to respond to long-range and immediate needs and able to engage staff in decision-making that affects their day-to-day practice.

Technical Assistance

- The program director may be on duty but away from the center engaged in activities with children such as field trips or transporting children.
- The program director may occasionally be on duty but away from the center for meetings or administrative duties.
- Compliance can be determined by observation, staff interviews or a review of the staffing plan or staff timekeeping records.
- The total hours present do not have to be 6 consecutive hours per day.

Example 1: If children are in care 10 hours per day, a program director must be present six hours per day.

Example 2: If children are in care 24 hours per day, a program director must be present 12 hours per day.

Example 3: If children are in care five hours per day, a program director must be present full time (five hours per day).

Example 4: If children are in care 18 hours per day, a program director must be present nine hours per day.

Note: The center may have more than one program director on staff to meet this requirement.

A program director may be absent from time to time due to illness, attendance at training or for vacations. A violation may not be cited in these cases, depending on the circumstances such as length of absence or frequency of absences.

Rule 113 (3)

3. All program directors are responsible for the general management of the center, including the following minimum responsibilities:
 - a) Developing, implementing, and evaluating center policies and program.
 - b) Administering day-to-day operations, including being available to address parent, child, and staff issues.
 - c) Monitoring staff, including annual evaluations.

Rationale

Assures that the facility, staff and program are properly administered and managed.

Technical Assistance

Subrule (c) of this rule does not require a written annual evaluation. Ways to document that an annual evaluation was completed, include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- A written evaluation document.
- A signed statement that it was completed.
- A checklist documenting the date of the evaluation was completed.
- Interviews with the program director and staff.

At the time of renewal, if the evaluations have been updated in the past year, the center will be in compliance with this rule.

A program director may also serve as a child care staff member, provided that role does not interfere with management and supervisory responsibilities.

Consultation

The annual evaluation may be documented on the Staffing Plan (BCAL-5001) form. This form is available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#).

Rule 113 (4)

4. If absent from the center, the program director shall designate a **child care** staff member to be in charge.

Rationale

The director of a center plays a pivotal role in ensuring smooth day-to-day functioning of the facility. Assures that the facility, staff and program are properly administered and managed.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies to anytime the program director is not on-site at the center.

The child care staff member left in charge during the program director's absence must know the location of all required paperwork and documentation required within the child care licensing rules set.

Rule 113 (5)

5. A substitute program director shall be appointed for a program director who has left employment or has a temporary absence that exceeds 30 consecutive workdays until return or replacement. A substitute program director shall at least meet the qualifications of lead caregiver. The department shall be notified when a substitute program director is appointed.

Rationale

The director of a center plays a pivotal role in ensuring smooth day-to-day functioning of the facility. Assures that the facility, staff and program are properly administered and managed.

Technical Assistance

A substitute program director must be appointed for any program director who has left employment with the center. **Note:** When a program director leaves employment with a center, the center is in violation of R400.8113(7) or (8) until a qualified replacement is found, even though a substitute is appointed under this subrule of this rule.

Per R 400.8110(9), the licensee must notify licensing of the separation of a program director from the center and the plan for replacement of the program director within five business days. The plan must include the name of the substitute program director.

A substitute program director must be appointed when the program director has a temporary absence that exceeds 30 consecutive workdays. A temporary absence is one

where the program director is scheduled return to work. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Any leave of absence as defined under the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- Parental leave.
- Military leave.
- Extended vacation.
- Leave of absence.
- Extended jury duty.

Note: This subrule of this rule does not allow a program director to be regularly absent from the center for less than 30 consecutive workdays. A program director must be present at the center as outlined in subrule (2) of this rule.

Consultation

It is recommended that a substitute program director be appointed when the program director will have any temporary absence that exceeds more than five consecutive workdays.

Rule 113 (6)

6. A program **director** shall have all of the following qualifications:
- a) Be at least 21 years of age.
 - b) Have earned a high school diploma or **general equivalency diploma (GED)**.

Rationale

A trained and qualified program director is essential to assure optimal program functioning.

Technical Assistance

The following are examples of acceptable verification of age:

- A copy of a driver's license.
- A copy of the program director's birth certificate.
- A self certifying statement.

The following would be acceptable verification of compliance with subrule (b) of this rule:

- A copy of a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.
 - A self-certifying statement.
-

Rule 113 (7) & (8)

7. Early childhood program directors shall meet 1 of the qualifications **as shown in Table 1:**

TABLE 1			
Early Childhood Program Director Qualifications			
	Education	Coursework in Early Childhood Education or Child Development	Hours of Experience
(a)	Bachelor’s degree or higher in early childhood education or child development		
(b)	Bachelor’s degree or higher in a child-related field including →	18 semester hours and →	480 hours
(c)	Montessori credential	18 semester hours and	480 hours
(ed)	Associate’s degree in early childhood education or child development including →	18 semester hours and →	480 hours
(e)	Valid child development associate credential with →	18 semester hours and →	960 hours
(f)	Sixty semester hours with →	18 semester hours and →	1,920 hours

8. School-age program directors shall meet 1 of the qualifications **shown in Table 2:**

TABLE 2			
School-Age Program Director Qualifications			
	Education	Coursework in a Child-Related Field	Hours of Experience
(a)	Bachelor’s degree or higher in a child-related field		
(b)	Montessori credential with	12 semester hours and	480 hours
(bc)	Associate’s degree in a child-related field and →		480 hours
(d)	Valid Michigan school-age/ youth development credential with	12 semester hours and →	480 hours
(e)	Valid child development associate credential with →	12 semester hours and →	480 hours
(f)	Sixty semester hours with →	12 semester hours and →	720 hours
(g)	High school diploma or GED with →	6 semester hours and →	2,880 hours

Rationale

The program director of a child care center is the team leader. Both administrative and child development skills are essential for this individual to manage the facility. Research shows that when early childhood professionals are well prepared, children are likely to experience warm, safe and stimulating environments that lead to healthy development and constructive learning. College-level coursework has been shown to have a measurable, positive effect on quality child care.

Technical Assistance

Exception: Per court order, the following five churches are specifically exempt from the program director qualification rules 400.8113(7)-(8) “by reason of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution”:

- Bethany Bible Church (Belleville, MI).
- Dixie Baptist Church (Springfield, MI).
- Faithway Baptist Church (Ypsilanti, MI).
- Lewis Avenue Baptist Church (Temperance, MI).

- Sturgis Church of the Nazarene (Sturgis, MI).

Equivalencies

- A semester hour is the unit by which a college or university measures its course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class.
- Term/quarter hours may be converted into semester hours by multiplying the term or quarter hours by 0.66.
- The Preschool Curriculum Course credential (formerly known as the Lead Teacher Training Program credential) offered by High/Scope, the Michigan School Age/Youth Development Credential and the ChildCare Education Institute Early Childhood Credential are considered equivalent to the CDA credential.

NOTE: ***Self-paced courses even from accredited universities have no guideline** (Penn Foster and Wisconsin Stout) are listed as accredited universities, but have courses lead caregivers and caregivers can take but doesn't list semester hours or quarter hours. They don't state if they are semesters or quarter, because they aren't, the person works on them at their own pace.*

Accreditation

The US Department of Education website [Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs](#) provides a listing of schools that are accredited.

- If a college or university is not accredited, the center must determine whether any accredited colleges or universities will accept credits from the college/university in question on a transfer basis. Written verification is required from the accepting college.
- Online and correspondence courses can be accepted only if from an accredited college or university or if an accredited college or university will recognize them. The center must provide documentation from an accredited college or university showing which credits would be accepted and the semester hour equivalency.
- Transcripts from other countries may be accepted. The center must provide written verification from a university or a private agency that determines equivalency to American credits. The following organizations evaluate international transcripts:
 - World Education Services, [WES](#)
 - Educational Credential Evaluators, [ECE](#)
- Transcripts from the following colleges are acceptable:
 - Bob Jones University.
 - Tennessee Temple College.
 - Marantha Bible College.
 - Hyles-Anderson College.

Hours of Experience

Approved hours of experience must be verifiable. Examples of acceptable experience include but are not limited to:

- Currently or previously being licensed or registered family or group child care home.
- Employment as a caregiver in a licensed or registered child care facility.
- Internships, field placements or student teaching working directly with children.
- Employment or supervised volunteer work working directly with children.

Unapproved hours of experience include but are not limited to:

- Babysitting.
- Being a nanny.
- Being a foster parent.
- Raising one's own children or the children of a relative.

Hours of Experience Equivalents

- 480 hours of experience = 3 months of full-time work experience.
- 960 hours of experience = 6 months of full-time work experience.
- 1920 hours of experience = 12 months of full-time work experience.

Education Requirements for Early Childhood Program Directors

Transcripts indicating that one of the following has been earned will be accepted as meeting the rule without a course-by-course review:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or child development.
- Any bachelor's degree or higher and a ZA or ZS endorsement (endorsements issued by the Department of Education in conjunction with a teaching certificate).

Transcripts indicating that one of the following has been earned will be accepted as meeting the 18 semester hour requirement without a course-by-course review:

- Associate of Arts in early childhood education, child development or child care and preschool (generally given by a community or junior college).
- Bachelor's degree with a minor (20 semester hours) in child development or early childhood education.

Courses are given full credit if they meet one of the following criteria:

- The course is specifically labeled in the title as child development or early childhood education.
- The course catalog description or course syllabus reflects that the course content specifically addresses child development or early childhood education.
- Student teaching for grades kindergarten through third grade.

Note: Early childhood education usually refers to children up to age 8 or through the third grade.

Courses may be given partial credit if it can be demonstrated that part of the course includes child development or early childhood education. Partial credit granted will be half the total credit hours for that class. The following courses are some examples of courses that may be given partial credit:

- Reading, science and math methods courses.
- Art, music and physical education for classroom teachers.
- Student teaching that includes grades above third grade if it also includes kindergarten, first, second or third grade.
- Children's literature.
- Human ecology.
- Child psychology.

Note: Semester hours from CPR and first aid courses are not counted.

Examples of Credit		
Course	Credits Earned	Credits Toward 18
Early Childhood Education	4	4
Child Development	3	3
Math Methods Gr. 1-6	3	1.5
Children's Literature	4	2
Art for Elementary Teachers	4	2
Student teaching Grades K-3	6	6
Student Teaching Grades 4 and above	6	0

Education Requirements for School-Age Program Directors

School-age program directors must have specific education and/or experience in child care settings as identified in R 400.8113(8). The program director's education must be in a child-related field as defined by *R 400.8101m (ii)*:

- Early childhood education.
- Elementary education.
- Secondary education.
- *Special education*
- Physical education and recreation.
- Child development.
- Child guidance/counseling.
- Child psychology.
- Family studies.
- Social work.
- Human services.
- Youth development.

Transcripts indicating that one of the following has been earned will be accepted as meeting the education requirement of the rule without a course-by-course review:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in a child-related field.

- Associate's degree in a child-related field. **Note:** Documentation of hours of experience is required if the program director has an associate's degree in a child-related field.

Transcripts indicating that a bachelor's degree with a minor (20 semester hours) in a child-related field has been earned will be accepted as meeting the 12 hour semester requirement without a course by course review.

Courses are given full credit if they meet one of the following criteria:

- The course is specifically labeled in the title as a child-related field.
- The course catalog description or course syllabus reflects that the course content specially addresses one of the child-related fields.
- Any student teaching.

Courses may be given partial credit if it can be demonstrated that part of the course includes a child-related field. Partial credit granted will be half the total credit hours for that class.

Note: Semester hours from CPR and first aid courses are not counted.

Rule 113 (9)

9. All program directors shall have at least 2 semester hours or 3.0 CEUs in child care administration or have an administrative credential approved by the department. These semester hours may satisfy a portion of the requirements of subrules (7) and (8) of this rule. **The program director may also use 30 hours of administrative training from MiRegistry to meet these requirements.**

Rationale

The program director of a child care center is the team leader of a small business. Both administrative and child development skills are essential for this individual to manage the facility. Research shows that when early childhood professionals are well prepared, children are likely to experience warm, safe and stimulating environments that lead to healthy development and constructive learning. College level coursework has been shown to have a measurable, positive effect on quality child care.

A 2010 study by McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership found that when program directors had advanced degrees and more management coursework, they are better able to implement sound administrative and hiring practices that support staff in providing higher quality learning environments.

Technical Assistance

A specific learning track for child care administration will be available at [MiRegistry](#)

The child care administration course may be counted toward the 18 semester hours required in early childhood education or child development for early childhood program

directors and the 12 semester hours in a child-related field required for school-age program directors.

A “semester hour” is the unit by which a college or university measures its course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class. **Note:** Term/quarter hours may be converted into semester hours by multiplying the term or quarter hours by 0.66.

To obtain 3 CEUs, an individual must take 30 clock hours of training eligible for CEUs.

Note: As of May 18, 2012, State Board CEUs (SB-CEUs) became State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).

- SB-CEUs were calculated by dividing the total number of contact/instructional hours by the number 10. An eight-hour session was eligible to receive 0.8 SB-CEU.
- SCECHs are the total number of contact/instructional hours in a program. An eight-hour session is now eligible to receive 8 SCECHs.

If an individual obtains SCECHs in child care administration, he/she needs 30 SCECHs.

CEUs from the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) are directly transferable as approved CEUs per a collaborative agreement between the state of Michigan and IACET.

Courses are given full credit if they meet one of the following criteria:

- The course is specifically labeled in the title as child care administration, education administration or business administration.
- The course catalog description or course syllabus reflects that the course content specifically addresses child care administration, education administration or business administration.

Courses may be given partial credit if it can be demonstrated that part of the course includes child care administration, education administration or business administration. Partial credit granted will be half the total credit hours for that class.

The department has approved the following administrative credentials:

- National Administrator Credential issued by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission (formerly issued through the National Child Care Association).
- ChildCare Education Institute Director’s Certificate.
- School Administrator Certificate issued by the Michigan Department of Education.

Rule 113 (10) & (11)

10. Any potential program director previously employed as an approved and qualified program director is exempt from meeting subrule (9) of this rule.

11. An early childhood program director **or school age program director** employed as a program director for more than 10 years without a break in service is exempt from the requirements in subrules (7) and (9) of this rule. (7), (8), (9)

Rationale

After two or more years of experience, program directors are likely to have developed the administrative skills and expertise needed to effectively manage a child care center.

Technical Assistance

The burden of proof is on the proposed program director or the licensee to provide written documentation of approval from the department.

To be in compliance with subrule (10), the program director previously must have been qualified and approved with a central administrator and have the approval letter from the department.

Rule 113 (12)

12. A program director is exempt from the requirements of subrule (9) of this rule with verification that all duties required by subrule (3)(a) and (c) of this rule are handled by a central administrator, and the central administrator meets the requirements of subrule (9) of this rule. Verification of the duties and education of the central administrator shall be made available to the department upon request.

Rationale

Some organizations are set up in a manner in which program directors do not handle the administrative responsibilities.

Technical Assistance

If there is a central administrator, the center must submit the following:

- Documentation of how the proposed central administrator meets the child care administration course requirement - at least 2 semester hours or a minimum of 3.0 CEUs in child care administration or an administrative credential approved by the department. Documentation includes the following:
 - A copy of the proposed central administrator's transcripts.
 - Written documentation of completed CEUs.
 - Copy of the administrative credential.
- Verification that the central administrator does the following duties:
 - Developing, implementing, and evaluating center policies and program.
 - Monitoring staff, including an annual evaluation of each staff member.

If the central administrator meets the definition of a child care staff member, the central administrator will need to be deemed eligible through the Child Care Background Check system.

"Child care staff member" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older to whom 1 or more of the following applies:

- (i) The individual is employed by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home for compensation, including a contract employee or a self-employed individual.*
- (ii) An individual whose activities involve the unsupervised care or supervision of children for a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
- (iii) An individual who has unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
- (iv) An individual who acts in the role of a licensee designee or program director.*

Consultation

Once a proposed central administrator's credentials have been reviewed and approved the center and the individual are provided an approval letter. Retaining the program director approval letter is recommended.

Rule 113 (13)

13. Verification of the education, credentials, and experience of the program director **must** be kept on file at the center **or made available online at MiRegistry.**

Rationale

Documents that the program director meets the rule requirements.

Technical Assistance

The center must keep on file written documentation verifying college credits or degrees, credentials and hours of work experience, if applicable.

MiRegistry link: [MiRegistry](#)

Rule 113 (14)

14. **A program that has only a before school program or an afterschool program, but not both, serving school-aged children may have a program director that meets the qualifications of a site supervisor, as specified in R 400.8119.**

Rationale

Due to the limited time frame and only serving school age children, qualifications of a site supervisor are sufficient to meet the needs to assure the safety and welfare of children.

Technical Assistance

Site supervisors shall meet all of the following requirements:

- *Be at least 19 years of age.*
- *Have earned a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent*
- *Have 480 hours of experience working as a **child care staff member** in a program serving school-age children.*
- *Have completed 15 clock hours, 1 semester hour, or 1.5 CEUs of documented school-age training.*

In this scenario, the program director meeting the definition of the site supervisor would not need the 2 semester hours or 3 CEU's of administrative training or 30 clock hour of administrative training through MiRegistry.

R 400.8116 (1) Multi-site school-age program director.

- (1) A *school-age* program director with a bachelor's degree or higher in a child-related field may oversee up to 3 sites with the following conditions:
- a. Each program routinely operates 6 hours or fewer per day.
 - b. The *multi-site school-age* program director is available to the site-supervisor during all hours of program operation.

Rationale

School-age centers often have difficulty finding qualified on-site program directors due to the limited hours and times of operation. Allows qualified school-age program directors to supervise more than one site.

Technical Assistance

School-age programs routinely operating more than 6 hours per day must have a qualified on-site school-age program director.

To qualify as a multi-site school-age program director, the school-age program director is responsible for more than one site (e.g., two or three).

Rule 116 (2)

- (2) The *multi-site school-age* program director shall be at each site a minimum of 1 session per week and maintain written documentation of site visits, including dates and times.

Rationale

Assures a qualified multi-site school-age program director is overseeing the operation of each site on a regular basis.

Technical Assistance

Being at the site for a session means being present for the entire session. Session means the entire before school session or the entire after school session.

The center must provide documentation of the multi-site school-age program directors visits upon request by the department.

R 400.8119 Site supervisor; qualifications; responsibilities.**Rule 119 (1)**

1. For multi-site school-age programs, with a school-age program director responsible for more than 1 center, a site supervisor shall be present **at each center** during all hours of operation.

Rationale

Assures that a trained staff person is present at all times who is responsible for the daily operation of the program, including the supervision of staff and care of children.

Rule 119 (2) a & b

2. Site supervisors shall meet all of the following **requirements**:
 - a) Be at least 19 years of age.
 - b) Have earned a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent.

Technical Assistance

The center must have on file documentation of the site supervisor's age and education.

The following are examples of acceptable verification of age:

- A copy of a driver's license or state identification card.
- A copy of the site supervisor's birth certificate.
- A self certifying statement.

The following would be acceptable verification of compliance with subrule (b) of this rule:

- A copy of a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.
 - A self certifying statement.
-

Rule 119 (2) c

2. Site supervisors shall meet all of the following requirements:
 - c) Have 480 hours of experience working as a **child care staff member** in a program serving school-age children.

Rationale

Assures the site supervisor has relevant work experience for working with school-age children.

Technical Assistance

480 hours of experience = 3 months of **full time** work experience.

Approved hours of experience must be verifiable. Hours of experience must include working directly with school-aged children. Examples of acceptable experience working directly with school-aged children include, but are not limited to:

- Licensed or registered family or group child care home.
 - Employment as a caregiver in a licensed or registered child care facility.
 - Employment, internships, field placements, or student teaching.
 - Supervised volunteer work.
-

Unapproved hours of experience include, but are not limited to:

- Babysitting.
 - Being a nanny.
 - Being a foster parent.
 - Raising one's own children or the children of a relative.
-

Rule 119 (2) d

2. Site supervisors shall meet all of the following requirements:

- d) Have completed 15 clock hours, 1 semester hour, or 1.5 CEUs of documented school-age training.

Rationale

Assures the site supervisor has relevant training for working with school-age children.

Technical Assistance

Sixty minutes equals one clock hour of training. Training sessions must be a minimum of 30 minutes in duration to be counted toward training hours.

A semester hour is the unit by which a college or university measures its course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class. **Note:** Term/quarter hours may be converted into semester hours by multiplying the term or quarter hours by 0.66.

To obtain 1.5 CEUs, an individual must take 15 clock hours of training eligible for CEUs.

Note: As of May 18, 2012, State Board CEUs (SB-CEUs) became State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).

- SB-CEUs were calculated by dividing the total number of contact/instructional hours by the number 10. An eight-hour session was eligible to receive 0.8 SB-CEU.
- SCECHs are the total number of contact/instructional hours in a program. An eight-hour session is now eligible to receive 8 SCECHs.

If an individual obtains SCECHs in school-age training, he/she needs 15 SCECHs.

CEUs from the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) are directly transferable as approved CEUs per a collaborative agreement between the state of Michigan and IACET.

Consultation

Training opportunities are available through a variety of sources including but not limited to:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - [MDHHS](#).

- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children - [Miaeyc](#).
 - Michigan Department of Education - [MDE](#).
 - Afterschool Alliance-[Afterschool Alliance](#)
 - Michigan After-School Partnership - [Michigan After School Partnership](#)
 - MiRegistry - [miregistry](#)
-

Rule 119 (3) & (4)

3. Site supervisors shall be responsible for the daily operation and implementation of the site program, supervision of the site staff, and overall care and supervision of children.
 4. Site supervisors shall assist the multi-site school-age program director in all of the following:
 - a) Developing, implementing, and evaluating program and center policies.
 - b) Administering day-to-day operations, including being available to address parent, child, and staff issues.
 - c) Monitoring and overseeing staff.
-

Rule 119 (5)

5. Verification of the requirements of subrule (2) shall be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Provides documentation of the site supervisor qualifications.

Technical Assistance

Documentation of hours of experience may be verified by:

- Proof of previous or current license or registration as a family or group child care home.
- Written verification from previous employer(s).
- Written verification from supervisors for internships, student teaching, field placements, volunteer work, etc.

Acceptable verification of attendance at training may include:

- Certificate signed by the trainer or sponsoring organization.
- Signed statement by the trainer or sponsoring organization.
- Program booklets/flyers with name badge and receipt.
- College transcript or CEU certificate.
- Written statement or training log from center documenting in-service or staff training provided by the center.

A receipt of payment for a training is not acceptable verification of training attendance.

Verification of attendance must include the following:

- Training topic.
 - Date of training.
 - Number of hours in the training session.
-

Note: Official transcripts, copies of transcripts and those stamped "Issued to Student" are acceptable. Those downloaded from a school's website are not acceptable.

R 400.8122 Lead caregiver; qualifications; responsibilities.

Rule 122 (1) & (2)

1. Lead caregivers are required only for groups of children who are preschool age and younger.
2. At least 1 lead caregiver shall be assigned to each group of children in a self-contained or well-defined space and shall be present and providing care in the assigned group in the following manner:
 - a) Full time for programs operating less than 6 continuous hours.
 - b) At least 6 hours per day for programs operating 6 or more continuous hours.

Rationale

Child care that promotes healthy child development is based on the developmental needs of the children. Lead caregivers have greater knowledge of, and ability to respond appropriately to, the needs of children for which they are responsible.

The more the lead caregiver is on-site on a consistent basis, the better understanding she/he has about individual children's needs, individual strengths and weaknesses of the staff and an overall view of the functioning of the group or classroom.

Technical Assistance

A lead caregiver must be assigned to each group of children who are preschool age and younger.

A program director may also be a lead caregiver provided he/she can fulfill the requirements of both positions. (Refer to R 400.8113(5).)

“Well-defined space” means space designed and used exclusively for a specific group of children. Well-defined space:

- Can be created by the placement of moveable room dividers, equipment, shelves, floor coverings, etc. Permanent walls and dividers are not required.
- Must meet the square footage requirements for the number of children in the group.

Space defining barriers may not be necessary in a large room, gym or cafeteria for maintaining groups on opposite sides of the room.

Any equipment used to establish a well-defined space must meet all requirements for interior finishes.

Note: An individual learning center, itself, may or may not be a well-defined space.

Compliance with this rule can be determined by reviewing the center's staffing plan, staff timekeeping records, observation, and staff interviews.

Rule 122 (3)

3. Lead caregivers shall be responsible for both of the following:
 - a) Overseeing the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the classroom program and child assessment.
 - b) Overseeing **child care staff members** for a specific group of children and overall care and supervision of children.

Rationale

Child care that promotes healthy child development is based on the developmental needs of the children. Lead caregivers have greater knowledge of, and ability to respond appropriately to, the needs of children for which they are responsible.

Rule 122 (4)

4. Lead caregivers shall have both of the following qualifications:
 - a) Be at least 19 years of age.
 - b) Have a high school diploma or GED.

Technical Assistance

The center must have on file documentation of the lead caregiver's age and education.

The following would be acceptable verification of age:

- A copy of a driver's license.
- A copy of the lead caregiver's birth certificate.
- A self certifying statement.

The following would be acceptable verification of compliance with subrule (b) of this rule:

- A copy of a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.
- A self-certifying statement.

Rule 122 (5)

5. Lead caregivers shall meet 1 of the following qualifications **shown in Table 3**:

TABLE 3			
Lead Caregiver Qualifications			
	Education	Coursework in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, or a Child-Related Field	Hours of Experience
(a)	Bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education, child development, or a child-related field		
(b)	Montessori credential with		480 hours

(c)	Associate’s degree or higher in early childhood education or child development		
(d)	Valid child development associate credential with →		480 hours
(e)	High school diploma or GED with	12 semester hours and →	960 hours
(f)	High school diploma or GED with →	12 semester hours, 18 CEUs, or a combination to equal 180 clock hours with →	1,920 hours
(g)	High school diploma or GED with →	6 semester hours, 9 CEUs, or a combination to equal 90 clock hours with →	3,840 hours

Rationale

Research shows that when early childhood professionals are well prepared, children are likely to experience warm, safe and stimulating environments that lead to healthy development and constructive learning.

College-level coursework has been shown to have a measurable, positive effect on quality child care.

Technical Assistance

The lead caregiver’s education must be in early childhood education, child development or a child-related field as defined by R400.8122(1)(a):

- Elementary education.
- Child guidance/counseling.
- Child psychology.
- Family studies.
- Social work.

Exception: Per court order, the following five churches are specifically exempt from the lead caregiver qualification rule 400.8122(6) “by reason of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution”:

- Bethany Bible Church (Belleville, MI).
- Dixie Baptist Church (Springfield, MI).
- Faithway Baptist Church (Ypsilanti, MI).
- Lewis Avenue Baptist Church (Temperance, MI).
- Sturgis Church of the Nazarene (Sturgis, MI).

Transcripts indicating that one of the following has been earned will be accepted as meeting the education requirement of the rule without a course-by-course review:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education, child development or a child-related field.
- Associate's degree in early childhood education, child development or a child-related field.
- Bachelor's degree with a minor (20 semester hours) in early childhood education, child development or a child-related field.
- Any bachelor's degree or higher and a ZA or ZS endorsement (endorsements issued by the Department of Education in conjunction with a teaching certificate).

Courses are given full credit if they meet one of the following criteria:

- The course is specifically labeled in the title as early childhood education, child development or one of the child-related fields.
- The course catalog description or course syllabus reflects that the course content specifically addresses early childhood education, child development or one of the child-related fields.
- Student teaching for grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

Note: Elementary education usually refers to children up to age 10 or through the fifth grade.

Courses may be given partial credit if it can be demonstrated that part of the course includes child development, early childhood education or a child-related field. Partial credit granted will be half the total credit hours for that class.

Equivalencies

- A semester hour is the unit by which a college or university measures its course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class.
- Term/quarter hours may be converted into semester hours by multiplying the term or quarter hours by 0.66.
- One semester hour of college credit is equivalent to 15 hours of training.
- One term hour is equivalent to 10 hours of training.
- One CEU or State Board CEU (SB-CEU) is equivalent to 10 hours of training.
- One State Continuing Education Clock Hour (SCECHs) is equivalent to 1 hour of training.
- CEUs from the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) are directly transferable as approved CEUs per a collaborative agreement between the state of Michigan and IACET.
- The Preschool Curriculum Course credential (formerly known as the Lead Teacher Training Program credential) offered by High/Scope, the Michigan School-

Age/Youth Development Credential and the ChildCare Education Institute Early Childhood Credential are considered equivalent to the CDA credential.

Example 1: The lead caregiver has a high school diploma, 1,920 hours of experience, 6 semester hours and 8 SB-CEUs in child development. To determine if the lead caregiver has a total of 180 clock hours:

- 6 semester hours X 15 hours = 90 clock hours.
- 8 CEUs X 10 hours = 80 clock hours.

Total = 170 clock hours.

Example 2: The lead caregiver has a high school diploma, 1,920 hours of experience, 4 semester hours and 120 SCECHs in child development. To determine if the lead caregiver has a total of 180 clock hours:

- 4 semester hours X 15 hours = 60 clock hours.
- 120 SCECHs X 1 hour = 120 clock hours.

Total = 180 clock hours.

Accreditation

The US Department of Education website [Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs](#) provides a listing of schools that are accredited.

- If a college or university is not accredited, the center must determine whether any accredited colleges or universities will accept credits from the college in question on a transfer basis. Written verification is required from the accepting college.
- Online and correspondence courses can be accepted only if an accredited college or university will recognize them. The center must provide documentation from an accredited college or university showing which credits would be accepted and the semester hour equivalency.
- Transcripts from other countries are accepted. The center must provide written verification from a university or a private agency that determines equivalency to American credits. The following organizations evaluate international transcripts:
 - World Education Services, [WES](#)
 - Educational Credential Evaluators, [ECE](#)
- Transcripts from the following colleges are acceptable:
 - Bob Jones University.
 - Tennessee Temple College.
 - Marantha Bible College.
 - Hyles-Anderson College.

Hours of Experience

Approved hours of experience must be verifiable. Examples of acceptable experience include:

- Licensed or registered family or group child care home.
- Employment as a caregiver in a licensed or registered child care facility serving the ages and developmental abilities of the children for which the caregiver will care.

- Internships, field placements or student teaching serving the ages and developmental abilities of the children for which the caregiver will care.
- Supervised volunteer work, working directly with children serving the ages and developmental abilities of the children for which the caregiver will care.

Unapproved hours of experience include, but is not limited to:

- Babysitting.
- Being a nanny.
- Being a foster parent.
- Raising one's own children or the children of a relative.

Hours of Experience Equivalent

- 480 hours = 3 months of full time work experience.
 - 960 hours = 6 months of full time work experience.
 - 1920 hours = 12 months of full time work experience.
 - 3840 hours = 24 months of full time work experience.
-

Rule 122 (6)

6. **Lead caregivers qualified under subrule (5) of this rule, Table 3, row (g) of this rule, have two years from date of hire in this position to obtain an additional 6 semester hours, 9 CEUs, or a combination to equal 90 clock hours, or 90 hours from MiRegistry.**

Rationale

Research shows that when early childhood professionals are well prepared, children are likely to experience warm, safe and stimulating environments that lead to healthy development and constructive learning.

College-level coursework has been shown to have a measurable, positive effect on quality child care.

Technical Assistance

Training will be available at [MiRegistry](#)

Rule 122 (7)

7. **Lead caregivers for infants and toddlers shall have 3 semester hours, or 4.5 CEUs, or 45 hours of MiRegistry approved infant and toddler development and care practices within 6 months of hire. These semester hours or CEUs may satisfy a portion of the requirements of subrule (6) of this rule.**

Rationale

The brain development of infants is particularly sensitive to the quality and consistency of interpersonal relationships. Much of the stimulation for brain development comes from the responsive interactions of caregivers and children during daily routines. An

appropriately trained caregiver will allow infants and toddlers to pursue their interests and encourage them to develop new skills.

Technical Assistance

A specific learning track will be available at [MiRegistry](#)

A “semester hour” is the unit by which a college or university measures its course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class. **Note:** Term/quarter hours may be converted into semester hours by multiplying the term or quarter hours by 0.66.

To obtain 4.5 CEUs, an individual must take 45 clock hours of training eligible for CEUs.

Note: As of May 18, 2012, State Board CEUs (SB-CEUs) became State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).

- SB-CEUs were calculated by dividing the total number of contact/instructional hours by the number 10. An eight-hour session was eligible to receive 0.8 SB-CEU.
- SCECHs are the total number of contact/instructional hours in a program. An eight-hour session is now eligible to receive 8 SCECHs.

If an individual obtains SCECHs in infant/toddler development and care practices, he/she needs 45 SCECHs.

CEUs from the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) are directly transferable as approved CEUs per a collaborative agreement between the state of Michigan and IACET.

Courses are given full credit if they meet one of the following criteria:

- The course is specifically labeled in the title as infant/toddler development and care practices.
- The course catalog description or course syllabus reflects that the course content specifically addresses infant/toddler development and care practices.

Courses may be given partial credit if it can be demonstrated that part of the course includes infant/toddler development and care practices. Partial credit granted will be half the total credit hours for that class.

A CDA with an infant/toddler endorsement, an Infant/Toddler Montessori credential and the ChildCare Education Institute Early Childhood Credential will meet the requirements of this rule.

Exception: Per court order, the following five churches are specifically exempt from the lead caregiver qualification rule R 400.8122(9) “by reason of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution”:

- Bethany Bible Church (Belleville, MI).
- Dixie Baptist Church (Springfield, MI).
- Faithway Baptist Church (Ypsilanti, MI).
- Lewis Avenue Baptist Church (Temperance, MI).
- Sturgis Church of the Nazarene (Sturgis, MI).

Rule 122 (8)

- 8.** A substitute for a lead caregiver shall be appointed for a lead caregiver who has left employment or has a temporary absence that exceeds 30 consecutive workdays until return or replacement. A substitute lead caregiver shall **have 90 days to meet the qualifications of a lead caregiver.**

Rationale

Child care that promotes healthy child development is based on the developmental needs of the children. Lead caregivers have greater knowledge of, and ability to respond appropriately to, the needs of children for which they are responsible. A qualified substitute assures for continuity of care and consistent programming.

Technical Assistance

When a lead caregiver leaves employment with a center, the center is in violation of R 400.8122(6) until a qualified replacement is found, even though a substitute is appointed under this subrule of this rule.

A temporary absence is one where the lead caregiver is scheduled to return to work. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Any leave of absence as defined under the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- Parental leave.
- Military leave.
- Extended vacation.
- Leave of absence.
- Extended jury duty.

The center must keep on file documentation of the substitute lead caregiver's qualifications and/or verification of current participation in relevant training.

Note: This subrule of this rule does not allow a lead caregiver to be regularly absent from the center for less than 30 consecutive workdays. A lead caregiver must be present at the center as outlined in subrule (2) of this rule.

Consultation

Substitutes are difficult to find. Planning for a competent substitute pool is essential for a child care operation. Continual staff training facilitates having qualified substitutes.

Rule 122 (9)

9. Verification of the education, credentials, and experience of each lead caregiver shall be kept on file at the center **or at MiRegistry, www.miregistry.org**.

Rationale

Documents that lead caregivers meet the rule requirements.

Technical Assistance

It is the program director's responsibility to ensure that lead caregivers meet the requirements of this rule. The center must keep on file written documentation verifying college credits or degrees, credentials, and hours of work experience, if applicable. Documentation includes the following:

- A copy of the lead caregiver's transcripts.
- A copy of any applicable credentials: Montessori credential or CDA.
- Documentation of completed CEUs.
- Documentation of applicable hours of experience. Documentation must be proof of previous or current license or registration as a family or group child care home or written verification from previous employer(s), internships, volunteer experiences, etc.

Note: Official transcripts, copies of transcripts and those stamped "Issued to Student" are acceptable. Transcripts downloaded from a school's website are not acceptable.

R 400.8125 Staff; volunteer; requirements.**Rule 125 (1)**

1. All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.

Rationale

- Assures that appropriate care and supervision is provided to all children.
- Supervision is basic to the prevention of harm.
- Assures for the safety and well-being of children and assures their basic needs are being met.

Technical Assistance

All staff and volunteers working directly with children, have the responsibility to meet the basic needs of each individual child and to assure for their safety and well-being. Providing appropriate care and supervision of all children in care involves:

- Maintaining required *child care staff member*-to-child ratios and group size.
- Providing a program that meets the developmental needs of all children in care.
- Interacting with each child in a positive manner.
- Knowing what activities all children are engaged in.
- Knowing the whereabouts of each child at all times.
- Being close enough to the children to provide for their safety.

A *child care staff member* may need to be away from their assigned area of the center for a brief period of time for routine activities such as use of restroom, toileting a child, attending to a sick child, escorting children from the bus, etc. In those situations, children must not be left unattended. If multiple *child care staff members* are in the room, a replacement *child care staff member* may not be necessary unless there is a significant disruption in the room, children's needs are not being met or absences are too lengthy or too frequent.

Volunteers not acting as *child care staff members* have the responsibility for providing appropriate care of children. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Interacting with children in a positive manner.
- If working with an individual child, knowing the whereabouts and activities of that child.
- Following the volunteer policy of the center.

Consultation

The following publications are available on the department's website at [Child Care Resources](#)

- Keeping Track at all Times: Preventing Lost Children (BCAL-Pub 687).
 - Biting: What Can I Do To Stop It (BCAL-Pub 688).
 - Fussy Baby (BCAL-Pub 689).
 - Positive Discipline - Including the Proper Use of Time Out (BCAL PUB-787).
-

Rule 125 (2)

2. All staff and volunteers shall act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.

Rationale

Assures the safety and welfare of children in care.

Technical Assistance

722.115m(b) "Conducive to the welfare of the children" means:

- (i) The service and facility comply with this act and the administrative rules promulgated under this act.
- (ii) The disposition, temperament, condition, and action of the applicant, licensee, licensee designee, program director, child care staff member, and member of the household promote the safety and well-being of the children served.

Conducive to the welfare of children also includes the licensee:

- Is truthful to the department and the public.
- Is capable of making appropriate judgements.
- Is knowledgeable of the developmental needs of children of varying ages.
- Conducts self in a way so that rule requirements are met.

722.115m(3) To assess whether the service, facility, applicant, licensee, child care staff member, or member of the household is conducive to the welfare of the children, the department may utilize available information, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- a) Investigative report, such as a law enforcement report and a children's protective services report.
 - b) Medical report.
 - c) Public record.
 - d) Child care center, group child care home, or family child care home record.
 - e) Inspection of the child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.
-
-

Rule 125 (3)

3. All supervised volunteers shall receive a public sex offender registry (PSOR) clearance before having any contact with a child in care. A copy of this clearance must be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures that children are protected at all times when around *personnel* and volunteers.

Technical Assistance

Michigan State Police Sex Offender Registry can be found at: [PSOR](#)

A supervised volunteer does not include the rare occasions when parents accompany their child on a special activity such as a classroom party or field trip, when the parent is only with their child and has no responsibility for classroom activities.

Consultation

It is recommended that the PSOR clearance be completed on at least an annual basis.

Rule 125 (4)

4. **A licensee shall have a written policy regarding screening and supervision of staff and volunteers, including volunteers who are parents of a child in care. The policy must include a statement that any individual registered on the public sex offender registry (PSOR) is prohibited from having contact with any child in care.**

Rationale

Assures that children are protected at all times when around staff and volunteers.
Assures that volunteers are appropriately supervised while in the center.

Technical Assistance

The written screening policy must describe what methods are used by the center to screen employees and volunteers.

The written policy must describe the method of supervision and may include volunteer duties and restrictions.

A search of the Michigan Sex Offender Registry can be done at [PSOR](#)

A supervised volunteer does not include the rare occasions when parents accompany their child on a special activity such as a classroom party or field trip, when the parent is only with their child and has no responsibility for classroom activities.

Rule 125 (5)

5. A written statement **must** be signed and dated by staff and volunteers at the time of hiring or before volunteering indicating all of the following information:
 - a) The individual is aware that abuse and neglect of children is against the law.
 - b) The individual has been informed of the center's policies on child abuse and neglect.
 - c) The individual knows that all staff and volunteers are required by law to immediately report suspected abuse and neglect to children's protective services.

Rationale

Assures that center staff and volunteers are aware of the laws regarding child abuse and neglect and their responsibility to report suspected abuse/neglect.

Technical Assistance

An electronic signature from a staff person or volunteer is acceptable.

All employees and volunteers (including minors) of a child care centers are mandated reporters. Under the Child Protection Law, center employees and volunteers must contact Children's Protective Services (CPS) **immediately** when they suspect child abuse and/or neglect.

- The immediate verbal report must be made to Centralized Intake by calling (855) 444-3911. The verbal report must be followed by a written report. The written report must be submitted within 72 hours. DHHS encourages the use of the Report of Suspected or Actual Child Abuse or Neglect (DHS-3200) form which includes all the information required by the law. The written report may be faxed to (616) 977-1154 or (616) 977-1158 or emailed to DHS-CPS-CIGroup@michigan.gov.
- *The immediate online report eliminates the requirement to fill out a DHS-3200 form. To report online, you can register as a mandated reported at [Mi Bridges Mandated Reporters](#)*

Reporting the situation to administration or other staff person does not relieve the center employee or volunteer of their mandated responsibility to report to CPS.

When child abuse and/or neglect is suspected, the center employee or volunteer needs to **only** obtain enough information to make a report. If a child starts disclosing information regarding abuse and/or neglect, the center employee/volunteer must ask **only** open-ended questions, if necessary, to determine whether a report needs to be made to CPS. The child must not be led during the conversation. The center employee/volunteer must not attempt to conduct their own investigation either before reporting it to CPS or during the CPS investigation.

Consultation

Determining when to report situations of suspected child abuse/neglect can be difficult. When in doubt, contact Centralized Intake for consultation. Below are some commonly accepted warning signs associated with various forms of child abuse/neglect. Note that the warning signs below, in themselves, are not the only indicators of child abuse/neglect and, if present, do not always mean a child is being abused or neglected.

Physical Abuse: Sores, burns, bruises, injuries on body and a reluctance or vagueness about where these originated. Injuries may not match the explanation.

Neglect: Consistent signs of hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene (unwashed clothes, hair and body odor); regularly displays fatigue or listlessness; unattended medical needs.

Sexual Abuse: Unusual sexual awareness or behavior. Inappropriate sexual behavior such as attempting to insert tongue in someone's mouth; pain, itching, bleeding, or

bruises in the genital area; persistent sexual play with other children, themselves, toys, or pets; withdrawal or depression.

Other signs of possible abuse or neglect include:

- Extremely aggressive and/or passive behavior.
- Delays in development.
- Fear of parents or adults.
- Unusually shy, avoids other children and adults.
- Avoids physical contact.
- Apt to seek affection from any adult.
- Reports of being hurt or abused.

For more information on reporting suspected child abuse and neglect, refer to the mandated reporter's website at [Mandated Reporters](#). The Mandated Reporter's Resource Guide (DHS-Pub 112) is also available online at [Mandated Reporters' Resource Guide](#). Also see the publication *The Role of Professional Child Care Providers in Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect* at [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).

R 400.8128 Staff; volunteer; tuberculosis.

Rule 128. A center shall keep on file at the center evidence to verify that each child care staff member and each volunteer who has contact with children at least 4 hours per week for more than 2 consecutive weeks is free from communicable tuberculosis (TB). Verification of TB status is required within 1 year before employment or volunteering.

Rationale

Protects the health and welfare of all staff, volunteers, children and parents.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), child care providers are not considered to be persons at higher risk for exposure to or infection with tuberculosis (TB), so serial testing is not recommended.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies to **all** *child care staff members*.

Documentation of a negative TB test must be verified by a health professional and must be kept on file at the center. Chest x-rays are acceptable in lieu of TB skin tests.

Pregnant women are often advised by their doctors not to have a TB skin test or chest x-ray. In this case, the staff member or volunteer must submit a doctor's statement that a TB test cannot be performed due to the pregnancy. The TB test will be required as soon as medically safe after delivery.

A new negative TB test is required if the employee/volunteer is offered a position with a different licensee, unless the test is less than a year old. A new negative TB test would not be required for employees/volunteers moving to different locations within a licensee group.

Consultation

According to the MDHHS, persons considered to be at higher risk for exposure to or infection with TB include:

- Close contact with a person known or suspected to have TB.
- Foreign-born persons from areas where TB is common.
- Residents and employees of high-risk congregate settings such as jails and prisons.
- Health care workers who serve high risk clients.
- Medically underserved low-income populations.
- High risk racial/ethnic populations.
- Children exposed to adults in high risk categories.
- Persons who inject illegal drugs.

R 400.8131 Professional development requirements.

Rule 131 (1)

1. The center shall provide an orientation **about** the center's policies and practices and **these** administrative rules **for all personnel** hired after the effective date of these rules and before unsupervised contact with children.

Rationale

Ensures that staff are familiar with the Child Care Center Licensing Rules and the center's policies and understand their job duties.

Technical Assistance

Orientation is required for any staff hired after January 1, 2014. Orientation counts toward the annual clock hours of professional development as required by subrule (6) of this rule. Verification of orientation must be kept as required by subrule (11) of this rule.

Center policies and practices would include: discipline, information provided to parents, emergency procedures, illness for children and staff, appropriate care and supervision, *prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, child maltreatment, Prevention and control of Infectious diseases including immunization training, as required by subrule (4) of this rule and recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect etc.*

Unsupervised volunteers must also complete an orientation before unsupervised access to children.

Consultation

It is recommended that the following topics be covered in orientation for new personnel:

- Placement of first aid equipment.
- Who to contact with questions?
- Health policies and procedures.
- Fire prevention.
- Diapering procedures (if applicable).
- Planned daily activities and routines.
- Developmentally appropriate practices and expectations for the age group with which the staff will work.

It is recommended the following be added to the orientation even though subrule (5) provides 90 days from the date of hire:

- a) Administration of medication.*
- b) Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions.*
- c) Building and physical premises safety.*
- d) Emergency preparedness and response planning.*
- e) Handling and storage of hazardous materials and appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants.*
- f) Precautions in transporting children, if applicable.*
- g) Child development.*

Rule 131 (2) & (3)

2. **Child care staff members** shall have training that includes information about infant safe sleep before caring for infants and toddlers.

3. **Before caring for children, all child care staff members and unsupervised volunteers who work directly with children shall be trained on prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, child maltreatment, and recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.**

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of young children.

Technical Assistance

Documentation infant safe sleep training must be maintained for each caregiver caring for infants and toddlers. This training counts toward the annual clock hours of professional development as required by subrule (6) of this rule. Verification of *professional development* must be kept as required by subrule (11) of this rule.

Documentation of shaken baby syndrome, *abusive head trauma, child maltreatment, and recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect* training must be maintained for *all child care staff members and unsupervised volunteers prior to caring for children*. These trainings count toward the annual clock hours of professional development as required by subrule (6) of this rule. Verification of *professional development* must be kept as required by subrule (11) of this rule.

Consultation

It is best practice that **all child care staff members**, not just those who work directly with infants and toddlers, be trained on infant safe sleep.

A free *training* on infant safe sleep and the licensing rules related to infant safe sleep is available on our website at [Trainings](#)

Child Protective Services [Mandated Reporters Guide](#)

Training is available at [MiRegistry](#) in Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers, Courses 1 and 2.

Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers Course 1 includes:

- *Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (including Immunizations)*
- *Administration of Medication*
- *Prevention and Response to Emergencies due to food and allergic reactions*
- *Child Development (birth to 5 years)*

Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers Course 2 includes:

- *Building and Physical Premises Safety*

- *Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma, and Child Maltreatment*
- *Emergency Preparedness and Response Training*
- *Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials and the Appropriate Disposal of Bio-contaminants*
- *Precautions in Transporting Children*
- *Recognition and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect*
- *Child Development (school age)*

NOTE: Infant safe sleep is not covered in the MiRegistry Health and Safety Trainings.

Rule 131 (4)

4. Before unsupervised contact with children, **all child care staff members** shall complete **prevention and control of infectious disease** training, **including immunizations**.

Rationale

To reduce the risk of infection due to exposure to blood or other potentially harmful infectious materials.

Technical Assistance

Licensing does not mandate a specific *prevention and control of infectious disease training, including immunizations* curriculum.

Prevention and control of infectious disease training, including immunizations counts toward the annual clock hours of professional development as required by subrule (6) of this rule. Verification of training must be kept as required by subrule (11) of this rule.

Consultation

MIOSHA Bloodborne Infectious Diseases Online Training Program: [MIOSHA online training](#)

For additional information regarding communicable diseases and reporting as well as immunizations, contact your local health department. A listing of county health departments can be found at [MDHHS local health departments](#)

Training is available at [MiRegistry](#) in Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers, Courses 1 and 2.

Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers Course 1 includes:

- *Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (including Immunizations)*
- *Administration of Medication*
- *Prevention and Response to Emergencies due to food and allergic reactions*
- *Child Development (birth to 5 years)*

Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers Course 2 includes:

- *Building and Physical Premises Safety*
- *Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma, and Child Maltreatment*
- *Emergency Preparedness and Response Training*
- *Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials and the Appropriate Disposal of Bio-contaminants*
- *Precautions in Transporting Children*
- *Recognition and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect*
- *Child Development (school age)*

Rule 131 (5)

- 5. Within 90 days of being hired, or the first day as an unsupervised volunteer, all child care staff members and unsupervised volunteers who work directly with children shall complete the following trainings, which may count toward annual professional development hours and are available at MiRegistry:**
- a) Administration of medication.**
 - b) Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions.**
 - c) Building and physical premises safety.**
 - d) Emergency preparedness and response planning.**
 - e) Handling and storage of hazardous materials and appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants.**
 - f) Precautions in transporting children, if applicable.**
 - g) Child development.**

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of young children by educating caregivers regarding handling medical and other emergencies.

Technical Assistance

All child care staff members who work directly with children have 90 days from their date of hire to complete the training. All unsupervised volunteers who work directly with children have 90 days from the first date of volunteering to complete the training.

Child Care Staff Members must receive training on how to:

- *Ensure parents provide the proper written permission and instructions to provide medication to their child.*
- *Read medication labels and instructions.*
- *Properly measure doses of medication.*
- *Use any specific medical device such as an inhaler or nebulizer, if necessary.*

Child Care Licensing does not mandate a specific training curriculum.

This training counts toward the annual clock hours of professional development as required by subrule (6) of this rule. Verification of training must be kept as required by subrule (11) of this rule.

Consultation

Training is available at [MiRegistry](#) in Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers, Courses 1 and 2.

Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers Course 1 includes:

- *Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (including Immunizations)*
- *Administration of Medication*
- *Prevention and Response to Emergencies due to food and allergic reactions*
- *Child Development (birth to 5 years)*

Health and Safety Training for Licensed Child Care Providers Course 2 includes:

- *Building and Physical Premises Safety*
- *Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma, and Child Maltreatment*
- *Emergency Preparedness and Response Training*
- *Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials and the Appropriate Disposal of Bio-contaminants*
- *Precautions in Transporting Children*
- *Recognition and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect*
- *Child Development (school age)*

Rule 131 (6) & (7)

6. All **child care staff members who work directly with children** shall complete 16 clock hours of professional development annually on topics relevant to job responsibilities **that include, but are not limited to, any of the following subjects:**
 - a) **Child** development and learning.
 - b) **Health**, safety and nutrition.
 - c) **Family** and community collaboration.
 - d) **Program** management.
 - e) **Teaching** and learning.
 - f) **Observation**, documentation, and assessment.
 - g) **Interactions** and guidance.
 - h) **Child** care center administrative rules.

