



Does My Organization Need a Child Care License?

Understanding the [Child Care Organizations Act \(1973 PA 116\)](#) and the Definition of a Child Care Center

[PA 116](#) requires a facility to be licensed as a child care center if:

- The facility is run by or overseen by an established organization.
- The facility's main function pertaining to children is to receive children for child care services.
- The facility and staff provide care, maintenance, training, and supervision services