7. **A** center may count CPR and first aid training for up to 2 hours of the annual professional development hours in the year taken. **Staff may use hours from MiRegistry to meet the professional development requirements in subrule (6) of this rule.**

Rationale

Staff training improves the quality of care. Child care staff members who are trained are better able to prevent, recognize and correct health and safety problems and promote children's healthy development. This rule assures that center staff receive on-going training related to the functions and responsibilities of their role as a child care staff member.

Technical Assistance

“who work directly with children” means that the individual spends time in the classroom and may interact with children. This does not include the kitchen aid who may drop off food and leave the classroom immediately or the custodian who may come in the classroom to change the trash.

All child care staff members in a classroom to maintain the staff member to child ratio must complete this professional development.

Professional development records of child care staff members employed less than 1 year will not be reviewed at licensing inspections unless needed for follow up of previous inspection or special investigation.

CPR and/or first aid training counts for up to 2 hours of annual clock hours of professional development during the year it was completed.

Documentation of 16 clock hours each calendar year for all child care staff members is required.

If the center license expires on 10/02/2019, you will be required to provide documentation of training hours from calendar years 2017 and 2018.

Equivalencies

- 60 minutes equals one clock hour of training.
- One semester hour of college credit is equivalent to 15 hours of training.
- One term hour is equivalent to 10 hours of training.
- One CEU or State Board CEU (SB-CEU) is equivalent to 10 hours of training.
- One State Continuing Education Clock Hour (SCECHs) is equivalent to 1 hour of training.

Consultation

The Michigan Core Knowledge and Core Competencies (CKCCs) for the Early Care and Education Workforce outline what adults who work with young children need to know, understand and be able to do in order to provide quality early learning experiences. It is recommended that the CKCCs are used to:

- Assess staff knowledge and skill in the competency areas.
- Identify areas where staff need to improve.
- Create a professional development plan for each staff member.

- Track and map staff professional growth.

The CKCC document and a related webinar are on Office of Great Start website at [MDE Office of Great Start](#)

Training opportunities are available through a variety of sources, including, but not limited to:

- Training is available at [MiRegistry](#)
- Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Child Care Licensing - and your licensing consultant. [Training](#)
- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children [MIAEYC](#)
- Department of Health and Human Services, Infant Safe Sleep - [Safe sleep for Infants](#)
- Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start - [Office of Great Start](#)
- Afterschool Alliance- [After School Alliance](#)
- Michigan After-School Partnership - [After School Partnership](#)
- Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health - [Infant Mental Health](#)
- Local hospitals, health departments and libraries.

Rule 131 (8)

8. An on-going professional development plan **must** be developed and implemented to include all the training and professional development required by **these** rules.

Rationale: Implementation of a training plan assures that all staff receive specific and basic training for the work they will be doing and are aware of their responsibilities. Training assures that staff are challenged and stimulated, have access to current knowledge and have access to education that will qualify them for new roles.

Technical Assistance

The staff training plan must address:

- Emergency procedures as required by R 400.8161(8).
- Orientation as required by subrule (1) of this rule.
- Infant safe sleep as required by subrule (2) of this rule.
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, child maltreatment, and recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect required by subrule (3) of this rule.
- Prevention and control of infectious disease training, including immunizations as required by subrule (4) of this rule.
- Administration of medication, Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, building and physical premises safety, Emergency preparedness and response planning, handling and storage of hazardous materials and appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants, precautions in transporting children, if applicable, and child development as required by subrule (5) of this rule.

- CPR and first aid training as required by the Child Care Organizations Act and subrules (10).
- Sixteen annual clock hours of professional development as required by subrule (6) of this rule. To comply with subrule (6) of this rule, the staff training plan must also address the following training topics:
 - a) Child development and learning.
 - b) Health, safety and nutrition.
 - c) Family and community collaboration.
 - d) Program management.
 - e) Teaching and learning.
 - f) Observation, documentation and assessment.
 - g) Interactions and guidance.
 - h) Child care center administrative rules

Note: The training plan must address all of the topics listed in subrule (6) of this rule; however, staff are not required to be trained in every topic area each year.

Consultation

It is recommended that the CKCCs are used when developing the ongoing professional development plan. The CKCC document and a related webinar are on Office of Great Start website at [MDE Office of Great Start](#)

An effective staff training plan would also provide for training in the following areas, if applicable:

- Primary caregiving.
- Diapering and toilet training.
- Field trip procedures.
- Supervision of volunteers.
- Supervision of children.
- Water activities procedures.
- Other topics relevant to job responsibilities.

Centers may consider having a goal-directed training plan. For example, if the mission of a preschool program is to prepare children for kindergarten, then the training plan might focus more on strategies, curriculums and practices that can accomplish that goal.

Refer to R 400.8131(6) for training resources.

Rule 131 (9)

9. On-line trainings and correspondence courses **must** have an assessment of learning.

Technical Assistance

The department is not formally approving training topics, training sessions or individual trainers.

All child care staff members may receive one clock hour of annual training for reading all of the center-related articles in **three** different issues of Michigan Child Care Matters [MCCM](#) (found on the child care website) and pass the tests associated with those issues during the calendar year. Child care staff members must maintain their own documentation that they passed the tests by printing a copy of the test results page or the certificate for each test they pass for their records.

Note: Only one clock hour of your annual training requirements can be earned by reading issues of MCCM.

Video and distance learning, correspondence courses, online trainings, and webinars count toward the annual clock hours of professional development if these types of trainings/courses have an assessment of learning. **Note:** By including video and distance learning, correspondence courses, online trainings and webinars on a training log to count toward the annual clock hours of professional development, the child care staff member is certifying that the training had some type of assessment of learning.

Example 1: A child care staff member receives a video from MSU-E on developmentally appropriate practices (DAP). After viewing the program, the child care staff member must respond, in writing, to a series of questions related to how she can create activities that are developmentally appropriate. These responses are returned to the MSU-E office and a trainer reviews the responses, writes comments and suggestions based on the responses, and then sends this feedback to the child care staff member. With appropriate verification, licensing will accept this training as meeting R 400.8131(6).

Example 2: A child care staff member watches a webinar on green cleaning and sanitizing practices. At the end of the webinar, the child care staff member answers questions related to the webinar that are scored. With appropriate verification, licensing will accept this training as meeting R 400.8131(6).

Example 3: A child care staff member completes an online training on playground supervision. Throughout the training, the child care staff member must do activities prior to moving on to the next screen. With appropriate verification, licensing will accept this training as meeting R 400.8131(6).

Example 4: A child care staff member enrolls in an online college course on child development. Throughout the semester, the child care staff member must post responses online and complete an essay. With appropriate verification, licensing will accept this course as meeting R 400.8131(6).

Example 5: A child care staff member enrolls in a self-study course that provides worksheets to complete. The child care staff member is not required to submit her work to the trainer. As part of the course, a certificate of completion is included with the worksheets. Licensing will not accept this training as meeting R 400.8131(6).

Example 6: A child care staff member viewed a video series on child development. The child care staff member recorded on her Professional Development Record (BCAL-4591) that she spent 4 hours watching this video series. Licensing will not accept this training as meeting R 400.8131(6).

Example 7: The use of educational curriculum, magazines and books, while a means to enhance a child care staff member's personal growth and development, do not meet the requirements of this subrule. Licensing will not accept these as meeting R 400.8131(4).

Example 8: Attendance at professional meetings with no specific training topic will not be accepted as training required in R 400.8131(6).

Consultation

Refer to R 400.8131(6) for training resources.

Rule 131 (10)

10. All child care staff members who work directly with children are required to be trained in first aid and pediatric, child and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) within 90 days of being hired. Prior to issuing a license to operate a child care center and prior to the renewal of a license, the department shall verify that at least 50% of the child care staff members who work directly with children are currently certified in first aid and pediatric, child and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Each child care staff member's first aid and CPR certificates must be valid and retained on file in the center.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and welfare of children by having someone in attendance at all times who is qualified to respond to common life threatening emergencies.

Technical Assistance

The center must have at least one child care staff member present at all times that has current certification in CPR and First Aid per MCL 722.112a below.

The center must "train" all child care staff members within 90 days of hire and 50% of all child care staff members who work with children must be "certified"

First aid/CPR **certification** must be received from a person certified as a Red Cross instructor or a trainer from another organization approved by the department. The current list of approved organizations can be found on the department website [CPR and First Aid Training](#). First aid and CPR certification may be completed online if an in-person skills test is completed. The online training and the in-person skills test must be administered by one of the approved organizations. See subrule (11) of this rule for verification of training requirements.

Trained in first aid and pediatric, child and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) means you have received instruction in the skills.

MCL 722.112a, (1) A child caring institution, foster family home, foster family group home, child care center, group child care home, and family child care home shall **have individuals present**, as prescribed in the appropriate administrative rules, who have current certification in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation obtained through the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or an equivalent organization or institution approved by the department.

Verification of CPR/First Aid Certification

A receipt of payment for the session is not verification of certification attendance or participation. Copies of the cards or a statement on agency letterhead are acceptable verification of CPR/first aid certification.

Verification of CPR/First Aid Training

Verification **must** be issued from the training organization or trainer and include the date of the course, the name of the training organization or trainer, the topic covered, and the number of clock hours. (see subrule 11).

Consultation

It is recommended that when on field trips, a caregiver with valid CPR and first aid training be present on the field trip.

Many of the approved organizations offer several different types of CPR and first aid training (for the general community, workplace, health care/emergency response professionals). It is recommended that caregivers take workplace CPR and first aid training, if offered. It is not necessary to take the course designed for health care/emergency response professionals.

Rule 131 (11)

11. Verification of all professional development required by this rule **must** be kept on file at the center **or online at MiRegistry, www.miregistry.org**. Verification **must** be issued from the training organization or trainer and include the date of the course, the name of the training organization or trainer, the topic covered, and the number of clock hours. **Training hours from MiRegistry also meet this rule.**

Rationale

Provides documentation of compliance with the *professional development* rules.

Technical Assistance

The center is responsible for obtaining verification of attendance at training for each child care staff member. Acceptable verification of attendance may include:

- Certificate signed by the trainer or sponsoring organization.

- Signed statement by the trainer or sponsoring organization.
- Program booklets/flyers with name badge and receipt.
- College transcript or CEU certificate.
- Written statement or training log from center documenting in-service or staff training provided by the center.
- MiRegistry learning records or certificate printed from MiRegistry training.

A receipt of payment for a training is not acceptable verification of training attendance.

The center must maintain copies of this documentation on file at the center for review by the licensing consultant.

Verification of CPR/First Aid Certification

A receipt of payment for the session is not verification of certification attendance or participation. Copies of the cards or a statement on agency letterhead are acceptable verification of CPR/first aid certification.

Training records must be kept for the past two full calendar years. For example, at a renewal inspection in 2019, your licensing consultant will review training records for calendar year 2017 and 2018. Refer to R 400.8110(11) for more information regarding record retention.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to develop a system to easily track yearly training verification. Staff should keep copies of their training documentation. The *Training Record – Michigan Child Care and Education Professional Development Record* (BCAL-4591) may be used to summarize training received. The acceptable verification outlined above must be provided in addition to this form. *The Professional Development Record can be found on our website at [Forms](#)*

Rule 131 (12)

12. When the department of licensing and regulatory affairs of the department of education publishes a notice that a new health and safety update document or a new health and safety update training activity has been published on MiRegistry, the licensee shall ensure that all personnel read and acknowledge the document or complete the activity within 6 months of the notice.

R 400.8134 Hand washing.**Rule 134 (1)**

1. As used in this rule, hand washing means to cleanse the hands with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance:

Hands must be washed with soap and running water. The following are not approved substitutes for soap and running water:

- Hand sanitizers.
- Water basins.
- Pre-moistened cleansing wipes.

Consultation:

Liquid soaps are preferred to bar soaps. Bar soaps sitting in water and not adequately drained can become contaminated with bacteria. Many children do not have the dexterity to handle a bar of soap. Many adults and children do not take the time to rinse the soil they have applied to the soap bar before putting it down for the next user.

Rule 134 (2) & (3)

2. All staff and volunteers shall wash their hands at all of the following times:
 - a. Prior to starting the workday at the center.
 - b. Prior to care of children.
 - c. Before preparing and serving food and feeding children.
 - d. Before giving medication.
 - e. After each diapering.
 - f. After using the toilet or helping a child use the toilet.
 - g. After handling bodily fluids.
 - h. After handling animals and pets and cleaning cages.
 - i. After handling garbage.
 - j. When soiled.
3. Staff and volunteers shall **ensure** that children wash their hands at all of the following times:
 - a. Before meals, snacks, or food preparation experiences.
 - b. After toileting or diapering.
 - c. After handling animals and pets.
 - d. When soiled.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance

Bodily fluids include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Urine.
- Feces.
- Blood.
- Saliva.
- Nasal discharge.
- Vomit.

Subrule (3) of this rule applies to all children, including infants; *however*, infants are not required to wash hands prior to drinking a bottle.

Consultation

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

If staff or children in care are using hand sanitizers as a supplement to hand washing, the following best practices are recommended:

- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing 60% to 95% alcohol.
- Monitor children's use of hand sanitizers to ensure the product is being used appropriately.
- Do not use hand sanitizers with children under the age of 2.
- Notify parents if hand sanitizer is used by children in care.

Rule 134 (4)

4. Guidelines for hand washing **must** be posted in food preparation areas, in toilet rooms, and by all hand washing sinks.

Rationale

Educates and reminds caregivers and children of the proper techniques for hand washing. Prevents contamination and the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance

If a bathroom or other area has a group of hand washing sinks next to each other, only one set of hand washing guidelines needs to be posted if the guidelines are visible from all the hand washing sinks.

Consultation

The following procedures are considered best practice for hand washing:

- Have a clean, single service towel available.
- Turn on the water to a comfortable temperature between 60o F to 120o F.
- Moisten hands with water and apply soap.

- Rub hands together vigorously until a soapy lather appears and continue for at least 20 seconds.
- Rub areas between fingers, around nailbeds, under fingernails, jewelry, and the back of hands.
- Rinse hands under running water until they are free of soap and dirt. Leave the water running while drying hands.
- Dry hands with a clean, single service towel or other approved hand drying device.
- If the water faucet does not shut off automatically, turn it off with the single service towel.
- Dispose of the single service towel in a lined trash container.

Additional Hand Washing Information

- Using the disposable paper or single-use cloth towel to turn off the water faucet prevents recontamination of hands.
- Shared cloth towels can transmit communicable diseases.
- Water faucets that turn off automatically or those that can be turned off without using hands prevents recontamination.

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Rule 134 (5)

- 5. Staff may wash children’s hands with non-toxic disposable wipes in the following situations:**
- a. When the child is too heavy to hold for handwashing.**
 - b. When the child cannot stand safely at the sink.**
 - c. When the child is not developmentally ready to hold his or her head.**
 - d. When the child has a special need, so the child is not able to wash his or her own hands.**

Rationale

To provide an alternate method for cleaning children’s hands when the above situations are present.

Technical Assistance:

Non-toxic disposable wipes include, but are not limited to cleansing wipes, baby wipes, diaper wipes (Huggies Diaper Wipes), kid wipes, wet wipes for hands and face, etc. Only wipes intended for use on skin can be used.

Household cleaning wipes must not be used.

Packaging guidelines must be followed.

Children should be supervised when using disposable wipes.

Consultation

Inform parents of the brand and type of wipe used.

Rule 134 (6)

6. When soap and running water are not available during an outing, hand sanitizers, **or** single-use wipes may be used as a temporary measure.

Technical Assistance

If unable to wash hands thoroughly on a field trip, sanitizing gels, along with single service wipes, are an acceptable alternative to hand washing.

Non-toxic disposable wipes include but are not limited to cleansing wipes, baby wipes, diaper wipes (Huggies Diaper Wipes), kid wipes, wet wipes for hands and face, etc. Only wipes intended for use on skin can be used.

Household cleaning wipes must not be used.

Packaging guidelines must be followed.

Consultation

Hands should be washed upon return to the center. It is recommended that parents be notified if hand sanitizer is used by children in care.

Inform parents of the brand and type of wipe used.

R 400.8137 Diapering; toileting.**Rule 137 (1) a & b**

1. **Except as provided in subrule (2) of this rule, diapering must** occur in a designated diapering area that complies with all of the following:
 - a. Is physically separated from food preparation and food service.
 - b. Is within close proximity to a sink that is used exclusively for hand washing.

Rationale

A separate area for diaper changing reduces the contamination of other parts of the child care environment.

Technical Assistance

Sinks used in the preparation, serving and clean-up of food and bottles must not be used for hand washing after diapering or toileting.

Centers may need to rearrange the layout of their infant/toddler rooms to ensure the hand-washing sink is close enough to the diapering area to prevent contamination of surfaces and to ensure caregivers are able to provide appropriate supervision to the children in care.

Portable sinks with warm running water placed in close proximity to the diapering area would meet the intent of this rule.

Consultation

The hand-washing sink should be immediately adjacent to the diaper changing area.

Rule 137 (1) c, d & e

1. **Except as provided in subrule (2) of this rule, diapering must** occur in a designated diapering area that complies with all of the following:
 - c. Has non-absorbent, smooth, easily cleanable surfaces in good repair.
 - d. Is of sturdy construction with railings or barriers to prevent falls.
 - e. Is an **elevated diapering table or similar structure**.

Rationale

Reduces contamination and assures the health and safety of children in care.

Technical Assistance

Changing pads and surfaces of the changing table must be checked regularly for tears and cracks and replaced when needed. Taping of cracks and tears is not acceptable.

Diapering must not occur on the floor, except as allowed in subrule (2) of this rule.

Consultation

Best practice recommends a changing table height of 28 to 32 inches (standard table height) plus a 6-inch barrier to reduce back strain on caregivers and to provide a safe

barrier to prevent children from falling off the changing table. Straps are not recommended, as they are hard to clean and may present a strangulation hazard.

Rule 137 (1) f

1. **Except as provided in subrule (2) of this rule, diapering must** occur in a designated diapering area that complies with all of the following:
 - f. Is washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use.

Rationale

Reduces the contamination of other parts of the child care environment and assures the health and safety of children.

Technical Assistance

Washing, rinsing and sanitizing of the diaper changing surface is required even when disposable paper liners are used. The following steps are to be followed for washing, rinsing and sanitizing:

- Wash the surface vigorously with soap and water.
- Rinse the surface with clean water.
- Wipe or spray the surface with a sanitizing solution.
- Let the surface air dry or wipe dry after two minutes with a single service towel.

As used in these rules, "Sanitized" means to wipe or spray the surface with a sanitizing solution, let the surface air dry or wipe dry after 2 minutes with a single service towel, or according to the manufacturer's directions.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used **daily** to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution should be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's directions. **Note:** Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used **daily** to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Consultation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#):

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process **works by either cleaning or disinfecting** surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

It is recommended that the diapering surface and the diaper disposal container be **disinfected weekly or when necessary**. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water. The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing or disinfecting solution.

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product as it is safe, effective and inexpensive.

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information, go to [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved commercial sanitizers.

Resource:

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Rule 137 (2)

2. Children 1 year of age and older may be changed in a bathroom standing up or on a nonabsorbent, easily sanitized surface, with a changing pad between the child and the surface.

Rationale

Changing children 1 year of age or older in the bathroom encourages toilet learning, independence and self-help skills. Some children may be difficult to lift onto a changing table.

Technical Assistance

If children are changed in the bathroom and they are not changed standing up, they must be changed on a changing pad placed on the floor. Both the changing pad and the floor must be non-absorbent and easily cleaned and sanitized.

Rule 137 (3)

3. Diapering supplies **must** be within easy reach of the designated diapering area.

Rationale

Reduces the contamination of other parts of the child care environment and assures the health and safety of children.

Technical Assistance

Diapering supplies must be placed within easy reach of the caregiver during the diapering procedure yet be inaccessible to children.

Rule 137 (4)

4. A plastic-lined, tightly covered container **must** be used exclusively for disposable diapers and training pants and diapering supplies. **The container must** be emptied and sanitized at the end of each day.

Rationale

Reduces the contamination of other parts of the child care environment and assures the health and safety of children.

Technical Assistance

Diaper Genies or other such products meet the intent of this rule.

Consultation

Diaper disposal containers should be of a design that does not require manually lifting the lid.

Rule 137 (5)

5. Only single-use disposable wipes or other single-use cleaning cloths **must** be used to clean a child during the diapering or toileting process.

Rationale

Reduces urine and fecal contamination and the spread of disease.

Consultation

The following best practices are recommended:

- After removing the diaper, lift the child's legs as needed to clean the skin on the child's genitalia and buttocks.
- Remove stool and urine from front to back.

- Use a fresh wipe each time.
 - Put the soiled wipes into the soiled diaper or directly into a plastic lined covered container.
-

Rule 137 (6)

6. Diapers and training pants **must** be checked frequently and changed when wet or soiled.

Rationale

Frequency and severity of diaper dermatitis or rash are lower when diapers are changed more often.

Consultation

Diapers should be checked at least every two hours.

Rule 137 (7)

7. Guidelines for diapering **must** be posted in diapering areas.

Rationale

Educates and reminds caregivers of the proper techniques for diapering and hand washing to reduce urine and fecal contamination and the spread of disease.

Consultation

The following are suggested guidelines for the posted diapering procedures:

- Be Prepared: Gather all needed supplies and place a clean section of paper on changing table before placing the child on the table.
- Remove soiled diaper and set aside on papered surface. Always keep one hand on the child while he/she is on the table. The child should always be seated or lying down during diaper changes.
- Use a wipe to clean genital area front to back. Do not reuse wipes. Place wipe with the soiled diaper. This is the time to notice any rash or reddened areas.
- Diaper ointment provided by the parent may be applied as directed with written permission.
- Remove gloves, if wearing them, and set them aside on the paper.
- Place a clean diaper on the child.
- Wash the child's hands.
- Fold the soiled diaper, wipes and gloves together and discard in the diaper disposal container. Be careful not to touch soiled areas.
- Clean the changing surface with detergent and water and rinse with water.
- Wet the changing surface with a sanitizing solution and let air dry or wipe dry after two minutes with a single service towel.
- Wash your hands vigorously and thoroughly with soap and warm water.
- Record the diaper change in the child's daily log.

Resource

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Rule 137 (8)

8. Disposable gloves, if used for diapering, **must** only be used once for a specific child and be removed and disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner immediately after each diaper change.

Rationale

Reduces urine and fecal contamination and the spread of infection.

Technical Assistance

The use of gloves is not required during diapering. If gloves are used, *child care staff members* must still wash their hands after each diaper change to prevent the spread of disease-causing agents.

Consultation

Examples of how to remove gloves:

Example 1

- Partially remove the first glove by pinching glove at the wrist, being careful to only touch the glove's outside surface.
- Pull glove toward the fingertips without completely removing it until the glove is inside out.
- Remove the second glove by pinching the exterior at the wrist with the partially gloved hand.
- Pull the second glove toward the fingertips until it is inside out, then remove it completely.
- Finish removing both gloves with your free hand, touching only the clean interior surfaces of the glove.
- Discard the gloves with the diaper and wipes in a covered diaper disposal container.

Example 2

- Remove each glove carefully. Grab the first glove at the palm and strip the glove off. Touch dirty surfaces only to dirty surfaces.
- Ball up the dirty glove in the palm of the other gloved hand.
- Using your clean hand, strip the glove off from underneath at the wrist, turning the glove inside out. Touch dirty surfaces to dirty surfaces only.
- Discard the dirty gloves with the diaper and wipes in a covered diaper disposal container.

Note: Sensitivity to latex is a growing problem. If caregivers or children who are sensitive to latex are present in the center, gloves should be made from vinyl or some other substance that does not contain or cross-react with latex.

Rule 137 (9)

9. The following apply when cloth diapers or training pants are used:
 - a. Each cloth diaper **must** be covered with an outer waterproof covering. Outer coverings **must** be removed as a singular unit with wet or soiled diapers and with wet or soiled training pants, if used.
 - b. Diapers, training pants, and outer coverings **must** not be reused until washed and sanitized.
 - c. **Rinsing** the contents **must not** occur at the center.
 - d. Soiled diapers **must** be placed in a plastic-lined, covered container, **wet bag, or other waterproof container**, and used only for that child's soiled diapers.
 - e. Soiled diapers or training pants **must** be stored and handled in a manner that will not contaminate any other items and **must** not be accessible to children.
 - f. Soiled diapers or training pants **must** be removed from the center every day by the child's parent.
 - g. A child's supply of clean diapers or training pants **may** only be used for that child.

Rationale

Reduces urine and fecal contamination and the spread of infection.

Technical Assistance

Child care staff members may dump the fecal contents of a cloth diaper or training pants into the toilet to be flushed, but they must not be rinsed. Cloth diapers must be placed in a plastic-lined, covered container or a plastic-lined, closable bag made for cloth diapers to return to the parents.

This rule does not apply to children who have an occasional accident and need to have soiled items sent home.

Rule 137 (10)

10. Toilet **learning or training must** be planned cooperatively between the child's regular caregivers and the **child's** parent so the toilet routine established is consistent between the center and the child's home.

Rationale

Toilet learning is more likely to be consistent and successful when coordinated between center *child care staff members* and the child's parents.

Technical Assistance

Toilet learning/training, when initiated, must follow a prescribed, sequential plan that is developed and coordinated with the parent's plan for implementation in the home environment and must be based on the child's developmental level rather than chronological age.

Consultation

To help children achieve bowel and bladder control, *child care staff members* should enable children to take an active role in using the toilet when they are physically able to do so and when parents support their children's learning to use the toilet. *child care staff members* should take into account the preferences, customs and cultural expectations of the family.

For children who have not yet learned to use the toilet, the center should defer training until the child's family is ready to support this learning and the child demonstrates the following:

- An understanding of the concept of cause and effect.
- An ability to communicate.
- The physical ability to remain dry for up to two hours.

Toilet Learning and the Toddler (BCAL-Pub 686) is available on the department's website at [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 137 (11) a & b

11. Equipment used for toilet **learning or training must** be provided. All of the following equipment is acceptable for toilet **learning or training**:
- a) Adult-sized toilets with safe and easily cleanable modified toilet seats and step aids.
 - b) Child-sized toilets.

Rationale

Flushable child-sized toilets, step aids and modified toilet seats for adult-sized toilets provide for easier maintenance and reduce the possibility of urine and fecal contamination better than non-flushing toilets (potty chairs). Flushing toilets are superior to any type of device that exposes staff to contact with feces or urine.

Technical Assistance

- Modified toilet seats must be:
- Impervious to moisture.
- In good repair with no cracks.

Non-flushing toilets (potty chairs) are allowed if they meet the requirements subrule (11) of this rule.

Rule 137 (11) c

11. Equipment used for toilet learning or training must be provided. All of the following equipment is acceptable for toilet learning or training:

- c) Non-flushing toilets or potty chairs, if they are all of the following:
 - i. Made of a material that is easily cleanable.
 - ii. Used only in a bathroom area.
 - iii. Used over a surface that is impervious to moisture.
 - iv. Washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use.

Rationale

Prevents the spread of disease. The use of potty chairs at home and in the center facilitates consistency in a child's toilet training routine.

Technical Assistance

If potty chairs are used, they must be constructed of plastic or similar nonporous synthetic products. Wooden potty chairs must not be used even if the surface is coated with a finish. The finished surface of wooden potty chairs is not durable and, therefore, may become difficult to wash and sanitize effectively.

Potty chairs must be emptied into a toilet and stored in the bathroom. Potty chairs must not be washed/rinsed in a sink used for washing hands.

The following steps must be followed for cleaning and sanitizing:

- Wash the surface vigorously with soap and water.
- Rinse the surface with clean water.
- Wipe or spray the surface with a sanitizing solution.
- Let the surface air dry.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used **daily** to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution should be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's directions. **Note:** Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used **daily** to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing solution.

It is recommended that centers wash potty chairs:

- In a utility sink.

-
- In a sink designated only for cleaning potty chairs.
 - With a spray bottle containing soap and water.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#):

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process **works by either cleaning or disinfecting** surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

For cleaning up feces, it is recommended that the potty chair be disinfected. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water. The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product as it is safe, effective and inexpensive.

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact MIOSHA to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information, go to [MIOSHA](#) or call or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved commercial sanitizers.

Resource

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

R 400.8140 Discipline.

Rule 140 (1)

- (1) Positive methods of discipline that encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem, and cooperation **must** be used.

Rationale

Discipline is most effective when it is consistent, reinforces desired behavior and offers natural and logical consequences. Discipline helps children gain control over their behavior. Children act best when they know the rules and know they are expected to follow them.

Positive methods of discipline create a constructive and supportive social group and reduce incidents of aggression. Positive discipline methods will help guide a child toward self-discipline and independence.

Caregivers are more likely to avoid inappropriate practices if they are well trained about effective, positive methods for managing children's behaviors.

Technical Assistance

Discipline is not punishment and not just getting a child to "mind;" discipline involves helping a child gain control over his or her own behavior and emotions. Positive discipline methods will help guide a child toward self-discipline and independence. Positive methods of discipline include:

- Redirecting or distracting a child from the unacceptable activity to a constructive one.
- Planning ahead to prevent problems.
- Encouraging, teaching and modeling appropriate behavior.
- Setting consistent, clear rules.
- Talking to the child about the feelings he/she is having.
- Offering alternative solutions to the problem.
- Involving children in solving problems.
- Ensuring a relationship between the behavior and the discipline method.
- Tailoring the method of discipline to the individual child.
- Removing the child from the source of conflict.

Time-Out

Time-out should only be used to stop aggressive behavior or to allow angry or upset children to calm down. It is an opportunity for children to clear their minds and rejoin the group or activity in a more productive state. Use time-outs only as a last resort to help the child gain a better sense of self-control. When using time-out, caregiving staff must assure:

- Their expectations of the child's behavior are realistic.
- Consequences immediately follow the child's behavior.

- Children are not humiliated or made to feel threatened or afraid.
- The time-out does not last longer than it takes for the child to calm down.
- Children remain supervised at all times.

Consultation

Resources include, but are not limited to:

- Great Start to Quality Regional Resource Centers [GSQ](#)
- The National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) guide to accreditation at [NAEYC](#)
- Find trainings at [MiRegistry](#)
- PBS News Hour [column: Behavior Charts](#), [column: Behavior Charts](#), [Column: Alternatives to Timeouts](#)
-

The following publications are available on the department's website at [Child Care Resources](#)

- Fussy Baby (BCAL-Pub 689).
- Positive Discipline - Including the Proper Use of Time Out (BCAL-Pub 787).

Rule 140 (2)

- (2) All of the following means of punishment **are** prohibited:
- (a) Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.
 - (b) **Placing any substances in a child's mouth, including but not limited to, soap, hot sauce, or vinegar.**
 - (c) Restricting a child's movement by binding or tying him or her.
 - (d) Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child.
 - (e) Depriving a child of meals, snacks, rest, or necessary toilet use.
 - (f) Excluding a child from outdoor play or other gross motor activities.
 - (g) Excluding a child from daily learning experiences.
 - (h) Confining a child in an enclosed area, such as a closet, locked room, box, or similar **enclosure**.
 - (i) **Time out must not be used for children under 3 years of age.**

Rationale

Children deserve to be treated respectfully and appropriately in a positive manner. Research links mental and emotional stress and corporal punishment with negative effects such as impairment of learning and later criminal behavior.

Technical Assistance

All caregiving staff are responsible and accountable for:

- Assuring that a child's movement is not restricted by the use of a harness or leash or other restraint device.

- Assuring that the strapping device on confining equipment, such as high chairs are used to stabilize the child in that type of chair and not used for punishment or discipline.
- Assuring that firm and consistent expectations are given that do not cause children to feel shame or humiliation.

Children cannot be excluded from outdoor play or participation in large gross motor activities as a behavioral consequence. Examples of this include:

- Not allowing a child to go outside because of misbehavior during small group time.
- Excluding the child from the entire outdoor period for throwing sand.
- Excluding the child from gym activities for not eating their lunch.

Children cannot be excluded from daily learning experiences. This does not include age appropriate discipline techniques, such as:

- Redirecting a child from the block area after throwing blocks.
- Having a child participate in small group time in a way that benefits the child and doesn't disrupt the group, such as having the child sit a few feet away.
- Using time out when appropriate as outlined in subrule (1) of this rule.

Note: The practices outlined in this subrule are prohibited regardless of parental permission. Any caregiver who questions or has concerns regarding a parental discipline request should contact their licensing consultant.

Time-Out

Time-out should only be used to stop aggressive behavior or to allow angry or upset children to calm down. It is an opportunity for children to clear their minds and rejoin the group or activity in a more productive state. Use time-outs only as a last resort to help the child gain a better sense of self-control. When using time-out, caregiving staff must assure:

- Their expectations of the child's behavior are realistic.
- Consequences immediately follow the child's behavior.
- Children are not humiliated or made to feel threatened or afraid.
- The time-out does not last longer than it takes for the child to calm down.
- Children remain supervised at all times.

Consultation

The following publications are available on the department's Web site [Child Care Resources](#)

- Fussy Baby (BCAL-Pub 689).
- Positive Discipline - Including the Proper Use of Time Out (BCAL-Pub 787).

Training regarding appropriate discipline techniques, including for children under 3 years of age, can be found on [MiRegistry](#)

Rule 140 (3)

- (3) Non-severe and developmentally appropriate discipline or restraint may be used when reasonably necessary, based on a child's development, to prevent a child from harming himself or herself or to prevent a child from harming other persons or property, excluding those forms of punishment prohibited by subrule (2) of this rule.

Rationale

Undue physical restraint, especially with bonds, ties, or straps, is inappropriate.

Technical Assistance

If it becomes necessary to restrain a child, for his or her own or other's protection, holding the child as gently as possible is acceptable. Children must not be physically restrained longer than necessary to control the situation.

Examples of inappropriate restraint include, but are not limited to:

- Holding a child with undue physical force.
- Holding a child down on a sleep surface.
- Sitting on a child.
- Confining a child to high chair, swing, car seat, crib, etc.

Consultation

Specific training may need to be provided to ensure staff understand when and how to properly restrain a child.

Rule 140 (4)

- (4) A **written** policy **must** be developed and implemented regarding the **age appropriate, non-severe** discipline of children. The policy **must be provided to staff and parents**.

Rationale

Assures that parents and all caregivers are informed of the policies regarding the discipline of children.

Technical Assistance

The discipline policy must include:

- How caregivers will manage children's behavior by using positive methods of discipline and encouraging children to develop self-control as required by R 400.8140(1).
- Discipline methods that are appropriate for children of different ages and levels of understanding, based on the ages of children cared for at the center.

This policy can be added to the parent handbook and the staff handbook.

The discipline policy must be reviewed and discussed at orientation for newly hired child care staff members and unsupervised volunteers.

Consultation

Centers may include a list of the forms of discipline prohibited by R 400.8140(2) in their discipline policy.

It is recommended that the policy include procedures for handling specific behaviors such as biting, bullying and aggressiveness.

A copy of the policy should be provided to all personnel and volunteers.

R 400.8143 Children's records.**Rule 143 (1)**

1. At the time of a child's initial attendance, a center shall obtain a child information card, using a form provided by the department or a comparable substitute, **that is** completed and signed by the **child's** parent. **The** center shall keep it on file and accessible in the center.

Rationale

Assures that centers have contact and medical information for each child.

Technical Assistance

"Initial attendance" means the moment a child is left in the center's care.

To demonstrate compliance with this subrule, the Child Information Record (BCAL-3731 or a comparable substitute) must be accurate and complete. Unless otherwise indicated, ALL requested information must be provided. If the information cannot be obtained or does not apply, "unknown" or "none" is the required response. A blank field, a line through a field or "N/A" are not acceptable responses.

The Child Information Record was updated in July 2018 Previous edition 6-17 may be used. Even if previous versions of the card are being used, the second parent/legal guardian's information will be considered optional.

Children may be released to a parent/legal guardian or other individual named in the release of child sections on the Child Information Record.

Both parents have a right to pick up the child regardless of whether they are listed on the Child Information Record unless a court order is on file prohibiting release to a particular parent. See R400.8110(8)

Note: A separate Child Information Record (or comparable substitute) must be completed for each child in care.

An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Consultation

The rule does not require the Child Information Record (or comparable substitute) to be notarized. However, centers should check with the local hospital(s) as some do require the card to be notarized prior to treating a child.

It is best practice to require prior written authorization from parents before releasing a child to the identified person. The center may establish a mechanism for identifying a person for whom the parents have given prior authorization to pick up their child, such as:

- Require photo identification.
- Require the use of a password.

Rule 143 (2)

2. Child information cards **must** be reviewed and updated by parents at least annually and when the center becomes aware of changes.

Rationale

Assures that the center has current, complete and accurate information.

Technical Assistance

If no changes have taken place within the preceding year, the Child Information Record (BCAL-3731 or comparable substitute) can be updated annually by having parents review the card and then initial and date the card.

Rule 143 (3)

3. **For children under school-age, at the time of a child's initial attendance, a center shall obtain, keep on file, and make accessible in the center one of the following:**
 - a. A certificate of immunization showing a minimum of 1 dose of each immunizing agent specified by the department of health **and human services (DHHS)**.
 - b. A copy of a waiver addressed to DHHS and signed by the parent stating immunizations are not being administered due to religious, medical, or other reasons.

Rationale

Routine immunization at the appropriate age is the best means of preventing vaccine-preventable diseases for both the child who is immunized and other children to whom they are exposed.

Technical Assistance

"Initial attendance" means the moment a child is left in the center's care.

Any of the following are required to document compliance with subrule (a) of this rule:

- A copy of the child's immunization record.
- The official immunization record printed from the Michigan Child Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). [This can only be printed by a health care provider or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)].
- The unofficial immunization record printed from MCIR if the child is up-to-date on their immunizations.

If parents choose not to have immunizations administered, per subrule (b) of this rule, the parent must complete the waiver *provided by the local health department*. A copy of the waiver must be kept on file at the center. The waiver cannot be altered from its original format. More information can be found at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website at [Immunization Waiver Information](#).

Consultation

Information pertaining to required immunizations for Michigan child care/preschool attendance can be obtained from the MDHHS website [Immunization Program](#) or the Michigan Care Improvement Registry website [MICR](#) (School & Child Care). The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends additional immunizations. Additional information on the CDC’s recommendations can be obtained from the CDC [Vaccines & Immunizations](#).

MDHHS has developed flu information materials for centers. It is recommended that centers post this information in an area for staff and parents to review and to remind parents that to be protected, children need to be given the flu vaccine every year. For more information on the flu and flu vaccines, please go to the department’s website at www.michigan.gov/michildcare >Information for Parents >Immunization Information.

The following chart outlines required and recommended immunizations for children birth to 5 years of age. Caregivers are encouraged to share this chart with parents annually.

Required Immunizations for Michigan Child Care/Preschool Attendance							
This table represents the minimum required immunizations for child care centers.							
AGE	Birth through 1 mo.	2 mo. through 3 mo	4 mo. through 5 mo.	6 mo. Through 15 mo.	16 mo. Through 18 mo.	19 mo. Through 4 years	5 years
Diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis (DTaP)	None	1 dose	2 doses	3 doses	3 doses	4 doses	
Pneumococcal Conjugate [PCV7 and/or PCV13] (required after 1/1/07)	None	1 dose	2 doses	3 doses	4 doses or age appropriate complete series	1 dose on or after 24 mo. OR age appropriate complete series	None
H. Influenzas type B (Hib)	None	1 dose	2 doses		1 dose on or after 15 mo. OR age appropriate complete series		None
Polio	None	1 dose	2 doses		2 doses	3 doses	

Measles* Mumps* Rubella*	None			1 dose after 12 months	
Hepatitis B	None**	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	3 doses
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	None			1 dose on or after 12 months OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease	

Recommended Immunizations (In addition to the Required Immunizations Listed Above) (Centers for Disease Control)											
	Birth	1mo.	2mo.	3 mo.	4 mo.	6 mo.	12 mo.	15 mo.	19-23 mo.	2-3 years	4-6 years.
Rotavirus+	None		1 dose	1 dose	1 dose						
Influenza	None					Yearly					
Hepatitis A	None						2 doses		Additional doses for high risk groups		
Meningococcal	None									For high risk groups	

All doses of vaccines must be given with appropriate spacing between doses and at appropriate ages to be considered valid.

* Current laboratory evidence is acceptable instead of immunization with that antigen.

** Hepatitis B may be administered as early as birth.

+ Do not begin after 15 weeks.

Rule 143 (4)

- When a child under school-age whose immunizations were not up-to-date at the time of enrollment has been in attendance for 4 months, an updated certificate showing completion of all additional immunization requirements as specified by **DHHS must** be kept on file, unless there is a signed statement by a licensed health care provider stating immunizations are in progress.

Rationale

Routine immunization at the appropriate age is the best means of preventing vaccine-preventable diseases for both the child who is immunized and other children to whom they are exposed.

Technical Assistance

Any of the following are required to document compliance with subrule (a) of this rule:

- A copy of the child's immunization record.
- The official immunization record printed from MCIR. (This can only be printed by a health care provider or MDHHS).
- The unofficial immunization record printed from MCIR if the child is up-to-date on their immunizations.

Consultation

Information pertaining to required immunizations for Michigan child care/preschool attendance can be obtained from the MDHHS website, [Immunization Program](#) or the MCIR website [MICR](#) (School & Child Care).

Rule 143 (5)

5. **A center shall report to DHHS, by October 1 of each year and using the method established by the DHHS, immunizations for all children enrolled, pursuant to section 9211(2) of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.9211(2).**

Technical Assistance

The Public Health Code [1978 PA 368, MCL 333.9211(2)] requires the operator of the licensed child care program to report the immunizations of all children enrolled in the program using MCIR at website [MICR](#) (School & Child Care) or forms provided by MDHHS by October 1 of each year. Any assistance needed or questions about immunizations should be directed to the county public health department or the MDHHS, Division of Immunization at (517) 335-8159.

This rule applies to all children in care, including children who may reside out-of-state (usually a border state to Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois).

Rule 143 (6)

6. **Within 30 days of a child's initial attendance, a center shall obtain, keep on file, and make accessible in the center a record of a physical evaluation of the child that notes any restrictions and is signed by a physician or the physician's designee. An electronic record from a physician's office will be accepted. The physical evaluation must be performed within 1 of the following time limits:**
 - a. **For an infant, within the preceding 3 months.**
 - b. **For toddlers, within the preceding 6 months.**
 - c. **For preschoolers, within the preceding 12 months.**
7. Physical evaluations **must** be updated as follows:
 - a. Yearly for infants and toddlers.
 - b. Every 2 years for preschoolers.

Rationale

The purpose of the health evaluation is to give information about a child's health history, special needs and current health status to allow the center to provide a safe setting and healthful experience for each child. The reports of such evaluations provide a conduit for communication of information that helps the health professional and the center determine appropriate services for the child.

Technical Assistance

"Initial attendance" means the moment a child is left in the center's care.

Physical evaluations are acceptable from the following:

- A Doctor of Medicine (MD).
- A Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).
- A designee who is supervised by a licensed physician such as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or nurse.

An electronic record from a physician's office does not require a physician signature. It must include any restrictions.

Note: Physical evaluations are not acceptable from a chiropractor as this type of health evaluation does not fall under a chiropractor's scope of work. A chiropractor's scope of work deals with the human nervous system and the musculoskeletal system and their interrelationship with other body systems only.

Consultation

It is recommended that the Health Appraisal (MDHHS/BCAL-3305) form be used to document a child's physical evaluation. The MDHHS/BCAL-3305 is available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#).

Rule 143 (8)

8. Upon enrollment and annually thereafter, a center shall obtain and keep on file at the center a signed statement from a school-age child's parent confirming all of the following:
 - a. The child is in good health with activity restrictions noted.
 - b. The child's immunizations are up-to-date.
 - c. The immunization record or appropriate waiver is on file with the child's school.

Rationale

Assures the center is aware of any health concerns or restrictions on a child's physical activities.

Technical Assistance

An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to develop a form addressing the requirements of this rule that can easily be completed by parents.

Refer to subrule (3) of this rule for more information on immunizations.

Rule 143 (9)

9. A center shall **ensure** that, if a parent objects to a physical examination or medical treatment on religious grounds, then the parent provides a signed statement annually that the child is in good health and that the parent assumes responsibility for the child's state of health while at the center.

Rational

Respects a parent's religious beliefs.

Technical Assistance

The parent's statement must include the following:

- The parent objects to a physical examination or medical treatment on religious grounds.
- The parent assumes responsibility for the child's state of health while at the center.
- Any restrictions that might affect a child's participation in the program such as allergies, asthma or developmental issues.

An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Rule 143 (10)

10. **A center that enrolls a homeless child pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act, 42 USC 11432, shall not be cited for noncompliance when a homeless child is unable to produce health and immunization records. The licensee shall file any documentation of referring a child to the local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths.**

Consultation

Information regarding Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) can be found at US Department of Education [ESSA](#) and ESSA highlights are [ESSA A comprehensive guide](#).

Rule 143 (11)

11. **A center shall maintain an accurate record of daily attendance at the center that includes each child's first and last name and each child's arrival and departure time. Electronic records may be used. If they are used, then they must be available to the department at the time of an inspection; and, if the electronic attendance records are not available during an on-site inspection, then the center is in violation of this rule.**

Rationale

Assures that the facility knows which children are in care at any given time. It assists in maintaining child-staff ratios and provides data for program planning. Attendance records may be necessary in conducting complaint investigations and other inspections.

Technical Assistance

A center's attendance procedure may include having either staff or parents be responsible for entering arrival and departure times or a combination of both. It is the center's responsibility to ensure attendance is accurate and is documented when the child arrives and departs, even if the procedure is for parents to sign children in and out.

Centers can keep attendance records electronically. It is the center's responsibility to demonstrate all of the following:

- The electronic attendance records are reliable.
- How attendance records would be maintained if the system was down.
- How attendance records would be accessed if the system was down or in an emergency.

If electronic attendance records are not available during an on-site inspection, the center is in violation of this rule.

All providers that receive Child Development and Care (CDC) payments must keep complete and accurate records of daily time and attendance for each CDC child in care. You must make these records available to an employee of the Department or the Auditor General if asked. Licensed providers are not required to use the CDC Daily Time and Attendance Record (DHS-1546) but must maintain records showing the:

- Child(ren)'s name and age.
- Pay period number.
- Dates for each day you watched each child during the pay period.
- Daily care begin time and daily care end time for each child.
- Total number of hours you watched each child for the pay period.
- You and the parent must certify the daily attendance records are accurate.
 - You must sign your time and attendance records.
 - The parent must sign or initial daily to show that they agree with the information on the time and attendance records.

Consultation

For more information on CDC-paid child care, go to [Child Development and Care: Providers](#).

If the center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the center may use the same form to document daily attendance and meal attendance for the food program.

Rule 143 (12)

12. A parent's written permission for the child's participation in field trips **must** be obtained at the time of enrollment or before each field trip, and kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures that parents give written permission for their child to leave the premises of the center and that they are aware of their child's whereabouts at all times.

Technical Assistance

"Field trip" means children and **personnel** leaving the child care center premises for an excursion, trip, or program activity. A field trip may or may not involve being transported in a motor vehicle.

An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Rule 143 (13)

13. Parents shall be notified before each field trip.

Rationale

Assures parents are aware of their child's whereabouts at all times.

Technical Assistance

"Field trip" means children and **personnel** leaving the child care center premises for an excursion, trip, or program activity. A field trip may or may not involve being transported in a motor vehicle.

Centers can use various methods to notify parents prior to field trips including, but not limited to the following:

- Providing a written notice prior to each field trip.
- Providing a schedule of field trips for the year given at the time of enrollment, beginning of the school year, calendar year, etc.
- Posting a notice in a conspicuous location at the center, in the parent handbook or center policies given to each parent.
- Sending an email prior to each field trip.
- Calling parents prior to each field trip.

Consultation

It is recommended that the notice include the date, arrival and departure times, location of the field trip, and mode of transportation. Centers that take children off the premises for unplanned excursions/activities, such as for a walk or to go the store for ice cream, should have a procedure in place so parents are notified that these activities may take place. A general notification to parents that these activities may occur on a spur of the moment basis should be provided to parents.

It is suggested that centers have parents sign a statement or agreement that they are aware that this may occur. It is recommended that centers post a notice or sign in a conspicuous place so parents know where to find their child(ren) if they arrive at the center before the children return.

R 400.8146 Information provided to parents.

Rule 146 (1)

1. A center shall provide a written information packet to each parent enrolling a child that includes at least all of the following:
 - a. Criteria for admission and withdrawal.
 - b. Schedule of operation, denoting hours, days, and holidays during which the center is open and services are provided.
 - c. Fee policy.
 - d. Discipline policy.
 - e. Food service policy.
 - f. Program philosophy.
 - g. Typical daily routine.
 - h. Parent notification plan for accidents, injuries, incidents **and** illnesses.
 - i. **Transportation policy, if applicable.**
 - j. **Medication policy.**
 - k. Exclusion policy for child illnesses.
 - l. Notice of the availability of the center's licensing notebook. The notice **must** include all of the following:
 - a) The licensing notebook contains all the licensing inspection and special investigation reports and related corrective action plans **for the last 5 years.**
 - b) The licensing notebook is available to parents during regular business hours.
 - c) Licensing inspection **reports**, special investigation reports, **and corrective action plans** from at least the past **3** years are available on the **department's** child care licensing website at www.michigan.gov/michildcare. The website address must be in bold print.
 - m. **The website where parents can access these rules is www.michigan.gov/michildcare.**

Rationale

Clear, written policies assure that parents are aware of center policies and expectations.

Technical Assistance

The written information packet can be made available to parents online.

Admission/Withdrawal Policy

An admission policy must include the following:

- Requirements for the age of the child.
- Specific geographic requirements, if required.
- Organization affiliation requirements, if required.
- Income requirements, if required.
- Documents that must be completed and submitted before acceptance such as an immunization record, the Child Information Card, etc.

A complete withdrawal policy consists of two components:

- Reasons why the center would dismiss a child, such as nonpayment of fees, the suitability of the program for a particular child and specific behaviors that are unacceptable (e.g., excessive biting or aggressiveness, excessive absences).
- Expectations of the parents should they decide to withdraw their child from the program: how much notice must be given and whether there is a penalty for not providing the proper notice.

Schedule of Operation

The schedule of operation must list the days and hours the center operates and which days the center will not be open.

Fee Policy

- The fee policy must include the following:
- If there is an enrollment or application fee and the amount.
- The tuition amount and acceptable methods of payment.
- The payment schedule, including late fees.
- Additional fees for special trips or projects.
- Fees for days the center is closed.
- Fees for days a child is ill or on vacation.

Discipline Policy

- The discipline policy must be age appropriate and should include:
- A description of the center's philosophy toward child management.
- The methods of discipline that will be used and under what circumstances.
- Those methods which are prohibited by rule.

Refer to R 400.8140 for more information on the discipline policy.

Food Service Policy

Child care centers that care for children more than four hours per day must provide the food or obtain a written agreement, signed by the parent, that the parent chooses to provide the food. In either case, the center needs to identify the food service program in a written policy to parents.

If the center is providing food, the policy must clearly indicate:

- What meals will be served and at what time.
- That menus with noted food substitutions will be posted in a place visible to parents.
- That the meals will be in accordance with the minimum meal requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- That the center will comply with rule 400.8330(3) to ensure children with special dietary needs receive meals/snacks in accordance with the child's needs.

If parents are providing meals, the policy must indicate:

- What meals the parent will provide.
- That the child will not be deprived of a meal or snack if the parent fails to provide it.
- If the center is serving some meals or snacks or a portion of the meal, such as milk.

Program Philosophy

The program philosophy must describe the center's purpose and beliefs.

Typical Daily Routine

The typical daily routine must include the general time frame for daily activities and activities that occur less often, such as gym time on Wednesdays.

Parent Notification Plan for Accidents, Injuries, Incidents, and Illnesses

As required by 400.8155(1), centers must develop a plan on how the center will notify parents when the center observes changes in the child's health, a child experiences accidents, injuries, or incidents, or when a child is too ill to remain in the group. Parents must be notified of this plan. See 8155 for more information.

Transportation, if applicable

If transportation is provided refer to rules 8701 - 8770

Parents Permissions for Transportation in rule 8149

Parents should always know where their children are. Provide information regarding each field trip date/time/location

Medication

If the center administers medication refer to rule 8152

Exclusion Policy for Child Illnesses

As required by 400.8155(5), centers must develop a policy detailing when children will be excluded from child care due to illness. Parents must be notified of this policy.

Licensing Notebook

Effective May 27, 2010, the Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116) requires providers to maintain a licensing notebook which includes **all** licensing inspection and special investigation reports and related corrective action plans (CAP). The notebook must also include a summary sheet outlining all the reports and CAPs contained in the notebook. The notebook must include all reports issued and CAPs within the last 5 calendar years until the license is closed. The Licensing Notebook Summary Sheet (BCAL-5052) can be used to document the reports and corrective action plans. The Licensing Notebook Summary Sheet can be found at [Child Care Forms](#)

Consultation

The center program director or a child care staff member should review all center policies with parents at the time of enrollment.

Centers may choose to include these policies, as well as other information the center considers important for parents to know, in a parent handbook. Using the handbook format assures all materials are contained in one place for easy access. Whatever method the center decides to use, these policies should be written in a way that reflects its individuality and uniqueness.

Schedule of Operation

It is advisable to include a policy for snow/inclement weather days.

Program Philosophy

The center may want to consider including the center's mission statement and the type of program being offered in the program philosophy.

Licensing Notebook

The Licensing Notebook Summary Sheet (BCAL-5052) may be used as the required summary sheet in the licensing notebook.

The Parent Notification of the Licensing Notebook (BCAL-5053) may be used to notify parents of the licensing notebook.

It is recommended that when inspection reports and related CAPs are added to the licensing notebook, the center notify parents within three business days of the receipt of the report or approval letter for the CAP.

Rule 146 (2)

2. Written documentation that the parent received the written information packet, as required by subrule (1) of this rule, **must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures that parents are aware of center policies and expectations.

Technical Assistance

It is acceptable to obtain a written statement from parents that they received all the documents required by subrule (1) of this rule. A single written statement may be used for all children in the same family.

If the written information packet is provided online, the written documentation from parents must indicate where it can be found online.

Consultation

The Written Information Packet Documentation (BCAL-4340) form may be used to document that parents received all of the documents required by subrule (1) of this rule. A single BCAL-4340 may be used for all children in the same family. This can be found at [Child Care Forms](#)

Rule 146 (3) & (4)

3. For infants and toddlers, **a center shall provide parents with** a written daily record that includes at least the following information:
 - a) Food intake; time, type of food, and amount eaten.
 - b) Sleeping patterns; **indicating** when and how long **the** child slept.
 - c) Elimination patterns, including bowel movements, consistency, and frequency.
 - d) Developmental milestones.
 - e) Changes in the child's usual behaviors.

4. Parents of children with special needs may request a written daily record that includes at least the information required by subrule (3) of this rule.

Rationale

Provides parents with information about their child on a daily basis.
Assures continuity of care and communication among caregivers.
Facilitates observation and documentation of changes in a child's feeding habits, sleeping patterns, elimination patterns, and development to determine possible health problems.

Technical Assistance

Entries must be made in a timely manner as each event occurs.

If the parent has an opportunity to review the written daily record when picking up their child, the center does not have to give the parent a copy, unless the parent requests to have a written copy each day.

The written daily record may also be provided to parents electronically.

If parents of children with special needs request a written daily record, it must include at least the information required by subrule (3) of this rule.

Consultation

It is recommended that the written daily record be used to be comply with R 400.8185(4).

It is recommended that the center maintain a copy of the written daily record.

R 400.8149 Parent permission for transportation.**Rule 149 (1)**

1. **A center shall obtain a parent's** written permission annually for routine transportation.

Rationale

Assures that parents give permission for their children to be transported.

Technical Assistance

Centers must have documentation of parental permission on file for each child who is transported. The routine transportation permission form must include all of the following:

- Child's name.
- Date parent gave the permission. Parents must re-sign the permission form annually.
- When the routine transportation will occur.
- Transportation destination.
- Parent's signature. An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Routine transportation means regularly scheduled travel on the same day, at the same time, to the same destination.

Rule 149 (2)

2. **A center shall obtain a parent's** written permission for any **non-routine** transportation before each trip.

Rationale

Assures that parents give permission for their children to be transported.

Technical Assistance

The non-routine transportation permission form must include all of the following:

- Child's name.
- Date parent gave the permission.
- When the non-routine transportation will occur.
- Transportation destination.
- Parent's signature. An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Rule 149 (3)

3. Permission for all transportation **must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Documents that parents gave permission for their children to be transported.

R 400.8152 Medication; administrative procedures.**Rule 152 (1)**

1. Medication, prescription or nonprescription, **must** be given to a child by a **child care staff member** only.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by assuring that medication is appropriately administered.

Technical Assistance

This rule does not require centers to dispense medication.

The center may apply for a variance to allow school-age children, with parental permission, to self-administer medications such as an inhaler or diabetic shots. The variance request must indicate that *a child care staff member* will supervise the administration of the medication and documentation of the medication administered. Refer to R 400.8104 for information on variances.

Rule 152 (2)

2. A **child care staff member** shall give or apply medication, prescription or nonprescription, only with prior written permission from a parent.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by assuring that medication is appropriately administered.

Technical Assistance

These guidelines must be followed when administering medication to assure compliance with this rule:

- For oral prescription or nonprescription medications and topical prescription medications, the Medication Permission and Instructions (BCAL-1243) form (or comparable substitute) must be filled out completely by the parent indicating the dosage, times given per day and the number of days to be given. **Note:** An oral medication is anything that goes into the child's mouth (other than food and beverages) and a topical medication is anything that is applied to the child's body.
- Topical, nonprescription medications require only annual written parental permission under subrule (8) of this rule. The BCAL-1243 (or comparable substitute) does not need to be used. A blanket "as needed" medication permission form is sufficient. Refer to subrule (8) of this rule for more information.
- A separate medication permission form is required for each medication for each individual child.
- The medication permission form must indicate a beginning date but can have "ongoing" as an ending date for ongoing/maintenance medications (e.g., inhalers, ritalin, etc.). The medication permission form must indicate a beginning date but can have "ongoing" as an ending date and "as needed" for the time the medication

will be provided for medications that will only be provided in an emergency (e.g., epi pen) or for medications that will be provided on an as needed basis (e.g., Tylenol when a child complains of a headache or has a fever).

- Any change in the prescription requires a new medication permission form be completed.
- An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

Consultation

The Medication Permission and Instructions (BCAL-1243) form is available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#).

The instructions for any medication provided on an "as needed" basis should be very specific as to when it can be provided. It is also recommended that parents also give verbal permission prior to giving a child a medication on an "as needed" basis.

It is recommended that the parent review and re-sign all medical permission forms at least annually.

Rule 152 (3)

3. All medication **must** be **in** its original container, stored according to instructions, and clearly labeled for a named child, **including all nonprescription topical medications described in subrule (8) of this rule.**

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by assuring that medication is appropriately administered.

Technical Assistance

This rule prohibits siblings from sharing prescription medication unless all names are printed on the original pharmacy label.

Nonprescription medications must also be labeled with the child's name. Nonprescription medication can be shared as long as it is labeled with all of the children's names that will be using it.

Child care staff members are prohibited from administering any medication, prescription or nonprescription, that is not in an original labeled container.

Consultation

Parents can request the pharmacist split the prescription into two separate, pharmacy labeled containers, one for home and one for the child care center.

Rule 152 (4)

4. Prescription medication **must** have the pharmacy label indicating the physician's name, child's **first and last** name, instructions, name and strength of the medication, and **must** be given according to those instructions.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by assuring that medication is appropriately administered.

Technical Assistance

Child care staff members must not inappropriately administer medication to a child based solely on a parent's desire or written permission to give the child medication. This includes sharing prescription medication among siblings unless all names are printed on the prescription label.

Rule 152 (5)

5. A **child care staff member** shall keep all medication out of the reach of children and shall return it to the child's parent or destroy it when the parent determines it is no longer needed or it has expired.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children and assures that all medication is appropriately administered.

Rule 152 (6)

6. A **child care staff member** shall give or apply any prescription or nonprescription medication according to the directions on the original container, unless **otherwise** authorized by a written order of the child's physician.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by assuring that all medication is appropriately administered.

Attorney General Opinion No. 7274, dated August 28, 2013, confirmed that child care center rules allow *child care staff members* to administer insulin and glucagon. Insulin is often administered by syringe through an injection, but other options include insulin pens and pumps. Glucagon is only administered by injection.

Technical Assistance

Child care staff members must not inappropriately administer medication to a child based solely on a parent's desire to give the child medication. This includes sharing prescription medication among siblings unless all names are printed on the pharmacy label.

If a nonprescription medication indicates that a physician should be consulted for the dosage, written instructions must be obtained from the physician before administering the medication.

Per rule 8131(5), *child care staff members* must be trained on medication administration within 90 day of hire. This should include:

- Ensure parents provide the proper written permission and instructions to provide medication to their child.
- Read medication labels and instructions.
- Properly measure doses of medication.
- Use any specific medical device such as an inhaler or nebulizer, if necessary.

Any training completed on proper administration of medication counts toward a caregiver's annual clock hours of professional development as required by R 400.8131(6).

Consultation

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics have both recommended that cold and cough medications NOT be used with children under the age of six.

Rule 152 (7)

7. A **child care staff member** shall not add medication to a child's bottle, beverage, or food unless indicated on the prescription label.

Rationale

Adding medication to a child's bottle does not assure they will ingest the proper dosage of the medication.

Rule 152 (8)

8. Topical nonprescription medication, including but not limited to **diapering cream, triple antibiotic**, sunscreen, and insect repellent, requires written parental authorization annually.

Rationale

Allows centers more flexibility regarding the administration of topical nonprescription medications.

Technical Assistance

Topical nonprescription medication includes, but is not limited to:

- Sunscreen.
- Insect repellent
- Diaper rash cream.
- Antibiotic ointment.
- Rubbing alcohol.

- Hydrogen peroxide.
- Essential oils.

Topical nonprescription medication does not include:

- Hand sanitizer.
- Hand or body lotion, including petroleum jelly based products such as Vaseline.
- Lip balm.

An electronic signature from a child's parent is acceptable.

As noted in subrule (2) of this rule, a blanket "as needed" medication permission form is sufficient for topical nonprescription medication. The date, time and amount of medication given does **not** need to be documented on the medication permission form.

Consultation

It is recommended that parents be notified if hand sanitizer or any other lotion or cream is used by children in care.

It is recommended that the written parental permission for use of essential oils contain specific instructions on when and how to apply them.

Rule 152 (9)

9. A center shall maintain a record as to the time and the amount of medication given or applied, with the exception of **medications described in** subrule (8) of this rule, on a form provided by the department or a comparable substitute approved by the department. **One form per medication is required.** The signature of the **child care staff member** administering the medication **must** be included.

Rationale

Protects the center by documenting the administration of medication to children. Medication records may be critical in the course of a complaint investigation.

Technical Assistance

The Medical Permission and Instructions (BCAL-1243) form or a comparable substitute must be used to document compliance with this subrule for oral prescription or nonprescription medications and topical prescription medications. Refer to subrule (8) of this rule for nonprescription topical medications.

See subrule (2) of this rule for more information on when the medication permission form must be completed.

Consultation

The BCAL-1243 form is available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#).

Centers are encouraged to store inactive files separately from active files.

R 400.8155 Child accidents and incidents; child and staff illness.**Rule 155 (1)**

1. A center shall have a written plan for how and when a parent shall be notified when personnel observe any of the following:
 - a. Changes in a child's health.
 - b. A child experiences an accident, injury, or incident.
 - c. A child is too ill to remain in the group.

Rationale

- Allows parents to be given the opportunity to decide how they want the situation handled.
- Assures the health and safety of children.
- Helps to minimize the spread of infection.

Technical Assistance

An incident includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A child is lost or left unsupervised.
- Alleged sexual contact between children or a child and a staff member or volunteer.
- Physical discipline of a child by a staff member or volunteer.

The plan must address how parents will be notified, such as:

- Written injury report they receive at pick up.
- Phone call.
- Email.
- Text message.

If a parent will be notified differently for different types of situations, this must be addressed in the plan. For example, the plan may require that parents be called when a child has a head injury but may receive a written injury report at pick-up if the child falls and skins his or her knee.

The plan must address the timeframes for when parents will be notified and who will notify the parent.

Consultation

Parents should be notified when indicators of changes in a child's health are present, including but not limited to:

- **Fever** - If a child has a temperature of 100°F (taken by mouth) or 99°F (taken under the arm).
- **Diarrhea** - If a child has two loose or watery stools, even if there are no other signs of illness. **Exception:** This may occasionally be caused by new foods a child has eaten but call the parents to find out if this is the likely cause.
- **Vomiting** - Any vomiting. **Exception:** Some babies may "burp up" following a feeding – this is not vomiting.

- **Rash** - If the child develops any rash. **Exception:** Mild diaper rash, already known to the parents is not a reason to call the parents.
- **Crying and complaining for a long time** - If the child is not him/herself and is complaining about discomfort or is just cranky and crying more than usual for that child.

Managing Communicable Diseases in Child Care Settings (BCAL-Pub 111) is available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#).

Rule 155 (2)

2. A center shall **ensure** that a child **who is** too ill to remain in the group is placed in a separate area and is cared for and supervised until the parent arrives.

Rationale

Helps to minimize the spread of infection and assures for the comfort of the ill child.

Technical Assistance

A child is considered too ill to remain in the group if one or more of the following conditions exists:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities as determined by the center.
- The illness results in a greater need for care than the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.

The center is responsible and accountable for assuring that:

- A child too ill to remain in the group is separated enough from well children to further prevent spread of that illness to the other children.
- An isolated child is adequately supervised when separated from the group.

Consultation

Managing Communicable Diseases in Child Care Settings (BCAL-Pub 111) is available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#).

Rule 155 (3)

3. Items and facilities used by an ill child or adult **must** not be used by any other **individual** until washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

Rationale

Helps to prevent the spread of illness or communicable diseases within a center.

Technical Assistance

Washing, rinsing and sanitizing means:

- Washing the surface or article vigorously with soap and water.
- Rinsing the surface or article with clean water.

- Submerging, wiping or spraying the surface or the article with a sanitizing solution.
- Letting the article or surface air dry.

Note: Laundering bedding, stuffed toys and dress-up clothes in HOT water and detergent cleans and sanitizes these items. If the item cannot be laundered, it must be discarded when soiled.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include, but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used **daily** to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution must be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's instructions. **Note:** Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used **daily** to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Note: When sanitizing toys and other items children may put in their mouths, including cots and mats:

- Bleach used must have an EPA number indicating an approval for food sanitizing.
- Commercial sanitizers used must be unscented and specify on the label that they are safe for food contact surfaces.

Consultation

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product because it is safe, effective and inexpensive.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#)

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) to ensure you follow

any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information go to the MIOSHA website at [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved sanitizers.

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing solution.

For cleaning up vomit (including spit-up) or feces, it is recommended that the surface or item be disinfected. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and non-scented chlorine bleach as follows:

- **Stainless steel and food/mouth contact items** - 1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water.
- **Non-porous surfaces, tile floors, countertops, sinks, and toilets** - 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.
- **Porous surfaces and wood floors** - 1 2/3 cups bleach per gallon of water.

The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Rule 155 (4)

4. If a center becomes aware that a staff member, volunteer, or child in care has contracted a communicable disease, then the center shall notify parents **and provide all of the following information:**
 - a. The name of the communicable disease **the children were exposed to.**
 - b. The symptoms of the disease.
 - c. **Prevention measures as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the following website:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions>.

Rationale

Assures parents are aware that their child has been exposed to a communicable disease, educates parents about what symptoms to watch for and prevents the spread of communicable diseases.

Technical Assistance

All parents of children in care must be notified, not just the parents of children who have contact with a communicable disease. When informing parents of their child's exposure to a communicable disease, the name of the ill child must not be released per the Child Care Organizations Act, 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.120 amended (3), which defines this information as confidential.

If a child was exposed to Hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS, contact the local health department prior to informing parents of the exposure. The local health department will help determine what information can be released to parents to assure confidentiality laws are not broken.

Centers have various options for notifying parents including, but not limited to the following:

- Posting the information in a conspicuous location at the center.
- Sending home written notification to parents.
- Emailing parents.
- Calling parents.

Centers must provide parents with the full list of prevention measures as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the following website:

[CDC Diseases & Conditions](#)

Consultation

Managing Communicable Diseases in Child Care Settings (BCAL-Pub 111) is available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#).

Contact your local health department for more information on communicable diseases.

Rule 155 (5)

5. A **center shall have a written** policy detailing when children, staff, and volunteers will be excluded from **the center** due to illness.

Rationale

Helps to prevent the spread of illness or communicable diseases within a center.

Technical Assistance

The policy should detail when child, staff and volunteers cannot be present at the center and when they can return to the center.

Consultation

Managing Communicable Diseases in Child Care Settings (BCAL-Pub 111) is available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#).

Contact your local health department for more information on communicable diseases.

R 400.8158 Incident, accident, injury, illness, death, fire reporting.**Rule 158 (1)**

1. In the event of the death of a child in care, a licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall do both of the following:
 - a. Immediately report it, in-person or via phone, directly to the child's parent.
 - b. Report it to the department within 24 hours, via phone.

Technical Assistance

In the event of a child's death, the center must speak to a representative of the department.

Rule 158 (2) & (3)

2. A licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall report to the child's parent and the department, directly or via phone, fax, or email, within 24 hours of the occurrence of any of the following:
 - a. A child is lost or left unsupervised.
 - b. An incident involving an allegation of inappropriate contact.
 - c. A fire on the premises of the center that requires the use of fire suppression equipment or results in loss of life or property.
 - d. The center is evacuated for any reason.
3. A licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall report to the department, via phone, fax, or email, within 24 hours of notification by a parent that a child received medical treatment or was hospitalized for an injury, accident, or medical condition that occurred while the child was in care.

Rationale

Informs the department and allows the department to determine if an investigation is warranted based on the circumstances of the incident.

Technical Assistance

Leaving a voice message meets the intent of this rule if the details of the incident are specified in the message.

Examples of when a child is considered lost or unsupervised, include but are not limited to:

- When returning from a field trip and it is discovered that a child is missing.
- When the child leaves the building unnoticed.
- When a child is found unattended separate from his or her group.
- When a child is left outside or on the bus.

Examples of an incident involving an allegation of inappropriate contact, includes, but is not limited to:

- Alleged sexual contact between children or a child and *child care staff member* or volunteer.
- Physical discipline of a child by a *child care staff member* or volunteer.

A medical condition that occurs while the child is in care does **not** include common illnesses, such as strep throat, ear infections, colds, or the flu. Examples of medical conditions that occur while the child is in care and for which the child later receives medical treatment or is hospitalized include, but are not limited to:

- Seizures.
- A serious allergic reaction.

If you are in doubt whether you need to contact the department, contact your licensing consultant.

The center does not have to report when the center is evacuated for a routinely scheduled drill, such as a fire drill.

Refer to subrule (4) of this rule regarding the mandatory written requirement.

Consultation

It is recommended that the center also notify the local fire authority of all details of the fire.

It is recommended that the center also notify their licensing consultant when a lock down occurs.

Rule 158 (4) & (5)

4. A **licensee, licensee designee, or program director** shall submit a written report to the department of the occurrences outlined in subrules (1), (2), **and (3)** of this rule, in a format provided by the department, within 72 hours of the verbal report to the department.
5. A **licensee, licensee designee, or program director** shall keep a copy of the report on file at the center.

Rationale

Documents the circumstances of the incident, including the center's actions.

Technical Assistance

The Incident Report (BCAL-4605) must be used to report the incident.

This form is available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#).

R 400.8161 Emergency procedures.

Rule 161 (1) & (2)

1. Written procedures for the care of children and staff for each of the following emergencies **must** be developed and implemented:
 - a. Fire.
 - b. Tornado.
 - c. Other natural or man-made disasters.
 - d. Serious **accident, illness, or injury**.
 - e. Crisis management including, but not limited to, intruders, **active shooters**, bomb threats, **and other man-made events**.

2. The written procedures **must** include all of the following:
 - a. A plan for **evacuation**.
 - b. **A plan for safely moving children to a relocation site.**
 - c. **A plan for shelter-in-place.**
 - d. **A plan for lockdown.**
 - e. A **plan** for contacting parents and reuniting families.
 - f. A plan for how each child with special needs will be accommodated during each type of emergency.
 - g. **A plan for how infants and toddlers will be accommodated during each type of emergency.**
 - h. **A plan for how children with chronic medical conditions will be accommodated during each type of emergency.**

Rationale

As emergency situations are not conducive to calm and composed thinking, having written plans allows for the opportunity to prepare and to prevent poor judgments made during an emergency.

Technical Assistance

The relocation site must be determined in advance and be included in the plan. The relocation site must be clean and safe.

Children with special needs may have difficulty in an emergency situation. Each emergency plan must address how each child with a special need will be accommodated in each type of emergency. The plan must be based on each child with special needs enrolled in care. If possible, the plan can broadly address a special need area, such as children with mobility issues.

A center may need to use specialized equipment when evacuating or moving infants and toddlers to another space. Check manufacturer specifications for weight limits when using equipment for multiple children. Refer to fire safety rules for using cribs to evacuate.

A plan for shelter and place and lock down procedures in which parents will not have access to enter the building must be created; parents should be notified of the plan in advance to avoid panic.

Consultation

Other natural or man-made disasters, include but are not limited to:

- Flood.
- Blizzard.
- Gas leak or chemical spill.
- Sewer back-up.
- Power outage.

Methods for contacting parents can include, but are not limited to:

- A mass email or text message.
- Phone trees.
- Notifying the local police department so they can let parents know where their children have been taken if a parent calls them.
- Posting the relocation site address in a conspicuous location at the center that can be seen from outside.

The licensee should:

- Assure that the **fire plan** includes:
 - A floor plan showing the location of the nearest exits.
 - Locations of fire extinguishers.
 - A designated meeting place.
 - A description of the duties and responsibilities of adult caregivers and volunteers, including accounting for all children.
 - Specific plans for evacuation of infants and toddlers.
- Assure that the **tornado plan** includes:
 - A floor plan showing the location where adults and children should take cover.
 - A description of the duties and responsibilities of adult caregivers and volunteers, including accounting for all children.
 - Specific plans for moving infants and toddlers.

The following recommended emergency supplies for the tornado shelter area include, but are not limited to:

- Flashlight.
- Battery operated radio.
- Water and snacks.
- First aid kit.
- Extra batteries.
- Child information records.
- Diapers and wipes.

- Toys, books and activity materials *as well as soothing supplies for children with special needs and infants and toddlers.*
- Pillows and blankets.
- Assure that the **serious accident/illness/injury plan** includes:
 - Phone numbers for emergency personnel, including Poison Control.
 - Location of child information records.
 - Location of emergency supplies.
 - Steps addressing seeking help for the victim as well as caring for the other children present.
- Assure that the **crisis management plan** includes:
 - Steps to take in the event of other crises a center may believe are pertinent to the center's situation such as custody disputes; power outages; missing, lost, or abducted children; drive-by shootings, etc.
 - Phone numbers for emergency personnel.

When developing the crisis management plan, centers may want to consult with:

- Local law enforcement.
- Local school district.
- Homeland Security [DHS Homeland Security](#)
- American Red Cross.

Sample emergency plans are also available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 161 (3)

3. The plans required by subrule (1)(a) to (d) **of this rule must** be posted in a place visible to staff and parents.

Rationale

Assures that all staff and visitors to the center can locate the posted emergency and evacuation plans.

Consultation

A copy of *these* plans and procedures should be posted in each room used by children, excluding bathrooms.

The location of the written crises management plan must be known to all personnel.

The emergency and evacuation plans may be combined on one plan. If so, it is recommended that fire exits and tornado shelter areas be highlighted in different colors so there is no confusion about where to go in the event of these different situations.

Sample emergency plans are also available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 161 (4)

4. The crisis management plan **required by subrule (2) of this rule must be** maintained in a place known and easily accessible to **all personnel**.

Rationale

Due to the sensitive nature of a crisis management plan, it is not required to be posted in a public area of the center.

Technical Assistance

The center must assure that the crisis management plan has been shared with all *personnel*. *The location of the written crisis management plan must be known to all personnel. A suggestion is to post the plan on the inside of a cupboard door in each of the classrooms.*

Consultation

Sample emergency plans are also available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 161 (5)

5. A fire drill program, consisting of at least 1 fire drill quarterly, **must** be established and implemented.

Rationale

The frequent practice of fire drills is essential due to turnover of both staff and children, as well as the changing developmental ability of children to participate in evacuation procedures. Practicing fire evacuation procedures on a regular basis:

- Helps make them routine for everyone.
- Fosters calm, competent use of the plans in the event of an emergency.

Smoke inhalation is the most common cause of death in fires.

Technical Assistance

Quarterly means once per three month period.

Consultation

It is recommended that the center time the procedure and aim to evacuate all persons in a specific number of minutes recommended by the local fire department. Centers are encouraged to have fire drills at different times of the day to ensure all staff and children attending have an opportunity to practice the drills.

Rule 161 (6)

6. A tornado drill program, consisting of at least 2 tornado drills between the months of **March** through **November**, **must** be established and implemented.

Rationale

Regular drills constitute an important safety practice in areas where tornados occur.

Consultation

It is advisable that drills be practiced early in the season so staff and children are familiar with the drill routine should there be an actual tornado or severe storm that would necessitate taking shelter.

Centers are encouraged to have additional drills or drills at different times of the day to ensure all staff and children attending have an opportunity to practice.

Rule 161 (7)

7. A written log indicating the date and time of fire and tornado drills **must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Provides documentation that the center is having the required number of drills.

Technical Assistance

In order to document compliance during the two-year licensing cycle, the center must keep drill logs on file for two years.

Centers may develop their own log or use the log available on the department's website at [Child Care Forms](#)

Consultation

Centers may want to record the time it takes to evacuate or take shelter so that improvements can be made in the procedures, if warranted.

Rule 161 (8)

8. Each **child care staff** member shall be trained at least twice a year on his or her duties and responsibilities for all emergency procedures referenced in subrule (1) of this rule.

Rationale Assures staff is aware of the center's emergency procedures and what their responsibilities are in the event of an emergency. Emergency situations are not always conducive to calm or composed thinking.

Technical Assistance

Training on emergency procedures counts toward the annual clock hours of professional development as required by R 400.8131(6). Verification of training must be kept as required by R 400.8131(11).

Review of the center's emergency procedures must be part of the center's ongoing professional development plan as required by R 400.8131(8).

Rule 161 (9)

9. If cribs are used in emergency evacuations, then all doors within the means of egress **must** be wide enough to readily accommodate the crib evacuation.

Rationale

Facilitates quick evacuation of infants.

Technical Assistance

Compliance may be determined by measurement of cribs and doors or by demonstration of a crib evacuation.

Standard cribs have a weight limit and may not support the weight of multiple infants and/or toddlers at one time. Read the manufacture specifications.

Consultation

The use of evacuation cribs is best practice.

R 400.8164 Telephone service.**Rule 164 (1)**

1. **An operable phone shall be available and accessible in the building during the hours the center is in operation.**

Rationale

A telephone must be available to all caregivers in an emergency.

Technical Assistance

A telephone must be available to all personnel in an emergency.

If the center has a single land-line that is used for internet service during the hours of child care operation, software must be installed that alerts the user of incoming calls.

“Available” and “accessible” refers to all calls, incoming and outgoing.

If voice mail or an answering system is used, it is the center's responsibility to assure that the system is checked for messages frequently throughout the day and to return child care related calls promptly.

The center is responsible for immediately notifying the department of any telephone number changes.

Rule 164 (2)

2. During the hours the center is in operation, a **phone** number known to the public and available to parents to provide immediate access to the center shall be provided.

Rationale

Assures that parents are able to reach the center and communicate with staff when needed.

Technical Assistance

For times when staff may not be available to answer the phone, a center must have an answering machine, voice mail or other system in place so parents can leave a message. The center must check the message system frequently to ensure messages are received and acted upon.

Rule 164 (3)

3. Emergency **phone** numbers, including 911, fire, police, and the poison control center, and the facility's physical address and 2 main cross streets, **must** be conspicuously posted **in a place visible to staff**.

Rationale

Facilitates staff being able to quickly call for medical or other emergency assistance in the event of an emergency.

Consultation

It is recommended that the emergency phone numbers be posted in each classroom on or near the emergency plans.

R 400.8167 Indoor space.**Rule 167 (1)**

- (1) The required square footage of indoor space per child **must** be at least the following:
- (a) Fifty square feet for infants and toddlers.
 - (b) Thirty-five square feet for preschoolers and school-agers.

Rationale

Child behavior tends to be more constructive when sufficient space is organized to promote developmentally appropriate skills. Crowding has been shown to be associated with increased risk of upper respiratory infections and aggression. Also, having sufficient space will reduce the risk of injury when simultaneous activities are taking place.

Assures adequate space for all children and additional space for infants and young children who require more space for their equipment such as cribs and high chairs.

Technical Assistance

The following guidelines must be used when determining indoor activity space:

- Excessive storage that diminishes the usable child care space may affect the capacity.
- Space within the children's use area used to store cots is not deducted.
- A teacher's desk within the room, if minimal, is not to be deducted.
- In order for a room to be counted towards capacity, it needs to be available and used on an ongoing basis throughout the hours of operation. This includes gyms, libraries, cafeterias, and computer rooms.
- Extra space provided by lofts must not be counted when calculating square footage for capacity.

Rule 167 (2)

- (2) The following indoor space is excluded from the required square footage:
- (a) Hallways.
 - (b) Bathrooms.
 - (c) Reception and office areas.
 - (d) Kitchens.
 - (e) Storage areas and **closets**.
 - (f) Areas used exclusively for resting, sleeping, or eating, except for infants and toddlers.

Rationale

Assures that child use space is safe and appropriate for use by children.

Technical Assistance

In infant areas, the space where cribs are located is counted when calculating square footage for capacity.

Rule 167 (3)

- (3) A center shall provide a floor plan of all child use areas to the department at initial licensure and before making structural changes or adding any child use space. Only space that has received prior approval for child use by the department may be used for child care.

Rationale

Assures that children have safe and adequate space for daily activities and room to move.

Technical Assistance

The center must provide a floor plan that indicates all rooms approved for use (building layout), the location of bathrooms, and the location of exits.

The center is responsible for submitting a modification request and obtaining approval from the licensing consultant prior to using new space and previously unapproved space as required by R 400.8110(10). *When requesting a modification to change use space, if a plan review or new qualified fire inspection is needed, a new floor plan must be submitted to both child care licensing and with the plan review.*

Consultation

It is recommended that the floor plan include room dimensions and the location and number of sinks and toilets.

The Request for Modification of the Terms of the License/Registration (BCAL-5054) and the Change of Use Space Request for School-Age Programs Located in Schools (BCAL-4342) forms are available on the department's website here [Forms](#).

R 400.8170 Outdoor play area.**Rule 170 (1)**

1. As used in this rule:
 - a. "Certified playground safety inspector" means an individual certified by the National Playground Safety Institute or the National Program for Playground Safety to conduct playground safety inspections.
 - b. "Natural playground" means an outdoor play area that blends natural materials, features, and vegetation.

Technical Assistance

The National Playground Safety Institute is now the National Recreation and Park Association. Certified playground safety inspectors (CPSIs) certified by the National Recreation and Park Association are acceptable. For more information regarding playground inspections: [Playground Inspections](#). For a list of approved certified playground safety inspectors: [CPSIs](#)

Rule 164 (2)

2. The outdoor play area **must** be considered an outdoor classroom and an extension of the learning environment.

Rationale

Outdoor play affords an opportunity for learning in a different environment. Appropriate outdoor play areas and activities encourage growth in all developmental areas.

Consultation

Refer to R 400.8179 for more information on programming.

Rule 164 (3)

3. A center operating with children in attendance for 3 or more continuous hours per day shall provide daily outdoor play, unless prevented by inclement weather or other weather conditions that could result in children becoming overheated or excessively chilled.

Rationale

Open spaces in outdoor areas encourage children to develop gross and fine motor skills in ways that may be difficult to duplicate indoors. Unstructured physical play is a developmentally appropriate outlet for reducing stress in children's lives.

Cold weather does not make children ill. Studies have indicated that children who are taken outdoors, even during cold weather for short periods of time, have fewer incidences of respiratory illnesses. Infectious disease organisms are less concentrated in outdoor air than indoor air. Exposing the skin to sunlight promotes the production of the vitamin D that growing children require. Being outdoors in the fresh air helps children to stay healthy.

When outdoors, children breathe fresh air, develop their muscles, learn and practice increasingly difficult skills, share and cooperate with other children, and get hands-on experiences with some basic scientific principles. Every child benefits from outdoor play every day.

Technical Assistance

The center is responsible and accountable for assuring that:

- All children, including infants, are taken outside on a daily basis as weather permits.
- Children do not become overheated or excessively chilled.

The center must ensure a child is properly supervised while indoors if the center is going to make special accommodations for a child with a written and signed order by a health care provider to remain inside.

Note: A violation should only be cited if there is indication of on-going non-compliance, rather than an observation of a single day.

Consultation

It is recommended that the following be taken into account when making a decision about outdoor play:

- The temperature outdoors including wind chill factors and the heat index.
- Severe weather conditions (e.g., lightning, heavy rain or snow, tornado watches/warnings).
- Appropriate clothing for conditions. The center may want to have extra clothing available for children who do not come with appropriate clothing for conditions.
- Ages of the children.
- Degree of sunshine or available shade.
- Length of time of the play period.
- Play activities planned.
- Local community practices, health department advice, local school weather guidelines.
- Public announcements of hazardous air quality conditions.

Note: Exposed skin will freeze in a few minutes at temperatures below -13° F or when the wind chill falls to -18.4° F. Heatstroke, heat exhaustion, burns from hot objects such as metallic playground equipment, sunburn, excessive thirst, etc. can occur at 95 °F and above.

It is also recommended:

- That children wear child-safe sunscreen all year round, even in winter.
- That children are dressed appropriately for activities: long-sleeved and -legged items protect from sunburn; full jacket, snowsuit, mittens, scarf, hat, boots for snow play; etc.
- That children are adequately hydrated during both hot and cold weather.

Caregivers should also have knowledge of the weather-related symptoms children may exhibit such as heat or sunstroke, sunburn, dehydration, frostbite, hypothermia, etc.

It may be helpful to provide parents with the center's guidelines regarding the impact of weather conditions on outdoor play.

For children in care for a full day, it is recommended that they go out twice a day.

Resources

Information regarding wind chill and heat index: [Weather](#)

Penn State Extension: Better Kid Care: Outdoor play on Winter Days: [Outdoor activities](#)

Rule 164 (4)

4. A center operating with children in attendance for 3 or more continuous hours a day shall have an outdoor play area that has at least 1,200 square feet. More than 1,200 square feet of outdoor play area may be required when the minimum amount is not adequate for the number of children for which the center is licensed.

Rationale

Outdoor play affords an opportunity for learning in a different environment and also provides many health benefits. Open spaces in outdoor areas encourage children to develop gross motor skills and fine motor play in ways that may be difficult to duplicate indoors.

Consultation

Best practice recommends that the outdoor play area accommodate at least a third of the licensed capacity at one time and that each child has a minimum of 75 square feet of play area. Play areas must be sufficient to allow freedom of movement among active children.

Staggered scheduling can be used to accommodate all the children over the course of 2 to 3 hours.

Rule 164 (5)

5. If outdoor space is not available adjacent to the center, then a center may use a park or other outdoor facility. **The outdoor space must meet all of the following requirements:**
 - a. The area **must** be easily accessible by a safe walking route.
 - b. The play area **must** be inspected before each use to ensure that no hazards are present.
 - c. The location of the alternative outdoor play area **must** be specified in writing to the department.

Rationale

Assures that the department is aware of any alternative play area not located on center property and that the play area is close by, easily and safely accessed, and safe to use.

Technical Assistance

The consultant must assess if an alternative play area meets the criteria of the rule by determining the following:

- Location of play area.
- Route to play area including distance and safety.
- Center's plan for getting the children to the play area.
- Center's plan for ensuring the play area is safe prior to the children's arrival.

Centers that utilize a park or other off-site outdoor play area are not required to have these areas inspected by a CPSI. However, center staff must assure the play area is in "safe condition" prior to EACH time children use this area. See subrule (10) of this rule for a description of "safe condition" for an outdoor play area.

Consultation

Best practice recommends that the center be equipped with a playground adjacent to the facility.

Rule 164 (6)

6. There **must** be a shaded area to protect children from excessive sun exposure, when necessary.

Rationale

Exposure to sun is needed, but children must be protected from excessive exposure. It is estimated that 80% of a person's lifetime sun damage occurs before the age of 18 years. Individuals who suffer from severe childhood sunburns are at increased risk for skin cancer. It can take less than 10 minutes for a child's skin to burn. Practicing sun-safe behavior during childhood is the first step in reducing the chances of getting skin cancer later in life.

Technical Assistance

If shade from trees is not available, a tent, awning, or other simple shelter from the sun must be available. There are no requirements for the shade area size.

Rule 164 (7) & (8)

7. The outdoor play area **must** be in a safe location.
8. The outdoor play area **must** be protected from hazards, when necessary, by a fence or natural barrier that is at least 48 inches in height.

Rationale

Helps ensure proper supervision and protection, prevention of injuries, and control of the area. An effective fence or natural barrier is one that prevents a child from getting over, under, or through it and keeps children from leaving the protected outdoor play area

except when visiting adults are present. Although these barriers are not childproof, they provide a layer of protection for children.

Technical Assistance

Examples of hazards that require a barrier include, but are not limited to:

- Busy roads and streets.
- Parking lots.
- Railroad tracks.
- Electric fences.
- Water hazards such as:
 - Swimming pools.
 - Ponds.
 - Lakes.
 - Canals.
 - Ditches or drains.
 - Streams and rivers.
 - Decorative landscape ponds.

Appropriate barriers include but are not limited to:

- Fences.
- Buildings.
- Hedges.

The center must assure that fences and barriers are:

- Free of ready footing for climbing.
- Free of any openings a child can get through.
- Free of objects near the fence that enable children to climb over the fence.

Consultation

The following guidelines are recommended for fences:

- Gates that are equipped with self-closing and positive self-latching closure mechanisms.
 - The latch or securing device that is high enough or of a type that small children cannot open.
 - Play areas that are secured against unauthorized use when the facility is closed.
 - Fences that conform to applicable local building codes.
 - Fenced areas that have at least two exits, with at least one being remote from the center building.
 - Fences and barriers that do not prevent the observation of children by caregivers.
 - Openings in fences that are 3 1/2 inches or less to prevent entrapment and discourage climbing.
-

Rule 164 (9)

9. Children shall only use age-appropriate equipment.

Rationale

A playground should allow children to develop progressively and test their skills by providing a series of graduated challenges. The challenges presented should be developmentally appropriate, to allow a range of safe choices for children.

Children of different ages differ dramatically not only in physical size and ability, but also in their cognitive and social skills. Therefore, playground designs must accommodate these differences with regard to the type, scale and layout of equipment.

Equipment that is sized for larger or older children poses challenges that younger or smaller children may not be able to meet.

Technical Assistance

Table 1 in the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s (CPSC’s) **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety lists examples of age appropriate equipment.

Examples of Age Appropriate Equipment		
Toddler: 6 until 24 Months	Preschool 2-5 years	Grade School: 5-12 years
Climbing equipment under 32” high	Certain climbers *	Arch climbers
Ramps	Horizontal ladders less than or equal to 60” high for ages 4 and 5	Chain or cable walks
Single file step ladders	Merry-go-rounds	Free standing climbing events with flexible parts
Slides *	Ramps	Fulcrum see saws
Spiral sides less than 360 degrees	Rung ladders	Ladders – horizontal, rung and step
Spring Rockers	Single file step ladders	Overhead rings *
Stairways	Slides	Merry-go-rounds
Swings with full bucket seats	Spiral slides up to 360 degrees	Ramps
	Spring rockers	Ring treks
	Stairways	Slides*
	Swings – belt, full bucket seats (2-4 years) and rotating tire	Spiral slides more than one 360 degree turn
		Stairways
		Swings – belt and rotating tire
		Track rides

		Vertical sliding poles
* See the CPSC's 2010 Edition of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety for more information.		

Consultation

It is recommended that infants and toddlers have a separate outdoor play space with appropriately sized equipment and materials to serve their developmental needs.

Additional information regarding equipment safety can be found on the CPSC website at [CPSC](http://www.cpsc.gov)

Rule 164 (10)

10. An outdoor play area and any equipment located on the center's premises **must** be maintained in a safe condition and inspected daily before use to ensure that no hazards are present.

Rationale

Regular inspections are critical to prevent deterioration of equipment and the presence of hazardous materials within the play area, and to assure that appropriate repairs are made as soon as possible.

Technical Assistance

A "safe condition" means a playground is free from any of, but not limited to, the following:

- Debris.
- Animal waste.
- Dilapidated structures.
- Broken or worn play equipment.
- Building supplies and equipment.
- Glass.
- Sharp rocks.
- Toxic plants.
- Anthills.
- Beehives and wasp nests.
- Unprotected ditches.
- Wells.
- Holes.
- Grease traps.
- Cisterns.
- Cesspools.
- Unprotected utility equipment.

The play area and equipment must be inspected for safety daily. When inspecting equipment, the inspection must include, but not be limited to, checking for the following:

- Visible cracks, bending, warping, rusting, or breakage of any equipment.

- Deformation of open hooks, shackles, rings, links, etc.
- Worn swing hangers and chains.
- Missing, damaged, and loose swing seats.
- Broken supports and anchors.
- Cement support footings that are exposed, cracked or loose in the ground.
- Accessible sharp edges or points.
- Exposed ends of tubing that require covering with plugs or caps.
- Protruding bolt ends that have lost caps or covers.
- Loose bolts and nuts that require tightening.
- Splintered, cracked, or otherwise deteriorating wood.
- Lack of lubrication on moving parts.
- Worn bearings or other mechanical parts or missing rails, steps, rungs, or seats.
- Worn or scattered surfacing material.
- Hard surfaces, especially under swings, slides, monkey bars, etc. where shock-absorbing material has been shifted away from any surface beneath or surrounding play equipment.
- Chipped or peeling paint.
- Shear or crush points, exposed mechanisms, juncture, and moving components.
- Poor drainage that leads to chronic accumulation of water and ice.

A center must not use an area or piece of equipment considered unsafe until repairs have been made or the equipment is removed from the premises.

Consultation

The center may wish to develop a written checklist to use as a guide for inspections and document observations of problems.

Rule 164 (11)

11. The playground equipment, use zones, and surfacing in the outdoor play area **must** be inspected by a certified playground safety inspector and an approval granted for playground equipment and areas used before issuance of an original license, upon request of the department, and before using any newly added playground equipment. The center shall provide documentation of the inspection to the department upon request and shall keep it on file at the center.

Rationale

Each year, approximately 200,000 children are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for playground equipment-related injuries. On average, there are 15 child deaths each year as a result of playground equipment-related incidents. Most injuries are the result of falls to the ground below the equipment.

The surface under and around playground equipment can be a major factor in determining the injury-causing potential of a fall. Head impact injuries present a significant danger to children. A fall onto a shock absorbing surface is less likely to cause a serious injury than a fall onto a hard surface.

A CPSC study of playground equipment related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms indicated that the majority resulted from falls from equipment to the ground surface below the equipment.

Technical Assistance

Note: The Playground Equipment Safety Act (1997 PA 16) regulates playground equipment owned and operated by a local unit of government, school district or any other government entity. Because of the limited scope of the Playground Equipment Safety Act, it does not apply to most child care center playground equipment unless the center is operating in a school building. Refer to subrule (12) for more information on the exception to this subrule for school-age programs operating in school buildings.

General Information on Playground Inspections

Regardless of age of equipment, status of license or age of intended user, the consultant is required to conduct a general playground safety and maintenance assessment.

When obtaining a playground inspection, centers must use CPSIs approved by the department. A list of CPSIs approved by the department can be found on the department's website at [CPSIs](#).

All equipment present on a center playground must comply with the CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety. This equipment may also comply with the ASTM-F1487 standards from 1997 or later. As a general rule, residential equipment cannot be ASTM-F1487 compliant and commercial equipment can be. (**Note:** ASTM-F1148-XY standards are for residential equipment.)

Some playground equipment, such as homemade equipment or equipment manufactured prior to ASTM-F1487 standards, will not be certified as ASTM-F1487 compliant. Equipment that is not ASTM-F1487 compliant must meet the guidelines outlined CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety. A CPSI can verify if the equipment meets the handbook guidelines.

This section of technical assistance will use the terms residential equipment (not ASTM-F1487 compliant) and commercial equipment (ASTMF1487 compliant or meets the guidelines outlined in the CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety).

All equipment must be commercial equipment and the center must maintain documentation that shows compliance with this subrule. Residential climbing equipment does not meet the guidelines outlined in CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety. Because residential climbing equipment should not be present on a center playground or, if present, must not be used, a playground inspection is not required for residential climbing equipment.

Exception: Centers can have residential non-climbing equipment such as water tables, picnic tables, play houses (with no attached slides, elevated play surfaces, etc.), but this type of equipment must be kept out of the use zone for other playground equipment.

Centers Licensed After January 1, 2014

Centers licensed after January 1, 2014 are required to obtain documentation of compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety for all playground equipment, including equipment for children under age 2. Compliance is verified by at least one of the following:

- A written statement or certificate from the equipment manufacturer **and** installer stating that the equipment was manufactured and installed in compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety. **Note:** The installer must be a CPSI and does not have to be on the list of CPSIs approved by the department.
- An inspection report, including the Playground Inspection Certification Summary (BCAL-5047), from a CPSI (on the list of CPSIs approved by the department) documenting compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety. **Note:** All equipment present on the playground must be documented on the BCAL-5047, even if not inspected.
- A written statement from the licensee that the equipment will not be used if verification of compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety cannot be obtained.

Note: Inspections cannot be finalized when the ground is frozen. If a playground inspection is initiated when the ground is frozen, a follow-up inspection must occur after the ground thaws to assess the safety of surfacing.

Centers Licensed Prior to January 2, 2014

Centers licensed prior to January 2, 2014 were required to obtain documentation of compliance with the CPSC's **1997 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety for equipment for children age 2 and older. Compliance was verified by at least one of the following:

- A written statement or certificate from the equipment manufacturer **and** installer stating that the equipment was manufactured and installed in compliance with the CPSC's **1997 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety.
- An inspection report, including the Playground Inspection Certification Summary (BCAL-5047), from a CPSI (on the list of CPSIs approved by the department) documenting compliance with the CPSC's **1997 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety.
- A written statement from the licensee that the equipment will not be used if verification of compliance with the CPSC's **1997 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety cannot be obtained.

Centers licensed prior to January 2, 2014 do not need any additional documentation of compliance with this subrule of this rule unless equipment is added.

Playground Equipment for Children Under the Age of 2

Because equipment manufactured for and used by children under the age of 2 was not addressed in CPSC's **1997 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety, centers licensed prior to January 2, 2014 were not required to have this type of equipment inspected. Climbing equipment manufactured for and used by children under the age of 2 may be residential climbing equipment. This type of equipment is often made in one piece, is portable and can be used indoors or outdoors. Centers licensed prior to January 2, 2014 can continue to use any residential climbing equipment manufactured for and used by children under the age of 2 obtained prior to January 2, 2014 but cannot add residential climbing equipment for this age group.

Note: Portable equipment for children under the age of 2 must be out of the use zone for other playground equipment.

Equipment Altered/Installed After a Playground Inspection for All Centers

If the licensing consultant learns that a child care center has altered or added equipment to an outdoor play area after a playground inspection has been completed, the child care center must provide at least one of the following on the altered or newly added equipment:

- A written statement or certificate from the equipment manufacturer **and** installer stating that the equipment was manufactured and installed in compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety. **Note:** The installer must be a CPSI and does not have to be on the list of CPSIs approved by the department.
- An inspection report, including the Playground Inspection Certification Summary (BCAL-5047), from a CPSI (on the list of CPSIs approved by the department) documenting compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety. **Note:** All equipment present on the playground must be documented on the BCAL-5047, even if not inspected (such as equipment previously inspected).
- A written statement from the licensee that the equipment will not be used if verification of compliance with the CPSC's **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety cannot be obtained.

Note: Inspections cannot be finalized when the ground is frozen. If a playground inspection is initiated when the ground is frozen, a follow-up inspection must occur after the ground thaws to assess the safety of surfacing.

Refer to subrule (12) for more information on the exception to this subrule for school-age programs operating in school buildings.

Rule 164 (12)

- 12. School-age centers operating in school buildings approved by the Michigan department of education are exempt from subrule (11) of this rule, provided the licensee informs parents, in writing at the time of enrollment, if the center plans to use a public school's outdoor play area and equipment that do not comply with subrule (11) of this rule.**

Rationale

If children who attend the school during the day use a school playground, it is reasonable to allow school-age children attending a before or after school child care program at the same location to use that same playground.

Assures that parents are aware that a school playground is not required to meet the same playground safety regulations that other licensed centers are required to meet.

Technical Assistance

The center must document how they have provided written notice to the parents.

If the center has a pre-school or younger age program, children preschool age and younger children cannot use the playground equipment unless it complies with subrule (11) of this rule.

Rule 164 (13) – (15)

- 13. All pieces of playground equipment that have an elevated playing or climbing surface, regardless of the height of the playing or climbing surface, must be surrounded by a shock absorbing surface and meet the guidelines defined by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Handbook for Public Playground Safety, which is available at no cost at www.cpsc.gov. This handbook is also available for inspection, and distribution at no cost, at the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933. The shock absorbing surface material may be either unitary or the loose-fill type. An exception to this subrule is provided for natural playgrounds.**

- 14. Shock-absorbing surfacing materials are not required for equipment that requires a child to be standing or sitting on the ground during play.**

- 15. Loose-fill surfacing material *must* not be installed over concrete or asphalt.**

Rationale

The surface under and around playground equipment can be a major factor in determining the injury-causing potential of a fall. Head impact injuries present a significant danger to children. A fall onto a shock absorbing surface is less likely to cause a serious injury than a fall onto a hard surface.

A CPSC study of playground equipment related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms indicated that the majority resulted from falls from equipment to the ground surface below the equipment.

Technical Assistance

Hard surfacing materials, such as asphalt or concrete are unsuitable for use under and around playground equipment of any height even if covered with loose-fill shock-absorbing material.

Note: The CPSC’s **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety allows loose-fill surfacing to be placed over concrete or asphalt if specific layers of protection are added. A variance may be granted to this rule if the guidelines in the CPSC’s **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety are followed.

Surfacing for All Centers

All pieces of playground equipment must be surrounded by a shock absorbing surface. This material may be either unitary or the loose-fill type as defined by the CPSC’s Handbook for Public Playground Safety.

Note: Equipment that requires a child to be standing or sitting on the ground during play is not expected to follow the recommendations for shock-absorbing surfacing. Examples of such equipment are sand boxes, activity walls, play houses or any other equipment that has no elevated playing or climbing surface. If the piece of equipment has an elevated playing or climbing surface, regardless of the height the playing/climbing surface is off the ground, it must meet the requirements of this subrule.

The CPSC’s **2010 Edition** of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety outlines the minimum required depths of loose-fill material needed based on material type and fall height. The depths shown assume the materials have been compressed due to use and weathering. See the chart below.

Minimum Compressed Loose-Fill Surfacing Depths		
Inches of	Loose-Fill Material	Protects to Fall Height (feet)
9	Wood Chips	10
9	Wood Mulch (non-CCA*)	7
9	Pea Gravel	5
9	Sand	4
6	Shredded/recycled rubber	10
* CCA is chromated copper arsenate. CCA-treated wood products should not be used. Mulch where the CCA-content is unknown should not be used.		

Note: Loose-fill materials will compress at least 25 percent over time due to use and weathering. This must be considered when planning a playground. For example, if the playground will require 9 inches of wood chips, then the initial fill level must be 12 inches.

Rule 164 (16)

16. The depth of the loose-fill surface material **must** be restored to its required depth when it has moved or becomes otherwise compromised.

Rationale

Weather conditions and frequency of use may cause the material to be worn away or become disbursed. Maintenance is necessary to assure adequate depth by redistributing materials or by adding additional material.

Technical Assistance

If the material becomes disbursed through use, additional material must be added to restore the required depth.

The surface materials must not be loosened if they become packed, as required depths are based on the **compressed depth**.

Consultation

When loose-fill materials are used, it is recommended that there be a perimeter border of some kind around the use area to contain the material.

Centers are also encouraged to attach markers to the equipment support posts that indicate the correct level of loose-fill protective surfacing material under and around the equipment.

Rule 164 (17)

17. If children's wheeled vehicles and pull toys are used, then a suitable surface **must** be provided for their use.

Rationale

The use of wheeled vehicles and pull toys is an important large muscle activity for children and requires an appropriate surface.

Technical Assistance

The area used for wheeled vehicles and pull toys must have a flat, smooth, non-slippery surface, such as grass, pavement, and asphalt. If the surfacing material on a playground is not suitable for wheeled equipment, such as pea gravel, mulch, or sand, the center may utilize an area adjacent to the center such as a parking lot or a walkway, providing the area is safe. The area used for wheeled vehicles and pull toys must be free of standing water when in use.

Note: The area used for wheeled vehicles and pull toys must be outside the use zone for other playground equipment.

Rule 164 (18) – (21)

18. Materials used on a natural playground **must** not be in the use zones for other playground equipment.
19. The elevated playing surface of materials used on a natural playground **must** not exceed 30 inches.
20. Materials used on a natural playground with elevated playing surfaces **must** not be installed over concrete or asphalt.
21. Surfacing materials are not required under elevated playing surfaces on a natural playground.

Rationale

Ensures the safety and well-being of children when they use natural playgrounds.

Natural playgrounds contribute to the overall physical, cognitive and emotional development of children and helps them experience more diverse play. Natural playgrounds are also less expensive than playground equipment.

Technical Assistance

A natural playground is an outdoor play area that blends natural materials, features and vegetation. A natural playground may include items such as logs, stumps, and trees.

A natural playground must be maintained in safe condition. For example, stumps must not be rotting or have sharp branches sticking off of them.

Consultation

It is recommended that surfacing materials be used under elevated playing surfaces on a natural playground. Refer to subrule (13) for more information.

R 400.8173 Equipment.**Rule 173 (1) & (2)**

1. A center shall not use equipment, materials, and furnishings recalled or identified by the United States **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** as being hazardous. **This information is available free of charge at the CPSC website, www.cpsc.gov.**
2. The current list of unsafe children's products that is provided by the department **must** be conspicuously posted in the center, as required by section 15 of the **Children's Product Safety Act**, 2000 PA 219, MCL 722.1065.

Technical Assistance

The list of unsafe children's products is available on the last page of each edition of Michigan Child Care Matters newsletter [MCCM](#). Posting the list found in the newsletter will ensure compliance with this rule and the Children's Product Safety Act.

A conspicuous place means a location where parents, staff and others can easily see it.

Consultation

Additional information regarding equipment safety can be found on the Consumer Product Safety Commission Website [CPSC](#)

Rule 173 (3)

3. **Materials that have a warning label indicating they are toxic for children, or to keep out of reach of children, are prohibited from being used by children.**

Technical Assistance

Children cannot use shaving cream, or any other materials labeled "keep out of reach of children" for play purposes. Shaving cream is labeled as toxic and is not safe for use by children. Equipment or materials used during instruction and/or play must be safe for children's use.

NOTE: *Items including, but not limited to, use of soap to wash hands, hand sanitizer on field trips, toothpaste to brush teeth after meal would not be considered a violation of this rule.*

Consultation

There are soap-based foaming products available that are non-toxic and can be used instead of shaving cream.

Rule 173 (4)

4. Play equipment, materials, and furniture **must** be all of the following:
 - (a) Appropriate to the developmental needs and interests of children as required by R 400.8179(2).
 - (b) Safe, clean, and in good repair.

- (c) Child-sized or appropriately adapted for a child's use.
- (d) Easily accessible to the children.

Rationale

Play equipment and toys must be safe, sufficient in quantity for the number of children in care and developmentally appropriate. Equipment that is sized for older children poses challenges that younger, smaller, children may not be able to meet. Similarly, equipment designed for younger children does not stimulate or meet the needs of older children. Children cannot safely or comfortably use furnishings that are not sized for their use.

Equipment and furnishings that are not sturdy, safe or in good repair may cause falls, entrap a child's head or limbs or contribute to other injuries. Poorly maintained equipment is hazardous.

Messy play is developmentally appropriate in all age groups and especially among very young children--the same group that is most susceptible to infectious disease. These factors lead to soiling and contamination of equipment, furnishings, toys, and play materials. To reduce transmission of disease, these materials must be easily cleaned and sanitized.

Technical Assistance

The center is responsible and accountable for assuring that:

- Children's toys, games and play equipment will provide them with developmental opportunities that assist in developing manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination, spatial relationships, large muscle coordination, language skills, math and science concepts, social relationships, reading and writing skills, etc.
- Children have an adequate amount of toys, games and other play equipment available.
- Toys, games, and other play equipment are appropriate for a child at his/her stage of development by being challenging and interesting, yet not so difficult as to cause the child stress or anxiety.
- Shelves and containers are sturdy, stable and free of hazards.
- Equipment is immediately removed, replaced or repaired if it is broken or missing pieces.

Rule 173 (5) & (6)

5. **A center shall provide a minimum of 3 playspaces per child multiplied by the number of children the center is licensed to serve.**
6. A minimum of 2 playspaces **must** be accessible per child in attendance on any given day during child-initiated activity time.

Rationale

A well-equipped center provides child initiated choices, a stimulating environment and developmental opportunities.

Technical Assistance

The number of toys, games and other indoor play equipment necessary are based on the number of children for which the center is licensed.

The minimum standard is three activity spaces per child in the center's capacity. An activity space is defined as a piece(s) of equipment that one child can use independently for approximately 15 minutes. Activity areas (housekeeping, dramatic play, blocks, art, etc.) can vary from two to four activity spaces, depending upon the amount of equipment, accessories and space available. For example:

Type of Equipment	# of Play Spaces
3 puzzles	1
2-4 small cars/trucks	1
3 books	1
Sensory table	2-4
Set of Legos	1-2
Board game	2-4
Computer & keyboard	1
Set of building blocks	1-4, depending on the type of blocks and space available.
Dramatic play area	2-4 depending on the equipment and space.

The center is responsible and accountable for assuring that:

- Children's toys, games and play equipment will provide them with developmental opportunities that assist in developing manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination, spatial relationships, large muscle coordination, language skills, math and science concepts, social relationships, reading and writing skills, etc. **NOTE:** Refer to R 400.8179 for variety of required experiences to be offered to children.
- Children have an adequate amount of toys, games and other play equipment available.
- Toys, games, and other play equipment is appropriate for a child at his/her stage of development by being challenging and interesting, yet not so difficult as to cause the child stress or anxiety.
- Shelves and containers are sturdy, stable and free of hazards.
- Equipment is immediately removed, replaced or repaired if it is broken or missing pieces.

Consultation

In infant and toddler rooms, it is recommended that:

- Duplicate toys are available to prevent conflicts between children.
- Additional toys are available to replace toys that become soiled or contaminated throughout the day.

Rule 173 (7)

7. Children shall have access to equipment and materials in the following areas on a daily basis:
 - (a) Large and small muscle activity.
 - (b) Sensory exploration.
 - (c) Social interaction and dramatic play.
 - (d) Discovery and exploration.
 - (e) Early math and science experiences.
 - (f) Creative experiences through art, music, and literature.

Rationale

A program with diverse equipment that supports a well-balanced curriculum enhances children's growth and development.

Technical Assistance

To be counted, equipment must be:

- Appropriate to the developmental needs and interests of children.
- Safe, clean and in good repair (unbroken with all pieces).

Consultation

The following chart outlines examples of equipment and materials for different types of activities:

Type of Activity	Equipment/Material Examples
Large and small muscle	Climber, balance beam, manipulatives (such as beads, lacing boards).
Sensory Exploration	Sand, water, playdough
Social interaction and dramatic play	Home Living area, puppets
Discovery and exploration	Puzzles, table toys
Creative experiences through art, music & literature	Art supplies, musical instruments, reading materials
Math and science	Blocks, counters, nature items.

Rule 173 (8)

8. A current and accurate equipment inventory **must** be provided to the department before issuance of the original license and **updated and made available** at each renewal.

Rationale

Assists the department in determining if the center has an adequate amount of age appropriate equipment, furnishings and materials for the capacity and age ranges on the license.

Technical Assistance

When compiling an equipment inventory, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- To be counted in an inventory, the equipment must be:
 - Appropriate to the developmental needs and interests of the children.
 - Safe, clean and in good repair (unbroken with all pieces).
- The inventory must indicate the number of items listed such as 25 books, 18 cots, 20 puzzles, etc.
- The inventory must include equipment, toys and materials that meet the requirements of R 400.8173.
- An equipment inventory must include the following:
 - List of play equipment including toys, sand and water tables, home living or dramatic play centers/equipment.
 - List of materials to be used by children such as paper, paint, scissors, and other arts and crafts supplies.
 - Furniture used by the children such as tables, chairs, high chairs, beds, cribs, changing tables, etc.
 - Cots or mats for resting.
 - Rocking chairs or adult size seating for centers providing infant and toddler care.

Consultation It is recommended that centers organize the equipment inventory by group or room. It is also recommended that centers store the equipment inventory electronically so it can be easily updated.

Rule 173 (9)

9. A first aid kit **must** be readily accessible to staff and securely stored in the center.

Rationale

Assures that emergency supplies are available should an emergency occurs in which first aid supplies are needed.

Technical Assistance

“First aid kit” means a kit containing, at a minimum, all of the following: sterile gauze pads (assorted sizes), a roll of gauze, adhesive bandages (assorted sizes), adhesive cloth tape, an elastic bandage, tweezers, and scissors. A “first aid kit” is prohibited from containing any non-prescription or prescription medications as defined under R 400.8152.

First aid kits must be kept out of the reach of children because it contains sharp objects.

All child care staff members must know the location of and have access to the first aid kit.

Consultation

Centers may wish to include additional items in the first aid kit such as:

- Hand sanitizer.
- Plastic bags.

- Disposable gloves.

It is recommended that parents be notified if hand sanitizer is used by children in care.

Rule 173 (10)

10. A rocking chair or other comfortable, adult-sized seating **must** be provided for 50% of the **child care staff members** on duty who are providing infant and toddler care.

Rationale

Comfortable, adult sized seating is conducive to interacting with and holding infants and toddlers by caregivers.

Rule 173 (11)

11. Trampolines **and bounce houses must** not be used by children in care **at the child care center**.

Rationale

Trampolines present a safety hazard and have the potential for serious injury according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Technical Assistance

Trampolines of all sizes are prohibited, even with parental permission.

Bounce houses and other similar types of equipment are also prohibited, as they present the same hazards as trampolines.

Note: Child care centers can take children on field trips where trampolines, bounce houses and similar types of equipment are used with written parental permission.

R 400.8176 Sleeping equipment.**Rule 176 (1)**

1. All bedding and sleeping equipment **must** be appropriate for the child, clean, comfortable, safe, and in good repair.

Rationale

Reduces the risk of injury and/or death.

Technical Assistance

The center is responsible and accountable for assuring the safety of cribs with:

- Mattresses that are in good condition.
- Mattresses are lowered when appropriate so a child cannot tumble out.
- Plastic teething guards that are tightly secured to the rails.
- Routine checks for damaged and broken areas, peeling paint and properly tightened bolts, nuts and screws.

Rule 176 (2)

2. **Heavy objects, including but not limited to shelving and televisions, must not be above sleeping equipment.**

Rational

Reduces the risk of injury and/or death

Rule 176 (3) – (5)

3. A crib or porta-crib **must** be provided for all infants in care.
4. A crib, porta-crib, cot, or mat, and a sheet or blanket of appropriate size must be provided for all toddlers and preschoolers under 3 years of age in care.
5. A cot or a mat and a sheet or blanket of appropriate size **must** be provided as follows:
 - (a) For all preschoolers 3 years of age and older in care for 5 or more continuous hours.
 - (b) For any child in care who regularly naps.
 - (c) Upon a parent's request for any child in care.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

While portable cribs (porta-cribs) are not designed to withstand the wear and tear of normal full-sized cribs, they may provide more flexibility for programs that vary the number of infants in care.

Technical Assistance

There must be crib or porta-crib available for the number of infants in care.

A portable crib (porta-crib) must meet the following criteria:

- Be constructed with wood or metal slats.
- Cannot be collapsed or folded without removal of the mattress.

Note: Manufacturer's specifications for the child's height and weight must be followed.

Note: Sleeping equipment constructed of fiber or mesh sides such as a "Pack-N-Play®" or playpens are not permitted for use.

Children cannot use the same cribs, beds, other sleep equipment, or bedding at the same time.

See Rule **400.8191** if nighttime care is provided.

Consultation

It is recommended that mats be waterproof and at least one inch thick.

Note: School age children are not required to nap or rest. Centers should consider having sleeping equipment available for children who may want to rest.

Rule 176 (6)

6. Car seats, infant seats, swings, bassinets, and **play yards** are not approved sleeping equipment.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

According to Keeping Kids Alive, between 2010 and 2017, there were 136 sleep related infant deaths in Michigan. Infant sleeping requirements are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations.

Rule 176 (7) & (8)

7. **Documentation from the child's health care provider is required if a child has a health issue or special need that requires the child to sleep in something other than a crib or porta-crib for infants or toddlers, or cot or mat for toddlers. The documentation must include specific sleeping instructions and time frames for how long the child needs to sleep in this manner, including an end date.**
8. **Swaddling with a sleep sack swaddle attachment or swaddle wrap is allowed only for infants up to 2 months of age. If a child has a health issue or special need that requires the child use a swaddle attachment or swaddle wrap after the child is 2 months of age, documentation from the health provider is required. The documentation must include specific sleeping instructions**

and time frames for how long the child needs to sleep in this manner, including an end date.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by reducing the risk of infant death. *According to Keeping Kids Alive, between 2010 and 2017, there were 136 sleep related infant deaths in Michigan.* Infant sleeping requirements are based on the AAP recommendations.

Research has shown that placing a baby to sleep on soft mattresses or other soft materials can increase the risk of death due to positional asphyxiation. Babies have been found dead with their faces, noses and mouths covered by soft bedding, such as pillows, quilts, comforters, and sheepskins.

Technical Assistance

It is permissible to swaddle an infant with a blanket while they are being held by a *child care staff member*. Infants swaddled in blankets must not be placed in cribs.

Wearable blankets, such as sleeps sacks and sleep sacks with a swaddle attachment and swaddle wraps, are an acceptable alternative to blankets and may be worn by infants when infants are sleeping.

Note: Swaddling with sleep sacks with a swaddle attachment and swaddle wraps is allowed only for infants up to 2 months of age.

Note: The swaddle attachment for the sleep sack must be properly attached (Velcro) to the sleep sack prior to use. The Velcro on swaddle sacks and swaddle wraps must be attached securely and must be checked every time the infant is checked while sleeping. R 400.8188(8) requires continual monitoring of the infant's breathing, sleep position and bedding and for possible signs of distress.

If an infant has a health issue or special need that requires the use of a device, such as a wedge to prop the infant, documentation from the infant's health care provider is required **prior** to using the device. The documentation must include specific sleeping instructions and time frames for how long the infant needs to sleep in this manner. See also R 400.8188(7).

Consultation

When infants are put to sleep in any type of wearable blanket, such as a sleep sack, it is essential to make sure the garment fits properly. If the infant is wearing a wearable blanket that is too big, it could bunch or gather around the infant's face and cause a suffocation hazard.

There are risks associated with swaddling. They include:

- Swaddling too tightly or with the legs extended and adducted can cause developmental dysplasia of the hips.
- Swaddling can result in hyperthermia when the swaddling blanket is added to clothing the infant is already wearing.
- Tight swaddling can compromise the lungs and increase the respiratory rate.
- Accidental deaths have occurred when swaddled infants are placed on their stomach or roll to their stomach. (An infant may roll onto his/her stomach even if not regularly rolling.) Swaddled infants on their stomachs are unable to use their arms or upper bodies to push themselves off the mattress or to change their head and body position if they are in a position that could cause suffocation.

Due to these risks, it is recommended that infants not be swaddled in a child care setting. *For more information, see the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).*

Resources regarding infant safe sleep include the following:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Safe Sleep Website [MDHHS Safe Sleep for Infants](#).
- National SIDS Resource Center and the Back to Sleep Campaign [National SUID/SIDS Resource Center](#).
- Local and state health departments.
- American Academy of Pediatrics [Healthy Child Care](#)
- Keeping Kids Alive [Fact Sheet Safe Sleep](#)

Rule 176 (9)

9. A center shall not use stacking cribs.

Rationale

If a center wasn't using stacking cribs as of December 7, 2006, the center was prohibited by the previous licensing rule [R 400.5204(9)] from using stacking cribs. Effective June 28, 2011, all cribs sold in the U.S. must be manufactured to new standards. Per the new standards, all child care providers were required to replace all cribs not meeting the new standards by December 28, 2012. Stacking cribs manufactured prior to December 8, 2006 do not meet the new standards and had to be replaced by December 28, 2012. Per the previous rule [R 400.5204(10)], stacking cribs could not be replaced with stacking cribs. Thus, stacking cribs are no longer allowed for any centers.

Stacking cribs were prohibited for the following reasons:

- There isn't adequate space for infants who can sit up or stand.

- When cribs have little or no spacing between them, as is the case with stacking cribs, the likelihood of the spread of infectious disease is increased.
- The structure of stacking cribs reduces airflow in and around the crib, limits the visual stimulation infants receive while in the crib and restricts movement opportunities for mobile infants.
- The AAP recommends a minimum distance of three feet between rest equipment to limit the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance

Stacking cribs are prohibited after December 28, 2012 when all cribs were required to be replaced in order to meet the new standards.

Rule 176 (10)

10. Cribs and porta-cribs **must** comply with the federal product safety standards issued by the **United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, which are available at no cost at the commission's website, www.cpsc.gov**. These standards are also available for inspection or distribution at no cost from the **Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933**.

Rationale

Bedding and equipment safety standards are set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Technical Assistance

Since June 28, 2011, all full-size and non-full-size baby cribs sold in the U.S. are required to be manufactured to comply with new federal standards (16 C.F.R. part 1219 and 16 C.F.R. part 1220) under Section 104(c) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. It is presumed that cribs manufactured on or after June 28, 2011 comply with the new standards. If the tracking label or registration form on the crib indicates that the crib was manufactured after June 28, 2011, no additional documentation is necessary to determine compliance with 16 C.F.R. part 1219 or 16 C.F.R. part 1220.

If the crib was manufactured prior to June 28, 2011, a Children's Product Certificate (CPC) or test report from a CPSC-accepted third party lab is needed to demonstrate compliance with 16 C.F.R. part 1219 or 16 C.F.R. part 1220. While manufacturers, importers and retailers are not required to supply CPCs or test reports to consumers, many will provide these documents to consumers upon request, or they post them on their websites.

Note: Under the new standards, non-full-size baby cribs must be sold with the mattress.

Rule 176 (11) – (14)

11. A crib or porta-crib **must** have a firm, tight-fitting waterproof mattress.
12. A tightly fitted bottom sheet **must** cover the crib or porta-crib mattress with no additional padding placed between the sheet and mattress.
13. Soft objects, bumper pads, stuffed toys, blankets, quilts, comforters, and other objects that could smother a child **must** not be placed in, **or within reach of**, a crib or porta-crib with a resting or sleeping infant.
14. Blankets **must** not be draped over cribs or porta-cribs when in use.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by reducing the risk of infant death. In 2015, 159 infants died in Michigan due to unsafe sleep environments. Several infants die each year in child care due to unsafe sleep environments. Infant sleeping requirements are based on the AAP recommendations.

Research has shown that placing a baby to sleep on soft mattresses or other soft materials can increase the risk of death due to positional asphyxiation. Babies have been found dead with their faces, noses and mouths covered by soft bedding, such as pillows, quilts, comforters, and sheepskins.

The AAP recommends that infants not be swaddled after 2 months of age.

Technical Assistance

Note: Under the federal crib standards, non-full-size baby cribs must be sold with the mattress. The mattress, when inserted in the center of the crib, must not leave a gap of more than 1/2 inch at any point between the perimeter of the mattress and the perimeter of the crib. When the mattress is placed flush to one side and end of the crib, the resulting gap must not exceed 1 inch. These measurements must be taken with no sheet covering the mattress. If the non-full-size crib mattress was sold with the crib and meets these requirements, it will be in compliance with subrule (8) of this rule.

Note: Under the federal crib standards, full-size baby crib mattresses must measure 27 1/4 inches by 51 5/8 inches with a thickness not exceeding 6 inches.

NOTE: burp clothes, sleep sacks and other similar cloth/soft items cannot be draped over side.

Rule 176 (15) – (16)

15. Cots and mats **must** be constructed of a fabric or plastic **that** is easily cleanable.
16. All sleeping equipment and bedding **must** be washed, rinsed, and sanitized when soiled, between uses by different children, and at least once a week regardless of use by different children.

Rationale

Reduces the spread of disease from one child to another.

Technical Assistance

Cleaned and sanitized means:

- Washing the surface vigorously with soap and water.
- Rinsing the surface with clean water.
- Wiping or spraying the surface with a sanitizing solution.
- Letting the surface air dry.

Note: Laundering bedding in hot water and detergent cleans and sanitizes the bedding.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include, but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used **daily** to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution should be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's instructions. **Note:** Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used **daily** to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Note: When sanitizing toys and other items children may put in their mouths, including cots and mats:

- Bleach being used must have an EPA number indicating an approval for food sanitizing.
- Commercial sanitizers used must be unscented and specify on the label that they are safe for food contact surfaces.

Consultation

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product because it is safe, effective, and inexpensive.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#)

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. *Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.*

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. *This process **works by either cleaning or disinfecting** surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.*

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. *Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.*

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information, go to the MIOSHA website at [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved sanitizers.

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing solution.

For cleaning up vomit (including spit-up) or feces, it is recommended that the surface or article be disinfected. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and non-scented chlorine bleach as follows:

- **Stainless steel and food/mouth contact items** - 1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water.
- **Non-porous surfaces** - 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.
- **Porous surfaces** - 1 2/3 cups bleach per gallon of water.

The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Rule 176 (17)

17. When sleeping equipment and bedding are stored, both of the following apply:
- (a) Sleeping surfaces shall not come in contact with other sleeping surfaces.
 - (b) Bedding **must** not come in contact with other bedding.

Rationale

Toddlers often nap or sleep on mats or cots. These mats or cots are taken out of storage during nap time, then placed back in storage. Lice, infestations, scabies, ringworm, and

other diseases can be spread if bedding materials (e.g., blankets, sheets, etc.) used by children come into contact with one another.

Technical Assistance

To prevent the spread of disease, provide bedding for each child that is stored individually. This separates the personal items of one child from those of another child.

It is also acceptable to store bedding for individual children on a cot used only for that child prior to stacking cots for storage. Care must be taken to ensure each child's bedding is stored in such a way that it does not make contact with other bedding.

Mats may be stacked **only** if they are sanitized prior to each use. Sanitized means:

- Wiping or spraying the mat with a sanitizing solution.
- Letting the mat air dry.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include, but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used **daily** to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution should be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's instructions. **Note:** Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used **daily** to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Note: When sanitizing mats:

- Bleach being used must have an EPA number indicating an approval for food sanitizing.
- Commercial sanitizers used must be unscented and specify on the label that they are safe for food contact surfaces.

Consultation

Examples of ways bedding may be stored include labeled bins, cubbies or bags.

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product as it is safe, effective and inexpensive.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#)

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process **works by either cleaning or disinfecting** surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact MIOSHA to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information go to the MIOSHA website at [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved sanitizers.

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing solution.

For cleaning up vomit (including spit-up) or feces, it is recommended that the mat be disinfected. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water. The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Rule 176 (18)

18. All occupied cribs, porta-cribs, cots, and mats **must** be placed in such a manner that there is a free and direct means of egress and shall be spaced, as follows:
- (a) Cribs and porta-cribs **must be** at least 2 feet apart. Cribs or porta-cribs with solid-panel ends may be placed end-to-end.
 - (b) Cots and mats **must be** at least 18 inches apart.

Rationale

Assures staff and children have adequate space to evacuate the room if needed and staff have access to children in the case of an emergency.

Separated sleeping spaces reduce the spread of disease from one child to another.

Technical Assistance

This rule only applies when cribs, porta-cribs, cots, and mats are occupied.

If a center uses screens, partitions, furnishings, etc., to separate children, there use must not hinder immediate access to children in an emergency.

It is permissible to place cribs or porta-cribs in such a manner that one or two sides are adjacent to a wall. If not placing cribs or porta-cribs end-to-end, the remaining two or three sides must be at least two feet from another occupied crib or porta-crib.

It is permissible to place cots and mats in such a manner that one or two sides are adjacent to a wall. The remaining two or three sides must be at least 18 inches from another occupied cot or mat.

Consultation

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

R 400.8179 Program.**Rule 179.**

1. As used in this rule:

- (a) “Confining equipment” means equipment used to assist in caring for infants, **including** but is not limited to, swings, stationary activity centers, infant seats, and molded seats.
 - (b) “Media” means use of electronic devices with a screen, including but not limited to televisions, computers, tablets, multi-touch screens, interactive white boards, mobile devices, cameras, movie players, e-book readers, and electronic game consoles.
 - (c) “Interactive media” means media designed to facilitate active and creative use by children and to encourage social engagement with other children and adults.
 - (d) “Non-interactive media” means media **that is** used passively by children.
-

Rule 179 (2)

2. A center shall implement a program plan **that** includes daily learning experiences appropriate to the developmental level of the children. Experiences **must** be designed to develop all of the following:
 - (a) Physical development.
 - (b) Social development.
 - (c) Emotional development.
 - (d) Cognitive development.

Rationale

Children benefit from a diverse and balanced program that promotes all areas of development.

Consultation

The Michigan Department of Education has developed Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs, Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten, and Michigan Out-of-School Time Standards of Quality (www.michigan.gov/greatstart). These documents are intended to help early childhood programs provide higher quality settings and respond to a diversity of children and families. These standards and recommendations build on the licensing requirements. Program directors are encouraged to review these documents and whenever possible, incorporate them into their programs.

Rule 179 (3)

3. The program **must** be planned to provide a flexible balance of all of the following experiences:
 - (a) Quiet and active.
 - (b) Individual and **group**.
 - (c) Large and small muscle.
 - (d) Child initiated, and staff initiated.

Rationale

A planned but flexible program allows children to make decisions about their activities; encourages independence and creative expression; and fosters physical, social and emotional development.

Consultation

When developing your daily schedule to include all of the activities required by this rule, you must also take into account the transitions between these activities. Transitions:

- Are often the most difficult and stressful times of the day.
- Bring out more challenging behaviors.
- Can make caregivers feel more like police officers than nurturing caregivers.

Evaluating your daily schedule regularly will help you:

- Determine how many transitions are happening each day.
- Determine if the schedule works for the current group of children.
- Try to limit the number to:
 - Six or fewer for half day programs.
 - Eight or fewer for full day programs.

Important questions to ask yourself:

- How many minutes does it take for each transition?
- How many and what types of challenging behaviors are occurring?
- Are children spending time waiting for others or for the caregivers?
- Are the children engaged while waiting or is it dead time?
- What are the caregivers doing during transitions?

Your goal should be to reduce the number of transitions and offer uninterrupted play time of at least 30 minutes because:

- Caregivers will have more time to engage and interact with the children.
- It allows for increased small group interactions based on the child's interests rather than whole group activities led by the caregiver.
- It allows for more uninterrupted time which equals more elaborate play themes.
- Children develop a sense of ownership and become more vested in the group activity.
- It reduces challenging behaviors.
- Teachers feel less rushed.
- It reduces stress for everyone.

Spend time observing before making changes; eliminate as many transitions as possible.

Transition tips:

- Set a calm, relaxed tone.
- Be organized by having one activity start as soon as another finishes or by having activities overlap.

- Use music or movement to gain the children's attention during the transition.
- Give children a warning just prior to the transition.
- Offer ways to save and protect projects.
- Alternate times of high activity with quieter activities.

Working with Children Who Have Special Needs (BCAL-Pub 96) is available on the department's website. [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 179 (4) (a) – (d)

4. Developmentally appropriate experiences **must** be designed so that throughout the day each child has opportunities to do all of the following:
 - (a) Practice social interaction skills.
 - (b) Use materials and **take** part in activities **that** encourage creativity.
 - (c) Learn new ideas and skills.
 - (d) Participate in imaginative play.

Rationale

A planned but flexible program allows children to make decisions about their activities; encourages independence and creative expression; and fosters physical, social and emotional development.

Consultation

Working with Children Who Have Special Needs (BCAL-Pub 96) is available on the department's website. [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 179 (4) (e)

4. Developmentally appropriate experiences **must** be designed so that throughout the day each child has opportunities to do all of the following:
 - (e) Participate in developmentally appropriate language and literacy experiences.

Rationale

Literacy is a process that begins at birth. Becoming literate is about using language to make oneself understood and to understand others and the world. Language is the foundation of reading development.

Engaging children in meaningful language and literacy experiences supports the development of communication skills including exchanging information, sharing feelings and developing strong emotional ties.

Technical Assistance

Language and literacy experiences include, but are not limited to:

- Looking at books with children.
- Reading (individually, in groups, during story time, etc.).

- Felt board stories.
- Finger plays.
- Verbal interactions.
- Playing games.
- Singing and participating in music experiences.
- Writing activities.
- Dramatic play activities.
- Show and tell and circle time.

Consultation

Working with Children Who Have Special Needs (BCAL-Pub 96) is available on the department's website. [Child Care Resources](#)

Additional resources from the National Institute for Literacy include:

- “Learning to Talk and Listen” - An oral language resource for early childhood caregivers at: [Learning to Talk and Listen pdf](#)
 - “Make Time to Talk “- Language Building Tips for Center-Based Child Care Providers at: [Make Time to Talk pdf](#)
-

Rule 179 (4) (f)

4. Developmentally appropriate experiences **must** be designed so that throughout the day each child has opportunities to do all of the following:
 - (f) Participate in early math and science experiences.

Rationale

Math and science help children make sense of the world around them and find meaning in the physical world. They learn to reason, to connect ideas and to think logically.

Through mathematics, children learn to understand their world in terms of numbers and shapes. Integrating math into all parts of the day increases their learning and shows children that math is part of everyday life.

Children have a natural curiosity and interest in science, which allows them to be active learners and to construct knowledge through experimentation, problem solving and play. It also allows children to make choices about what they explore and experience.

Technical Assistance

Math and science experiences include but are not limited to:

- Counting.
- Sorting, classifying and sequencing.
- Baking/cooking activities.
- Setting the table, folding laundry.
- Matching games and puzzles.
- Water and sand play.

- Sensory activities.
- Exploring the outdoor environment.

Consultation

Working with Children Who Have Special Needs (BCAL-Pub 96) is available on the department's website. [Child Care Resources](#)

Rule 179 (4) (g)

4. Developmentally appropriate experiences **must** be designed so that throughout the day each child has opportunities to do all of the following:
 - (g) Be physically active.

Rationale

Increased physical activity is a key factor in reducing childhood obesity. Research indicates that regular physical activity seems to help protect against obesity during the preschool age.

Physical activity improves children's attentiveness and decreases restlessness.

Technical Assistance

Examples of how children can be physically active, include but are not limited to:

- Music and movement.
- Active games.
- Large motor activities.
- Outdoor play.
- Active transitions.
- Gym time.
- Stretching or exercises.

Consultation

It is recommended that caregivers be physically active with children.

Rule 179 (5)

5. A school-age program **must** supplement the areas of development not regularly provided for during the school day.

Rationale

A program for school-age children should provide an enriching contrast to the formal school program. Facilities that offer a wide range of activities such as outdoor play, team sports, food experiences, dramatics, art, music, crafts, games, free choice, quiet time, and use of community resources allow children to explore new interests and relationships.

Technical Assistance

School-age programs can allow children to complete homework; however, the program must also have other activities available.

Resources:

Michigan Out of School time Standards of Quality: [Michigan Out of School Time Standards of Quality](#)

National Institute on Out of School Time: [NIOST](#)

Rule 179 (6)

6. A typical daily routine **must** be posted in a place visible to parents.

Rationale

Preplanning provides a predictable, consistent routine for children and staff.

Technical Assistance

The typical daily routine must include the general time frame or *order of daily activities* as well as activities that occur less often, such as gym time on Wednesdays.

A picture timeline without specific times would still be considered compliant.

Consultation

Detailed plans for each scheduled activity will help centers implement the typical daily routine.

Rule 179 (7)

7. When awake, use of confining equipment for infants **must** be minimized, not to exceed 30 minutes at a time.

Rationale

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards recommends that infants not be seated for more than 15 minutes at a time, except during meals and naps.

The National Association of Sports and Physical Education reports that using confining equipment for infants and young children for extended periods of time may delay physical development, such as learning to roll over, crawl, and walk. It may also affect cognitive development.

Technical Assistance

“Confining equipment” means equipment used to assist in caring for infants and includes, but is not limited to, swings, stationary activity centers, infant seats, and molded seats.

NOTE: Moving infants from one confining piece to another does not meet this rule.

Consultation

AAP Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards recommends that infants not be seated for more than 15 minutes at a time, except during meals and naps. *American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).*

Rule 179 (8)

8. Tummy time must be required daily for all infants under 12 months of age, and must meet all of the following requirements:
 - a. Infants shall be directly supervised at all times while engaged in tummy time.
 - b. Infants shall be healthy, awake, and alert during tummy time. If an infant falls asleep, the infant must be immediately moved to a safe sleeping space.
 - c. During tummy time, infants shall not be placed on or near soft surfaces, including but not limited to cushions, pillows, or padded mats.
 - d. A parent may request in writing an exemption for their infant from tummy time. The request must be kept in the child's file.

Rationale:

Tummy time is not only one of the ways to prevent flat spots on an infant's head, it also helps strengthen baby's neck and arm muscles.

Technical Assistance:

Firm mats, such as gross motor mats or play pads that would not cause a suffocation hazard would be in compliance with this rule. Padded mats with soft surfaces that may cause suffocation cannot be used.

Activity centers or infant gyms specifically made for tummy time that could not cause suffocation can be used.

Infants must be directly supervised when engaged in tummy time. Appropriate care and supervision must also be provided to the remainder of the children in the group as well.

Infants who are crawling, cruising and walking are no longer required to have daily tummy time.

Resources

- *Healthychildren.org: [Back to Sleep, Tummy to Play](#)*
- *American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring*

for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Rule 179 (9) – (10)

9. Use of media is prohibited for children under 2 years of age.
10. When media are used with children 2 years of age and older, all of the following apply:
 - a. Activities **must** be developmentally appropriate.
 - b. Interactive media **must** be used to support learning and to expand children's access to content and be suitable to the age of the child in terms of content and length of use per session.
 - c. Media with violent or adult content are prohibited while children are in care.
 - d. Use of non-interactive media **must** not exceed 2 hours per week per child.
 - e. When media are available for children's use, other activities **must** also be available to children.

Rationale

Research has shown possible negative outcomes of too much television use and other screen time include:

- Irregular sleep patterns.
- Behavioral issues.
- Focus and attention problems.
- Decreased academic performance.
- Negative impact on socialization and language development.
- Increased rates of childhood obesity.

Before the age of 3, television viewing can have modest negative effects on cognitive development of children. For that reason, the AAP and the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity recommends that children under two years of age not watch television and children over two be limited to no more than two hours per day of quality TV.

Caregivers cannot determine how much television a child watches at home. It is important to limit TV viewing so the AAP goal of less than two hours a day for children over age two can be achieved.

The AAP further recommends that “more interactive activities that will promote proper brain development, such as talking, playing, singing, and reading together” and “alternative entertainment for children including reading, athletics, hobbies, and creative play” be encouraged.

A rich variety of early experiences are critical to children's brain development because they impact a child's:

- Ability to solve problems.

- Self-control and emotional expression.
- Social interactions with others.
- Creativity.
- Success in school.
- Physical ability and health.

Play is an active form of learning and children learn best when actively engaged. The development of children's abilities may suffer when much of their experience is through television, computers, electronic games, books, worksheets and media that require only two senses - sight and sound. It is important to provide children with opportunities to learn through their other senses as well, including the senses of smell, touch and taste and the sense of motion through space.

In 2012, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College published a Position Statement on technology and media in early childhood programs. These subrules are based on the recommendations in that position statement.

Technical Assistance

"Media" means use of electronic devices with a screen, including but not limited to, televisions, computers, tablets, multi-touch screens, interactive white boards, mobile devices, cameras, movie players, e-book readers, and electronic game consoles.

"Interactive media" means media designed to facilitate active and creative use by children and to encourage social engagement with other children and adults.

"Non-interactive media" means media which are used passively by children.

Media, like any other learning tool, can be used in developmentally appropriate or inappropriate ways. Media is a powerful teacher so caregiving staff must make sure the lessons children learn are good ones.

The center is responsible for assuring that:

- Media is developmentally appropriate and promotes positive social values.
- The use of media does not replace or disrupt existing program routines.
- The use of media is limited and monitored closely.

Rating systems for television, video tapes, movies, video and computer games must be used as a guide to determine suitability for children.

- A description of movie ratings may be found at [motion pictures film ratings](#).
- Television ratings may be found at [parents television council](#).
- Video and computer game ratings may be found on the Entertainment Software Rating Board's website at [ESRB](#).

Consultation

Passive use of technology and any type of screen media is an inappropriate replacement for active play, engagement with other children, and interactions with adults. Technology and media should not replace activities such as creative play, real-life exploration, physical activity, outdoor experiences, conversation, and social interactions that are important to for children's development. Technology and media should be used to support learning, not as an isolated activity, and to expand young children's access to new content. The following best practices are recommended:

- Preview movies, television programs and video and computer games prior to them being viewed/used by children to ensure they are age and developmentally appropriate instead of relying solely on the rating.
- Watch media with the children in care and plan learning experiences to expand on the media programming.
- Replace media exposure with more appropriate activities, unless the media offering is linked to and supports your curriculum.
- Use books, toys and program activities to counter the effects of media.

Rule 179 (11)

11. An exception to the requirements of subrule (10)(d) of this rule may be made under the following conditions:

- a. School-age children **using** computers and any other electronic devices for academic and educational purposes.
- b. Children **using** assistive and adaptive technology.

Rationale

School-age children may need to use computers and other electronic devices to complete homework or for other educational purposes.

Children with disabilities may use a wide range of assistive and adaptive devices to increase or maintain their capabilities and perform tasks of daily living.

Technical Assistance

Assistive and adaptive technology can be anything home-made, purchased, modified, or commercially available which is used to help individuals with disabilities perform certain tasks of daily living or increase or maintain their capabilities. It encompasses a broad range of devices, including but not limited to, electronic communication and schedule boards, computer programs that are touch-screen or eye-gaze activated, Braille displays, devices that assist individuals in communicating when they have impairments or restrictions on the production or comprehension of spoken or written language (as simple as pictures on a screen that are used to request food, drink or other care or as advanced as speech generating devices).

Rule 179 (12)

12. For children with special needs, care shall be provided according to the child's needs as identified by parents, medical personnel, **or** other relevant professionals.

Rationale Assures:

- That a child's special needs are being met and professional recommendations are followed.
- Consistency and continuity in the care of children with special needs.

Consultation

Written plans detailing a child's identified needs and how to meet those needs assures that the child receives appropriate care. Written plans should be shared with all of the child's caregivers. Specific training may need to be provided to ensure staff understand how to meet a child's special needs.

The following best practices are recommended in the care of special needs children:

- Research and become familiar with the condition.
- Talk with others who have experience with the condition.
- Take classes or workshops.

Working with Children Who Have Special Needs (BCAL-Pub 96) is available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#).

Rule 179 (13)

13. Parents may visit the center during hours of operation for the purpose of observing their children.

Rationale

Parents' access to the child care center during the hours of operation allows them to observe the care their children receive.

Technical Assistance

One parent may not limit the other from visiting the child or receiving information about how the child's day went. The *child care staff member* has no legal right to prohibit a parent from visiting his/her child unless there is a court order which limits one parent's right to visit the child. This rule is not intended as a means for on-going parental visitations by the non-custodial parent.

Consultation

The following best practices are recommended in dealing with child custody conflicts:

- Maintain the role of the child's advocate.
- Limit any discussion with either parent to the child and the effects the conflict may be having on the child.
- Limit all discussions with the parent to a time when the child is not present.
- Request a copy of the court order that establishes custody.
- Do not answer questions regarding the child over the telephone.
- If the non-custodial parent wishes to obtain information regarding the child, schedule an appointment and require identification.
- If you are approached by the Friend of the Court to comment on the child's situation, respond only to those issues with which you are knowledgeable. It is

okay to say “I have no opinion on this issue,” or “I choose not to answer that question.”

R 400.8182 Ratio and group size requirements.**Rule 182 (1)**

1. At least 2 adults, 1 of whom is a **child care staff member**, shall be present at all times when at least 3 children between the ages of birth and 3 years of age are present. A second **child care staff member** is required when needed to comply with subrule (3) of this rule.

Rationale

Assures that a *child care staff member* is not alone in the center with a group of three or more children that includes infants or toddlers and that a second individual is present to assist the *child care staff members* in the case of an emergency.

Technical Assistance

This rule addresses the times when a minimal number of children are on the premises and only one *child care staff member* is required per subrule (3) of this rule. This situation is more likely to occur during opening and closing times. The second *adult* must be available to the *child care staff member* on the premises of the center or on a field trip in case there is need for assistance. This second *adult* does not need to be a *child care staff member* until an additional *child care staff member* is necessary per ratio requirements.

Example 1: There are two children, ages 6 months and 2 years, present with one *child care staff member*. A third child arrives, aged 1 year. When this third child arrives, a second *adult* is required. When two more infants arrive, another *child care staff member* is required to meet the 1:4 *child care staff member*-to-child ratio for this age group.

Example 2: There are four children present, three 4-year-olds and a 2-year-old. Only one *child care staff member* is required; the second adult is not needed.

Example 3: There are eight toddlers in attendance in the center and there are two *child care staff members*. Four toddlers and one *child care staff member* go outside to center's playground and four toddlers stay inside with one *child care staff member*. This meets the ratio requirements. The center does not have to provide a second *adult* inside and a second *adult* outside under these circumstances. Compliance is cited.

Should four toddlers leave the center to go to the park, on a field trip or other activity away from the center, a second *adult* would have to go with them and a second *adult* would be required at the center. When age groups of children are mixed, the center must meet the ratio requirement for the youngest child in the group.

"Child care staff member" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older to whom 1 or more of the following applies:

- (i) *The individual is employed by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home for compensation, including a contract employee or a self-employed individual.*

- (ii) *An individual whose activities involve the unsupervised care or supervision of children for a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
- (iii) *An individual who has unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
- (iv) *An individual who acts in the role of a licensee designee or program director.*

An unsupervised volunteer can be used to maintain the child care staff member to child ratio as long as they meet the definition of a child care staff member including completing all required professional development.

Rule 182 (2)

2. At least 2 adults, 1 of whom is a **child care staff member**, shall be present at all times when 7 or more children over 3 years of age are present. A second **child care staff member** is required when needed to comply with subrule (3) of this rule.

Rationale

Assures that a *child care staff member* is not alone in the center, with seven or more children, and that a second individual is present to assist the *child care staff member* in the case of an emergency.

Technical Assistance

This rule addresses the times when a minimal number of children are on the premises and only one *child care staff member* is required per subrule (3) of this rule. This situation is more likely to occur during opening and closing times. It is meant to assure sufficient staffing in case of an emergency. The second *adult* must be available to the *child care staff member* on the premises of the center or on a field trip in case there is need for assistance. This second *adult* does not need to be a *child care staff member* until an additional *child care staff member* would be necessary per ratio requirements.

Example 1: There are 20 children, 3 to 4 years of age, in attendance in the center and there are two *child care staff members*. Ten children and one *child care staff member* go outside to center's playground and ten children stay inside with one *child care staff member*. This meets the ratio requirements. The center does not have to provide a second *adult* inside and a second *adult* outside under these circumstances. Compliance is cited.

Should 10 children leave the center to go to the park, on a field trip or other activity away from the center, a second *adult* would have to go with them and a second *adult* would be required at the center.

Example 2: There are six children, ages 3 and older, present with one *child care staff member*. When the seventh child arrives, a second *adult* is required. When the eleventh

child in this age group arrives, another *child care staff member* is required to meet the 1:10 *child care staff member-to-child* ratio for this mixed age group.

Example 3: There are six children, ages 4 and older, present with one *child care staff member*. When the seventh child arrives, a second *adult* is required. When the thirteenth child in this age group arrives, another *child care staff member* is required to meet the 1:12 *child care staff member-to-child* ratio for this mixed age group.

Note: When age groups of children are mixed, the center must meet the ratio requirement for the youngest child in the group.

"Child care staff member" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older to whom 1 or more of the following applies:

- (i) *The individual is employed by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home for compensation, including a contract employee or a self-employed individual.*
- (ii) *An individual whose activities involve the unsupervised care or supervision of children for a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
- (iii) *An individual who has unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home.*
- (iv) *An individual who acts in the role of a licensee designee or program director.*

An unsupervised volunteer can be used to maintain the child care staff member to child ratio as long as they meet the definition of a child care staff member including completing all required professional development.

Rule 182 (3) – (7)

- 3. In each room or well-defined space, the maximum group size and ratio of **child care staff members** to children, including children related to a staff member or the licensee, **must be as shown in Table 4:**

TABLE 4			
Child Care Staff Member to Child Ratios			
	Age	Child Care Staff Member to Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
(a)	Infants and toddlers , birth until 30 months of age	1 to 4	12
(b)	Preschoolers, 30 months of age until 3 years of age	1 to 8	16
(c)	Preschoolers, 3 years of age until 4 years of age.	1 to 10	Not applicable
(d)	Preschoolers, 4 years of age until school-age	1 to 12	Not applicable

(e)	School-agers	1 to 18	Not applicable
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4. Children who have reached 33 months of age may, when developmentally appropriate, be enrolled in a 3-year-old classroom with written parental permission. The ratio listed in subrule (3)(c) of this rule **applies**.
5. Children who have reached 45 months of age may, when developmentally appropriate, be enrolled in a 4-year-old classroom with written parental permission. The ratio listed in subrule (3)(d) of this rule **applies**.
6. Children who have reached 57 months of age but who are not considered a **school-age** may, when developmentally appropriate, be enrolled in a school-age classroom with written parental permission. The ratio listed in subrule (3)(e) of this rule **applies**.
7. If there are children of mixed ages in the same room or well-defined space, then the ratio and group size shall be determined by the age of the youngest child, unless each group of children is clearly separated and the appropriate **child care staff member-to-child** ratios and group sizes, if applicable, for each age group are maintained.

Rationale

Infant development and caregiving quality improves when group size is smaller. A group provides the psychological base with which the child identifies and from which the child gains continual guidance and support in various activities.

Group size refers to the total size of the group in which a child spends the day, with one or several *child care staff members*. Children in smaller groups benefit from social interactions with peers. Larger groups are generally associated with less responsive care; more restrictive *child care staff members*; and less cooperative, more aggressive children who talk less, cry more, and are more engaged in aimless wandering. Larger groups are also associated with higher rates of infectious illness.

Low *child care staff member-to-child* ratios are important for all children but are most critical for infants and toddlers. Infant development and caregiving quality improve when *child care staff member/child* ratios are smaller. It also allows for more frequent one to one interaction, intimate knowledge of individual children and consistent caregiving. Improved verbal interactions are correlated with lower ratios.

Child care staff member-to-child ratios assure that appropriate care and supervision is provided to all children. Although *child care staff member-to-child* ratios alone do not predict the quality of care, direct warm social interaction between adults and children is more common and more likely with lower *child care staff members-to-child* ratios.

Technical Assistance**Well-Defined Space**

"Well-defined space" means space designed and used exclusively for a specific group of children. Well-defined space:

- Can be created by the placement of moveable room dividers, equipment, shelves, floor coverings, etc. Permanent walls and dividers are not required. *Any equipment used to establish a well-defined space must meet all requirements for interior finishes unless placed against a wall.*
- Must meet the square footage requirements for the number and age of children in the group.

Space defining barriers may not be necessary in a large room, gym or cafeteria for maintaining groups on opposite sides of the room.

Group Size

Group size does not affect the capacity for which a center is licensed.

Example: An infant/toddler room is licensed for 16. The center does not have to limit the classroom to 12 children to meet the group size requirement of 12. Two groups of 8 children, or other combinations, each in a well-defined space that do not exceed the group size, ratio or the licensed capacity will meet the intent of the rule and still allow the center to continue to care for 16 infants/toddlers.

Child care staff member-to-child-Ratios

Child care staff members must know the whereabouts of all children at all times.

Appropriate *child care staff member-to-child* ratios must be maintained in each room or child use area, outside on the playground and on field trips.

A *child care staff member* may need to be away from their assigned area of the center for a brief period of time for routine activities such as use of restroom, toileting a child, attending to a sick child, escorting children from the bus, etc. In those situations, children must not be left unattended. If multiple *child care staff members* are in the room, a replacement *child care staff member* may not be necessary unless there is a significant disruption in the room, children's needs are not being met or absences are too lengthy or too frequent.

Note: Children aged 33 until 36 months enrolled in a 3-year-old classroom when developmentally appropriate and with written parental permission per rule 400.8182(4) are considered 3-year-olds. If a center is licensed to accept children age 3 and older, the center can enroll children as young as 33 months in a 3-year-old classroom when developmentally appropriate and with written parental permission.

The same applies to subrules 400.8182(5) and (6) of this rule.

Note: When a child turns age 5, he/she may be considered a school-ager, even if he/she is not yet attending kindergarten.

Combining Age Groups

When combining age groups of children, the *child care staff member-to-child* ratio for the youngest child applies.

There may be situations, such as during lunch and special presentations, where groups of children of different ages may be combined. The center may designate the appropriate number of *child care staff members* to maintain ratio for each subgroup. It should be apparent that the *child care staff members* designated for each subgroup are responsible for the care and supervision of the children in the subgroup.

Example: A guest presenter, such as a firefighter, visits the center to discuss fire safety with all age groups. The groups may be combined for the presentation as long as the center designates the appropriate number of *child care staff members* to maintain ratio for each subgroup.

Ratios for Children Age 13 and Older

Programs serving children age 13 and older are not required to be licensed under the Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116, as amended) because “center” is defined as a facility receiving 1 or more children under 13 years of age for care. However, some programs may choose to serve children age 13 and older. If the program is serving only children age 13 and older, there isn’t a required *child care staff member-to-child* ratio.

If the program is licensed for school-age children and serves children age 12 and younger and children age 13 and older:

- There isn’t a required *child care staff member-to-child* ratio for children age 13 and older if those children are in their own well-defined space.
- The program must follow the *child care staff member-to-child* ratio for the youngest child present, if children aged 12 and younger and children age 13 and older are mixed in the same well-defined space.

Refer to R 400.8110(5) for more information if a program is serving children age 13 and older.

Consultation

It is recommended that programs licensed for children age 13 and older maintain a *child care staff member-to-child* ratio of 1 *child care staff member* to every 18 children.

Rule 182 (8)

8. An exception to the requirements of subrule (3) of this rule may be made when the center is transporting children and is in compliance with R 400.8760(1) and (2).

Rationale

Children being transported are seated in a confined space that limits their activities.

R 400.8185 Primary care.**Rule 185 (1)**

1. As used in this rule, “primary caregiver” means the **child care staff member** to whom the care of a specific infant or toddler is assigned. The primary caregiver is responsible for direct care, verbal and physical interactions, primary responses to the child’s physical and emotional needs, and continued interaction with the child’s parents regarding the child’s experiences.

Rule 185 (2)-(3)

2. The center shall implement a primary care system so that each infant and toddler has a primary caregiver.
3. Each infant and toddler shall have not more than 4 primary caregivers in a week. For centers operating less than 24 hours a day, an exception may occur during the first hour after the center opens and the hour before closing.

Rationale

An established system helps *child care staff members* understand and implement primary caregiving responsibilities and assignments.

Social-emotional development is the capacity to experience and regulate emotions, form secure relationships and explore and learn. Research shows that critical brain connections in the early years are primarily formed by attentive care and nurturing stimulation by caregivers.

The purpose of primary caregiving is to ensure that each child’s needs for intimacy and safety are met thereby fostering trust in adults and enhancing the positive social-emotional development of the child.

Trustworthy, caring adults who provide care and learning experiences play a key role in a child’s development. Limiting the number of adults with whom infants and toddlers interact fosters reciprocal understanding of communication cues that are unique to each child. This leads to a sense of trust of the adult by the child that the child’s needs will be understood and met promptly.

Studies of infant behavior show that infants have difficulty forming trusting relationships in settings where many adults interact with a child. This difficulty occurs even if each of the many adults is very caring in their interaction with the child.

Technical Assistance

This rule does not preclude a primary caregiver from being relieved by another caregiver *child care staff member* while taking a lunch period or short break.

While children can form primary attachments with more than one person, the three critical benefits of primary caregiving – continuity of care, consistency, and appropriate social interaction – cannot happen if there are constant changes in caregivers.

Each child must have a primary caregiver assigned at all times while in care. If a child's primary caregiver's shift ends before the child leaves, a second primary caregiver must be assigned.

The primary caregiver attends to their assigned child's individual needs and is responsible for most of that child's daily routines:

- Greetings and departures.
- Comforting.
- Feeding.
- Diapering.
- Napping.
- Tracking individual milestones.
- Indoor and outdoor play.

Consider the following in determining compliance:

- Observe children seeking out their primary caregiver for help and comfort.
- Observe primary caregivers providing individualized care to their assigned children, e.g., feeding, nurturing, diapering, etc.
- Interview *child care staff members* as to their understanding of how they meet primary caregiving responsibilities.

The primary caregiver promotes positive social development.

Consider the following to determine compliance:

- Observe how primary caregivers assist the child in entering play groups or facilitates interaction between children.
- Observe how primary caregivers help children resolve conflict.
- Observe verbal and nonverbal praise for appropriate social interaction.
- Observe for nurturing behavior such as:
 - Being available to respond to the physical and emotional needs of the individual child.
 - Understanding the child's cues and being sensitive to the child as an individual.
 - Anticipating the individual child's needs to alleviate possible difficulties and undue stress.

While each child must be assigned specific primary caregivers throughout the day, caregivers should work together with groups of children to assure a positive environment.

Consultation

While the rule allows for children to have up to four different primary caregivers in one week, it is recommended that centers arrange the *child care staff members* schedule so children can have the least amount of primary caregivers.

The Infant/Toddler Primary Caregivers Documentation (BCAL-4557) form may be used and is available on the department's website [Child Care Resources](#).

Rule 185 (4)

4. Information regarding a child's food, health, and temperament **must** be shared daily between **primary** caregivers when more than 1 primary caregiver is assigned to any infant or toddler.

Rationale

Facilitates continuity of care for children.

Consultation

Caregiving practices should be consistent between child care staff members so that the following occur:

- Children experience structure and routine in their environment.
- Children have their needs met in a consistent manner by all child care staff members.
- Children are assured a smooth transition between primary caregivers throughout the day regardless of shift changes.

Consider the following in determine whether caregiving practices are consistent between caregivers:

- Observe whether child care staff members share information regarding individual children and their care when there is a new child care staff member or shift change.
- Observe whether consistent caregiving techniques exist between child care staff members.
- Observe communication between parents and child care staff members or interview staff about communication between parents and child care staff members.

It is recommended that centers use a written documentation system that can be read by all child care staff members, such as the written daily log required for infants and toddlers as required by R 400.8146(3).

Rule 185 (5)

5. Primary caregiving assignments **must** be documented and provided to parents.

Rationale

Assures parents know who is caring for their child and with whom they need to communicate with regarding their child.

Technical Assistance

Primary caregiving assignments must be documented in writing. This can be done:

- By posting the assignments in the child care room.
- By writing it on the written daily record [required by R 400.8146(3)].
- By using the Infant/Toddler Primary Caregivers Documentation (BCAL-4557) form. [Child Care Forms](#)
- On some other form of written documentation kept at the center.
- *Using an electronic version. This must be available during inspections/investigations to verify documentation.*

Rule 185 (6)

6. An exception to **this rule** may be made when the center is transporting children and is in compliance with R 400.8760(1) and (2).

Rationale

Children being transported are seated in a confined space that limits their activities.

R 400.8188 Sleeping, resting, and supervision.**Rule 188 (1)**

1. Children under 3 years of age shall be provided opportunities to rest regardless of the number of hours in care.

Rationale

Young children benefit from scheduled periods of rest. This rest may take the form of actual napping or a quiet time.

Technical Assistance

While naptime or quiet time is required, not all children will fall asleep. In these situations, quiet activities must be provided such as looking at books, putting together puzzles, etc.

Consultation

It is best practice to have a separate area away from sleeping children where children can engage in quiet activities.

Centers may wish to develop a naptime/quiet time policy and share it with parents.

Rule 188 (2)

2. A center shall permit children under 18 months of age to sleep on demand.

Rationale

To assure that the changing developmental and individual needs of each child are met.

Technical Assistance

Children under 18 months must be allowed to sleep when tired. Children cannot be forced to stay awake to meet a classroom's daily schedule or a parent's request.

Rule 188 (3)

3. Infants shall rest or sleep alone in cribs or porta-cribs.

Rationale

Reduces the spread of disease.

According to Keeping Kids Alive, between 2010 and 2017, there were 136 sleep related infant deaths in Michigan. Infant sleeping requirements are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations.

Technical Assistance

If an infant has a health issue or special need that requires the infant to sleep in something other than a crib or porta-crib, documentation from the infant's health care provider is required prior to allowing variance to this rule. The documentation must include specific sleeping instructions and time frames for how long the infant needs to sleep in this manner. See also R 400.8188(7).

Rule 188 (4)-(6)

4. Infants shall be placed on their backs for resting and sleeping.
5. Infants unable to roll from their stomachs to their backs and from their backs to their stomachs shall be placed on their backs when found face down.
6. When infants can easily turn over from their stomachs to their backs and from their backs to their stomachs, they shall be initially placed on their backs, but shall be allowed to adopt whatever position they prefer for sleep.

Rationale

Since 1992 the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that infants sleep on their backs. Placing infants to sleep on their backs instead of their stomachs has been associated with a dramatic decrease in infant deaths.

Once infants develop motor skills to move from their back to the side or stomach it is safe to put them to sleep on their backs and allow them to adapt to whatever position makes them comfortable.

Consultation

Resources regarding infant safe sleep include the following:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Safe Sleep Website [MDHHS Safe Sleep for Infants](#).
- National SIDS Resource Center and the Back to Sleep Campaign [National SUID/SIDS Resource Center](#).
- Local and state health departments.
- American Academy of Pediatrics [Healthy Child Care](#)
- Keeping Kids Alive [Fact Sheet Safe Sleep](#)

Rule 188 (7)

7. For an infant who cannot rest or sleep on her or his back due to disability or illness, written instructions, signed by the infant's licensed health care provider, detailing an alternative safe sleep position **or** other special sleeping arrangements for the infant shall be followed and **kept** on file at the center. **The instructions must include an end date.**

Rationale

To assure an infant's special needs are being met and medical instructions are being followed.

Technical Assistance

If an infant has a health issue or special need that requires the infant sleep in position other than on his/her back, documentation from the infant's health care provider is required **prior** to allowing the infant to sleep in the alternative position. This includes when a device, such as a wedge is required to prop the crib mattress or the infant, needs to be

used. The documentation must include specific sleeping instructions and time frames for how long the infant needs to sleep in this manner.

The center must ensure that any special written instructions from the infant's health care provider are kept in an accessible location and shared with all of the infant's caregivers.

Rule 188 (8)

8. A sleeping infant's breathing, sleep position, and bedding **must** be monitored frequently for possible signs of distress.

Rationale

Supervision is basic to the prevention of harm. Infants who are presumed sleeping might be awake and in need of adult attention.

Technical Assistance

Monitoring must be continual and must include visual observation of infants, with *child care staff members* periodically standing close enough to the infant to observe breathing patterns, sleep position and any signs of distress or discomfort. *The child care staff member must approach each crib.*

Signs of distress or discomfort include but are not limited to turning pale, lips changing color and chest not rising and falling or shallow breaths.

Rule 188 (9)

9. An infant's head **must** remain uncovered during sleep.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children by reducing the risk of infant death. *According to Keeping Kids Alive, between 2010 and 2017, there were 136 sleep related infant deaths in Michigan.* Infant sleeping requirements are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations.

Rule 188 (10)

10. Toddlers shall rest or sleep alone in cribs, porta-cribs, or on mats or cots.

Rationale

Reduces the spread of disease and assures for the safety of children.

Technical Assistance

If a child has a health issue or special need that requires the child sleep in something other than a crib, porta-crib, cot, or mat, documentation from the child's health care provider is required prior to allowing variance to this rule. The documentation must include specific sleeping instructions and time frames for how long the child needs to sleep in this manner. See also subrule (7) of this rule.

Rule 188 (11)

11. Infants and toddlers who fall asleep in a space that is not approved for sleeping shall be moved to approved sleep equipment appropriate for their age and size.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children. *According to Keeping Kids Alive, between 2010 and 2017, there were 136 sleep related infant deaths in Michigan.* Infant sleeping requirements are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations.

Rule 188 (12)

12. Naptime or quiet time **must** be provided when children under school-age are in attendance 5 or more continuous hours per day.

Rationale

Preschool children benefit from scheduled periods of rest. This rest may take the form of actual napping or a quiet time.

Consultation

Centers may wish to develop a naptime/quiet time policy and share it with parents.

Rule 188 (13)

13. For children under school age who do not sleep at rest time, quiet activities **must be provided such as reading books or putting puzzles together.**

Consultation

It is best practice to have a separate area away from sleeping children where children can engage in quiet activities.

Centers may wish to develop a naptime/quiet time policy and share it with parents.

Rule 188 (14)

14. Resting or sleeping areas **must** have adequate soft lighting to allow the **child care staff member** to assess children.

Rationale

Facilitates supervision of resting or sleeping children.

Rule 188 (15)

15. Video surveillance equipment and baby monitors **must** not be used in place of subrule (8) of this rule and R 400.8125(1).

Rationale

Supervision is basic to the prevention of harm. Electronic equipment is subject to malfunction or failure.

R 400.8191 Nighttime care.**Rule 191(1)**

1. If a child is in care between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., a separate area, away from sleeping children, where the child can engage in quiet activities **must** be available.

Rationale

Due to varying parental work schedules, children may be picked up at various times during nighttime hours; some children may be awake while others are asleep.

Rule 191 (2)

2. If a child is in care for more than 1 hour between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., a bed and mattress, with a waterproof covering, of a size appropriate to the age of **the** child shall be available.

Rationale

Children in nighttime care are asleep for longer periods of time than children who nap during the day. These children will have a more restful sleep on an appropriately sized bed than on a mat or cot.

Technical Assistance

A waterproof mattress or tight fitting waterproof mattress cover are acceptable.

Plastic bags or other loose plastic materials must not be used as mattress covers as a child could remove the sheet and suffocate while playing with the bag.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a bed as: "A piece of furniture for reclining and sleeping, typically consisting of a rectangular frame and a mattress resting on springs."

The following would not be considered a bed for nighttime care:

- Mats.
- Cots.
- Bean bags.
- Futons.
- Couches.
- Reclining chair.
- Inflatable beds or air mattresses.
- Portable camping beds.

Exception: R 400.8188(3) requires infants to sleep alone in cribs or porta-cribs.

R 400.8301 Definitions.**Rule 301. As used in this part:**

- (a) “Bulk foods” **means** larger quantities of food that are used over time, such as flour, sugar, noodles, **and** rice. Food that is used up in a week or less, such as crackers, are not considered bulk foods.
- (b) “Corrosion-resistant materials” means those materials that maintain their original surface characteristics under prolonged influence of the food to be contacted, the normal use of cleaning compounds and bacterial solutions, and other conditions-of-use environment.
- (c) “Food grade surface” means a surface that is easily cleanable and made from a material that will not migrate into, contaminate, or taint the food.
- (d) “Food service equipment” means stoves, ovens, ranges, hoods, slicers, mixers, meat blocks, tables, counters, refrigerators, sinks, dishwashing machines, steam tables, and similar items other than utensils, used in the operation of a center.
- (e) “Food” means any raw, cooked, or processed edible substance, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for use in whole or in part for human consumption.
- (f) “Food-contact surface” means those surfaces of equipment and utensils with which food normally comes in contact, and those surfaces from which food may drain, drip, or splash back onto surfaces normally in contact with food.
- (g) “Packaged” means bottled, canned, **in a carton**, or securely wrapped.
- (h) “Potentially hazardous food” means any food that consists in whole or in part of milk or milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, edible crustacean, or other ingredients, including synthetic ingredients, in a form capable of supporting rapid and progressive growth of infectious or toxigenic microorganisms.
- (i) “Ready to eat food” means food that does not require cooking and that will not be cooked before being served.
- (j) “Sealed” means free of cracks or other openings that permit the entry or passage of moisture.
- (k) “Single-service articles” means those food service articles intended for 1-time, 1-person use and then discarded.
- (l) “Tableware” means multi-use eating and drinking utensils.
- (m) “Utensil” means any implement used in the storage, preparation, transportation, or service of food.

R 400.8305 Plan review; approval; inspections.**Rule 305.**

1. All local health department requirements regarding plan reviews and specifications **must** be followed. Written confirmation that this has occurred **must** be submitted **to the department**.

Rationale

Assures the safety and welfare of children and adults by ensuring that new construction or renovations will meet licensing rules and environmental health requirements for child care centers.

Technical Assistance

A child care center applicant/licensee considering new construction, renovation or structural modification to the kitchen, bathroom, food preparation, or food storage area must contact the local environmental authority using the Environmental Health Inspection Request (BCAL1787) form to assure compliance with local regulations.

Not all local health authorities are willing or able to do plan reviews for child care centers. If the local health authority will not do a plan review, the center must provide documentation to that effect to the department. A written statement from the health authority to this effect would be acceptable.

Rule 305 (2)

2. An inspection **must** be conducted by the local health department, and an approval granted indicating compliance with all of the rules in this part, except **R 400.8330, 400.8335, and 400.8340**, at all of the following **times**:
 - a. Before issuance of an original license.
 - b. Every 2 years, at the time of renewal, if the center has a private well **or** septic.
 - c. Every 2 years, at the time of renewal, if the center provides food service where the food is prepared and served on-site, **unless the kitchen is currently licensed to provide food service**.
 - d. Prior to adding a food service program.
 - e. Prior to adding an **infant or toddler** program.
 - f. When requested by the department.

Rationale

Assures new and existing centers meet the licensing rules for environmental health.

Technical Assistance

Per department policy, environmental health inspections must be dated within one year of issuance of the original center license.

An "A" rating on an environmental health inspection report denoting substantial compliance - with all of the environmental health rules in this part except R 400.8330,

400.8335, and 400.8340 - is required prior to issuance of an original license, renewal of a license [when required by subrules (b) and (c)], or *when* adding food service or infant and/or toddler program.

If the center has a private well and/or septic, a complete Environmental Health inspection is required every two years at renewal.

For subrule (2)(c) only: In situations where the center licensee also operates a licensed kitchen within the building (such as a school), a copy of the current food service license can be submitted in lieu of a complete Environmental Health Inspection. If the existing food service license is not current or available, a complete Environmental Health Inspection is required. If the center has a licensed kitchen and also has a private well and/or septic, a complete Environmental Health inspection is required every two years at renewal.

Applicants and licensees are responsible for contracting with and paying for any environmental health inspections. The inspection is requested by submitting the Environmental Health Inspection Request (BCAL-1787-CC) form to the local health department.

A center provides food service when food is prepared and served onsite.

Example 1: Children are in care from 7 am to 6 PM daily. Parents are not required to provide their children's meals and snacks. The center provides breakfast, lunch and snack daily. Most of the meals require some sort of preparation and/or cooking. This is considered food service.

Example 2: Children are in care from 7 am to 7 PM daily. Parents are not required to provide their children's meals and snacks. The center provides breakfast, lunch and snack daily. Most of the food items provided are ready-to-eat. The center does not cook any food, but many of the food items require some preparation such as putting together sandwiches or heating frozen food items such as chicken nuggets. This is considered food service.

Example 3: Children are in care from 6:30 am to 6:30 PM daily. Parents provide meals and snacks for their children. The center provides milk and water. Center staff feed and assist children with the food items parents provide and may occasionally re-heat or warm an item in the microwave. This is not considered food service.

Example 4: Children are in care from 8:30 am to 11:30 am daily. Parents are not required to provide their children's snacks. The center provides a variety of ready-to-eat foods for snack such as pretzels, crackers and fruit cups. This is not considered food service.

Example 5: Children are in care from 7:30 am to 5:30 PM daily. Parents are not required to provide their children's meals and snacks. The center caters food service from an

approved source (e.g., a licensed restaurant, kitchen, or catering service) for breakfast and lunch and provides a variety of ready-to-eat foods for snacks. This is not considered food service.

Example 6: Children are in care from 8:30 am to 11:30 am daily. Parents provide snacks that are shared among all the children. The snacks parents provide are ready-to-eat. This is not considered food service.

When a center operates in a school building using a municipal water and sewer:

Note: As indicated above, if a center caters food service from an approved source (e.g., a licensed restaurant, kitchen, or catering service), this is not considered food service. If a center is catering food from a licensed kitchen in the same building and that licensed kitchen is not under the control of the center, this is also not considered food service. In addition, if a center is catering food from a licensed kitchen in the same building and the licensed kitchen is run by a private contractor, this is not considered food service.

Example 1: Forest View Elementary School is the licensee and operates a preschool program in the building. Forest View Elementary School also has a licensed kitchen which provides food for the elementary school students and the preschool children who attend the child care center. *This is considered food service; however, a copy of the food service license can be accepted in lieu of a completed Environmental Health inspection as long as the center does not have a private well and/or septic.*

Example 2: Suzie Smith, licensee, operates Suzie's Child Care out of Forest View Elementary School. Suzie Smith leases the space for the child care center from the school. Forest View Elementary has a licensed kitchen. As part of her lease agreement, Suzie Smith obtains food from that kitchen for the children attending the child care center. This is not considered food service.

Example 3: Washington Elementary School is the licensee and operates a preschool program in the building. Washington Elementary School has a licensed kitchen which is run by Good Food, a private food service contractor. Good Food provides food for the elementary school students and the preschool children who attend the child care center. This is not considered food service.

Consultation

If the center *contracts* food service from an approved source (e.g., a licensed restaurant or catering service), it is recommended that the center verify the food service license of the approved source.

Centers with private water are required by law to have their private water supply tested on a regular basis. When the full environmental health inspection is due, the regular water test should be done at the same time as the environmental health inspection so multiple water tests for the same time period do not have to be completed.

Centers with Non-transient Noncommunity Water Supply

Any center with private water that has 25 or more children and staff onsite is considered a non-transient noncommunity water supply (NTNCWS) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (1976 PA 399).

The Safe Drinking Water Act and related rules require certified drinking water operators for all non-transient noncommunity water supplies (Part 19). The Safe Drinking Water Act also requires K-12 schools and child care centers with non-transient, noncommunity water supplies to notify consumers of all lead results, even when lead is not detected. Additionally, centers must certify that they completed consumer notification of lead results by remitting a signed statement to the State Drinking Water Program [Part 4, Rule 410 (5)].

Although it is not a requirement, it is recommended that centers provide parents and employees with an annual water quality report summarizing water sampling and violation data for the previous calendar year, as well as any health effects information connected to a maximum contaminant level violation that occurred during that time frame.

In addition, there is an annual fee for noncommunity non-transient water supplies (MCL 325.1011a). The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is responsible for collecting the annual drinking water fees.

For any questions regarding these requirements, contact the local health department. For more information regarding fees, contact Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy [Noncommunity water program staff](#). More information is available at [Noncommunity water supply](#)

R 400.8310 Food preparation areas.**Rule 310 (1)**

1. Food contact surfaces **must** be smooth, nontoxic, easily cleanable, durable, corrosion resistant, and nonabsorbent.

Rationale

Cracked, chipped, or porous surfaces, including wood cutting boards, may trap food or other organic materials that can promote bacterial growth and contaminate the next food that is cut or that comes in contact with that surface.

Technical Assistance

Surfaces must be in good repair. Surfaces repaired with duct or other kinds of tape or surfaces covered with contact paper are not acceptable.

Food Prep includes but is not limited to mixing ingredients such as mixing infant cereal with water and/or milk and washing and cutting fruit.

Food prep does not include warming a premade bottle or opening and serving prepackaged foods such as a granola bar, apple sauce, crackers, etc.

A center provides food service when food is prepared and served onsite.

Consultation

It is recommended that cutting boards made of heavy-duty plastic, acrylic, Plexiglas, or tempered glass be used as they are non-porous and can be cleaned in a dishwasher.

Rule 310 (2)

2. Carpeting is prohibited in food preparation areas.

Rationale

Carpeting is absorbent and not easily cleaned.

Technical Assistance

The use of a microwave oven to heat food does not constitute a “food prep area”.

Food Prep includes but is not limited to mixing ingredients such as mixing infant cereal with water and/or milk and washing and cutting fruit.

Food prep does not include warming a premade bottle or opening and serving prepackaged foods such as a granola bar, apple sauce, crackers, etc.

A center provides food service when food is prepared and served onsite.

Rule 310 (3)

3. Mechanical ventilation to the outside is required for all commercial cooking equipment, which includes but is not limited to, stoves, ranges, ovens, and griddles.

Rationale

An exhaust system must properly collect fumes and grease-laden vapors at their source. Properly maintained vents and filters control odor, fire hazards, and fumes.

Technical Assistance

Commercial cooking equipment refers to the type of equipment that is typically found in restaurants and other food service businesses. The local mechanical inspector is typically responsible for these mechanical ventilation inspections.

Consultation

Vents and filters should be cleaned or changed on a regular basis or as needed.

Rule 310 (4)

4. If residential hood ventilation is used, then cooking equipment **must** be limited to residential stove and oven equipment.

Rationale

A residential ventilation system cannot adequately vent commercial kitchen equipment.

Consultation

Vents and filters should be cleaned or changed on a regular basis or as needed.

Rule 310 (5)

5. Mechanical ventilation to the outside may be required if a problem is evidenced.

Rationale

Assures fumes and vapors are properly vented. Prevents fire hazards and odors.

Technical Assistance

An assessment by a sanitarian may be necessary to determine if mechanical ventilation to the outside is warranted.

Rule 310 (6)

6. The use of deep fryers is prohibited.

Rationale

Hot oil in deep fryers may cause serious injury or fire.

Rule 310 (7)

7. Live animals **must** be prohibited from food preparation and eating areas.

Rationale

Animals may contaminate food and cooking and eating surfaces.

Technical Assistance

In centers that have one large room where snacks and meals are served to children, it is acceptable to have a live pet in a cage in the same room, provided the animals do not come into direct contact with the food preparation or eating areas.

Rule 310 (8)

8. When the only food preparation is for feeding infants and toddlers, there **must** be a sink that is used exclusively for food preparation and clean up.

Rationale

Prevents cross contamination and the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance

Sinks used in the preparation, serving and clean-up of food and bottles must not be used for hand washing after diapering and toileting.

Food Prep includes but is not limited to mixing ingredients such as mixing infant cereal with water and/or milk and washing and cutting fruit.

Food prep does not include warming a premade bottle or opening and serving prepackaged foods such as a granola bar, apple sauce, crackers, etc.

A center provides food service when food is prepared and served onsite.

Resource

Information regarding your local health department can be found at [Local Health Dept Map](#)

R 400.8315 Food and equipment storage.**Rule 315 (1)**

1. Each refrigerator **must** have an accurate working thermometer indicating a temperature **of** 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Rationale

Storage of food at proper temperatures minimizes bacterial growth.

Consultation

Freezers should maintain foods at 0 degrees F or lower.

For a more accurate reading, it is recommended that the thermometer be placed in the warmest part of the refrigerator - in the front on the top shelf. It should not be placed in the door because it can be damaged with the constant opening and closing of the door.

Rule 315 (2)

2. All artificial lighting fixtures located over, by, or within food storage, preparation, **and** service areas, or where utensils and equipment are cleaned and stored, **must** be properly shielded.

Rationale

Prevents injury and contamination of food.

Technical Assistance

The following options comply with this rule:

- Light fixtures with a plastic shield under and around the light bulb.
- Shields that fit directly on and completely cover fluorescent light bulbs.
- Rubberized or shatterproof light bulbs.

Refrigerator light bulbs must comply with this rule.

Rule 315 (3)

3. Unpackaged bulk foods **must** be stored in clean covered containers, dated, and labeled as to the contents.

Rationale

Containers prevent insect infestation and contamination from other foods. By labeling and dating food, staff can rotate the oldest food to be used next and discard foods that have exceeded safe storage guidelines.

Technical Assistance

“Bulk foods” are larger quantities of food that are used over time, such as flour, sugar, noodles, rice, etc. Food that is used up in a week or less, such as crackers, are not considered bulk foods.

Storage for smaller packages of food that will be used up within a week or less may remain in the original package as long as it can be securely closed.

Rule 315 (4) & (5)

4. Food not subject to further washing or cooking before serving **must** be stored in a way that protects it from cross-contamination from food requiring washing or cooking.
5. Packaged food **must** not be stored in contact with water or undrained ice.

Rationale

Prevents contamination of food and minimizes the potential for food borne illness.

Rule 315 (6)-(8)

6. Poisonous or toxic materials **must** not be stored with food, food service equipment, utensils, or single-service articles.
7. Food, food service equipment, and utensils **must** not be located under exposed or unprotected sewer lines, open stairwells, or other sources of contamination. Automatic fire protection sprinkler heads are the exception.
8. The storage of food, food service equipment, or utensils in toilet rooms is prohibited.

Rationale

Prevents contamination of food and equipment.

Rule 315 (9)

9. Food and utensils **must** be stored **in a cabinet or a shelf above the floor**.

Rationale

Prevents food contamination, keeps insects and rodents from entering the products and facilitates cleaning the floor under the food.

Consultation

Storing silverware and serving utensils so all handles are facing the same way reduces the probability of children or staff touching the food contact surface of the silverware or utensils.

Rule 315 (10)

10. All food service equipment **must** be **above the floor**, moveable, or be properly sealed to the floor.

Rationale

Prevents contamination of equipment and facilitates cleaning.

Technical Assistance

Any space wider than a credit card under non-moveable equipment must be properly sealed to prevent dirt, insects, spillage, etc. from getting under the piece of equipment.

Rule 315 (11)

11. Meals that are transported **must** be prepared in commercial kitchens and delivered in carriers approved by the local health department.

Rationale

Ensures the child care center receives safe food.

Technical Assistance

When food is prepared and provided by an off-site central kitchen or vendor, the off-site kitchen or vendor must be inspected and approved by the local health authority. The center's kitchen does not need to be approved when the food is prepared off-site.

Food must be transported promptly in clean, covered containers that can properly maintain the temperature of the food. Hot foods must be maintained at temperatures not lower than 135 degrees F, and cold foods must be maintained at temperatures of 41 degrees F or lower.

R 400.8320 Food preparation.**Rule 320 (1)**

1. Food **must** be in sound condition, free from spoilage, filth, or other contamination and be safe for human consumption.

Rationale

Prevents food borne illness. Assures the health and safety of children.

Consultation

The use of unpasteurized foods, including unpasteurized cider, is not recommended due to the risk of contamination.

Rule 320 (2)

2. Food **must** be prepared on food grade surfaces that have been washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

Rationale

Prevents food borne illness. Assures the health and safety of children.

Technical Assistance

“Food grade surface” means a surface that is easily cleanable and made from a material that will not migrate into, contaminate, or taint the food.

The following steps must be followed for washing, rinsing and sanitizing:

- Wash the surface or utensil vigorously with soap and water.
- Rinse the surface or utensil with clean water.
- Submerge, wipe or spray the surface or the utensil with a sanitizing solution.
- Let the surface or utensil air dry.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used daily to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution must be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Note: Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used daily to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Note: When sanitizing food preparation/service surfaces:

- Bleach used must have an EPA number indicating an approval for food sanitizing.
- Commercial sanitizers used must be unscented and specify on the label that they are safe for food contact surfaces.

Consultation

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product because it is safe, effective and inexpensive.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#)

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information, go to the MIOSHA website at [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved commercial sanitizers.

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing solution.

For cleaning up vomit (including spit-up), it is recommended the surface or article be disinfected. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and non-scented chlorine bleach as follows:

- Stainless steel and food/mouth contact items - 1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water.
- Non-porous surfaces, countertops, sinks - 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.

The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Rule 320 (3)

3. Raw fruits and vegetables **must** be thoroughly washed before being cooked or served.

Rationale

Soil particles and contaminants that adhere to fruits and vegetables can cause illness.

Technical Assistance

Running water must be used to thoroughly wash raw fruits and vegetables.

Rule 320 (4) & (5)

4. Staff shall minimize bare-hand contact with foods that will be cooked.
5. Ready to eat foods **must** not be prepared or served using bare hands.

Rationale

To minimize contact with food to prevent contamination and the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance

Disposable food service gloves are not required when preparing foods that will be cooked.

“Ready to eat food” means food that does not require cooking *or mixing*. If ready to eat food, *such as crackers, dry cereal, pretzels, etc.* will be handled, any of the following can be used:

- Utensils.
- Sanitary disposable food service gloves.
- Deli tissue.

Consultation

It is recommended that staff wear sanitary disposable food service gloves when preparing foods, even foods that will be cooked.

Rule 320 (6)

6. Food shall be cooked to heat all parts of the food to the safe temperature as identified in the **document titled Safe Minimum Cooking Temperatures, published by the U.S. Food Safety Working Group. This document is adopted by reference in this rule and is available at no cost on the [Foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) website, <https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/charts/mintemp.html>. It is also available for inspection and distribution at no cost from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.**

Rationale

Prevents the spread of food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

Centers must check the temperature by using a thermometer as indicated in subrule (10) of this rule. Measure the temperature by inserting the thermometer into the center of the food mass from several different spots.

Raw animal foods and foods containing raw animal foods must be cooked to heat all parts of the food to a temperature that complies with the following:

General Safe Cooking Temperatures		
Food (Includes Pre-Cooked Foods from a Food Supplier)	Temp	Time*
Fruits and vegetables	140°F	
Pork – ham, bacon and injected meats	145° F	15 sec.
Beef steaks, veal, lamb, and commercially raised game animals	145° F	15 sec.
Fish, foods containing fish	145° F	15 sec.
Raw shell eggs prepared for immediate service	145° F	15 sec.
Beef and pork roasts	145° F	3 min.
Eggs cooked for later service	155° F	15 sec.
Ground or flaked beef and pork	155° F	15 sec.
Poultry (including turkey)	165° F	15 sec.
Stuffing, stuffed meats, casseroles and other dishes combining raw and cooked foods	165° F	15 sec.
Egg dishes	165° F	15 sec.
Potentially hazardous foods cooked in microwave (meat, poultry, fish, eggs)	165° F	Let stand for two minutes after cooking before taking the temp.

* Time is the amount of time the thermometer must be inserted into the food item prior to reading the temperature. The time is important because it takes that long for the temperature to register and provide an accurate reading.

Consultation

It is recommended that centers document food temperatures as a way to demonstrate compliance with this rule. One way to document food temperatures would be to note them on daily menus and to retain the menus for the center’s records.

Rule 320 (7)

7. Potentially hazardous foods **must** be thawed using 1 of the following methods:
 - a. In the refrigerator at a temperature not to exceed 41 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - b. **Completely submerging the item under cold at a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit or below, that is running fast enough to float off loose ice particles.**
 - c. In a microwave oven for either of the following:
 - i. The food will be immediately transferred to conventional cooking facilities as part of a continuous cooking process.
 - ii. (ii) The entire cooking process takes place in the microwave oven.
 - d. As part of the conventional cooking process.

Rationale

Prevents bacterial growth and food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

Potentially hazardous foods that have been frozen must not be defrosted by leaving them at room temperature or standing them in water. This includes pre-cooked foods from a food supplier.

“Potentially hazardous food” means any food that consists in whole or in part of milk or milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, edible crustacean, or other ingredients, including synthetic ingredients, in a form capable of supporting rapid and progressive growth of infectious or toxigenic microorganisms.

Rule 320 (8)

8. The temperature of potentially hazardous foods **must** be 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, or 135 degrees Fahrenheit or above, at all times, except during necessary periods of preparation.

Rationale

Prevents bacterial growth and food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

Centers must check the temperature to assure all potentially hazardous food, including pre-cooked food, is maintained at 41°F or below or 135°F or above during service using a thermometer as indicated in subrule (10) of this rule. Insert the thermometer into the center of the food mass from several different spots to properly measure the temperature.

“Potentially hazardous food” means any food that consists in whole or in part of milk or milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, edible crustacean, or other ingredients, including synthetic ingredients, in a form capable of supporting rapid and progressive growth of infectious or toxigenic microorganisms.

Proper cooling techniques require that food be cooled:

- Within two hours from 135°F to 70°F.
- Within four hours from 70°F to 41°F or less.

Consultation

Food preparation, service and consumption time should not exceed four hours.

It is recommended that centers document food temperatures as a way to demonstrate compliance with this rule. One way to document food temperatures would be to note them on daily menus and to retain the menus for the center's records.

Rule 320 (9)

9. Potentially hazardous foods that have been cooked and then refrigerated or frozen **must** be reheated rapidly to 165 degrees Fahrenheit or higher throughout before being served or before being placed in a hot food storage facility.

Rationale

Prevents bacterial growth and food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

“Reheated rapidly” means within two hours.

This applies to all potentially hazardous food, including pre-cooked food from a supplier that was initially heated at the center per subrule (7) of this rule, as well as raw foods prepared and cooked by the center.

When reheating potentially hazardous food, including pre-cooked food, centers must use a thermometer as indicated in subrule (10) of this rule to check the temperature to assure that it reaches 165°F or above. Insert the thermometer into the center of the food mass from several different spots to properly measure the temperature.

All foods cooked in a microwave must be allowed to stand for two minutes after cooking to obtain temperature equilibrium prior to taking the temperature.

Proper cooling techniques require that food be cooled:

- Within two hours from 135°F to 70°F.
- Within four hours from 70°F to 41°F or less.

“Potentially hazardous food” means any food that consists in whole or in part of milk or milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, edible crustacean, or other ingredients, including synthetic ingredients, in a form capable of supporting rapid and progressive growth of infectious or toxigenic microorganisms.

Consultation

Food preparation, service and consumption time should not exceed four hours. The time for original preparation, service and consumption is included in the four hour time limit when a food is reheated, served and consumed.

It is recommended that centers document food temperatures as a way to demonstrate compliance with this rule. One way to document food temperatures would be to note them on daily menus and to retain the menus for the center's records.

Rule 320 (10)

10. Accurate metal stem-type food thermometers **must** be used to assure the attainment and maintenance of proper internal cooking, holding, reheating, or refrigeration temperatures of all potentially hazardous foods.

Rationale

Prevents bacterial growth and food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

An accurate metal stem-type food thermometer is one that is properly calibrated and ranges from 0°F to 220°F. To calibrate, place thermometer into a ice water bath two to three inches deep for about one minute. It should read 32°F. If not, adjust the thermometer to read 32°F.

Consultation

Thermometers should be calibrated regularly.

The thermometer should be cleaned and sanitized before inserting it into a different type of food and between uses. The best way to clean and sanitize a thermometer is to wipe it with an alcohol swab. If an alcohol swab is not available, then it can be cleaned and sanitized by:

- Rinsing it and then sanitizing it with a sanitizing solution, if no food is stuck to it.
- Washing it with soap and water, rinsing it and then sanitizing it with a sanitizing solution, if food is stuck to it.

Rule 320 (11)

11. On field trips, all foods **must** be protected from contamination at all times as required by this rule.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and food-borne illness.

Rule 320 (12)

12. In the absence of proper hand washing facilities on field trips, individuals preparing and serving food shall wear sanitary disposable food service gloves.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

If unable to wash hands thoroughly on a field trip, sanitizing gels, along with single service towels and gloves, are an acceptable alternative to hand washing.

R 400.8325 Sanitization.**Rule 325 (1).**

1. All tableware, utensils, food contact surfaces, and food service equipment **must** be thoroughly washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use. Multi-purpose tables **must** be thoroughly washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after they are used for meals or snacks.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and food-borne illness.

Washing, rinsing and sanitizing tables after any use assures that tables are cleaned and sanitized before food comes into contact with the surface.

Technical Assistance

The following steps must be followed for washing, rinsing and sanitizing:

- Wash the surface or article vigorously with soap and water.
- Rinse the surface or article with clean water.
- Submerge, wipe or spray the surface or the article with a sanitizing solution.
- Let the article or surface air dry.

Note: Tables and high chairs can be dried with a single service towel. Reuse of cloth towels for drying could contaminate a surface.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used daily to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.
- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution should be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Note: Commercial disinfecting or sanitizing wipes may be used as long as a test strip is used daily to check the concentration of the wipes in the container. The concentration must be at least 50 – 200 parts per million.

Note: When sanitizing food contact surfaces:

- Bleach used must have an EPA number indicating an approval for food sanitizing.
- Commercial sanitizers used must be unscented and specify on the label that they are safe for food contact surfaces.

Consultation

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product as it is safe, effective, and inexpensive.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#)

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information, go to the MIOSHA website at [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved commercial sanitizers.

Centers are encouraged to use separate spray bottles containing soapy water, rinse water and a sanitizing solution.

For cleaning up vomit, it is recommended that the surface or article be disinfected. A disinfecting solution can be made using water and nonscented chlorine bleach as follows:

- Stainless steel and food/mouth contact items - 1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water.
- Non-porous surfaces, countertops, sinks 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.

The bleach solution should be left on the surface for 10 to 20 minutes and then rinsed with clean water.

Best practice is that food should not be placed directly on the table surface or highchair tray. Even washed, rinsed and sanitized tables are more likely to be contaminated than plates. Eating from a plate reduces contamination of the table surface when children put down partially eaten food while they are eating.

Rule 325 (2)

2. Enamelware utensils are prohibited.

Rationale

Prevents contamination of food as enamelware chips easily making it more difficult to clean. Heavy metals and other contaminants in enamelware can leach into food.

Rule 325 (3)

3. Reuse of single service articles is prohibited.

Rationale

Single-service items are not made to be reused. Single-service items are generally porous and cannot be washed, rinsed and sanitized effectively or safely.

Technical Assistance

Single service items include, but are not limited to, utensils and dishes made of the following materials:

- Paper.
 - Styrofoam.
 - Tin foil.
 - Plastic.
-

Rule 325 (4)

4. Multi-use tableware and utensils **must** be washed, rinsed, and sanitized using 1 of the following methods:
 - a. A commercial dishwasher.
 - b. A residential dishwasher with sanitizing capability.
 - c. A 3-compartment sink and adequate drain boards.
 - d. A 2-compartment sink for washing and rinsing, a third container suitable for complete submersion for sanitizing, and adequate drain boards.

Rationale

Assures proper cleaning and sanitation of dishes.

Technical Assistance

Domestic dishwashers must have a specific sanitizing cycle option to be approved for child care center food service operations.

Examples of sanitizing solutions include, but are not limited to:

- Water and non-scented chlorine bleach with a concentration of bleach between 50 – 200 parts per million (one teaspoon to one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water). Test strips must be used daily to check the concentration of the bleach/water solution and are available from most food service suppliers.

- Commercial sanitizers (products labeled as a sanitizer purchased at a store). Caution should be exercised to assure they are used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Note: When sanitizing dishes and utensils:

- Bleach used must have an EPA number indicating an approval for food sanitizing.
- Commercial sanitizers used must be unscented and specify on the label that they are safe for food contact surfaces.

Consultation

Bleach is recommended as a sanitizing product as it is safe, effective, and inexpensive.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC website](#)

Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Prior to using corrosive substances, such as bleach, it is recommended that you contact MIOSHA to ensure you follow any safety requirements, such as installation of an eyewash station. For more information, go to the MIOSHA website at [MIOSHA](#) or contact the Consultation, Education & Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Local health department sanitarians may maintain a list of approved commercial sanitizers.

The sanitizing capacity of domestic dishwashers should comply with National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard 184.

Rule 325 (5)

5. If the manual washing method is used, as referenced in subrule (4)(c) and (d) of this rule, all of the following **must** be done:
 - a. Rinse and scrape all utensils and tableware before washing.
 - b. Thoroughly wash in detergent and water.
 - c. Rinse in clear water.
 - d. Sanitize using 1 of the following methods:
 - i. Immersion for at least 30 seconds in clean, hot water of at least 170 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - ii. (ii) Immersion for at least 1 minute in a solution containing between 50 and 100 parts per million of chlorine or comparable sanitizing agent at a temperature of at least 75 degrees Fahrenheit. A test kit or other device **that** measures parts per million concentration of the solution **must** be used when a chemical is used for sanitizing.
 - e. Air dry.

Rationale

Assures proper cleaning and sanitation.

Technical Assistance

If using the sanitizing option stated in subrule (5)(d)(i) above, the water temperature at outlets accessible to children must still be less than 120°F.

Rule 325 (6)

6. Sponges **must** not be used in a food service operation.

Rationale

Sponges harbor bacteria and are difficult to completely clean and sanitize between uses.

R 400.8330 Food services and nutrition generally.**Rule 330 (1)**

1. Snacks and meals **must** be provided by the center, except when 1 of the following circumstances occurs:
 - (a) A majority of the children are in attendance less than 2.5 hours.
 - (b) Food is provided by a parent.

Rationale

The center has a responsibility to follow feeding practices that promote optimum nutrition, which will support growth and development in all children.

Technical Assistance

The center must have food available in the event a parent who has agreed to provide food to his/her children does not do so.

Consultation

The center should discuss proper nutrition with parents when necessary.

Rule 330 (2)

2. A written agreement **must** be kept on file at the center if the parent has agreed to provide formula, milk, or food. The center shall provide an adequate amount of formula, milk, or food if the parent does not.

Rationale

The center has a responsibility to ensure that children are adequately fed.

Technical Assistance

The center must have formula, milk and food available in the event that the parent agreed to provide the food but does not do so.

Consultation

It is recommended that the center discuss proper nutrition with parents when necessary.

If a parent does not provide an adequate amount of formula, milk or food, options for the center might include:

- Contact the parent and request they bring additional food, etc. for that day.
 - Request that parents leave a backup supply of food, formula, etc. at the center.
-

Rule 330 (3)

3. Beverages and food **must** be appropriate for the child's individual nutritional requirements, developmental stages, and special dietary needs, including cultural preferences.

Rationale

Nutritious food is the cornerstone for health, growth, development, and learning. Because children grow and develop more rapidly during the first few years of life than at any other time, the center and parents together must provide food that is adequate in amount and type to meet each child's metabolic growth and energy needs.

Technical Assistance

Snacks and meals provided by the center must meet the meal pattern guidelines set forth by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operated by the Michigan Department of Education. The meal pattern guidelines can be found at [Nutrition Standards for CACFP Meals and Snacks](#). See R 400.8335(1) for a copy of the meal pattern requirements chart.

Consultation

The following best practices are recommended:

- Check with parents regarding food allergies children may have.
- Meals and snacks should be provided to children based on:
 - Individual needs of children.
 - Ages of the children.
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended length of time between meals and snacks.
- Centers should work cooperatively with parents who provide food to ensure that the foods meet CACFP meal pattern guidelines.

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Additional information about building good eating habits can be obtained from United Dairy Industry of Michigan [Milk Means More](#) .

Rule 330 (4)

4. A center shall ensure a child **who has** special dietary needs is provided with snacks and meals in accordance with the child's needs and with the instructions of the child's parent or licensed health care provider.

Rationale

Children with special needs may have individual requirements relating to diet, swallowing and other feeding needs that require the development of an individual plan prior to entry into the facility. Food, eating style, utensils, equipment, including furniture, may have to be adapted to meet the developmental needs of individual children.

Technical Assistance

Staff must know ahead of time what procedures to follow and if there are children in care that have any food restrictions.

Centers must have explicit, written procedures for dietary modifications or substitutions. These written instructions must identify:

- The child's special needs.
- Dietary restrictions based on the dietary needs.
- Foods to be omitted from the diet and foods to be substituted.
- Pertinent special needs information.

Consultation

Close collaboration between the home and facility is necessary for children on special diets. Parents may have to provide food if the facility, after exploring all community resources, is unable to provide the special diet.

Food Allergies/Anaphylaxis

Food allergies are common. Food allergic symptoms can range from mild skin or gastrointestinal symptoms to severe life-threatening reactions with respiratory and/or cardiovascular compromise. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapid immune response in an allergic individual. The response manifests itself in a collection of symptoms affecting multiple organ systems in the body. The most dangerous symptoms include difficulty breathing and shock. Anaphylaxis is life-threatening and should be considered a medical emergency requiring immediate recognition and treatment.

Among children, foods that are the most common cause of anaphylaxis include nuts, eggs, milk and seafood.

Rule 330 (5)

5. A center shall provide adequate staff so that food service activities do not detract from direct care and supervision of children.

Rationale

An adequate number of food service personnel is needed to ensure that children are fed according to the facility's daily schedule. Assures for the appropriate care of children while meals are being prepared, served and during clean up.

Technical Assistance

Compliance with this rule can be determined by observation and a review of the center's staffing plan.

Centers are not required to hire food service staff to meet the intent of this rule.

Rule 330 (6)

6. A center shall make water available to drink throughout the day to children 1 year of age and older.

Rationale

When children are thirsty between meals and snacks, water is the best choice. Encouraging children to learn to drink water in place of juice and other sweetened drinks builds a beneficial habit. Drinking water during the day can reduce the extra caloric intake which is associated with children becoming overweight and obese.

Technical Assistance

If a child is thirsty or asks for a drink of water, it must be provided.

Rule 330 (7)

7. Infants and toddlers shall be fed on demand.

Rationale

Demand feeding meets infants' and toddlers' nutritional and emotional needs. It provides an immediate response which helps infants and toddlers develop trust and feelings of security.

Consultation

Cues for hunger may vary widely in different infants/toddlers.

When the same caregiver regularly cares for a particular infant/toddler, the caregiver is more likely to understand the infant's/toddler's cues and respond appropriately.

When developmentally appropriate, a light snack may be given to alleviate hunger until the next designated meal time.

Rule 330 (8)

8. A child shall be served meals and snacks in accordance with the following schedule:
 - (a) Two and a half hours to 4 hours of operation: a minimum of 1 snack.
 - (b) Four hours to 6 hours of operation: a minimum of 1 meal and 1 snack.
 - (c) Seven hours to 10 hours of operation: a minimum of 1 meal and 2 snacks or 2 meals and 1 snack.
 - (d) Eleven hours or more of operation: a minimum of 2 meals and 2 snacks.

Rationale

Young children need to be fed often. Appetite and interest in food varies from one meal or snack to the next. To assure that a child's daily nutritional needs are met, small feedings of nourishing food should be scheduled over the course of the day. Snacks should be nutritious as they often are a significant part of a child's daily intake.

Technical Assistance

Subrule (b) of this rule applies up until 7 hours of operation. Subrule (c) of this rule applies up until 11 hours of operation.

Snacks and meals must meet the meal pattern guidelines set forth by CACFP. The meal pattern guidelines can be found at [CACFP Meals and Snacks](#) . See R 400.8335(1) for a copy of the meal pattern requirements chart.

Consultation

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Rule 330 (9)

9. A center shall not deprive a child of a snack or meal if the child is in attendance at the time when the snack or meal is served.

Rationale

Children should not be excluded from a snack or meal based on the length of time in attendance.

Technical Assistance

When meals and snacks are served, all children must be offered the meal or snack.

Rule 330 (10)

10. Menus shall be planned in advance, dated, and posted in a place visible to parents. Food substitutions **must** be noted on the menus the day the substitution occurs.

Rationale

Planning menus in advance helps to ensure that food will be on hand. Parents need to be informed about food served in the center to know how to coordinate it with the food they serve at home. If a child has any difficulty with any food served at the center, parents can address this issue with appropriate center staff.

Technical Assistance

Centers must develop dated written menus showing all foods to be served. The center must amend menus to reflect any changes in food actually served the day the substitution occurs. Any substitutions must be of equal nutrient value.

Note: If parents provide a daily snack that is shared with the entire group, the center can post a list of approved snacks that parents can provide in lieu of a menu.

Consultation

Making menus available to parents by posting them in a prominent area helps inform parents about proper nutrition.

Sample menus and menu planning templates are available from most state health departments, the state extension service, and the Child and Adult Food Program.

Rule 330 (11)

11. A center shall not serve infants and toddlers or allow them to eat foods that **could** easily cause choking, including, but not limited to, popcorn, seeds, nuts, hard candy and uncut round foods such as whole grapes and hot dogs.

Rationale

Infants and toddlers often swallow pieces of food without chewing them. Ninety percent of fatal chokings occur in children younger than four years of age.

Technical Assistance

Examples of food choking hazards include, but are not limited to:

- Hot dogs - whole or sliced into rounds.
- Uncut round foods such as grapes.
- Uncooked carrots - whole or sliced into rounds.
- Uncooked peas.
- Hard pretzels.
- Chips.
- Popcorn.
- Seeds.
- Nuts.
- Hard candy.
- Marshmallows.
- Spoonfuls of peanut butter.
- Large chunks of meat.
- Cheese cubes.

Children must be supervised while eating to monitor the size of the food and that they are eating appropriately (for example, not stuffing their mouths full).

Consultation

It is recommended that the center apply this rule until children are 3 years of age.

The presence of molars is a good indication of a child's ability to chew hard foods that are likely to cause choking.

As infants develop, foods need to progress from pureed to ground to finely mashed to finely chopped. Chopped food should be cut into small pieces no larger than 1/4-inch cubes or thin slices.

For toddlers, foods should be cut up in small pieces no larger than 1/2-inch cubes.

All children *must* be seated while eating to avoid choking on food. *Refer to R400.8330 (23)*

Rule 330 (12)

12. Cereal **must** not be added to a bottle or beverage container without written parental permission.

Rationale

Solid food fed from a bottle or beverage container may cause choking and teaches infants to eat solid foods incorrectly.

Rule 330 (13) – (17)

13. If food, bottles, or beverage containers are warmed, then the warming **must** be done in a safe, appropriate manner.
14. Warming bottles and beverage containers in a microwave oven **or a crockpot** is prohibited.
- 15. Bottle warmers must be placed where children cannot access them or reach the cords for them.**
- 16. Bottle warmers must be shut off when not in use. A child care staff member shall not hold a child while removing a bottle from the heating device.**
17. Warmed food, bottles, and beverage containers **must** be shaken or stirred to distribute the heat, and the temperature **must** be tested before feeding.

Rationale

Warming bottles and beverage containers at room temperature or in warm water for an extended period of time is conducive for bacteria growth. Warming bottles and beverage containers in the microwave may cause hot spots in the beverage that can scald the throat or mouth.

Heating method protects against burns and scalding young children.

Technical Assistance

Bottles and beverage containers of milk or formula may be fed cold. If warmed, the bottle or beverage container must be warmed using one of the following methods:

- Under running warm tap water.
- By placing the bottle or beverage container in a container of water or pan on the stove in the kitchen that is no warmer than 120 degrees.
- In a bottle warmer made specifically for this purpose.

If a bottle warmer is used, it should be secured to prevent tipping and care should be taken so infants are not injured by the dangling cord or by hot water dripping off the bottle or beverage container onto the infant. It is recommended that slack from cords be removed by tying it off with a twist or zip tie. A bottle warming device should be emptied, sanitized and filled with fresh water daily.

Consultation

Gently swirl breast milk to mix before checking temperature and offering it to the child. Breast milk should not be shaken.

Excessive shaking of formula may cause foaming that increases the likelihood of feeding air to the child.

Rule 330 (18) – (19)

18. The contents of a bottle or beverage container **must** be discarded if any of the following apply:

- (a) The contents appear to be unsanitary.
- (b) The bottle or beverage container has been used for feeding for a period that exceeds **one** hour from the beginning of the feeding.
- (c) The bottle or beverage container requiring refrigeration has been unrefrigerated for **one** hour or more.

19. Formula and milk, including breast milk, left in a bottle or beverage container after a feeding **must** not be reused.

Rationale

Bottles and beverage containers of formula or milk that have been unrefrigerated for one hour or more provide an ideal medium for bacteria to grow. Bacteria from saliva make formula or milk consumed over a period of more than one hour unsuitable and unsafe for consumption.

Consultation

Use smaller amounts of formula or milk or smaller bottles if infants regularly do not consume all of the formula or milk during a feeding period.

Rule 330 (20) – (22)

20. Bottle propping is prohibited.

21. When feeding, **child care staff members** shall hold infants, except when infants resist being held and are able to hold their bottle.

22. Infants or toddlers shall not have bottles, beverage containers, or food in sleeping equipment.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

Bottle propping can cause choking and aspiration and may contribute to long-term health issues, including ear infections, orthodontic problems, speech disorders, and psychological problems.

Technical Assistance

Bottles must not be allowed in the crib or bed, whether propped or held by the child.

Rule 330 (23)

23. Children shall not have beverage containers or food while they are walking around or playing.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

Technical Assistance

This doesn't prohibit the center from taking water bottles outside during outdoor play as long as children are standing still or sitting when they drink.

Rule 330 (24)

24. **Child care staff members** shall foster and facilitate toddlers' independence, language, and social interactions by doing all of the following:

- (a) Encouraging self-feeding.
- (b) Serving appropriate portion sizes.
- (c) Sitting with toddlers during meal times.

Rationale

As children enter the second year of life, they are interested in doing things for themselves. Self-feeding appropriately separates the responsibilities of adults and children. The adult is responsible for providing nutritious food and the child decides how much of it to eat. Self-feeding promotes the proper development of motor skills and eating habits.

A child does not eat the same amount each day because appetites vary. Serving small-sized portions and permitting toddlers to have one or more additional servings meets the needs of individual children.

Rule 330 (25) – (26)

25. Breastfeeding **must** be supported and accommodated.

26. A designated place **must** be set aside for **use by** mothers who are breastfeeding.

Rationale

The AAP, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the World Health Organization, and many other groups recommend that women breastfeed exclusively for about the first six months of the infant's life, adding age-appropriate solid foods and continuing breastfeeding for at least the first year, if not longer.

Human milk, containing all the nutrients to promote optimal growth, is the most developmentally appropriate food for infants. It changes during the course of each feeding and over time to meet the growing child's changing nutritional needs.

In addition to nutrition, breastfeeding supports optimal health and development. Breastfeeding protects infants from many acute and chronic diseases. Research shows that exclusive breastfeeding for six months, and continued breastfeeding for at least a year, dramatically improves health outcomes for children and their mothers. Breastfeeding also reduces some of the risks that are greater for infants in group care. Evidence suggests that breastfeeding is associated with enhanced cognitive development and may reduce the risk of childhood obesity.

Breastfeeding mothers are often daunted by the prospect of continuing to breastfeed as they return to work. Centers can reduce a breastfeeding mother's anxiety by welcoming breastfeeding families and training staff in the proper handling of breast milk and feeding of breast-fed infants.

Consultation

Some ways to help a mother breastfeed successfully at the center are:

- If she wishes to breastfeed her infant at the center, offer or provide her a:
 - Quiet, comfortable, and private place to breastfeed (this helps with her milk letdown).
 - Place to wash her hands.
 - Pillow to support her infant on her lap while breastfeeding, if requested.
 - Nursing stool or step stool for her feet, if requested (this reduces back strain).
 - Glass of water or other liquid (this helps her stay hydrated).
- If she wishes to pump her breast milk at the center, provide a:
 - Private area with an outlet. This area should not be in the bathroom.
 - Place to wash her hands.

R 400.8335 Food services and nutrition; provided by center.**Rule 335 (1)**

1. Food and beverages provided by a center **must** be of sufficient quantity and nutritional quality to provide for the dietary needs of each child according to the minimum meal requirements of the child and adult care food program (**CACFP**), as administered by the Michigan department of education, based on 7 C.F.R. Part 226, 1-1-11 edition, of the United States department of agriculture, food and nutrition services, **CACFP**, and is hereby adopted by reference. A copy can be obtained **at no cost** from CACFP at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks>. **In addition, a copy is available for inspection and distribution at no cost at the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.**

Rationale

Nutritious and appealing food is the cornerstone for health, growth and development and developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Because children grow and develop more rapidly during the first few years of life than at any other time, the center and parents together must provide food that is adequate in amount and type to meet each child's metabolic growth and energy needs.

Technical Assistance

All snacks and meals must meet the meal pattern guidelines set forth by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), regardless of participation in a food program. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) requires that fluid milk served under the CACFP be consistent with the most recent version of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The 2010 Dietary Guidelines recommend that persons over two years of age consume fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1%) fluid milk. Therefore, to be in compliance with the CACFP guidelines, milk served to children two years of age and older must be: fat-free or low-fat milk, fat-free or low-fat lactose reduced milk, fat-free or low-fat lactose free milk, fat-free or low-fat buttermilk, or fat-free or low-fat acidified milk. Whole milk and reduced-fat (2%) milk must not be served to children over two years of age.

Exception: You are exempt from the milk requirements of this rule if the child's parent provides their child's milk. **Note:** If you participate in the CACFP and a child's parent provides their child's milk, you should check with the food program regarding whether you can claim reimbursement for that child's meals.

The meal pattern guidelines can be found at [CACFP Meals and Snacks](#).

Infant Meal Pattern

Breakfast	
Birth through 5 months	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces of breastmilk ¹ or formula ²	6-8 fluid ounces of breastmilk ¹ or formula ² ; and 0-4 tablespoons infant cereal ^{2,3} Meat, Fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans, or cooked dry peas; or 0-2 ounces of cheese; or 0-4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese; or 0-4 ounces or ½ cup of yogurt ⁴ ; or a combination of the above ⁵ and 0-2 tablespoons vegetable or fruit or a combination of both ^{5,6}

¹ Breastmilk or formula, or portions of both, must be served; however, it is recommended that breastmilk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months. For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breastmilk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breastmilk may be offered, with additional breastmilk offered at a later time if the infant will consume more.

² Infant formula and dry infant cereal must be iron-fortified.

³ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.

⁴ Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.

⁵ A serving of this component is required when the infant is developmentally ready to accept it.

⁶ Fruit and vegetable juices must not be served.

Infant Meal Pattern

Lunch and Supper	
Birth through 5 months	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk ¹ or formula ²	6-8 fluid ounces breastmilk ¹ or formula ² ; and 0-4 tablespoons infant cereal ^{2,3} meat, fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans, or cooked dry peas; or 0-2 ounces of cheese; or 0-4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese; or 0-4 ounces or ½cup of yogurt ⁴ ; or a combination of the above ⁵ ; and

	0-2 tablespoons vegetable or fruit or a combination of both ^{5,6}
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¹ Breastmilk or formula, or portions of both, must be served; however, it is recommended that breastmilk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months. For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breastmilk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breastmilk may be offered, with additional breastmilk offered at a later time if the infant will consume more.

² Infant formula and dry infant cereal must be iron-fortified.

³ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.

⁴ Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.

⁵ A serving of this component is required when the infant is developmentally ready to accept it.

⁶ Fruit and vegetable juices must not be served.

Infant Meal Pattern Snack

Snack	
Birth through 5 months	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk ¹ or formula ²	2-4 fluid ounces breastmilk ¹ or formula ² ; and 0-½ slice bread ^{3,4} ; or 0-2 crackers ^{3,4} ; or 0-4 tablespoons infant cereal ^{2,3,4} or ready-to-eat breakfast cereal ^{3,4,5,6} ; and 0-2 tablespoons vegetable or fruit, or a combination of both ^{6,7}

¹ Breastmilk or formula, or portions of both, must be served; however, it is recommended that breastmilk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months. For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breastmilk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breastmilk may be offered, with additional breastmilk offered at a later time if the infant will consume more.

² Infant formula and dry infant cereal must be iron-fortified.

³ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.

⁴ A serving of grains must be whole grain-rich, enriched meal, or enriched flour.

⁵ Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).

⁶ A serving of this component is required when the infant is developmentally ready to accept it.

⁷ Fruit and vegetable juices must not be served.

Child Meal Pattern

Breakfast				
(Select all three components for a reimbursable meal)				
Food Components and Food Items ¹	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ² (at-risk afterschool programs and emergency shelters)
Fluid Milk³	4 fluid ounces	6 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces
Vegetables, fruits, or portions of both⁴	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Grains (oz eq)^{5,6,7}				
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread	½ slice	½ slice	1 slice	1 slice
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll or muffin	½ serving	½ serving	1 serving	1 serving
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal ⁸ , cereal grain, and/or pasta	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat breakfast cereal (dry, cold) ^{8,9}				
Flakes or rounds	½ cup	½ cup	1 cup	1 cup
Puffed cereal	¾ cup	¾ cup	1 ¼ cup	1 ¼ cup
Granola	⅛ cup	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup

¹ Must serve all three components for a reimbursable meal. Offer versus serve is an option for at-risk afterschool participants.

² Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs.

³ Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk for children six years old and older.

⁴ Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.

⁵ At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement.

⁶ Meat and meat alternates may be used to meet the entire grains requirement a maximum of three times a week. One ounce of

meat and meat alternates is equal to one ounce equivalent of grains.

⁷ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.

⁸ Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).

⁹ Beginning October 1, 2019, the minimum serving size specified in this section for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals must be served.

Until October 1, 2019, the minimum serving size for any type of ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is ¼ cup for children ages 1-2; 1/3 cup for children ages 3-5; and ¾ cup for children ages 6-12.

Child Meal Pattern

Lunch and Supper (Select all five components for a reimbursable meal)				
Food Components and Food Items ¹	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ² (at-risk afterschool programs and emergency shelters)
Fluid Milk³	4 fluid ounces	6 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces
Meat/meat alternates				
Lean meat, poultry, or fish	1 ounce	1 ½ ounce	2 ounces	2 ounces
Tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products ⁴	1 ounce	1 ½ ounce	2 ounces	2 ounces
Cheese	1 ounce	1 ½ ounce	2 ounces	2 ounces
Large egg	½	¾	1	1
Cooked dry beans or peas	¼ cup	⅜ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Peanut butter or soy nut butter or other nut or seed butters	2 tbsp	3 tbsp	4 tbsp	4 tbsp
Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened ⁵	4 ounces or ½ cup	6 ounces or ¾ cup	8 ounces or 1 cup	8 ounces or 1 cup
The following may be used to meet no more than 50% of the requirement: Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, or seeds, as listed in program guidance, or an equivalent quantity of	½ ounce = 50%	¾ ounce = 50%	1 ounce = 50%	1 ounce = 50%

any combination of the above meat/meat alternates (1 ounces of nuts/seeds = 1 ounce of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish)				
Vegetables⁶	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Fruits^{6,7}	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/4 cup
Grains (oz eq)^{8,9}				
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread	1/2 slice	1/2 slice	1 slice	1 slice
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll or muffin	1/2 serving	1/2 serving	1 serving	1 serving
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal ¹⁰ , cereal grain, and/or pasta	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup

1 Must serve all five components for a reimbursable meal. Offer versus serve is an option for at-risk afterschool participants.

2 Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs.

3 Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free

(skim) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk for children six years old and older.

4 Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A to Part 226.

5 Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.

6 Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.

7 A vegetable may be used to meet the entire fruit requirement. When two vegetables are served at lunch or supper, two different kinds of vegetables must be served.

8 At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards the grains requirement.

9 Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of the creditable grain.

10 Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).

Child Meal Pattern

Snack				
(Select two of the five components for a reimbursable snack)				
Food Components and Food Items ¹	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ² (at-risk afterschool programs and emergency shelters)
Fluid Milk³	4 fluid ounces	4 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces
Meat/meat alternates				
Lean meat, poultry, or fish	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products ⁴	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Cheese	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Large egg	½	½	½	½
Cooked dry beans or peas	⅛ cup	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup
Peanut butter or soy nut butter or other nut or seed butters	1 tbsp	1 tbsp	2 tbsp	2 tbsp
Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened ⁵	2 ounces or ¼ cup	2 ounces or ¼ cup	4 ounces or ½ cup	4 ounces or ½ cup
Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, or seeds	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce	1 ounce
Vegetables⁶	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup
Fruits⁶	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup
Grains (oz eq)^{7,8}				
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread	½ slice	½ slice	1 slice	1 slice
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll or muffin	½ serving	½ serving	1 serving	1 serving
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal ⁹ , cereal grain, and/or pasta	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat breakfast cereal (dry, cold) ^{9,10}				
Flakes or rounds	½ cup	½ cup	1 cup	1 cup

Puffed cereal	¾ cup	¾ cup	1 ¼ cup	1 ¼ cup
Granola	⅛ cup	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup

- 1 Select two of the five components for a reimbursable snack. Only one of the two components may be a beverage.
- 2 Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs.
- 3 Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk for children six years old and older.
- 4 Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A to Part 226.
- 5 Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.
- 6 Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.
- 7 At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement.
- 8 Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.
- 9 Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).
- 10 Beginning October 1, 2019, the minimum serving sizes specified in this section for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals must be served. Until October 1, 2019, the minimum serving size for any type of ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is ¼ cup for children ages 1-2; ⅓ cup for children ages 3-5; and ¾ cup for children ages 6-12.

Consultation

The following best practices are recommended:

- Parents who supply the food should be encouraged to provide nutritious food for their children.
- Check with parents regarding food allergies children may have.
- Meals and snacks should be provided to children based on:
 - Individual needs of children.
 - Ages of the children.
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended length of time between meals and snacks.

Additional information about building good eating habits can be obtained from the United Dairy Industry of Michigan at 1-517-349-8923. [Milk Means More](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2019. [Caring for Our Children](#).

Snacks That Count (BCAL-Pub 242) is available on the department's website at [Child Care Resources](#).

The USDA Food Pyramid can be found at [Food Guide Pyramid for Young Children](#).

Rule 335 (2)

2. Solid foods **must** be introduced to an infant according to the parent's or licensed health care provider's instructions.

Rationale

Variations in readiness for solid foods are common. While the standard states that the introduction of solids should start no sooner than six months of age for most infants, caregivers should be prepared to respond to health care provider's or parent's recommendation for introduction of solids as early as four months for some infants.

Consultation

Early introduction (prior to six months of age) of solid foods interferes with the intake of breast milk or iron-fortified formula. Solid food given before an infant is developmentally ready may be associated with allergies and digestive problems.

The transitional phase of feeding, which occurs around six months of age, is a critical time of development of fine, gross and oral motor skills. When an infant is able to open her/his mouth, lean forward in anticipation of food offered, close the lips around a spoon, and transfer food from front of the tongue to the back of the tongue and swallow, she/he is ready to eat semi-solid foods.

Rule 335 (3)

3. Infants shall only be served formula to drink unless written authorization is provided by the child's licensed health care provider.

Rationale

Assures proper nutrition for growing infants.

Technical Assistance

Written authorization must be kept on file at the center and made available to the licensing consultant upon request.

Rule 335 (4)

4. Children 12 months of age until 2 years of age shall be served whole homogenized Vitamin D-fortified cow's milk, except as provided in R 400.8330(4).

Rationale

Assures proper nutrition while meeting each child's individual needs. Whole milk provides the fat children ages 12 to 24 months need for brain tissue development, which skim, 1% and 2% milk do not provide.

Rule 335 (5)

5. Formula **must** be commercially prepared and ready-to-feed.

Rationale

Commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula reduces the risk of:

- Inaccurately preparing formula.
- Feeding infants unsanitary formula or milk.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies when bottles of formula are prepared and served onsite.

Rule 335 (6)

6. All fluid milk and fluid milk products **must** be pasteurized and meet the grade “A” quality standards.

Rationale

Raw or unpasteurized milk products have been implicated in outbreaks of food borne illness such as salmonellosis, listeriosis, toxoplasmosis, and campylobacteria’s.

Rule 335 (7) – (9)

7. Milk **must** be served from any of the following:
 - a. A commercially filled container stored in a mechanically refrigerated bulk milk dispenser.
 - b. A commercially filled container not to exceed 1 gallon.
 - c. A sanitized container only if poured directly from the original container.
8. All of the following apply to milk:
 - a. Containers **must** be labeled with the date opened.
 - b. Milk **must** be served within 7 days of opening.
 - c. Milk **must** not be served if the contents appear to be unsanitary or have been unrefrigerated for a period exceeding 1 hour.
 - d. Milk **must** not be combined with the contents of other partially filled containers.
9. Contents remaining in single-service containers of milk shall **must** be discarded at the end of the snack or meal time.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

These rules apply to all types of milk, including, but not limited to, cow’s, goat’s, almond, soy, and rice milk.

Consultation: A free continuing education training module is available at [Milk Means More-Kids Love Cold Milk](#).

Rule 335 (10)-(15)

10. All containers of ready-to-feed formula, once opened, **must** be labeled with the date and time of opening, refrigerated, and used within 48 hours or **be** discarded.
11. Prepared bottles and beverage containers of milk and formula **must** be refrigerated and labeled with the child's **first and last** name, date, and time of preparation.
12. Contents of unused bottles of formula **must** be discarded, along with any bottle liners, after 48 hours.
13. All liners, nipples, formula, milk, and other materials used in bottle preparation **must** be prepared, handled, and stored in a sanitary manner.
14. Reusable nipples and bottles **must** be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before reuse.
15. Bottle liners and disposable nipples **must** be for single use only, by an individual child, and discarded with any remaining formula or milk after use.

Rationale

Prevents contamination and food-borne illness. The identification on bottles prevents the chance of cross-contamination.

The dating of bottles and containers allows for the monitoring of spoilage.

Rule 335 (16)

16. Commercially packaged baby food **must** be served from a dish, not directly from a factory-sealed container, unless the entire container will be served to only 1 child and will be discarded at the end of the feeding period.

Rationale

Uneaten food may contain potentially harmful bacteria from the child's saliva.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to wash off all baby food jars with soap and water before opening and to examine the food carefully before removing it from the jar to make sure there are no glass pieces or foreign objects in the food.

Rule 335 (17) & (18)

17. Uneaten food that remains on a dish from which a child has been fed **must** be discarded.

18. Food, **that has been** served and handled by the consumer of the food, may not be served again, unless it is in the original, unopened wrapper.

Rationale

Served foods have a high probability of contamination during serving. Bacterial multiplication proceeds rapidly in perishable foods out of refrigeration, as much as doubling the numbers of bacteria every 15 to 20 minutes.

Uneaten food may contain potentially harmful bacteria from the child's saliva.

Rule 335 (19)

19. Home canned products are prohibited.

Rationale

There is no guarantee that home canned foods were processed in a safe and hygienic manner. Home canned food has an increased risk of containing microorganisms or toxins which can cause food borne illness.

R 400.8340 Food services and nutrition; provided by parents.**Rule 340 (1)**

1. As used in this rule:
 - a. "Same-day supply" means for use during a single day.
 - b. "Multi-day supply" means for use over a multiple day period, up to 7 days.
-

Rule 340 (2) – (4)

2. Breast milk, formula, milk, or other beverages provided in a same-day supply **must** be furnished daily in either of the following:
 - a. Clean, sanitary, ready-to-feed bottles or beverage containers.
 - b. A clean, sanitary, beverage container. The beverage **must** be poured into a clean, sanitary bottle or beverage container before each feeding.
3. Breast milk, formula, milk, other beverages, and food furnished in a same-day supply **must** be covered and labeled with the child's first and last name and the date.
4. Any food or beverages furnished in a same-day supply shall **must** be returned to the parent at the end of the day or discarded.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children.

Allows parents flexibility in how breast milk, formula, milk, or other beverages are provided and allows for less waste of breast milk, formula, milk, or other beverages.

Assures that children receive the food that was intended for them and prevents the chance of cross-contamination.

The dating of beverages and food allows for the monitoring of spoilage and prevents food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

Parents can provide breast milk, formula, milk, or other beverages for use during a single day in a clean sanitary, ready-to feed bottle or beverage container.

Parents can also provide breast milk, formula, milk, or other beverages for use during a single day in a larger clean and sanitary beverage container. If breast milk, formula, milk, or other beverages are provided in this manner, the center can pour the beverage from the larger container into clean and sanitary bottles or beverage containers prior to each feeding.

If a parent packages a child's beverages and/or food for a single meal or snack in a larger container, such as a lunch bag, just the larger container has to be labeled with the child's

name and the date. Each individual item in the larger container does not have to be labeled with the child's name and the date.

Rule 340 (5) – (7)

5. Milk, other beverages, and non-perishable food items may be furnished in a multi-day supply in an unopened commercial container.
6. **Breast milk may be supplied in a multi-day supply in a clean, sanitized container kept in the refrigerator for up to 4 days or kept in the freezer for no more than 2 weeks.**
7. Milk and other beverages furnished in a multi-day supply **must** be labeled with the child's first and last name and the date of opening and **must** be returned to the parent or discarded 7 days after opening.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children.

Allows parents flexibility in how milk, other beverages and food are provided, especially when a child has an allergy and needs a specific food or beverage.

Assures that children receive the food that was intended for them and prevents the chance of cross-contamination.

The dating of beverages allows for the monitoring of spoilage and prevents food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

"Multi-day supply" means for use over a multiple day period, up to 7 days.

Breast milk must be dated with the date the center received it.

Note: If formula is provided in a multi-day supply, it must be ready-to feed formula and can only be used for the number of days indicated on the container.

Rule 340 (8) & (9)

8. Non-perishable food items furnished in a multi-day supply shall be labeled with the date of opening and when applicable, the first and last name of the child for whom its use is intended.
9. Beverages and food **must** be fed only to the child for whom the item is labeled.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children.

Assures that children receive the food that was intended for them. Labeling food with the date of opening allows for the monitoring of spoilage and prevents food-borne illness.

Technical Assistance

“Multi-day supply” means for use over a multiple day period, up to 7 days.

If parents provide non-perishable food items that are shared with the entire group, it only has to be labeled with the date of opening. These items must be used within 7 days of opening.

Rule 340 (10) & (11)

10. Breast milk, formula, and milk **must** be refrigerated until used.

11. Other perishable beverages and food items **must** be refrigerated or otherwise kept at a safe temperature until used. **Fresh, whole fruits and vegetables may be unrefrigerated for up to 3 calendar days in a clearly labeled and dated container.**

Rationale

Assures that perishable beverages and food are safe for consumption.

Technical Assistance

A container can be a receptacle such as a basket, bowl, box, jar or similar item and may not need to be covered.

R 400.8345 Water supply; plumbing.**Rule 345 (1)**

- (1) The water system **must** comply with the requirements of the local health department.

Rationale

To assure the water supply is safe and does not contain dangerous substances or spread disease.

Technical Assistance

Findings and recommendations from an environmental health inspection are considered when determining compliance.

R 400.8305(2)(b) requires an environmental health inspection at renewal if the center has private water. The environmental health inspection will include testing of the water supply.

In the event of contamination of drinking water, centers must use commercially bottled water.

Rule 345 (2) – (3)

- (2) Plumbing **must** be designed, constructed, installed, and maintained to prevent cross-connection with the water system.
- (3) Sinks, lavatories, drinking fountains, and other water outlets **must** be supplied with safe water, sufficient in quantity and pressure, to meet conditions of peak demand.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children and adults.

Rule 345 (4)

- (4) All plumbing fixtures and water and waste pipes **must** be properly installed and maintained in good working condition.

Rationale

Ensures the availability of hot water to facilitate cleaning and sanitation.

Rule 345 (5)

- (5) Each water heater **must** be equipped with a thermostatic temperature control and a pressure relief valve, both of which **must** be in good working condition.

Rationale

Prevents accidents and unsanitary conditions.

R 400.8350 Toilets; hand washing sinks.**Rule 350 (1)**

1. A center shall provide toilet and hand washing sinks as follows:
 - a. A center operating with children in attendance less than 5 continuous hours a day shall provide at least 1 toilet and 1 hand washing sink for every 20 children or fraction thereof.
 - b. A center operating with children in attendance 5 or more continuous hours a day shall provide at least 1 toilet and 1 hand washing sink for every 15 children or fraction thereof.

Rationale

Young children use the toilet frequently and cannot wait long when they have to use the toilet.

Technical Assistance

Urinals may be substituted for not more than half of the required number of toilets. When children use urinals, more than one child must not use the urinal at the same time as it can cause contamination of the area.

Multi-spigot or fountain-type sinks may be counted as more than one sink depending upon how many children can comfortably use them at one time.

A fully functioning portable sink with hot and cold running water can be counted as a hand washing sink for the purposes of this rule.

This rule is based on the licensed capacity of the program. Other children that may share bathrooms with the licensed program are not counted. For example, if a licensed preschool is located in a school, the school children are not counted when determining the number of sinks and toilets needed.

Rule 350 (2)

2. After December 6, 2006, any center that is new, adds an **infant and toddler** component, or increases the licensed **infant and toddler** capacity shall have a diapering area with a readily accessible, designated hand washing sink.

Rationale

Helps prevent the spread of contaminants and disease.

Technical Assistance

A fully functioning portable sink with hot and cold running water can be counted as a handwashing sink for the purposes of this rule. If using a portable sink, the unit must be cleaned and sanitized according to the manufacturer specifications. Portable sinks must be plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter outlet per R 400.8550(6).

Hand washing sinks must not be used for bathing or removing smeared fecal matter from a child. Hand washing sinks must not be used for rinsing soiled clothing or for cleaning equipment used for toileting.

Consultation:

Before purchasing a portable sink, consult with the local Environmental Health Sanitarian and Qualified Fire Inspector for proper installation and maintenance and to assure compliance with all applicable rules.

Rule 350 (3)

3. After December 6, 2006, a separate hand washing sink is required in the kitchen for all of the following:
 - a. A new center with a food service component.
 - b. A center with a food service component that remodels the kitchen.
 - c. Any center that adds a food service component.

Rationale

Prevents cross-contamination and the spread of disease.

Technical Assistance

Hand washing sinks must not be used for rinsing soiled clothing or for cleaning equipment used for toileting.

Rule 350 (4)

4. Hand washing sinks for children **must** be accessible to children by platform or installed at children's level.

Rationale

Facilitates proper hand washing by children.

Rule 350 (5)

5. Hand washing sinks **must** have warm running water not to exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Rationale

Tap water burns are the leading cause of nonfatal burns. Children under 5 are the most frequent victims.

Water heated to 133 degrees Fahrenheit takes approximately 15 seconds to cause third-degree burns to the skin.

Water heated to 120 degrees Fahrenheit takes approximately 5 minutes to cause third-degree burns to the skin. This may be enough time to remove the child from the hot water source and avoid a burn.

Consultation

Anti-scalding devices for individual sinks are available online or can be purchased at a local home improvement or hardware store.

Centers are encouraged to regularly test the water temperature at sinks children use. A meat thermometer can be used to test the water temperature. It is best practice to run the water run at its hottest setting for three to five minutes. Then hold the thermometer under the hot water stream until the temperature gauge stops moving. If the water is too hot, adjust the water heater and wait one full day to retest the temperature.

Rule 350 (6)

6. Soap and single service towels or other approved hand drying devices **must** be provided near hand washing sinks.

Rationale

Facilitates proper hand washing.

Rule 350 (7)

7. Toilet rooms for school-age children **must** provide for privacy.

Rationale

Children should be allowed the opportunity to practice modesty.

Technical Assistance

Privacy means children cannot be observed by others while they are using the toilet.

R 400.8355 Sewage disposal.**Rule 355 (1)**

1. Sewage and other water-carried wastes **must** be disposed of through a municipal or private sewer system.
-

Rule 355 (2)

2. Private **sewer and septic** systems **must** be designed and operated to safely dispose of all wastewater generated, be adequate in size for the projected use, and meet the criteria of the local health department.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children and adults by requiring compliance with health department standards for sewage disposal.

Technical Assistance

Licensing policy requires that centers with a private sewer or septic system have an environmental health inspection of their system as a part of the licensing renewal process.

Consultation

Playground equipment should not be placed over a drain field. The weight of playground equipment and children may cause a drain field to become compacted, resulting in failure of the system. The legs of some equipment, such as swing sets, can puncture the surface of drain fields. Frequent rains coupled with high water tables, poor drainage and flooding may cause the surface of the drain field to become contaminated with untreated sewage.

R 400.8360 Garbage and refuse.**Rule 360 (1)**

1. All garbage **must** be removed from the center daily.

Rationale

This practice provides proper sanitation and protection of health; prevents infestation of rodents, insects and other animals and prevents odors.

Rule 360 (2)

2. Garbage containers **must** be washed when soiled.

Rationale

Garbage cans that are not properly cleaned may spread contamination to the environment and causes odors.

Technical Assistance

R 400.8137(4) requires that the plastic-lined, tightly covered container used exclusively for disposable diapers and training pants and diapering supplies be emptied and sanitized at the end of each day. See R 400.8137(4) for more information.

Consultation

Lining the containers with plastic bags reduces the contamination of the container itself and the need to wash the containers.

Rule 360 (3)

3. Garbage stored outside **must** be in sealed plastic bags in watertight containers with tight-fitting covers or in a covered dumpster.

Rationale

Garbage attracts animals and insects. When trash contains organic material, decomposition creates unpleasant odors.

Rule 360 (4)

4. Outside garbage and refuse **must** be picked up or removed at a minimum of once a week.

Rationale

This practice provides proper sanitation and protection of health; prevents infestation of rodents, insects and other animals and prevents odors and injuries.

R 400.8365 Heating; temperature.**Rule 365 (1) & (2)**

1. The temperature in child use areas **must** be maintained at a safe and comfortable level so that children in care do not become overheated or chilled.
2. The indoor temperature **must** be at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit in child use areas at a point 2 feet above the floor.

Rationale

Maintaining the required temperatures is essential for the well-being of children and staff, taking both comfort and health into consideration.

Consultation

It is recommended that thermometers that will not break easily and that do not contain mercury be placed on interior walls in every activity area two feet above the floor.

Rule 365 (3)

3. If temperatures exceed 82 degrees Fahrenheit, then a center shall take measures to cool the children.

Rationale

Maintaining the required temperatures is essential for the well-being of children and staff, taking both comfort and health into consideration.

High humidity can promote the growth of mold, mildew and other agents that can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation and could trigger asthma episodes in people with asthma.

Extremely high temperatures and humidity can cause concern for the comfort and safety of children in care. Very young children, especially infants, are of major concern when temperatures and humidity become high for a number of reasons:

1. Infants and young children may not perspire because their sweat glands have not yet developed, thus their bodies are unable to cool themselves.
2. They become dehydrated sooner than adults.
3. Very young children are unable to say they are hot, thirsty, dizzy, nauseous, uncomfortable, or have a headache.

Technical Assistance

Air conditioning is not a required means of cooling. Fans that are inaccessible to children and screened windows are acceptable methods for providing ventilation.

Consultation

The American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a “draft-free” temperature of 68 to 82°F be maintained at 30 to 70% relative humidity during the summer months.

Children show symptoms of heat exhaustion by becoming quiet and lethargic. The child's skin becomes pale. Children become thirsty and may complain of dizziness. When a child's core body temperature rises to the point that the child is flushed, listless, unresponsive, and very hot, there is an **immediate** need for medical attention. These symptoms indicate that the child may be moving into heat stroke.

Centers may wish to implement some of the following suggestions to maintain a safe and comfortable environment:

Move the Air

- Utilize air conditioning, draft-free cooling units that present no hazards to children.
- Open windows unless it is hotter outside than inside. Windows must be screened.
- Electric fans mounted high on a wall or ceiling or guarded to limit the size of the opening in the blade guard to less than ½ inch.

Lower the Humidity

- Use a dehumidifier to lower the relative humidity.

Reduce the Heat

- Turn off or delay the use of all heat producing equipment such as overhead lights, dishwashers, stoves, etc.
- Have a cold lunch (no cooking).
- Move the youngest children to the coolest **approved child use area** of the facility.
- Plan quiet activities.
- Place drinking water out where children can get it on their own.
- Provide water activities such as:
 - Sprinklers.
 - Water play table with ice cubes.
 - Splashing each other with water for older children.
- Sponge babies with tepid water.
- Dress children in lightweight cotton clothing.

R 400.8370 Light, ventilation, and screening.**Rule 370 (1)**

1. The total ventilation area in every habitable room, as provided by openable windows, **must** be not less than 4½% of the floor area, unless central air conditioning is provided.

Rationale

The health and well-being of children and staff can be affected by the indoor air quality. The air inside a building is contaminated with organisms shared among occupants and is sometimes more polluted than the outdoor air. Air circulation is essential to clear infectious disease agents, odors and toxic substances in the air. Children who spend long hours breathing contaminated or polluted indoor air are more likely to develop respiratory problems, allergies and asthma.

Technical Assistance

Example: In a center that does not have central air conditioning, a 10' by 10' room requires at least a 2'3" by 2' openable window to comply with this rule.

Rule 370 (2)

2. If ventilation is dependent on a mechanical system, then the system **must** be on at all times while the building is occupied and shall comply with the ventilation requirements of the applicable mechanical code of the authority having jurisdiction.

Rationale

The health and well-being of children and staff can be affected by the indoor air quality. The air inside a building is contaminated with organisms shared among occupants and is sometimes more polluted than the outdoor air. Air circulation is essential to clear infectious disease agents, odors and toxic substances in the air. Children who spend long hours breathing contaminated or polluted indoor air are more likely to develop respiratory problems, allergies and asthma.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to have their ventilation systems inspected on a regular basis to ensure they are operating properly.

Rule 370 (3)

3. Windows and doors used for ventilation **must** be supplied with screening of not less than 16 mesh, which shall be kept in good repair. This subrule does not apply to child care programs operating in school buildings.

Rationale

Openings need to be screened to prevent the entry of insects, which may bite, sting or carry disease.

R 400.8375 Premises.**Rule 375 (1)**

1. The center shall be located on land that provides good natural drainage or that is properly drained.

Rationale

Reduces exposure to conditions that cause injury or adversely affect health. Insects breed in poorly drained areas.

Rule 375 (2)

2. Stairs, walkways, ramps, landings, and porches **must** meet all of the following requirements:
 - a. If elevated, have barriers to prevent falls and handrails designed and constructed for use by children.
 - b. **Be** maintained in a safe condition relative to the accumulation of water, ice, or snow and have nonslip surfacing.
 - c. Landings **must** be located outside exit doors where steps or stairs are necessary and be at least as wide as the swing of the door.
 - d. Stairway steps **must** be not more than 8 inches in height, with a minimum tread depth of 9 inches.
 - e. If ramps are used, then they **must** have a minimum rise-to-run ratio of 1-to-12.

Rationale

To assure for the safety and well-being of children.

Landings are necessary to accommodate the swing of the door without pushing the person on the stairway into a precarious position while trying to leave the stairway.

Technical Assistance

See R 400.8525(8) and (9) for additional requirements for landings.

Consultation**Guardrails**

Bottom guardrails should be provided for all porches, landings, balconies, and similar structures. Bottom guardrails should be above the floor no more than:

- Two feet for preschoolers and school-age children.
- Six inches for infants and toddlers.

Balusters/Handrails

Protective handrails and guardrails should have balusters at intervals of less than 3 1/2 inches or should have sufficient protective material to prevent entrapment of a child's head.

Small children can effectively use handrails mounted as high as 38 inches. This height is comfortable to children who are used to reaching up to take an adult's hand while walking.

Gates

Safety gates are acceptable if they can be opened in a single motion. See R 400.8525(4) for more information on safety gates in exit doors and all doors in the means of egress.

Safety gates and half or quarter doors are acceptable if they can be opened with a single motion and do not reduce the minimum required widths as required by subrules (10) and (11) of this rule.

If a safety gate is used, the bottom threshold can be no higher than ½ inch.

Safety gates that require more than one motion; therefore, not approvable, include:

- *Pinch then pull motion.*
- *Squeeze, slide, then open.*

Note: It is recommended that safety gates be at least 36 inches tall to discourage parents and caregivers from stepping over them. A child could be injured if a parent or caregiver tripped on the gate when stepping over while holding a child or by landing on a child.

R 400.8380 Maintenance of premises.**Rule 380 (1)**

1. The premises **must** be maintained in a clean and safe condition and **must** not pose a threat to health or safety.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children and adults.

Technical Assistance

The following are examples of maintaining the premises in a clean and safe condition:

- Floors are clean and safe for walking, crawling and playing.
- Rooms are free of unnecessary clutter.
- All cords (drapes, blinds, appliances) are out of reach of children.
- Center is free of insect and rodent infestation.
- Outside grounds are free of debris, animal waste, standing water, and tripping hazards.
- Hazardous items are inaccessible to children such as sharp objects, cleaning supplies, plastic bags, garbage.

Consultation

Caregivers are encouraged to install hinge guards on every door in the child use space to prevent door-related finger injuries which can be excruciatingly painful and potentially debilitating.

It is recommended that safety gates be at least 36 inches tall to discourage parents and caregivers from stepping over them. A child could be injured if a parent or caregiver tripped on the gate when stepping over while holding a child or by landing on a child.

Rule 380 (2)

2. The premises **must** be maintained so as to eliminate and prevent rodent and insect harborage.

Rationale

Reduces the potential health hazards to children caused by pests such as stings, bites and transmission of disease.

Technical Assistance

The following must be free from openings that would allow rodents or pests to enter:

- Foundations.
- Floors.
- Walls.
- Ceilings.
- Roofs.
- Windows.
- Exterior doors.

- Basements.

Consultation

Openings to the outside can be protected against the entrance of insects by:

- Outward-opening, self-closing doors.
- Closed windows.
- Screening.
- Heavy-duty steel mesh screen, such as ¼ inch hardware cloth.
- Other effective and approved means.

Centers are encouraged to implement non-chemical pest management practices before using extensive extermination that may expose children and adults to chemical pesticides.

Rule 380 (3)

3. Roofs, exterior walls, doors, skylights, and windows **must** be weathertight and watertight and kept in sound condition and good repair.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children and adults.

Children's environments must be protected from exposure to moisture and dust. Dampness promotes the growth of mold.

Rule 380 (4)

4. Floors, interior walls, and ceilings **must** be kept in sound condition, good repair, and maintained in a clean condition.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children and adults.

Technical Assistance

Surfaces must be without cracks, tears, gouges, peeling paint, etc. Ceilings must not have missing panels or tiles.

Rule 380 (5)

5. There **must** be no flaking or deteriorating paint on interior and exterior surfaces or on equipment accessible to children.

Rationale

Assures for the health and safety of children and adults.

Technical Assistance

Paint is considered deteriorated if it is peeling, chipped, chalking, or cracked.

Rule 380 (6)

6. All toilet room floor surfaces must be easily cleanable and constructed and maintained so as to be impervious to water.

Rationale

Cracked or porous floors cannot be kept clean and sanitary. Dampness promotes the growth of mold.

Rule 380 (7)

7. Light fixtures, vent covers, wall-mounted fans, and similar equipment attached to walls and ceilings **must** be easily cleanable and maintained in good repair.

Rationale

Assures a clean and safe indoor environment.

Rule 380 (8)

8. A lead hazard risk assessment **must** be completed by a certified lead risk assessor on all centers built before 1978. Any lead hazards identified **must** be addressed as noted in the lead hazard risk assessment report before issuance of the original license. The results of the assessment **must** be kept on file at the center. Centers that operate in a school building serving only school-age children are exempt from the requirements in this rule.

Rationale

Paints made before 1978 may contain lead. The amount of lead in paint was reduced in 1950 and then removed in 1978 so buildings constructed before 1950 likely contain more lead paint.

Lead is a neurotoxicant. Lead-based paint is the most common source of lead poisoning in children. Research suggests that the primary sources of lead exposure for most children are:

- Deteriorating lead-based paint.
- Lead contaminated dust.
- Lead contaminated soil.

The danger from lead paint depends on:

- Amount of lead on the painted surface.
- Condition of paint.
- Amount of paint that the child ingests.

Ingestion of lead may occur through breathing or swallowing lead dust or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead. Ingestion of lead paint can result in high levels of lead in the blood which affects the central nervous system:

- If not detected early, children with high levels of lead in their bodies can suffer from damage to the brain, slowed growth, hearing problems, and headaches.

- Even at low levels of exposure, lead can cause a reduction in a child's IQ, result in reading and learning disabilities and affect a child's ability to learn, succeed in school and function later in life.
- Symptoms of low levels of lead in a child's body may be subtle behavioral changes, irritability, low appetite, weight loss, sleep disturbances, and shortened attention span.

Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick. A blood lead test is the only way to know if children are being lead poisoned. Lead poisoning has no cure and the effects cannot be reversed once the damage is done. Children under six years of age are at the greatest risk for lead poisoning.

Technical Assistance

Before an original license may be issued for a center located in a building constructed prior to 1978, the center applicant must submit a lead hazard risk assessment indicating the proposed child use space, including outdoor play areas, is safe. The lead hazard risk assessment must be conducted by a certified risk assessor. A list of certified lead risk assessors and more information on lead risk hazard assessments can be found at [MDHHS Hire a Lead Professional](#)

Note: When a change of ownership occurs, the lead hazard risk assessments from previous owners cannot be used.

For any lead hazard risk assessment obtained after January 1, 2014, the Lead Hazard Risk Assessment Summary (BCAL-4344) form must be included with the lead hazard risk assessment to document compliance with this rule.

Exception: Centers that operate in a school building serving only school-age children are exempt from the requirements in this rule.

Exception: If a center is located in a new addition to a building constructed prior to 1978 and the older part of the building is never used by children in care, a lead risk assessment is not required. The applicant must submit a statement that the part of the building constructed prior to 1978 will not be used by children in care.

Note: Standards for conducting lead hazard risk assessments are set forth in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Administrative Rule 325.99404 (Lead Hazard Control). All lead hazard risk assessments required in this rule must comply fully with these requirements. Copies of this standard can be found at [MDHHS Lead](#) under "Lead-Based Paint Regulations" or by calling MDHHS toll-free at 1 (866) 691-5323.

Briefly, requirements for a lead hazard risk assessment include:

1. An evaluation of paint condition on of all painted building surfaces and painted outdoor play equipment to determine if painted or stained surfaces are in good or

deteriorated condition [R 325.99404(4)]. Any paint that is poor condition (peeling, chipping, cracking, chalking, etc.) must be tested for lead.

2. Two dust wipes, one on the floor and one from the window sills or trough, are required for each room for up to six rooms of the facility plus any common areas adjacent to the facility [R 325.99404(5)&(6)].
3. Soil sampling including composite samples from areas of bare soil around the perimeter of the building, child play areas and other bare soil areas in the yard that comprise more than nine square feet [R 325.99404(8)].

Lead Hazard Treatment

Lead-based paint hazards can be treated by abatement or interim control procedures. There are three types of treatments that can be considered lead abatement:

- Removal - complete removal of the lead-based paint or removal of the lead-based painted component, such as removal of old windows or doors.
- Enclosure - covering the lead-based paint with a ridged material that is mechanically attached to the substrate, such as drywall on a ceiling or wall or underlayment on a floor.
- Encapsulation - covering the lead-based paint with a long-lasting, paint-like material specially formulated to bind chemically with lead.

Enclosure and encapsulation procedures are designed to last for 20 years or more.

If abatement procedures are used to address lead hazards found, a dust wipe clearance is required to determine if the abatement procedures were successful.

Interim control procedures are measures designed to temporarily (< 20 years) reduce lead-based paint hazards. They can include, but are not limited to:

- Wet sanding/scraping the paint and then repainting with regular latex paint.
- "Super cleaning" the area using a HEPA vacuum and wet cleaning methods.
- Adding tread guards on steps.
- Making window repairs.

Dry scraping, dry sanding, using a torch to burn paint off, using a heat gun over 1,100 degrees, and using power sanders or grinders without HEPA filtration attachments are prohibited by law.

Women and children must not be present in the area when lead hazard control activities are being performed and they should never be allowed in the work areas.

Consultation

It is recommended that licensees have a lead

If interim control procedures are used to address lead hazards found, a dust wipe clearance is recommended to determine if the interim control procedures were successful.

Lead hazard risk assessments only assess lead-based paint hazards present at the time of the inspection. Only deteriorated paint, paint that will be disturbed, and other potential hazard areas are tested for lead-based paint, so a lead hazard risk assessment alone will not identify all lead-painted surfaces. It is recommended that a lead-based paint inspection be done in conjunction with the lead hazard risk assessment. A combination lead-based paint inspection and a lead hazard risk assessment will identify all lead-based paint and all lead-based paint hazards.

If lead-based paint is identified, but it isn't a hazard at the time of the inspection, the risk assessor will include in the assessment report recommendations for reevaluation and ongoing monitoring information. It is recommended that every six months to one year someone from the child care center (director, maintenance person, custodian, etc.) should check that all identified lead-painted surfaces are still intact.

If a lead-based paint inspection was not done or if it was done and lead paint was found, it is further recommended that a lead hazard risk assessment be done every two to three years by a certified risk assessor to ensure no new hazards have developed.

For additional information on lead poisoning, contact the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov or the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD. Additional information can also be found at [Learn about lead](#)

Rule 380 (9)

9. **A center shall adopt and implement an integrated pest management policy** as required by section 8316 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.8316.

Technical Assistance**324.8316 Notice of pesticide application at school or day care center:**

(1) Beginning 1 year after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, a person shall not apply a pesticide in a school or day care center unless the school or day care center has an integrated pest management program in place for the building.

(2) The primary administrator of a school or day care center or his or her designee shall annually notify the parents or guardians of children attending that school or cared for at that day care center that the parents or guardians will receive advance notice of the application of a pesticide, other than a bait or gel formulation, at the school or day care center. The primary administrator of a school or his or her designee shall give the annual notification not more than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, and the primary administrator of a day care center or his or her designee shall give the annual notification in September.

(3) An annual notification under subsection (2) shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

- a) Be in writing.

- b) Specify 2 methods by which advance notice of the application of a pesticide will be given at least 48 hours before the application. The first method shall be by posting at the entrances to the school or day care center. Subject to subdivision
 - c) (c), the second method shall be 1 of the following:
 - (i) Posting in a public, common area of the school or day care center, other than an entrance.
 - (ii) E-mail.
 - (iii) A telephone call by which direct contact is made with a parent or guardian of a student of the school or a child under the care of the day care center or a message is recorded on an answering machine.
 - (iv) Providing students of the school or children under the care of the day care center with a written notice to be delivered to their parents or guardians.
 - (v) Posting on the school's or day care center's website.
 - d) State that, in addition to notice under subdivision (b), parents or guardians are entitled to receive the notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application, if they so request, and the manner in which such a request shall be made.
 - e) For a school, inform parents and guardians that they may review the school's integrated pest management program, if any, and records on any pesticide applications.
 - f) For a school, provide the name, telephone number, and, if applicable, e-mail address of the person at the school building responsible for pesticide application procedures.
- (4) An advance notice of application of a pesticide, other than a bait or gel formulation, shall contain all of the following information:
- a) A statement that a pesticide is expected to be applied.
 - b) The target pest or pests.
 - c) The approximate location of the application.
 - d) The date of the application.
 - e) The name, telephone number, and, if available, e-mail address of a contact person at the school or day care center responsible for maintaining records with specific information on pest infestation and actual pesticide application as required by rules.
 - f) A toll-free telephone number for a national pesticide information center recognized by the department and a telephone number for pesticide information from the department.
- (5) Before applying a pesticide, other than a bait or gel formulation, a school or day care center shall provide advance notice to parents and guardians consistent with subsections (3)(b) to (e) and (4). However, in an emergency, a school or day care center may apply a pesticide without providing advance notice to parents or guardians. Promptly after the emergency pesticide application, the school or day care center shall give parents or guardians notice of the emergency pesticide application that otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (3)(b) and (c). The notice shall contain a statement that a pesticide was applied and shall meet the requirements of subsection (4)(b) to (f).

(6) Liquid spray or aerosol insecticide applications shall not be made in a room of a school building or day care center building unless the room will be unoccupied by students or children for not less than 4 hours after the application or unless the product label requires a longer reentry period. The building manager shall be notified of the reentry restrictions by the applicator.

(7) The department shall do both of the following:

(a) Within 1 year after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, develop a model integrated pest management policy for schools, in consultation with the department of education and the pesticide advisory committee created in section 8326, and make the policy available to all school districts, intermediate school districts, public school academies, and private schools.

(b) Encourage local and intermediate school boards and boards of directors of public school academies to do both of the following:

(i) Adopt and follow the model integrated pest management policy developed under subdivision (a).

(ii) Require appropriate staff to obtain periodic updates and training on integrated pest management from experts on the subject.

(8) Subsections (1) to (7) do not apply to sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants, or antimicrobial agents.

Consultation

A sample plan can be found at [Child Care Resources](#)

R 400.8385 Poisonous or toxic materials.

Rule 385.

Containers of poisonous or toxic materials **must** be clearly labeled for easy identification of contents and stored out of reach of children.

Rationale

Reduces the risk that children will accidentally come into contact with poisonous or toxic materials.

Technical Assistance

It is important to read labels of chemicals and products you use within the center and store the materials according to the manufacture directions.

R 400.8501 **National Fire Protection Association standards; adoption** by reference. Rule 501.

The following National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, **as displayed in Table 5**, are adopted by reference in these rules. Copies of the adopted standards are available for inspection and may be purchased **at the NFPA website www.nfpa.org, or** from the National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9109, Quincy Massachusetts 02269-9101. The cost of single copies of each standard at the time of the adoption of these rules is indicated after the title. **They are also available for inspection at the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.**

TABLE 5			
National Fire Protection Association Standards			
Standard	Title	Edition	Cost
NFPA-10	Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers	2018	\$54.00
NFPA-13	Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems	2019	\$110.00
NFPA- 25	Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems	2017	\$63.50
NFPA-72	National Fire Alarm Code and Signaling Code	2019	\$102.50
NFPA-80	Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives	2019	\$54.00
NFPA-251	Standard Methods of Fire Resistance of Building Construction and Materials	2006	\$49.00
NFPA-265	Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Evaluation Room Fire Growth Contribution of Textile Coverings on Full Height Panels and Walls	2019	\$50.50
NFPA-701	Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films	2015	\$42.00

R 400.8505 Definitions.

Rule 505. As used in this part:

- (a) "Basement" means a story of a building or structure having $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of its clear height below average grade for at least 50% of the perimeter.

To determine whether the proposed level is a basement or the first floor, the Qualified Fire Inspector (QFI) may need to take physical measurements from the ground outside to the finished floor and from the ground to the ceiling of the proposed level. If the distance from grade to the finished floor is greater than the distance from grade to the ceiling, the proposed level must be classified as a basement.

- (b) "Combustible" means materials will ignite and burn when subjected to a fire or excessive heat.

Combustible materials include, but are not limited to, wood, paper, cardboard, plastic, rubber, cloth.

- (c) "Conversion" means to alter the use of an existing building or room to a center.

- (d) "Existing building" means a structure or part of a structure not currently used as a center.

- (e) "Existing licensed center" means a center that was licensed December 7, 2006 and whose license continues uninterrupted.

- (f) "Exit" means a way of departure from the interior of a building or structure to the open air outside at ground level.

- (g) "Fire alarm" means a device used to alert the occupants of the building of fire or smoke conditions. The device shall be audible in all parts of the building used as a center.

- (h) "Fire alarm system" means an approved electrical closed circuit, self-supervised local system for sounding an alarm. The system is comprised of a central panel, manual pull stations near all outside exits, audible electric signal devices, and, where warranted, a remote trouble annunciator. All system components shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and installed in accordance with NFPA-72.

- (i) "Fire door assembly" means a side-hinged, labeled fire door and labeled frame constructed and installed in compliance with NFPA-80.

All fire doors required by these rules must include a listed self-closing device and positive latching hardware

- (j) “Fire-resistance rating” means the time for an element in a building to maintain its particular fire resistance properties in accordance with NFPA-251.
- (k) “Fire-resistive construction” means a building having walls, ceilings, floors, partitions, and roof of non-combustible materials having a minimum fire-resistance rating of 1 hour. This subdivision shall not be construed as prohibiting finished wood floors, doors, and windows with assorted frames and trim.
- (l) “Flameproof materials” means materials that will not propagate flame under the test conditions of NFPA-701. Flameproof materials are usually combustible materials with the addition of some treatment or coating to modify their burning properties.
- (m) “Flammable” means materials capable of being readily ignitable from common sources of heat or at a temperature of 600 degrees Fahrenheit, 316 degrees Celsius, or less.
- (n) “Hazard area” means those parts of a center building housing a commercial kitchen, heating plant, fire-fueled water heater, incinerator, or an area posing a higher degree of hazard than the general occupancy of the building.
- (o) “Heating plant room” means a room or area housing fuel-fired equipment.
- (p) “Interior finish” means the exposed interior surface materials of walls, fixed or movable partitions, and ceilings. This includes drywall, masonry, or wood substructure and surfacing materials such as paneling, tile, or other interior finish material and any surfacing materials, such as paint or wallpaper, applied thereto. Interior finish includes materials affixed to the building structure as distinguished from decorations or furnishings.
- (q) “Means of egress” means a minimum of 36 inch wide continuous and unobstructed path of exit travel from any point in a building to the outside at grade.
- (r) “New construction” means a created structure, addition, replacement, or alteration of structural components, such as walls.
- (s) “Noncombustible” means materials that will not ignite and burn when subjected to fire.
- (t) “Protected ordinary construction” means all of the following types of construction:
- i. Roofs and floors and their supports having a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance rating.
 - ii. Exterior bearing walls or bearing portions of exterior walls are of noncombustible or limited combustible materials and have a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance rating and stability under fire conditions.

- iii. Nonbearing exterior walls are of noncombustible or limited combustible materials.
 - iv. Roofs, floors, and interior framing are wholly or partly made of wood of smaller dimension than required for heavy timber construction.
- (u) “Standard partition construction” means a substantial smoke-tight assembly consisting of walls, in conjunction with ceilings at which they terminate, that are covered on both sides with minimum standard lath and plaster or ½-inch drywall over 2”x 4” studs. Doorways in these walls are protected with minimum 1¾-inch flush solid core wood doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors and equipped with approved self-closing devices and positive latching hardware. One or more glass panes are permitted in these walls **and** doors if each individual glass panel is fixed pane and not larger than 1,296 square inches of ¼-inch wired glass with no linear dimension longer than 54 inches, or fire-rated safety glass, of any size, listed with a minimum fire rating of 45 minutes and installed as listed. In some cases, drywall or plaster is also necessary to protect the underside of stairs.
- (v) “Textile material” means having a napped, tufted, looped, woven, non-woven, or similar surface.
- (w) “Wired glass” means glass not less than ¼-inch thick, reinforced with wire mesh, number 24 gauge or heavier, with spacing not greater than 1 square inch.
- (x) “Wood frame construction” means that type of construction in which exterior walls, bearing walls and partitions, and floor and roof constructions and their supports are made of wood or other combustible material.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8510 Plans and specifications; submission; approval; inspections.**Rule 8510 (1) & (2)**

1. A complete set of plans and specifications of any proposed center or proposed addition, alteration, or remodeling to an existing center shall be submitted to the department for review and approval. **If the total cost of the project is \$15,000.00 or more, including labor and materials, the plans shall bear the seal of a registered architect or engineer.**
2. Written approval shall be obtained from the department before initiating any construction.

Rationale

Assures that new and existing centers meet licensing rules for fire safety.

Technical Assistance

A plan review conducted by the department or the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Community Health Systems, Environmental Health and Safety Section, is required for the following situations:

- New construction.
- Renovation.
- Remodeling.
- Addition to building.

A plan review is needed in a building containing licensed child care space if the construction/change impacts the center in any way including the means of egress. If the construction/change creates a hazard including but not limited to use of power tools or the potential use of power tools, must have separation of child care space.

The applicant or licensee must submit a set of construction plans, along with the Application for Child Care Plan Review ([BCHS-FS-13](#)) directly to the Environmental Health and Safety Section. The BCHS-FS-13 and additional information can be obtained from the licensing website at [Fire Safety Inspections](#). If the total cost of the project is \$15,000 or more, the plans must be prepared and sealed by a registered architect or engineer. Appropriate licensing or Environmental Health and Safety Section, Child Care and Camps Unit staff will review these plans, and a plan review letter will be returned to the submitter.

Note: Changing interior finishes (e.g., new ceiling tiles, wall finishes, etc.), door hardware, door swing, door installations, or installation of a new furnace or water heater may not require a plan review, however, a qualified fire inspector (QFI) must complete an on-site inspection of the cosmetic changes.

Exception: Replacing an item with the same product would not require an on-site inspection by a QFI (e.g., replacing a broken ceiling tile with the exact same type of ceiling tile or replacing a door knob with the exact same type of door knob).

A plan review may be submitted to BCHS Environmental Health and Safety Section, prior to the submission of a child care center application.

The following guidelines must be followed in the submission of plans:

- Plans must be drawn to scale (usually $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 foot) on 18 X 24 graph paper with exterior dimensions, interior room dimensions and room usage designated.
- Indicate the type of building materials that will be used in construction, e.g., masonry or frame.
- Total number of floors, including the basement.
- Interior finish of the walls and ceiling, e.g., drywall, paint, paneling.
- Door size, type and direction of swing and type of door hardware, e.g., metal, wood, labeled.
- Type of furnace and water heating equipment, e.g., fuel fired, electric.
- Fire detection or suppression system to be provided, if any.
- Fire extinguisher type and location.
- Areas of the building to be used for child care.

Note: Once plans are reviewed, the center must not be inspected by a QFI without approval from BCHS Environmental Health and Safety Section.

If there are any questions regarding the submission of plans for review, contact Bureau of Community Health Systems, Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

Rule 8510 (3)

3. A fire safety inspection shall be conducted by the bureau of fire services or a department-approved qualified fire inspector, and an approval granted, before issuance of the original license and every 4 years thereafter, at the time of renewal.

Rationale

Assures new and existing centers meet the licensing rules for fire safety.

Technical Assistance

Per department policy, fire safety inspections must be dated within one year of issuance of the original center license.

There may be instances, such as when a provisional license has been issued, that a fire inspection will be due at renewal prior to reaching 4 years. A fire inspection must be completed at renewal if waiting would make the fire inspection go over 4 years.

Only BCHS Environmental Health and Safety Section staff and QFIs may grant fire safety approval for child care centers. A list of QFIs can be found on the Child Care Licensing website at [Fire Safety Inspections](#).

Note: Changing interior finishes (e.g., new ceiling tiles, wall finishes, etc.), door hardware, door swing, door installations, or installation of a new furnace or water heater require an on-site inspection of the changes by a QFI. **Exception:** Replacing an item with the same product would not require an on-site inspection by a QFI (e.g., replacing a broken ceiling tile with the exact same type of ceiling tile or replacing a door knob with the exact same type of door knob).

An “A” rating, denoting substantial compliance with fire safety rules, is required on a fire inspection report prior to issuance or renewal of a license.

Applicants and licensees are responsible for contracting with and paying for any fire inspections.

Note: Centers located in public and non-public school buildings may be exempt from fire safety inspections. See R 400.8565 for more information.

Rule 510 (4)

4. If a boiler is used, then it shall be inspected, and a certificate provided as required by the boiler division, department of licensing and regulatory affairs.

Technical Assistance

Inspections of boilers must be current as of issuance of the original center license.

The center must have a boiler inspected either annually or every three years following the schedule determined by LARA. Documentation must be kept on file at the center to verify the required inspections. If an inspection has been done, but the center has not yet received a certificate, documentation may include an inspection report or sticker attached to the boiler by the LARA inspector.

Boilers must be inspected by a boiler inspector from LARA or an individual who has both a boiler license and a mechanical contractor license.

All boilers, regardless of location, must be inspected and approved, including those in separate buildings.

If a water heating unit larger than 200,000 BTUs, it must be inspected and approved by the boiler inspector.

Rule 510 (5)

5. Fuel-fired furnaces shall be inspected **by a licensed mechanical contractor** before issuance of an original license and every 2 years at renewal.

Rationale

Assures for the safety of children and adults as routinely scheduled inspections assure that fuel-fired furnaces are working properly.

Technical Assistance

Per department policy, inspections of fuel-fired furnaces must be dated within one year of issuance of the original center license.

The center must keep documentation on file verifying the furnace has been inspected by a licensed heating contractor.

A licensed mechanical contractor is licensed by LARA. The license number will begin with 71.

The inspection report must indicate the date of the inspection and information indicating whether the furnace is safe and in good working order.

All furnaces, regardless of location, must be inspected, including those in separate buildings or in locations such as a rooftop.

Note: Electric heat does not require an inspection.

Rule 510 (6)

6. Fuel-fired water heaters shall be inspected **by a licensed mechanical contractor or a licensed plumbing contractor** before issuance of an original license and every 2 years at renewal.

Rationale

Assures for the safety of children and adults as routinely scheduled inspections assure that fuel-fired water heaters are working properly.

Technical Assistance

Per department policy, inspections of fuel-fired water heaters must be dated within one year of issuance of the original center license.

The center must keep documentation on file verifying the water heater has been inspected by a licensed heating contractor or a licensed plumber. Licensed mechanical contractors and licensed plumbing contractors are licensed by LARA. A mechanical contractor's license number will begin with 71 and a licensed plumbing contractor's license will begin with 81.

The inspection report must indicate the date of the inspection and information indicating whether the water heater is safe and in good working order.

All fuel-fired water heaters, regardless of location, must be inspected, including those in separate buildings.

Note: Electric water heaters do not require an inspection.

Rule 510 (7)

7. New furnace and water heater installations shall be **inspected** and approved by the local mechanical inspecting **authority** at the time of installation.

Rationale

Assures that furnaces and fuel-fired water heaters are installed properly.

Technical Assistance

The center must keep documentation on file verifying the furnace and/or water heater (fuel-fired and electric) has been inspected by *an* approved entity. The inspection report must indicate the date of the inspection and information indicating that the furnace and/or water heater is safe and in good working order. Per department policy, inspections for new furnaces and water heaters must be dated within one year of issuance of the original center license.

All furnaces and water heaters, regardless of location, must be inspected, including those in separate buildings or in locations such as a rooftop.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8515 Construction.

Rule 515. (1) & (2)(a)-(b)

1. If child occupancy is limited to the first or main floor, then the building may be of wood frame construction.
2. If child occupancy is on the second floor, then all of the following are required:
 - a. The building **shall** be of protected ordinary construction.
 - b. All required stairways and vertical openings **shall** be enclosed by walls, in conjunction with openings therein, and ceilings at which they terminate that meet the requirements of standard partition construction to provide a protected means of egress to the outside with proper termination to grade.

Technical Assistance

R 400.8505(t) defines of protected ordinary construction.

“Protected ordinary construction” means all of the following types of construction:

- i. Roofs and floors and their supports having a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance rating.
- ii. Exterior bearing walls or bearing portions of exterior walls are of noncombustible or limited combustible materials and have a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance rating and stability under fire conditions.
- iii. Nonbearing exterior walls are of noncombustible or limited combustible materials.
- iv. Roofs, floors, and interior framing are wholly or partly made of wood of smaller dimension than required for heavy timber construction.

The minimum construction for the enclosure of stairways and other vertical openings for child occupancy on the second floor is standard lath and plaster, or at least walls of 2" x 4" wood studs, placed at a maximum of 24" on center, covered on both sides by minimum of 1/2-inch drywall. These rules do not permit wood stud walls, covered by paneling or other wood without the required plaster or drywall behind it for the enclosure of vertical openings unless approval from Environmental Health and Safety Section, Child Care and Camps Unit is obtained.

“Standard partition construction” means a substantial smoke-tight assembly consisting of walls, in conjunction with ceilings at which they terminate, that are covered on both sides with minimum standard lath and plaster or 1/2-inch drywall over 2" x 4" studs

Rule 515. (2)(c) – (4)

2. If child occupancy is on the second floor, then all of the following are required:
 - c. All door openings contained in subdivision (b) of this subrule **shall** meet all of the following requirements:

- i. Be protected with 1¾-inch flush solid core wood doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors.
 - ii. Be installed in fully stopped smoke-tight, substantial frames.
 - iii. Be equipped with approved self-closing devices and non-locking-against-egress positive latching hardware.
3. If child occupancy is above the second floor, then both of the following **are** required:
 - a. The building **shall** be of 1-hour fire-resistive construction.
 - b. All required stairways and other vertical openings **shall** be enclosed by a minimum 1-hour fire-resistive construction to provide a protected means of egress to the outside with proper termination to grade.
4. If any portion of a basement is used for more than 30 children, then 1 of the following provisions **is** required:
 - a. Two enclosed stairways of 1-hour fire-resistant construction shall discharge directly to the outside with proper termination to grade, and all openings in the stairways shall be protected by a minimum of **45-minute rated** fire doors and frame assemblies. **“B” labeled fire doors are acceptable.**
 - b. One approved exit from the occupied room or use area shall discharge directly to the outside with proper termination to grade. Travel distance from any point in this room or area to this exit shall be less than 50 feet.
 - c. Two exits comprised of any combination of subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subrule.

Technical Assistance

To determine the rating for a door, look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Warnock Hersey (WH) fire label. At times, the label is easily found, and at others it can be quite difficult to locate. Below are some helpful tips for finding the fire label.

- *Start by looking on the hinge side of the door. The critical component to look for is the circled “UL” or “WH.”*
- *On wood doors, the fire label can be on the hinge side or top of the door.*
- *Over time, the label may get painted over, so check carefully for any raised surfaces.*
- *The label may also be located on the top or bottom of the door.*
- *Some labels are embossed in the frame, so be sure to feel for any texturing/raised surfaces.*

Rule 515. (5) – (6)

5. If basement occupancy is limited to not more than 30 children, then **all of** the following apply:
 - a. One of the exits required by subrule (4) of this rule shall discharge directly to the outside with proper termination to grade, or through a 1-hour fire-resistive enclosure.

- b. The second exit may terminate at the first floor level with an approved floor separation, meeting the requirements of standard partition construction, between the basement and the first floor.
 - c. For new construction and conversions, the separation shall be located at the first floor with travel distance from the door to an approved exit not **to exceed** 100 feet.
6. All vertical openings and stairways that are not required shall be constructed and arranged with effective fire and smoke separation under the requirements of standard partition construction. All door openings shall be as follows:
- a. Protected with 1¾-inch flush solid core wood doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors.
 - b. Installed in fully stopped smoke-tight substantial frames.
 - c. Equipped with approved self-closing devices and non-locking-against-egress positive latching hardware.

Technical Assistance

“Standard partition construction” means a substantial smoke-tight assembly consisting of walls, in conjunction with ceilings at which they terminate, that are covered on both sides with minimum standard lath and plaster or 1/2-inch drywall over 2” x 4” studs.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8520 Interior finishes.

Rule 520 (1) – (4)

1. The classifications of interior finishes for flame spread and smoke development, **as displayed** in Table 6, shall be used as follows:

TABLE 6		
FLAME SPREAD AND SMOKE DEVELOPMENT FOR INTERIOR FINISHES		
Class	Flame Spread	Smoke Developed
A or I	0-25	0-450
B or II	26-75	0-450
C or III	76-200	0-450

2. Basic materials in a means of egress and basement use occupancies shall be class A or I or B or II.
3. Basic materials in all other areas shall be class C or III.
4. Interior finish material more hazardous than class C or III **is** prohibited in child use areas.

Technical Assistance

The QFI must document the interior finish classification of any questionable wall or ceiling finishes.

Cardboard, asphalt paper, foam plastics, cork, corkboard, or other highly combustible materials must not be used for the interior finish of any child-occupied room or space. Carpeting must not be used as wall or ceiling finishes. See subrule (8) for requirements applicable to other textile materials.

Any equipment used to establish a well-defined space must meet all requirements for interior finishes.

Rule 520 (5) – (9)

5. If an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA-13 and NFPA-25, then class C or III interior wall and ceiling finish materials shall be permitted in any location where class B or II is required and class B or II interior wall and ceiling finish materials shall be permitted in any location where class A or I is required.

6. In an existing licensed center or conversion, existing interior finishes **that** do not comply with the classifications in subrule (1) of this rule may have their surfaces protected with an approved fire-retardant coating to meet the classifications for interior finishes. The coatings shall be applied to interior finishes that are attached to or furred out not more than 1 inch from a noncombustible backing and applied according to manufacturer's recommendations. Documentation shall be provided as required by the department.
7. Interior finish materials of classes B or II and C or III **that** are less than 1/4 inch in thickness shall be applied directly against a noncombustible backing or be furred out not more than 1 inch unless, the tests under which such material has been classed were made without a backer.
8. Centers licensed before December 7, 2006 may retain previously approved fire retardant coated interior finishes.
9. Textile materials having a class A or I rating and used as an interior finish shall be permitted as follows:
 - (a) On walls or ceilings of rooms or areas protected by an automatic sprinkler system approved by the department.
 - (b) On room partitions that are less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the floor-to-ceiling height not to exceed 8 feet in height.
 - (c) To extend up to 4 feet above the finished floor on ceiling-height walls and ceiling-height partitions.
 - (d) Textile materials shall be permitted on walls and partitions where tested in accordance with and meeting the standards of NFPA-265. If compliance is achieved by application of a flame-proofing product in accordance with NFPA-701, documentation shall be provided as required by the department.

Rule 520 (10) – (13)

10. Drapery material may be used for stage curtains, room dividers, and similar uses if the material has been tested and approved in accordance with NFPA-701.
11. Drapery material applied to surfaces of a facility as an interior finish shall meet the requirements of subrule (9) of this rule.
12. All vinyl and wooden wall dividers shall meet the interior finish requirements of subrules (1), (2), and (3) of this rule, as applicable.
13. Bulletin boards shall meet the interior finish requirements of subrules (2) and (3) of this rule.

Technical Assistance

It is the center's responsibility to provide documentation that textile materials (9), drapery materials (10-11), interior finishes of wall dividers (12), and bulletin boards (13) meet these requirements. If the center cannot document compliance, the textile or drapery material, wall divider or bulletin board must be removed.

Documentation that textile materials, drapery materials, interior finishes of wall dividers, and bulletin boards meets the required standards includes, but is not limited to:

- Test report from a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory.
- Manufacturer's product information.

Examples of dividers include:

- Accordion style.
- Folding.
- Movable partitions.

Rule 520 (14)

14. Combustible materials and decorations may be displayed on walls, not to exceed 20% of each wall in each room. Combustible materials and decorations suspended from or near the ceiling are prohibited.

Rationale

When more than 20 percent of the wall space is covered with paper materials, the fire resistance value of the wall protection is voided.

Technical Assistance

Limit the amount of combustible materials on the walls and bulletin boards to a maximum of 20 percent of each wall in each room and hallway, not including required postings such as the center's license, emergency numbers, hand washing signs. Children's artwork and other postings required by the Program Quality Assessment and other program standards are not considered required postings.

Exception: If paper materials have been treated with an approved flame retardant, they can exceed the 20 percent rule. If the item was treated with a flame retardant, a signed affidavit verifying the type of product used, who the installer was, the date the work was completed, and whether products were installed per the manufacturer's recommendations is needed. A copy of the manufacturer's flame spread, smoke density specifications is also needed.

Suspended from or near the ceiling means hanging freely near or from the ceiling. Combustible items that are completely attached to the wall near the ceiling, such as alphabet letters, are acceptable.

Exception: Licensing allows signs designating areas, such as a reading area. In addition, items, such as textile decorations, can be hung from the ceiling if they meet the requirements of NFPA-701 or have been treated with an approved flame retardant. If the item was treated with a flame retardant, a signed affidavit verifying the type of product used, who the installer was, the date the work was completed, and whether products were installed per the manufacturer's recommendations is needed. A copy of the manufacturer's flame spread; smoke density specifications is also needed.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8525 Exits.**Rule 525 (1) – (3)**

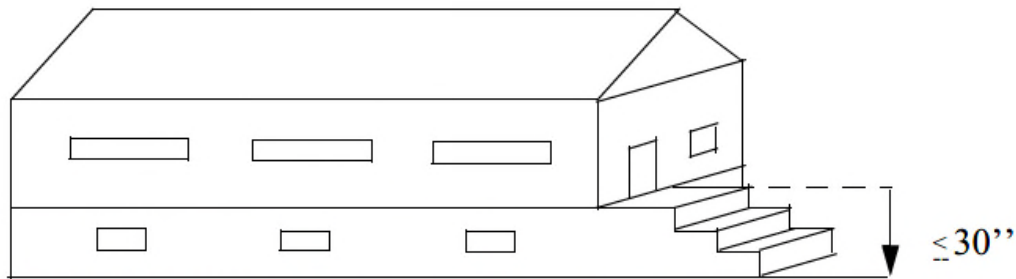
1. Except as referenced in R 400.8515(4)(b) and 400.8525(2)(c), each occupied floor shall have not less than 2 approved exits directly to the outside with proper termination to grade, remote from each other by 50% of the longest dimension of the floor or area served, and occupied rooms within the center shall be located between means of egress, unless a first floor, self-contained, occupied room has an approved exit direct to the outside with proper termination to grade with a maximum travel distance of 50 feet from the most remote point in the room to the exit.
2. Travel distance to an exit shall be as follows:
 - a. For infants and toddlers, travel shall be 50 feet or less from the door of the occupied room to the exit.
 - b. For preschoolers and school-agers, travel shall be 100 feet or less from the door of the occupied room to the exit.
 - c. Buildings having complete automatic sprinkler protection may increase their travel distances by 50 feet.
 - d. Those areas approved before July 1, 2000 are exempt from the requirements of this rule.
3. For all centers initially licensed after December 6, 2006, programs with infants and toddlers shall have exits with proper termination and within 30 inches of grade or exits properly ramped to grade.

Rationale

Facilitates evacuation from the center in the event of fire or other emergency.

Technical Assistance

If the elevation from the child care level to the outside is more than 30 inches, ramping is required.



R 400.8375(2)(e) requires ramps to have a minimum rise-to-run ratio of 1-to-12.

Rule 525 (4)

4. Exit doors and all doors in the means of egress shall be side-hinged and equipped with knob, lever-type, non-locking-against-egress, or panic-type hardware.

Rationale

Facilitates the evacuation of the center in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Technical Assistance

Doors (to classrooms, bathrooms, nap rooms, etc.), which are along the required path of travel from anywhere in the building that is child-occupied, must be equipped with hardware that can be opened with a single motion even if the door itself is locked. The following ways to open a door with a single motion are acceptable:

- Turning a knob.
- Pushing a handle.
- Using panic-type hardware. Panic-type hardware is opened by pressure in the direction of travel.

If a center chooses to use locks on exterior doors that prevent opening from the outside, the door must open with a single motion during egress from the building.

Door hardware that requires more than one motion must not be used on doors that are a part of the required means of egress. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Door knobs that require turning a small locking button in the center of the door knob before turning the knob itself in order to open the door.
- Chain locks.
- Dead-bolt locks that require the use of a key or the turn of a thumb latch from the inside to unlock.
- Hook-and-eye locks.
- Sliding bolts and other similar devices.

Note: If considering the use of thumb bolts, approval must be obtained from the Environmental Health and Safety Section, Child Care and Camps Unit or a Qualified Fire Inspector.

Sliding doors must not be used anywhere along the required means of egress.

Safety gates and half or quarter doors are acceptable if they can be opened with a single motion and do not reduce the minimum required widths as required by subrules (10) and (11) of this rule.

If a safety gate is used, the bottom threshold can be no higher than ½ inch.

Safety gates that require more than one motion; therefore, not approvable, include:

- *Pinch then pull motion.*
- *Squeeze, slide, then open.*

Note: It is recommended that safety gates be at least 36 inches tall to discourage parents and caregivers from stepping over them. A child could be injured if a parent or caregiver tripped on the gate when stepping over while holding a child or by landing on a child.

Exception: An interior sliding door can be along the required means of egress if it is permanently fixed in its track in its fully open position. Where such a condition exists, a signed statement from the licensee must also be obtained verifying that the doors will be secured in their fully open position during all times that the child care program is in session. Approved methods of securing a sliding door or sliding partition, include but are not limited to:

- Placing a bolt through the track.
- Placing a padlock in the track.
- Using a light cable or chain and padlock to secure the door to the wall to keep it open.

Note: There are classroom door barricades available that are designed to keep out intruders during lock-down emergencies. These barricades come with a lock-down device that, during a lock-down drill or in an actual lock-down emergency, is attached to or inserted behind the classroom door. These barricades are not considered door hardware and may be used when they comply with all of the following:

- The barricade will only be used during lock-down drills and actual lock-down emergencies.
- When not in use, the lock-down device must be kept off of the door and out of the reach of children. For example, it may be kept in a teacher's drawer or a designated cabinet or secured with a magnet away from the door and out of the reach of children.
- The barricade has been approved by licensing and BCHS Environmental Health and Safety Section,.

To date, only The BOOT™ from The Lockdown Company has been approved by licensing and the Environmental Health and Safety Section, Child Care and Camps Unit.

Rule 525 (5)

5. Exit doors and doors in rooms occupied by 21 or more children shall swing in the direction of egress.

Rationale

Facilitates evacuation from the center in the event of fire or other emergency.

Technical Assistance

If a center requests a modification to increase the number of children in an occupied room to 21 or above, the consultant must confirm that the exit doors swing out in the direction of egress. If there are questions regarding compliance with this rule, the facility is required to have a fire safety inspection by a QFI.

Rule 525 (6)

6. Means of egress shall be maintained in an unobstructed, easily traveled condition at all times that the center is in operation. Means of egress shall not be exposed to inherent hazards of the building, including the heating plant, flammable storage, commercial kitchen, or other similar conditions.

Rationale

Facilitates evacuation from the center in the event of fire or other emergency.

Technical Assistance

ALL doorways, hallways, entrance ways, and any other areas used as part of the means of egress from a building must be maintained so they are free of obstructions that may catch fire or hinder evacuation. These areas must not be used for storage. Built-in cubbies, lockers or coat hooks are permitted providing they don't impede the means of egress.

All fire doors to hazard rooms must be kept in their fully closed and latched position anytime children are in care unless otherwise approved by the department or BCHS Environmental Health and Safety Section.

Rule 525 (7) – (12)

7. In new construction, additions, remodeling, and conversions, there shall be a floor or landing on each side of an exit door. The floor or landing shall be at the same elevation on each side of the door, except for variations in elevation due to differences in finish materials, which shall not exceed ½ inch.
8. In conversions, landings shall have a width not less than the width of the stairway or the width of the door, whichever is greater. Landings shall have a length not less than the width of the door.

9. In new construction, additions, and remodeling, landings shall comply with the latch-side clearance requirements of sections 404.2.3 through 404.2.3.5 of the **International Code Council/American National Standards Institute (ICC/ANSI) standard A117.1, Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, which is adopted by reference in this rule.** Copies of the adopted matter may be purchased from the **International Code Council** at www.iccsafe.org or 1-800-786-4452 at a cost of \$47.50. They are also available for inspection at the **Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Division, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.**
10. For new construction, additions and remodeling, an exit door shall be not less than 36 inches **wide**. Doors to multiple-use bathrooms shall not be less than 32 inches **wide**.
11. For the conversion of an existing building, exterior exit doors shall be not less than 36 inches **wide**. Other use room doors shall be not less than 28 inches **wide**. Single-use toilet room doors shall not be less than 24 inches **wide**. Any remodeled door openings, other than **the** door swing, shall comply with subrule (10) of this rule.
12. Centers licensed before December 7, 2006 may retain previously approved door widths.

Rule 525 (13)

13. Exterior exits shall be marked or denoted by an approved exit sign. All exit signs shall be distinctive in color and provide contrast with decorations, interior finish, or other signs. Each exit sign shall have the word “**EXIT**” in plain, legible letters not less than 6 inches high, on a background of contrasting color, with strokes not less than 3/4-inch wide. **The word “EXIT” shall have letters that are not less than 2 inches wide, except the letter “I”.**

Rationale

Facilitates the evacuation of the center in the event of fire or other emergency.

Technical Assistance

Exit signs must be placed above or in a highly visible location next to each exterior door that is designated for exiting. Exterior doors that are not used for exiting are not required to have an exit sign providing there are enough designated exits.

Rule 525 (14)

14. **Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for a duration of not less than 90 minutes, in case of primary power loss, the sign illumination means shall be connected to an**

emergency power system provided from storage batteries, unit equipment, or an on-site generator.

Rationale:

To ensure visibility of exits for swift evacuation in case of an emergency.

Technical Assistance

Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section states that the above applies to new facilities, facilities that are undergoing construction, and for any of the following modifications: adding new space, change of use space, increase of capacity, and any modification that would require a QFI/Fire Safety to be involved.

Rule 525 (15)

15. When nighttime care is provided, the center shall have exits with proper termination and within 30 inches of grade or exits properly ramped to grade.

Technical Assistance

Levels that are properly ramped to grade with approved barrier free ramps at all required exits will be considered to have exits directly to grade and may be occupied for nighttime care. An approved barrier free ramp must not exceed a 1:12 slope and must have adequate handrails and wheel guards on any open sides.

Rule 525 (16)

16. When nighttime care is provided, exit signs shall be illuminated, and emergency lighting provided at exits.

Rationale

Facilitates evacuation from the center at night in the event of fire or other emergency.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies to all licensed centers providing nighttime care.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8530 Hazard Areas.

Rule 530 (1) – (3)

1. Hazard areas shall be separated from the parts of the building used as a center in the following manner:
 - a) In centers licensed before June 4, 1980, areas used for the storage of combustibles and other hazard areas will continue to be approved if they are enclosed with a minimum ¾-hour fire resistive construction and doorways to the areas are protected with a minimum 1¾-inch flush solid core wood or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors equipped with approved self-closing devices and positive latching hardware.
 - b) In centers licensed between June 4, 1980 and July 1, 2000, **areas used for the storage of combustibles and other hazards will continue to be approved if they are enclosed by 1 of the following:**
 - i. Where the area used for the storage of combustibles exceeds 100 square feet, by construction having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating, openings in the separation shall be protected with a minimum of **45-minute rated** fire door and frame assembly, including an approved self-closing device and positive latching hardware. **“B” labeled doors are acceptable.**
 - ii. Where the area used for the storage of combustibles does not exceed 100 square feet, by construction having a minimum ¾-hour fire resistance rating, all door openings shall be protected by minimum 1¾-inch flush solid core wood doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors hung in substantial frames and equipped with approved self-closing devices and positive latching hardware.
 - c) In centers licensed after July 1, 2000, **areas used for the storage of combustibles and other hazards will continue to be approved if they are enclosed by 1 of the following:**
 - i. Where the area used for the storage of combustibles exceeds 100 square feet, by construction having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating, openings in the separation shall be protected with a minimum of **45 minute-rated** fire door and frame assembly, including an approved self-closing device and positive latching hardware. **“B” labeled doors are acceptable.**
 - ii. Where the area used for the storage of combustibles does not exceed 100 square feet, by construction having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating. All door openings shall be protected by minimum 1¾ inch flush solid core wood doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors in substantial frames and equipped with approved self-closing devices and positive latching hardware.

2. Where a kitchen with commercial cooking equipment exposes a required means of egress or child use area, it shall be separated from the remainder of the building with minimum 1-hour fire resistive construction, including a minimum of **45-minute rated** fire door and frame assemblies in all common openings. Kitchens having commercial cooking equipment protected by an approved automatic kitchen hood suppression system are exempt from this requirement. **“B” labeled doors are acceptable.**
3. The use of an incinerator is prohibited.

Technical Assistance

To determine the rating for a door, look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Warnock Hersey (WH) fire label. At times, the label is easily found, and at others it can be quite difficult to locate. Below are some helpful tips for finding the fire label.

- *Start by looking on the hinge side of the door. The critical component to look for is the circled “UL” or “WH.”*
- *On wood doors, the fire label can be on the hinge side or top of the door.*
- *Over time, the label may get painted over, so check carefully for any raised surfaces.*
- *The label may also be located on the top or bottom of the door.*
- *Some labels are embossed in the frame, so be sure to feel for any texturing/raised surfaces.*

Rule 530 (4)

4. Heating shall be by a central heating plant or an approved permanently installed electrical heating system. If heating is provided by a central heating plant and located on the same floor that is used for child occupancy, it shall be installed in an enclosure providing not less than a 1-hour fire-resistive separation, including a minimum of 4 **45-minute rated** fire door and frame assembly equipped with an approved self-closing device and positive latching hardware in any interior door opening. Door openings for heat plant enclosures not located on the same floor that is used for child occupancy may have 1¾-inch flush solid wood core doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors having positive latching hardware and an approved self-closing device. Air for proper combustion, a minimum of 1 square inch per 4,000 BTUs input, shall be provided directly from the outside through a permanently opened louver or metal duct. **“B” labeled doors are acceptable.**

Rationale

Properly enclosing heating equipment in a heating plant room reduces the risk that fire from heating equipment would spread throughout the building. Without a sufficient source of combustion, heating units that burn fuel with a flame will be inefficient and can produce more toxic byproducts. The storage of combustible items in a heating plant room increases the risk of fire.

Technical Assistance

Note: A 1¾-inch flush solid wood core door is not required in door openings for heat plant enclosures not located on the same floor that is used for child occupancy. The doors may be a 1¾-inch flush solid core wood door or a 20-minute labeled fire-rated door.

Doors to heating plant rooms must not be propped open or have the self-closing device removed or disabled. The door must swing shut and close completely on its own.

Combustible materials include any item that will readily ignite when subjected to flame. Most materials are combustible. Non-combustible materials include, but are not limited to, masonry items, all-metal items, or glass items.

Examples of **prohibited combustible items** include, but are not limited to:

- Cardboard boxes.
- Plastic containers.
- Wooden items.
- Paper products.
- Lawn mowers or snow blowers.
- Christmas decorations.
- Clothing.

Examples of **permitted items** include, but are not limited to:

- Light bulbs.
- A refrigerator.
- Snow salt.
- Tools.
- Equipment or materials necessary for the maintenance of the heating equipment.

Rule 530 (5) – (7)

5. In centers licensed before December 7, 2006, a properly installed heating plant located in a basement **that** is not used for child occupancy does not require additional protection where there is a qualified fire separation and with at least a 1¾-inch flush solid core wood doors or 20-minute labeled fire-rated doors hung in a substantial frame and equipped with an approved self-closing device and positive latching hardware in all stairway openings.
6. Any fuel-fired water heater or other similar equipment shall be located according to subrule (4) or (5) of this rule, as applicable.
7. Where electric heating is used, it shall be **Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. (UL)** listed, permanent, fixed-type electrical heating such as recognized panel or baseboard fixed-type. Electric heating **that** complies with this requirement may be installed in any location.

Rule 530 (8)

8. Auxiliary heating units, such as portable combustion or electrical types, are prohibited.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies to all areas of the center, including offices and storage areas.

Examples of auxiliary heating units include:

- Kerosene heaters.
- Oil-filled heaters.
- Electric heaters.
- Ceramic heaters.
- Wood burning stoves.
- Fire places.

Rule 530 (9) – (10)

9. The center shall not store flammable materials, including fuels, pressurized cans, cleaning fluids and supplies, polishes, and matches, in heat plant enclosures. These items may be stored outside of child use areas in metal cabinets or storage facilities accessible only to authorized personnel.

10. The center shall not store combustible materials within the central heating plant or fuel-fired water heater rooms or in basements containing fuel-fired heating equipment, without a proper fire separation.

Rationale

Assures for the safety of children and adults. Flammable and combustible materials can intensify fires.

Rule 530 (11)

11. The center shall not permit flammable gases, gasoline, or gasoline-powered equipment in the part of a building **that** is used as a center or in other parts of the building from which there is a door, window, or other opening into the center, unless that part of the building is separated from the remainder of the building by minimum 2-hour fire resistive construction.

Technical Assistance

Examples of gasoline-powered equipment include, but are not limited to:

- Lawn mowers, riding or push.
- Snow blowers.
- Tractors.
- Weed-wackers or trimmers.
- Leaf blowers.

Examples of flammable gases, include but are not limited to:

- Propane and propane cylinders.
- Butane.
- Acetylene.
- Ammonia.

Rule 530 (12) – (13)

12. If commercial-type laundry equipment is installed, then the equipment shall be enclosed to provide a 1-hour resistance to fire, including a minimum of **45-minute rated** fire door and frame assembly in an interior door opening **that** would expose the center. **“B” labeled doors are acceptable.**

13. Dryer vents shall be metal and vented completely to the exterior.

Technical Assistance

Acceptable metal dryer vent:



Acceptable flexible metal (aluminum) dryer vent:



Unacceptable foil dryer vent and unacceptable plastic vent cover:



Rule 530 (14) – (16)

14. **The department does not require fire dampers** in $\frac{3}{4}$ -hour and 1-hour fire-resistive enclosures.
15. All appliances and equipment in the center shall be installed and maintained in accordance with their manufacturer's specifications.
16. Centers shall be kept free of all conditions that constitute fire safety hazards.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8535 Fire alarm.

Rule 535 (1)

1. In any building used as a center, an approved fire alarm, either electrical or manual, shall be **installed**.

Rationale

Notifies occupants of the building of a fire emergency.

Technical Assistance

The noise the signal makes must be separate and distinct from other sounds in the building and must be heard throughout the facility.

In centers with less than 61 children or using less than five rooms (excluding toilet rooms, storage rooms or other areas which are strictly staff-occupied areas but including any approved child use rooms, including gymnasiums, cafeterias, libraries, computer labs, etc. even if they are not used on a daily basis.), the fire alarm may be a manual device such as a manual bell or whistle. The manual device must be loud enough to be heard throughout the entire area used as the center.

This manual device must be kept where it is readily visible and accessible at all times. The device must be used to sound actual alarms or alarm drills only. It must not be used for any other purpose.

Rule 535 (2)

2. In centers of more than 4 child-occupied rooms, excluding bathrooms, or in centers licensed for more than 60 children, an approved fire alarm system shall be installed and maintained in compliance with NFPA-72.

Technical Assistance

Any approved child use rooms, including gymnasiums, cafeterias, libraries, computer labs, etc. all count as a room occupied by children for the purpose of this rule, even if they are not used on a daily basis.

Note: If two or more child care centers are occupying one area of building and the total capacity is more than 60 children or more than 4 child occupied rooms are being used, a fire alarm system is required.

An approved fire alarm system is an electrical closed circuit, self-supervised local system for sounding an alarm. The system is composed of the following:

- Central panel.
- Manual pull stations near all outside exits.

- Audible signal devices.
- Remote trouble annunciator, where warranted.

The fire alarm device needs to be an electrical device with manual pull stations near every required exit from the building. The system must be closed-circuit and self-supervised and must have a means of indicating trouble in the system.

If a center requests a modification which would increase the center capacity to more than 60 children or more than 4 approved child-occupied rooms, a new inspection completed by a QFI must be completed approving this change.

Note: If a center was required by this subrule to have a fire alarm system and then reduces its capacity or number of rooms used, the center must continue to use the fire alarm system. This requirement also applies when there is a change in licensee.

Rule 535 (3)

3. In new construction, conversions, remodeling, or newly licensed centers, the trouble signal for required fire alarm systems shall be located in an area normally occupied by child care staff **members**.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8540 Smoke detectors; carbon monoxide detectors.

Rule 540 (1)

1. **All child care centers shall**, at a minimum, be equipped with approved single station smoke detectors covering all use areas and their means of egress. These smoke detectors shall be located and spaced according to NFPA-72.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies to any proposed conversion of an existing building to a newly licensed child care center.

The minimum detection required is single-station, battery-operated smoke detectors distributed such that adequate protection of all program use areas and the required means of egress is provided.

Consultation

If using battery powered detectors, centers should use ones that will alert the occupants when battery power is low or when a battery is missing.

Rule 540 (2)

2. Centers with any fuel-fired heating systems shall have a carbon monoxide detector, listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, on all levels approved for child care and in each use area covered by a different furnace zone.

Rationale

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas formed when carbon-containing fuel is not burned completely and can cause death by asphyxiation.

Carbon monoxide may be created from any of the following:

- A clogged chimney.
- A corroded or disconnected water heater vent pipe.
- Gas or wood burning fireplaces.
- A cracked or loose furnace exchange.
- An improperly installed kitchen range or vent.

Consultation

If using battery powered detectors, centers should use ones that will alert the occupants when battery power is low or when a battery is missing.

Rule 540 (3)

3. Centers shall properly install and maintain all detectors in operable condition in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8545 (1)-(2) Fire extinguishers.

1. Multipurpose fire extinguishers, having ratings of not less than 2A-10BC, shall be installed in or adjacent to the kitchen or cooking area and in or adjacent to the door of the heating plant room.
2. The requirement of having additional multipurpose fire extinguishers with ratings of not less than 2A-10BC shall be determined by *the department or a department-approved qualified fire inspector* and shall be based on the capacity of the center and on other conditions in the facility.

Technical Assistance

The rating/classification is located on the exterior of the fire extinguisher:



Rule 8545 (3)

3. Fire extinguishers shall be properly mounted, inspected, and maintained in accordance with NFPA-10. The fire extinguisher shall bear a tag indicating the last date of inspection or service and the initials of the person who performed the inspection or service.

Rationale

If flames are present in the means of egress, a fire extinguisher can be used to facilitate exiting. Small fires may be safely extinguished with a functional fire extinguisher.

Technical Assistance

National Fire Protection Association standards require the following:

Inspections

Inspections must be done when the fire extinguisher is initially placed into service and then approximately every 30 days. This inspection may be performed by center staff. All of the following must be checked:

- Extinguisher is located in a designated place.
- Extinguisher is accessible and visible with no obstructions.
- Pressure gauge reading or indicator is in the operable range or position.
- Extinguisher is free from obvious physical damage, corrosion, leakage.
- Nozzle is not clogged.
- Tamper strap is intact.

The date of the inspection and initials of the person who performed the inspection must be recorded on a tag or label attached to the extinguisher or recorded and maintained in a way that provides for a permanent record.

Maintenance

Maintenance of fire extinguishers must occur annually and be performed by trained persons who have access to the appropriate servicing manuals, tools, parts, recharge materials, etc. Maintenance includes repair, recharging or replacement as needed. Persons performing annual maintenance must attach a tag or label to the extinguisher denoting who performed the maintenance and the month and year it occurred.

Note: There are two types of fire extinguishers - disposable and rechargeable. If the fire extinguisher pressure gauge on a disposable extinguisher shows that the charge is in the red zone, it must be replaced. When a rechargeable fire extinguisher shows a pressure gauge reading in the red, it must be recharged by a fire extinguisher service. Rechargeable fire extinguishers have a projected service life of about 25–35 years.

Refer to R 400.8158(1)(d) if the fire extinguisher is used.

Consultation

Fire extinguishers should be wall mounted with the top of the extinguisher not more than five feet from the floor and the bottom no less than four inches from the floor.

While rechargeable fire extinguishers have a projected service life of about 25–35 years, note that an extinguisher that was the best available 30 years ago may not be acceptable for modern fire protection needs.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8550 (1)-(3) Electrical service.

1. The electrical service shall be maintained in a safe condition.
 2. For new construction and additions, electrical systems and service shall be inspected and approved by the electrical inspecting authority having jurisdiction. A copy of the certificate of approval shall be maintained at the center at all times.
 3. When warranted, conversions of existing buildings and existing rooms to child care use, as well as existing licensed centers, may require an electrical inspection.
-

R 400.8550 (4) Electrical service.

4. Extension cords, listed by a nationally recognized laboratory, and used in accordance with all manufacturer's recommendations, may be used on a temporary basis, and for short periods of time.

Rationale

Electrical malfunction in an extension cord can cause fire. There is a risk of electric shock if a metal object is poked into the extension cord socket. Extension cords can be a trip hazard.

Technical Assistance

A temporary basis means use for a limited time for a specific occasion, such as to center a projector for a presentation or to position a television and DVD player to watch a movie.

Consultation

The use of extension cords at any time is discouraged. If extension cords are used on a temporary basis, they should not be placed through doorways, under carpeting or across water-source areas.

8550 (5)

5. **All electrical outlets in child use areas for children who are not yet school-age shall be made inaccessible to children.**

Rationale

Preventing children from placing fingers or sticking objects into exposed electrical outlets will prevent electrical shock, electrical burns and potential fires.

Technical Assistance

Methods that make outlets inaccessible to children include, but are not limited to the following:

- Spring-loaded outlet covers that replace the outlet face and stay in place when the receptacle is not in use.
- Cap-type cover that screws into the outlet.
- Plastic inserts may be used if they:
 - Are tight fitting.
 - Cannot be removed by children.
 - Are replaced after use of the outlet.
- Hospital grade outlets with internal plastic protector.

Consultation

Various effective and inexpensive outlet safety devices can be found in home hardware or baby stores.

8550 (6)

6. **All electrical outlets in approved child care space located within 6 feet of a sink or other water source shall be protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).**

Rationale

Eliminates shock hazards. A slight shock may be fatal to a child.

Technical Assistance

This rule applies to new and existing centers.

Generally, ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) can be identified by the test buttons. However, in some electrical systems, the GFCI is located in the circuit box or there may be an independent outlet controlling nearby outlets.

Consultation

It is recommended that all outlets with a GFCI be tested once every three months using the test button located on the device.

8550 (7)

7. (7) Power strips shall be equipped with surge protectors and shall not be longer than 6 feet or be connected to another power strip.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8555 (1) Open flame devices; candles.

- 1. All open-flame devices, candles, and incense are prohibited, except for religious celebrations.**

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

Technical Assistance

Open-flame devices include, but are not limited to, candles (tea lights, votives, etc.), matches, lighters, kerosene lanterns, and sterno cans.

The use of religious celebration candles and incense requires direct adult supervision.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8560 Multiple occupancy.

Rule 560. (1) – (2)

1. Multiple occupancy of a building may qualify for licensure if the entire building does not present a life safety hazard. A center currently licensed in such a building may continue as long as such occupancies do not change in character.
2. A building, part of which is used for hazardous operations or for occupancy that is unpredictable, such as taverns, garages, repair shops, and industrial operations, shall not be permitted for center use. However, an exception may be made for a vocational education center approved by the department.

Rationale

Assures for the safety of children and adults.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, technical assistance to meet this rule may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Environmental Health and Safety Section, at BCHS-CCCCampFireInsp@michigan.gov or 517-284-9702.

R 400.8565 Fire safety; exemptions for public and nonpublic school buildings.

Rule 565.

1. The rules with respect to fire prevention and fire safety **do** not apply to a center established and operated by an intermediate school board, the board of a local school district, or by the board or governing body of a state-approved nonpublic school, or by a person or entity with whom a school contracts for services, if the center is located in a school building that is approved by the state fire marshal or other similar authority for school purposes.

Rationale

The Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116) exempts centers established and operated by public and private schools from the fire safety rules, if the center is located in a school building that has been approved by the state fire marshal or the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS).

It is reasonable to allow child care children to be cared for in a school building that has been approved as safe for school children.

Technical Assistance

To be considered a school under the School Code (1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1561), the building must be used for instruction of children in kindergarten or higher. If you are unsure if the building a school building check this website: [Center for Educational Performance and Information](#)

If a center is located in a building currently operating as a school that has been approved by the state fire marshal or similar authority, PA 116 and this rule exempts the center from the Child care center fire safety rules. *The center must follow the school fire safety rules.* This exemption applies to the following:

- Centers established and operated by public or private schools.
- A person or entity with whom the school contracts for child care services.
- A person or entity who leases space to provide child care services.

Note: Portable buildings located on the same property with a school building used for instruction of children in kindergarten or higher are considered a school for purposes of this rule and are exempt from fire safety rules if children in the grade of kindergarten or higher are using the portable building.

For all programs located in public or private school buildings operating as schools, regardless of the sponsor or age groups served, the applicant/licensee must provide one of the following:

1. A copy of previous approval from BFS or the state fire marshal.

2. A statement from the school district superintendent using the Certification of School Building Compliance with Fire Safety Provisions (BCAL-5043) form indicating all of the following:
 - a. The building has been approved for school use based on the 1973 school fire safety codes.
 - b. The building has been continuously used as a public or nonpublic school since the fire safety approval was issued.
 - c. Any changes to the building since the school's original fire safety approval have been reviewed and approved by the state fire marshal or BFS.
3. A fire safety inspection.

Note: If a fire safety inspection is obtained, the center is required to correct any violations noted in the inspection report.

Legal Base for Fire Safety Inspection Requirements

Based on the following, the department does not require additional fire safety inspections when child care centers are located in school buildings used for the instruction of children in kindergarten or higher.

When a school building is being used exclusively for children under kindergarten, it no longer falls under the fire safety rule exemption allowed by MCL 380.1561. A fire inspection from a Qualified Fire Inspector is required.

Revised School Code (1976 PA 451)

MCL 380.1561 Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions.

Sec. 1561. (2) A child becoming 6 years of age before December 1 shall be enrolled on the first school day of the school year in which the child's sixth birthday occurs, and a child becoming 6 years of age on or after December 1 shall be enrolled on the first school day of the school year following the school year in which the child's sixth birthday occurs.

Child Care Organizations Act (1973 PA 116)

MCL 722.112 Rules; ad hoc committee; review.

Section 2 (4) The rules promulgated under this act shall be restricted to the following:

(f) The appropriateness, safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises, including maintenance of adequate fire prevention and health standards to provide for the physical comfort, care, and well being of the children received. The rules with respect to fire prevention and fire safety do not apply to a child care center established and operated by an intermediate school board, the board of a local school district, or by the board or governing body of a state approved nonpublic school, if the child care center is located in a school building that is approved by the bureau of fire services created in section 1b of the fire prevention code, 1941 PA 207, MCL 29.1b, or other similar authority as provided in section 3 of 1937 PA 306, MCL 388.853, for school purposes and is in compliance with the school fire safety rules, R 29.1901 to R 29.1934 of the Michigan Administrative Code,

as determined by the bureau of fire services or a fire inspector certified under section 2b of the fire prevention code, 1941 PA 207, MCL 29.2b.

Child Care Center Administrative Rules

R 400.8565 Fire safety; exemptions for public and nonpublic school buildings.

The rules with respect to fire prevention and fire safety shall not apply to a child care center established and operated by an intermediate school board, the board of a local school district, the board or governing body of a state-approved nonpublic school, or by a person or entity with whom a school contracts for services, if the child care center is located in a school building that is approved by the state fire marshal or other similar authority.

R 400.8103 Definitions.

(b) "School" means a building or part of a building that is owned or leased by, or under the control of, a public or private school or school system for the purpose of instruction as required by the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1853, which is occupied by 6 or more students, and which is used 4 or more hours per day or more than 12 hours per week.

The definition of a "school-age" child in the rules is intended to clarify what administrative rules specifically apply to children of this age (ratio, program, records) and not to whether or not a building is in compliance with applicable statutes and administrative rules.

The [BCAL 5403 Certification of School Building Fire Safety Provision](#) form can be found on our website here [Forms](#).

By signing the Certification of School Building Fire Safety Provisions (BCAL-5043), the superintendent is certifying that any changes to the building since the school's original fire safety approval have been reviewed and approved by the state fire marshal or Bureau of Fire Services and that the parts of the building that have not been changed are in compliance with the applicable rules for existing school buildings. Review the following questions prior to signing the BCAL-5043 to ensure you understand some of the applicable rules for existing school buildings. **Note:** This is not an all-inclusive list. For all of the requirements of the applicable rules for existing school buildings, contact the Bureau of Fire Services.

1. Is the portion of the building being proposed to serve child care children separated from the rest of the building by 2-hour fire resistive construction? If other types of occupancies occur in the same building that houses an educational occupancy*, then one of the following provisions must be met:
 - The mixed uses must be completely separated, both horizontally and vertically, by 2-hour fire separation walls or floor/ceiling assemblies, or both.
 - The school must apply the provisions of the code for the more restrictive of the separate occupancies to the entire facility.

*Educational occupancies do not include any of the following:

- A part or full-day preschool.
 - A child care center.
 - A kindergarten-only building.
 - A building that houses a combination of child care and kindergarten unless the classrooms are operated under the authority of a school system.
2. Are all rooms to be normally occupied by preschool-age children on the first or main floor? The fire safety code for schools does not permit rooms for preschool, kindergarten, or first-grade students above or below the story of exit discharge.
 3. Are all rooms that are larger than 250 square feet that are used for classroom or other educational purposes or normally subject to student occupancy, provided with at least 1 outside window for emergency rescue or ventilation? Do all such windows provide a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet? **NOTE:** Some exceptions might apply.
 4. Is the building protected with an approved fire alarm system? Is the fire alarm system being serviced annually?
 5. Are the self-closing mechanisms on all stairway doors properly adjusted to fully close the doors without assistance?
 6. Are all stairway doors being kept in their fully closed position or are they automatic closing and interconnected with the fire alarm?
 7. Are all egress doors, including outside exit doors, doors to individual classrooms, lavatory doors, etc. equipped with hardware that requires only a single motion to open from the inside even if the doors are locked? Are sliding bolts, hook and eye devices or other supplemental locking mechanisms being used on any doors used by students?
 8. Do all egress doors open freely without the need for excessive force? Binding doors, dragging doors or doors otherwise difficult to open are not permitted in a means of egress.
 9. Are there furnishings, carts, cots, etc. in any location which may fall or be easily pushed into the required path of travel to exit the building?
 10. Are all exits properly marked with approved EXIT signs?
 11. Are there any cork or fiberboard bulletin boards in place? If so, have they been coated to achieve the minimum required ratings of Class III in rooms and Class II

in any portion of the means of egress?

12. Are teachers using textiles, plastic or vinyl to cover up storage and/or resource materials, to subdivide program use areas, or to cover bulletin boards? If so, plastics and vinyl must be removed or verified as meeting the requirements of NFPA-701 and textiles must be removed or verified as meeting the requirements of NFPA 701 or treated with an approved flame retardant.
13. Are teachers suspending any artwork or other combustible, non-flame-proofed materials or decorations from or near the ceilings? If so, these must be removed.
14. Is more than 20% of any wall space covered with combustible, non-flame-proofed decorations? If so, the wall space covered with these types of items must be reduced to 20% or less.
15. Are there textile decorations on the walls (e.g., quilts, cloth wall-hangings, etc.)? If so, the textile decorations must be removed or verified as meeting the requirements of NFPA 701 or treated with an approved flame retardant.
16. Have any rooms been converted from a previous use into storage areas? If so, do the enclosures meet the fire resistive wall, ceiling and door requirements?
17. Are there any openings in the walls or ceilings of storage rooms or custodial closets, including around any pipes, ducts, conduit, or any other object that penetrates the walls or ceiling of such rooms that are not properly fire-stopped? *If so, these must be filled with minimum 1-hour fire rated or intumescent caulk or other approved fire stopping material. Note: Most fire-blocking foams are not suitable for this purpose.*
18. Are there self-closing devices on all required fire doors, e.g., doors to storage rooms, boiler rooms, custodial closets or other hazardous areas? If not, these need to be added.
19. Are the self-closing mechanisms the doors to all storage rooms and mechanical rooms properly adjusted to fully close and latch from any open position without assistance? Have any such self-closing devices been removed? If these aren't working properly or have been removed, these need to be fixed or added.
20. Are there any un-protected openings or openings around any pipes, ducts, conduit, or any other object that penetrates the walls or ceiling of boiler rooms or other hazardous rooms? *If so, these must be filled with minimum 1-hour fire rated or intumescent caulk or other approved fire stopping material. Note: Most fire-*

blocking foams are not suitable for this purpose.

21. Are there any combustibles (e.g., wood, cardboard, plastic, rubber, leather, cloth, paints, floor finishes, etc.) stored in furnace or boiler rooms or in any other room that houses fuel-fired equipment, such as a fuel-fired water heater? If so, these items must be removed.
22. Are there any flammable gases, gasoline or gasoline-powered equipment, in heat plant rooms or exit ways? If so, these items must be moved.
23. Have boilers been inspected by a qualified boiler inspector? Is the certificate of boiler inspection current? If not, you must obtain an inspection.
24. Do doors to furnace rooms, boiler rooms, or fuel-fired water heater rooms fully close and latch without assistance? If not, these must be fixed.
25. Are the kitchen hood suppression systems being serviced two times per year? If not, it must be serviced.
26. Are the filters, grease extractors, or range hood itself clean of any buildup of grease? If not, these items need to be cleaned.
27. Are there portable fire extinguishers on each floor level; in or immediately outside of any room that houses fuel-fired equipment; in or immediately outside of any kitchen (residential or commercial) and within a 75-foot travel distance of all other points within your building? If not, these need to be added.
28. Are fire extinguishers tagged with a current service tag by a qualified extinguisher firm? Did the service technician initial the tags as required? If not, they need to be serviced and properly tagged.
29. Are there any open circuit breaker slots (no circuit breaker and no, or unapproved, cover over the open slot)? If so, these need to be corrected.
30. Are there any open electrical junction boxes, spliced wires, loose or hanging wiring, loose or hanging fixtures anywhere in your building? If so, these items must be repaired.
31. Are there any electrical extension cords in use in long-term use in the building? If so, these need to be removed.
32. Do your classrooms or office areas contain more resource materials than that amount necessary for the day-to-day operations of the room they are in? If so,

the excess resource materials must be removed and placed inside of approved cabinetry or inside of approved storage room(s).

33. Are there any clothes dryers in the building? Do dryers have a metal vent? Are they vented completely to the exterior of the building? If not, the vents need to be corrected.

R 400.8701. Definitions.**Rule 701.** As used in this part:

- a) "Manufacturer's rated seating capacity" means the number of places or spaces provided by the manufacturer of a vehicle for the driver and passengers to sit while the vehicle is in motion.
- b) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled device in which persons are or may be transported upon a highway, built on an automobile or truck chassis specifically designed by the manufacturer to transport passengers, or **is** specially modified to transport handicapped passengers, and which meets the safety equipment requirements of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.683 to 257.714b.
- c) "Multifunction school activity bus" means **that term as defined in section 7 of the Pupil Transportation Act, 1990 PA 187, MCL 257.1807.**

"Multifunction school activity bus" means a vehicle rated for 11 or more passengers, including the driver, built after September 2, 2003 to school bus specifications defined in the federal motor vehicle safety standards. A multifunction school activity bus cannot be used for transporting children directly between home, school bus stops, and school.

Multifunction school activity buses comply with all minimum safety specifications as a school bus, except color, identification, and alternating flashing lights, as defined in 1990 PA 187, MCL 257.1801 to 257.1877.

Note: There was no vehicle designation multifunction school activity bus prior to September 3, 2003.

Under National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)'s regulations, a multifunction school activity bus (MFSAB) is defined as "a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops." An MFSAB must meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable to school buses except those requiring the installation of traffic control devices (flashing lights and stop arms). If a new school bus will not be used to transport students to and from home or school bus stops, an MFSAB may be sold. If a new school bus will be used to transport students between school and home, or between school and school bus stops, an MFSAB must not be sold.

- d) "Safety belt" means an automobile lap belt or lap-shoulder belt combination designed to restrain and protect a passenger or **driver** of a vehicle from injury.
- e) "**School bus**" means **that term as defined in section 7 of the Pupil Transportation Act, 1990 PA 187, MCL 257.1807.**

- f) "School transportation" means transportation **provided** by a public, non-public, or private school.
- g) "Transportation" means the conveyance of children by means of a motor vehicle to or from a center and to and from all activities planned for children by or through the center.
- h) **"Transportation component" means when a center uses center owned vehicles, vehicles of staff or volunteers, or other private or contracted transportation to transport children for any reason. Transportation is not a center component if using public transportation or public or private school transportation; however, certain transportation rules still apply. If a child care center contracts with, or is established and operated by an intermediate school district, the board of a local school district, or by the board or governing body of a state-approved nonpublic school, then the school is responsible for the health and safety of children during transportation, and transportation is not considered a component of the child care program. Centers under this authority would not be required to complete a comprehensive background check on the transportation staff through the Child Care Background Check System.**

The rules that apply when transportation is not a center component include: R400.8760, R400.8770 and R400.8149.

- i) "Volunteer motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle not owned by, leased by, or registered to the center or principle or employee of the center.

R 400.8710 (1) Transportation.

(1) If transportation other than public transportation or school transportation is provided, contracted, or sponsored by the center, all rules in this part apply.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

Technical Assistance

“School transportation” means transportation by a public, non-public, or private school.

Centers that use center owned vehicles, vehicles of staff or volunteers or other private transportation to transport children are required to follow all of the rules in Part 4. Transportation (R 400.8701 - 400.8770).

Note: If a center uses a school bus but is not part of a public, private or non-public school, all transportation rules apply.

Consultation

For a general summary of the transportation requirements outlined in rules 400.8701 - 400.8770, go to the Transportation Requirements for Child Care Centers at a Glance flowchart at [Child Care Resources](#).

8710 (2)

(2) If public transportation or school transportation is used, then only R 400.8760, 400.8770, and 400.8149 apply.

Rationale

Assures that children are properly supervised while being transported and are not confined in a vehicle for long periods of time.

Assures that parents give permission for their children to be transported.

Technical Assistance

“School transportation” means transportation by a public, non-public, or private school.

Note: If a center uses a school bus but is not part of a public, private or non-public school, all transportation rules apply.

R 400.8760 refers to staff and volunteer to child ratio and supervision.

R 400.8770 refers to time limit on child transit.

R 400.8149 refers to parent permission for transportation.

Consultation

For a general summary of the transportation requirements outlined in rules 400.8701 - 400.8770, go to the [Transportation Requirements for Child Care Centers at a Glance](#) flowchart at [Child Care Resources](#).

8710 (3)

- (3) If a parent makes a private arrangement for the transportation of his or her child, not including arrangements made with the center, the rules in this part do not apply.

Rationale

Allows parents to make their own transportation arrangements.

Technical Assistance

Parents may choose to arrange transportation for their child with other parents, friends or public transportation services. When this occurs, the center is not responsible for ensuring the transportation rules are being followed.

Consultation

For a general summary of the transportation requirements outlined in rules 400.8701 - 400.8770, go to the [Transportation Requirements for Child Care Centers at a Glance](#) flowchart at [Child Care Resources](#).

R 400.8720 All motor vehicles.**Rule 720 (1).**

1. All motor vehicles **must** be in safe operating condition.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children and staff.

Rule 720 (2)

2. All motor vehicles, except multifunction school activity buses and school buses inspected by the department of state police as indicated in subrule (3) of this rule, **must** be inspected annually by a licensed mechanic. A copy of the inspection **must** be kept on file at the center. Volunteer vehicles are not required to be inspected.

Rationale

Assures and documents that the vehicle is in safe, operating condition.

Technical Assistance

The inspection report must identify any defects with the vehicle.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to maintain a record of repairs and routine maintenance with the vehicle inspection report.

Rule 720 (3)

3. Centers that use multifunction school activity buses and school buses **must** do all of the following:
 - a. Contact the department of state police to determine if an annual inspection by the department of state police is required under section 39 of the pupil transportation act, 1990 PA 187, MCL 257.1839.
 - b. If directed by the department of state police, obtain an annual inspection by the department of state police. A copy of the inspection **must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures that all vehicles are safe and in good operating condition.

Technical Assistance

“Multifunction school activity bus” means a vehicle rated for 11 or more passengers, including the driver, built after September 2, 2003 to school bus specifications defined in the federal motor vehicle safety standards.

If the center uses multifunction school activity buses (MFSABs) and school buses to transport children to and from school, the center must contact Sgt. McLaughlin of the Michigan State Police (MSP) at (517) 241-0572 regarding a vehicle inspection. Sgt.

McLaughlin will schedule an MSP inspection or advise the center to obtain an inspection with a mechanic. If directed to obtain an inspection with a mechanic, see subrule (1) of this rule.

The center must maintain written documentation of annual vehicle inspections.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to maintain a record of repairs and routine maintenance with the vehicle inspection.

Rule 720 (4)

4. A statement verifying that all motor vehicles, including volunteer vehicles, are in compliance with Michigan vehicle code safety equipment requirements, as defined in **sections 683 to 714b of 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.683 to 257.714b, must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures that all vehicles used to transport children are safe and in good operating condition.

Technical Assistance

A statement verifying that all **motor vehicles**, including volunteer vehicles, are in compliance with the Michigan Vehicle Code safety equipment requirements, MCL 257.683 - 257.714b, must be on file at the center. This can be a self-certifying statement. The Michigan Vehicle Code requires the following equipment be present and in good operating condition in passenger and commercial vehicles at all times. **Note:** The following list serves as a guide for child care centers. If a self-certifying statement is used, it is your responsibility to know and understand the requirements of the act. Go to the Michigan legislative website MichiganLegislature to find the most recent and accurate requirements regarding vehicle equipment.

Vehicle Equipment Requirements (MCL 257.683 - 257.714b)
All Motor Vehicles
Taillights: Must be equipped with at least one red rear taillight that is visible from 500 feet. If equipped with two taillights, both must be maintained in good working condition at all times.
Stop Lights: Must be equipped with two rear, red or amber stop lights. Stop lights must be visible for 100 feet, day or night. Stop lights must be illuminated upon application of service brake.
Registration Light: Must have a white light that illuminates the rear registration plate so it is clearly visible from 50 feet.
Turn signals: Must have red or amber turn signals on the rear and amber turn signals on the front that are visible for 100 feet, day or night.
Horn: Must be audible for 200 feet with no whistle or harsh sound.

Vehicle Equipment Requirements (MCL 257.683 - 257.714b)
All Motor Vehicles (cont.)
Exhaust: Muffler noise must not exceed levels outlined in MCL 257.707c.
Windshield: Must be made of safety glass of sufficient size to the protect driver and all occupants.
Glass (Including Windshield): No signs, posters, non-transparent materials, window applications, reflective or non-reflective films on the windshield or on the driver and front passenger glass. Rear and side windows to rear of the driver cannot be composed of, covered by or treated with a material that creates a total solar reflectance of 35 percent or more, including gold or silver reflective film. Wherever glass is used, it must be safety glass.
Windshield Wipers: Must be driver-controlled.
Suspension: Must not be modified to defeat safe operation of vehicle.
Passenger Vehicles
Suspension: Must not be modified to defeat safe operation of vehicle.
Headlights: Must be equipped with two or more white headlights. There must be at least one on each side. Headlights must be a minimum 24 inches and a maximum of 54 inches from ground. Headlights must have an adjustable upper and lower beam—upper beam to reveal persons at 350 feet and lower beam to reveal persons at 100 feet. Must have a beam indicator that is visible to the driver and showing when upper beams are on. No more than four lamps, including auxiliary lights, may be lit at the same time.
Auxiliary Lights: May be equipped with not more than two fog lamps, mounted not less than 12 inches or higher than 30 inches. May be equipped with not more than two spot lamps. Every lighted spot lamp must be aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle so no part of the beam will be directed into the eyes of the approaching driver. No more than a total of four lamps, including headlamps, may be lit at one time. Auxiliary lights must have a white or amber beam.
Brakes: Must be adequate to stop and hold vehicle. There must be two means of applying brakes to at least two wheels. Brakes must be capable of stopping the vehicle as required in MCL 257.705. The parking brake must be adequate to hold the vehicle.
Mirrors: Must be equipped with a properly adjusted outside rear view mirror on driver’s side. An outside rear view mirror on each side is required if the view through the rear window is obscured.
Tires: Tires must have at least 2/32 of an inch tread. No part of belting material, tire cords or ply may be exposed. No evidence of cord or tread separation may be present. Must not be a restricted-from-highway-use type.
Safety Belts: Required for the driver and one front seat passenger after January 1, 1965. Safety belts must conform to federal rules and regulations.
Bumpers: Required on passenger vehicles. Bumpers must be no more than 22 inches from ground.
Commercial Vehicles
Headlights: Must be equipped with two or more white headlights. There must be at least one on each side. Headlights must be a minimum of 24 inches and a

<p>maximum of 54 inches from ground. Headlights must have an adjustable upper and lower beam—upper beam to reveal persons at 350 feet and lower beam to reveal persons at 100 feet. Must have a beam indicator that is visible to the driver and showing when upper beams are on.</p>
<p>Reflectors: Every bus or truck must be equipped with two red reflectors on the rear, one on each side. Trucks or buses 80 inches or more in width are required to have two reflectors on each side, one amber reflector at or near the front and one red reflector at or near the rear. Reflector height is a minimum of 15 inches and a maximum of 60 inches.</p>
<p>Additional Lights on a Truck or Bus 80 Inches or More in Width: Must be equipped with two amber clearance lamps on the front, one on each side, and two red clearance lamps at the rear, one at each side, and two side marker lamps, one amber lamp at or near the front and one red lamp at or near the rear. Three identification lamps must be mounted on the vertical centerline of the vehicle/cab as outlined in MCL 257.688(1)(b)(v).</p>
<p>Brakes: Must be adequate to stop and hold vehicle. There must be two means of applying brakes to at least two wheels. Brakes must be capable of stopping the vehicle as required in MCL 257.705. The parking brake must be adequate to hold the vehicle. Every bus and school bus must be equipped with brakes operating on all wheels.</p>
<p>Mirrors: Must be equipped with a properly adjusted outside rear view mirror on driver's side. An outside rear view mirror on each side is required if the view through the rear window is obscured. Every commercial vehicle of one-half ton capacity or more must be equipped with two properly adjusted mirrors, one on each side.</p>
<p>Tires: Tires must have at least 2/32 of an inch tread or 4/32 of an inch on front tires if the vehicle is 10,000 pounds or more. No part of belting material, tire cords or ply may be exposed. No evidence of cord or tread separation may be present. Must not be a restricted-from-highway-use type.</p>
<p>Safety Belts: If equipped, must conform to federal rules and regulations and must be worn by the driver.</p>
<p>Bumpers: Not required for a vehicle with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more or a vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers including the driver. If 10,000 pounds or less, bumper heights in 257.710c(2) are required.</p>

Consultation

These items should be routinely checked to ensure the vehicle is in good operating condition.

Rule 720 (5)

5. The use of passenger vans with a rated seating capacity of 11 or more, including volunteer vehicles, is prohibited.

Rationale

From 1993 through 2002, fatalities to children in school buses averaged just over five per year. In that same time frame, fatalities to children in 15-passenger vans averaged 57 per year.

The National Transportation Safety Board recommends the use of vehicles built to school bus or multifunction school activity bus standards. These vehicles meet safety standards mandating compartmentalized seating, improved emergency exits, stronger roof structures and fuel systems, and better body joint strength.

Effective October 1, 2002, the Pupil Transportation Act (1990 PA 187) prohibited the purchase or lease of 11-15 passenger vans for pupil transportation.

Technical Assistance

Effective December 8, 2010, any use of passenger vans with a rated seating capacity of 11 or more was prohibited.

Note: Removing one or more bench seats, or a row of seats, does not change the manufacturer rated seating capacity of a vehicle. It is still illegal to transport children to and from school in 11-15 passenger vans, regardless of removed seats.

Rule 720 (6)

6. Multifunction school activity buses used for transporting children **between the child care center and school must** comply with all minimum safety specifications, except color, identification, and alternating flashing lights, as defined in the Pupil Transportation Act, 1990 PA 187, MCL 257.1801 to 257.1877.

Technical Assistance

Under National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)'s regulations, a multifunction school activity bus (MFSAB) is defined as "a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops." An MFSAB must meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable to school buses except those requiring the installation of traffic control devices (flashing lights and stop arms). If a new school bus will not be used to transport students to and from home or school bus stops, an MFSAB may be sold. If a new school bus will be used to transport students between school and home, or between school and school bus stops, an MFSAB must not be sold.

Note: A multifunction school activity bus cannot be used for transporting children directly between home, school bus stops, and school because it does not have the safety equipment that is found on a school bus. A multifunction school activity bus can be used to transport children from the center to school or from school to the center.

An approved MFSAB meets the following criteria:

- Seats eleven passengers or more, including the driver.
- Built to school bus specifications defined in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- Does not have overhead yellow/red flasher and stop arm.
- Does not have to be yellow and black.
- Certified by the manufacturer as a MFSAB.
- **Note:** A certification label will be affixed to the vehicle by the manufacturer. The label can usually be found on any of the following:
 - The hinge pillar.
 - The door-latch post.
 - The door edge that meets the door-latch post next to the driver's seating position.
 - The left side of the instrument panel.
 - The inward-facing surface of the door next to the driver's seating position.

Consultation

Information regarding vehicle safety can be found on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [NHTSA](https://www.nhtsa.gov).

Rule 720 (7)

7. Motor vehicle seats used by children, staff, and volunteers **must** not face sideways.

Rationale

Federal law prohibits side-facing seats in vehicles, except in public transit vehicles.

Rule 720 (8)

8. A truck **must** not be used to transport children, except in the cab.

Rationale

Michigan law prohibits passengers from riding in the bed of a truck. Passengers in the bed of a truck can be thrown out and severely injured or killed.

Rule 720 (9)

9. There **must** be no loose or heavy objects in the passenger compartment of any motor vehicle.

Rationale

Loose or heavy objects may cause injury to passengers while a vehicle is in motion.

Technical Assistance

Unnecessary objects must not be stored in a vehicle. Objects that need to be transported must be safely secured and/or stored in the trunk or cargo area.

R 400.8730 Safety equipment in motor vehicles.**Rule 730 (1) – (3)**

1. All motor vehicles used to transport children **must** carry all the following safety equipment:
 - a. Three bidirectional emergency reflective triangles properly cased and securely stored in the motor vehicle.
 - b. A first aid kit **must** be securely stored in an accessible location in the driver compartment.

2. Any motor vehicle with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of more than 10 occupants used to transport children **must** carry both of the following additional safety equipment:
 - a. Not less than 3 15-minute **flares** or an approved battery-operated substitute properly cased and securely stored in the driver's compartment.
 - b. Fire extinguisher of dry chemical type rated not less than 2A-10BC mounted in an accessible place in the driver's compartment. The fire extinguisher **must** be inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA-10. The fire extinguisher **must** bear a tag indicating the last date of inspection or service and the initials of the person who performed the inspection or service.

3. Volunteer motor vehicles are exempt from subrule (1)(a) of this rule.

Rationale

Assures that emergency equipment is available should the vehicle break down or another type of emergency occurs in which first aid supplies are needed.

Technical Assistance

"First aid kit" means a kit containing, at a minimum, all of the following: sterile gauze pads (assorted sizes), a roll of gauze, adhesive bandages (assorted sizes), adhesive cloth tape, an elastic bandage, tweezers, and scissors. A "first aid kit" is prohibited from containing any non-prescription or prescription medications as defined under R 400.8152.

See R 400.8545(3) for the National Fire Protection Association standards for inspecting and maintaining fire extinguishers.

R 400.8740 Manufacturer's rated seating capacity; restraint devices; safety belts.**Rule 740(1)-(2)**

1. Each child transported shall be seated according to the manufacturer's rated seating capacity and properly restrained by a passenger restraint device as required by sections 710d and 710e of 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.710d and 257.710e.
2. Passenger restraint devices, as required by subrule (1) of this rule, are not required for children transported on a school bus or a multifunction school activity bus.

Rationale Child safety restraint systems (CSRS) are effective in reducing injury and death when properly used.

In Michigan, 21% of infants are incorrectly turned forward-facing in their car seat before age one. Children incorrectly restrained in seat belts instead of a car seat or booster seat are 3.5 times more likely to suffer serious injury. More than 90% of four- to eight-year-old children who were seriously injured in auto accidents were not restrained in a booster seat.

Technical Assistance

A CSRS is any device, except a passenger lap seat belt or lap/shoulder seat belt, designed for use in a motor vehicle to restrain, seat or position a child who weighs less than 65 pounds.

The Michigan Vehicle Code (1949 PA 300) ([MVC document](#)) requires children under age eight and less than four feet nine inches in height to be properly secured in a CSRS unless they are transported on a school bus, a multi-function school activity bus or any vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

Note: Head Start Program Performance Standards require use of height- and weight-appropriate CSRSs when transporting Head Start children, including those children transported on a school bus.

Consultation

See the table at the end of this section for information specific to the age of the child and the type of car seat. Usage tips for all car seats:

- Every car seat has an expiration date. Do not use an expired seat.
- Never buy a used car seat if you do not know its full history.
- Never use a car seat that has been in a crash.
- Children should not wear bulky clothing under harness straps.
- Do not use products that did not come with the car seat (in or with the seat).
- Add-on toys can injure a child in a crash.

Current state law on safety belt and CSRS requirements (MCL 257.710d and 257.710e) can be found at [MichiganLegisture.org](#).

Additional information can be found on the Michigan State Police website [MSP Child Passenger Safety Law](#).

Additional resources include:

- Michigan State Police website - [MSP](#).
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website - [NHTSA](#).
-

Rule 740(3)

3. Each restraint device **must** be properly anchored to the vehicle seat and used according to the manufacturer's specifications. Allowing 2 or more children to share a seat belt or restraint device is prohibited.

Rationale

Safety restraints are effective in reducing injury and death when properly used.

Technical Assistance

Incompatibility problems between the design of a CSRS, vehicle seat and the seat belt system can be life threatening and can be avoided by:

- Reading the vehicle owner's manual and CSRS instructions carefully.
- Testing the CSRS for a snug fit in the vehicle.

Consultation

CSRS installation can be checked by a certified CSRS technician at an approved check station in the community. To locate a certified CSRS technician, go to [NHTSA](#).

Booster seats should be used with both a lap and shoulder belt, not with a lap belt only. A child can break their back or neck as their body folds if there is no shoulder belt present.

Resources include:

- Michigan State Police - [MSP](#)
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - [NHTSA](#).
-

Rule 740(4) – (5)

4. The driver of a motor vehicle and all adult passengers shall be seated according to the manufacturer's rated seating capacity and properly restrained by safety belts when the motor vehicle is in motion.
5. All safety belts and restraint devices used while transporting children and adults **must** be in good working condition.

Rationale

Safety belts are effective in reducing injury and death.

General CSRS Information Chart

See the table below for information specific to the age of the child and the type of car seat.

General CSRS Information		
AGE/WEIGHT	SEAT TYPE & POSITION	USAGE TIPS
<p>INFANTS Birth to at least age 1 and less than 20 pounds</p>	<p>Rear-facing infant or rear facing convertible seat</p>	<p>Always secure seats to the vehicle by safety belts or the LATCH system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never use in a front seat where an air bag is present. • Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing the rear. The car seat should not move more than one inch from side to
<p>INFANTS Less than age 1 and 20-35 pounds</p>	<p>Rear-facing convertible (one recommended for heavier infants)</p>	<p>side or front to back. Grab the car seat at the seat belt or LATCH path to test for tightness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle. This is important to keep the baby’s airway open. • Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level (usually the lower set of slots for most convertible seats). • Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level
<p>TODDLER/ PRESCHOOLER Ages 1 to 4 and at least 20 and up to approximately 40 pounds</p>	<p>Forward-facing convertible seat or forward-facing only seat or high back booster with harness</p>	<p>Always secure seats to the vehicle by safety belts or the LATCH system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing forward. The car seat should not move more than one inch from side to side or front to back. Grab the car seat at the seat belt or LATCH path to test for tightness. • Harness straps/slots at or above child’s shoulders (usually top set of slots for most convertible seats). • Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level. • The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children remain rear-facing until age 2.
<p>YOUNG CHILDREN Ages 4 to at least 8 - unless they are 4’9” (57”) tall</p>	<p>Belt-positioning booster (no back) or high back belt positioning booster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never use with lap-only belts. Always use with lap and shoulder belt. • Shoulder belt should rest snugly across chest and on

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child is age or older, but under 4'9" tall, a booster seat is not needed. • If a child is between age 4 and 8, but over 4'9" tall, a booster seat is not needed. 		<p>shoulder. Never place a shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lap belt should rest low, across the lap/upper thigh area—not across the stomach.
<p>Lower Anchor and Tethers for Children (LATCH) is a system that makes CSRS installation easier without using seat belts. LATCH is required on most CSRSs and vehicles manufactured after 9/1/02. LATCH is not required for booster seats. Attachments on a LATCH equipped CSRS fasten to anchors in a LATCH-equipped vehicle. If a vehicle isn't LATCH equipped, use the seat belt, and if available, a top tether. The top tether must not be used on rear-facing seats.</p>		

R 400.8750 Motor vehicle operator.**Rule 750.**

1. The driver of any motor vehicle transporting children shall comply with all of the following:
 - a. Be at least 18 years of age.
 - b. Possess a valid operator or chauffeur's license with the appropriate endorsement as required by 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to 257.329.
 - c. Have a personal driving record with not more than 6 active points as determined by the secretary of state.
 - d. Have proof of valid automobile insurance and registration.
 - e. Be familiar with the contents of the first aid kit.
 - f. Be familiar with the operation of the fire extinguisher, if a fire extinguisher is required.

Rationale

Transporting children is a significant responsibility. Centers must assure that anyone who transports children is a licensed, responsible driver and able to respond appropriately to emergency situations.

Technical Assistance

A center must keep on file the following documentation:

- A copy of a valid operator license showing the appropriate endorsement, if applicable, for all staff who transport children.
- A copy of a current driving record provided by the Secretary of State for each driver.
- Proof of current automobile insurance for all vehicles. A copy must be kept in the vehicle.

Types of Licenses and Endorsements - Go to the Michigan Secretary of State website [SOS Driver's License and State ID](#) for the most recent and accurate information regarding what types of licenses or endorsements may be needed.

Operator License

For persons who are not required to provide transportation but who provide occasional transportation in a car or van.

Chauffeur's License

For persons who regularly transport children in a car, van or a vehicle designed to carry less than 16 people, including the driver.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL)

For persons who provide transportation in a school-bus or any vehicle, including a multi-function school activity bus, that is designed to carry 16 or more people, including the driver.

Note: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations require drivers who are renewing, correcting or applying for an original CDL must self-certify which type of commercial motor vehicle operation they will perform: non-excepted interstate driver, excepted interstate driver, non-excepted intrastate driver, excepted intrastate driver.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with "P" Passenger Endorsement

For vehicles designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a "S" School Bus Endorsement

For commercial motor vehicles used to transport pre-primary, primary or secondary school students from home to school, school to home or to and from school-sponsored events.

Consultation

Information about the different types of licenses and endorsements and procedures for getting driving records can be found by contacting the Secretary of State or on the Secretary of State website at [SOS](#).

Rule 750 (2)

2. All of the following documents **must** be kept on file at the center:
 - a. A copy of each driver's driving record, except for drivers of volunteer motor vehicles, obtained from the secretary of state at least once a year.
 - b. A self-certifying statement that all volunteer drivers comply with subrule (1) of this rule.
 - c. A copy of a valid driver's license **for each driver**.

Rationale

Transporting children is a significant responsibility. Centers must assure that anyone who transports children is a licensed, responsible driver.

Technical Assistance

Procedures for obtaining a driving record can be found by contacting the Secretary of State or by visiting their website at [SOS](#).

Third-Party Vendors

There are third-party agencies (e.g., AISS Sterling, Inc.) that help licensees obtain background checks for staff, including driving records. Driving records obtained through third-party vendors are acceptable as long as the records are obtained directly from the Secretary of State.

Rule 750 (3)

3. Drivers shall be provided with a copy of the child information card or comparable substitute for each child being transported in their motor vehicles.

Rationale

Assures drivers:

- Know the identity of the children they are transporting.
- Know how to reach their parents/guardians if needed
- Can seek emergency medical treatment for children in case of an injury or illness.

Consultation

When children are transported on a regular basis, centers may wish to keep a copy of the child information cards, or facsimile, in the vehicle at all times. It is also suggested that a picture of each child be attached to their child information card to assist in identification if needed in the event of an accident or emergency.

R 400.8760 Staff and volunteer-to-child ratio and supervision in transit.**Rule 760 (1)**

- (1) The ratio of **staff and volunteers**-to-children in transit, including children related to **a staff member, volunteer**, licensee, or driver, shall be based on the following provisions:
- (a) For infants and toddlers, there shall be 1 **staff member or volunteer** for 4 children. The driver **does** not count in the **staff and volunteer-to-child** ratio.
 - (b) For preschoolers under 3 years of age, there shall be 1 **staff member or volunteer** for 8 children. The driver **does** not count in the **staff and volunteer-to-child** ratio.
 - (c) For 3-year-olds, there shall be 1 **staff member or volunteer** for 10 children. The driver may **be counted** in the **staff or volunteer-to-child** ratio.
 - (d) For 4-year-olds, there shall be 1 **staff member or volunteer** for 12 children. The driver may **be counted** in the **staff or volunteer-to-child** ratio.
 - (e) For school-agers, there shall be 1 **staff member or volunteer** for 18 children. The driver may count in the **staff or volunteer-to-child** ratio. This requirement does not apply when school-age children are transported to and from school on school transportation or are using public transportation.
 - (f) An additional **staff member or volunteer** is not required if only 1 child under 36 months of age is transported.

Rationale

Adequate supervision prevents harm. A staff member or volunteer, not including the driver, is needed to be able to respond to the needs of infants and toddlers while traveling.

Technical Assistance

If children that don't attend the center are being transported on a school bus to or from school with children in the care of the center, only the children in care are counted in the ratio.

Example: There are 10 four-year olds enrolled at the center and 20 school-age children not affiliated with the center being transported on a school bus to school. No staff members/volunteers in addition to the driver are needed.

Note: If there are issues with supervision, R 400.8125(1) regarding appropriate care and supervision would be cited not the ratio rule.

Rule 760 (2)

- (2) To count in the staff **member or volunteer**-to-child ratios, staff members or volunteers shall be all of the following:
- (a) At least 16 years of age.
 - (b) Seated with the children.
 - (c) Responsible for the supervision of the children.

Rationale

Assures that children being transported are adequately supervised.

Technical Assistance

Staff members or volunteers under age 18 may be used to meet the staff member to child ratio **only** during the transportation of children. Once children arrive at their destination, whether at the center or field trip, only staff members or volunteers who meet the definition of caregiver can be counted in caregiver to child ratios.

A supervised volunteer cannot be used to maintain child care staff member to child ratio.

Rule 760 (3)

- (3) When children are entering or leaving the motor vehicle, the following safety precautions **must** be taken:
- (a) The accompanying staff member, volunteer, or driver shall assure that the children are received by a staff member, parent, or other person as designated by the parent.
 - (b) Children shall enter and leave the motor vehicle from the curbside unless the vehicle is in a protected parking area or driveway.

Rationale

Injuries and fatalities have occurred during the loading and unloading process, especially in situations where vans or school buses are used to transport children.

Consultation

Center staff should examine the parking area and determine the safest way to drop off and pick up children. Plans for loading and unloading should be discussed with the children, families, caregivers, and drivers.

Rule 760 (4)

- (4) Children shall not be left unattended in a motor vehicle.

Rationale

Assures for the safety and well-being of children.

Consultation

Centers are encouraged to develop procedures for checking vehicles to ensure all children have left the vehicle.

Centers may want to equip vehicles with a Child Reminder System (CRS). The CRS requires the driver to walk to the back of the bus to turn it off to act as a safeguard as the driver is able to see if there are any children left on the bus before the bus is vacated.

Rule 760 (5)

- (5) When children under school-age are entering or leaving the motor vehicle, the children shall be carried or helped into and out of the motor vehicle.

Rationale

Assures for the safety of children. Young children may have difficulty climbing into and out of vehicles without assistance, which could lead to injury.

Consultation

Centers may wish to have additional staff present at the time of loading and unloading children from vehicles.

R 400.8770 Time limitation on child transit.

- 1. For children under school-age, transportation routes shall be planned so that a child is not in the motor vehicle longer than 1 continuous hour.**

Rationale

It is unreasonable to expect young children to remain confined and seated in a vehicle for a period exceeding one hour.

Technical Assistance

This time restriction includes transportation for any reason, including field trips.

A 1992 administrative hearing affirmed that the “continuous” terminology in the rule was intended to clarify that the one hour limitation applied to a one-way trip, e.g. from home to school or from school to home. It is expected that centers plan their transportation to assure that children under school-age are not in motor vehicles for more than one continuous hour. Rest breaks during commutes exceeding one hour will not be permitted as a way to comply with this rule.

Consultation

The time period may need to be lessened for infants or children with special needs.

R 400.8801 Definitions.**Rule 801.** As used in this part:

- a) "Lifeguard" means a person who meets the following criteria:
 - i. Possesses an appropriate and current life guard training and certification by **the American** Red Cross, YWCA, YMCA, or equivalent in 1 of the following:
 - A. Basic lifeguard for pool only.
 - B. Full life guarding for pool and all other water activities.
 - ii. Is dressed suitably to act in an emergency.
 - iii. Is providing constant supervision.

- b) "Public swimming pool" means **that term as defined in section 12521 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.12521.**

Per the public health code, "Public swimming pool" means an artificial body of water used collectively by a number of individuals primarily for the purpose of swimming, wading, recreation, or instruction and includes related equipment, structures, areas, and enclosures intended for the use of individuals using or operating the swimming pool such as equipment, dressing, locker, shower, and toilet rooms. Public swimming pools include those which are for parks, schools, motels, camps, resorts, apartments, clubs, hotels, mobile home parks, subdivisions, and the like. A pool or portable pool located on the same premises with a 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-family dwelling and for the benefit of the occupants and their guests, a natural bathing area such as a stream, lake, river, or man-made lake, an exhibitor's

swimming pool built as a model at the site of the seller and in which swimming by the public is not permitted, or a pool serving not more than 4 motel units is not a public swimming pool.

R 400.8810 Swimming; child care staff member-to-child ratio.**Rule 810 (1)**

1. Written parental permission regarding their child's participation in swimming activities **must** be kept on file at the center.

Rationale

Assures that parents give approval for their children to be involved in swimming activities.

Technical Assistance

Swimming activities include any activity where a child enters the water such as swimming, wading, tubing, water skiing and any activities at a water park.

The use of sprinklers is not considered a swimming activity.

Activities where children are on watercraft are not considered swimming activities for the purpose of these rules. Examples include boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats. Fishing from a dock, shore or boat is not considered a swimming activity. Should a center allow children to engage in these types of activities, it is expected that compliance with all pertinent center rules be met, such as supervision, ratio and safe premises.

Consultation

It is recommended that centers ask parents to indicate on the swimming permission form, whether the child is a swimmer or a nonswimmer.

Regardless of the parent's statement, the center should assess each child's swimming ability.

Rule 810 (2)

2. A lifeguard shall be on duty at all swimming activities and shall not be included in the **child care staff member-to-child** ratio.

Rationale

A lifeguard has other duties that would preclude involvement in supervision during water activities.

Rule 810 (3)

3. For children under 3 years of age, there shall be an in-the-water ratio of 1 **child care staff member** to 1 child.

Rationale

Children under the age of three are at a high risk of drowning. Adequate staffing and supervision can minimize this risk.

Consultation

Drowning can happen quickly and silently. Splashing may not occur to alert someone that the child is in trouble. Most children drown within a few feet of safety. It is highly recommended that the caregiver remains in close proximity to the child.

Rule 810 (4)-(5)

4. For all non-swimmers 3 years of age and older, there shall be an in-the-water ratio of 1 **child care staff member** to 4 children when the water level is at the child's chest height or lower. When the water level is above the child's chest height, there shall be an in-the-water ratio of 1 **child care staff member** to 1 child.

5. For swimmers 3 years of age and older, there shall be an in-the-water **child care staff member-to-child** ratio as required by R 400.8182(3).

Rationale

Children who can swim need less supervision than non-swimmers.

Technical Assistance

For the purpose of this rule, for a child to be considered a **swimmer**, the child must be able to do both of the following without the use of a flotation device:

- Keep afloat for five minutes by any means possible.
- Swim the length of the pool using any stroke (minimum of 25 yards).
- Children unable to do both of the above without the use of a life preserver or flotation device are considered **non-swimmers**.

R 400.8820 Swimming activity supervision.**Rule 820 (1)**

1. All **child care staff members** counted in the **child care staff member**-to-child ratio shall be both of the following:
 - a. Actively engaged in providing direct care, supervision, and guidance.
 - b. Physically able to assist children quickly.

Rationale

Close continuous supervision is one essential factor in reducing the number of children's drownings and water-related injuries.

- Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental deaths of children age five and under.
- Irreversible brain damage can occur in three to five minutes.
- A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.
- Twenty-five percent of all drowning victims have had swimming lessons.

Technical Assistance

Swimming activities are defined as activities where children are allowed to enter the water.

The use of sprinklers is not considered a swimming activity.

During swimming activities, the center is responsible and accountable for:

- Assuring appropriate supervision of children who are engaged in non-swimming activities away from the immediate swimming activity area.
- Assuring that all children engaged in swimming activities can be easily observed.
- Assuring that telephone usage and other distractions are limited to emergencies.

Consultation

The following guidelines are recommended:

- Develop an emergency plan for responding to a drowning incident.
- Limit the number of children in the water at any one time based on the ages of children, number of non-swimmers and special needs of individual children.
- Assure that children are familiar with the rules for behavior in and around the swimming activity area.
- Know the water depths and/or strength of currents when in natural water settings.
- At the swimming area, designate specific boundaries, both inside the water and on the shore or pool deck for the child care children that is separate from the public.
- Designate a child care staff member whose only responsibility is to observe the overall child care swimming area.
- Establish a system for staff to account for all children, both in and out of the water, verifying their location every five to 10 minutes during a swimming activity.
- Institute a buddy system for the children.

- Develop an identification system so center children can be easily identified, such as wearing colored rubber bracelets. **Note:** Wearing t-shirts in the water for identification purposes is not advisable. Wet clothing can weigh a child down.
- Assure that all child care staff members are aware of these issues when they are responsible for supervising children during swimming activities.

R 400.8830 Instructional swim.**Rule 830 (1)**

1. Instructional swim **must** be conducted under the supervision of a qualified water safety instructor (WSI), **who is certified by the American Red Cross**, in an organization such as the YMCA or YWCA, and where instructional swim is part of the organized program.

Rationale

Assures qualified personnel provide swimming instruction.

Technical Assistance

In addition to the YWCA and YMCA, other organizations may offer instructional swimming. These include, but are not limited to:

- Governmental units.
- School districts.
- Fitness centers.
- Swimming clubs.

The center must obtain verification that the instructor has the proper certification.

Rule 830 (2)

2. The **child care staff member-to-child** ratio under R 400.8182(3) **must** be maintained. The instructor shall not be included in the ratio.

Rationale

The duties of the swimming instructor preclude his or her involvement in providing supervision during instructional swimming.

Technical Assistance

Caregivers may or may not be in the water with the children during instructional swimming.

The swimming instructor's primary function is to teach children to swim. Therefore, an additional person is required to function as a life guard as required in R 400.8810(2).

R 400.8840 Swimming activity area.**Rule 840 (1)**

1. All swimming areas **must** be maintained in a clean and safe condition.

Rationale

Assures that children are safe while engaging in water activities.

Consultation

It is best practice to check for or inquire about the following before each swimming activity:

- A non-slip surface in wet areas. The non-slip surface should be in good repair and free of tears or breaks.
- Equipment and chemicals used for water maintenance. They should be inaccessible to children.
- Glass, trash, animal excrement, and other foreign or hazardous material.
- Hazards on beaches, shores and docks.

Staff should be familiar with water depths, drop offs and strength of currents.

Rule 840 (2)

2. A public pool used for swimming **must** be inspected by the local health department and issued a license by the department of environmental quality.

Rationale

Assures a pool is safe for swimming activities.

Technical Assistance

Swimming pools are inspected annually with the operation permit expiring on December 31 of each year. This permit must be made available upon request. For more information regarding the Public Swimming Pool Program go to [EGLE Public Swimming Pools](#)

Rule 840 (3)

3. The water at a public or private beach **must** not be used if deemed unsafe by the local health department.

Rationale

Assures the safety and health of children and staff.

Technical Assistance

Centers must look for a posted sign indicating the water is unsafe for swimming.

Consultation

Centers may contact the local health department to determine if the water at a specific swimming area is safe.

Rule 840 (4)

4. A working **phone must** be accessible on the premises.

Rationale

Assures the center staff can call for emergency assistance if needed.

Technical Assistance

If a working land-line phone is not available, a charged, working cell phone in service range may be used.

Rule 840 (5)

5. All of the following safety equipment **must** be readily accessible:
 - a. First aid kit.
 - b. Rescue pole or throwing rope and ring buoy.
 - c. Signaling device.

Rationale

Lifesaving equipment is essential to assure the safety of children.

Technical Assistance

“First aid kit” means a kit containing, at a minimum, all of the following: sterile gauze pads (assorted sizes), a roll of gauze, adhesive bandages (assorted sizes), adhesive cloth tape, an elastic bandage, tweezers, and scissors. A “first aid kit” is prohibited from containing any non-prescription or prescription medications as defined under R 400.8152.

Examples of appropriate signaling devices include a whistle or horn.

Consultation

Prior to arrival, the center staff should contact the swimming activity area personnel to assure that these items are readily accessible.

A rescue pole or throwing rope with ring buoy should be:

- Long enough to reach the center of the pool from the edge of the pool.
 - Kept in good repair.
 - Stored safely and conveniently for immediate use.
-

Rule 840 (6)

6. The use of hot tubs and private wading pools is prohibited.

Rationale

The water in hot tubs is extremely hot. Infants and toddlers are particularly susceptible to overheating.

Private wading pools do not allow for adequate control of sanitation and safety and can promote the transmission of infectious disease.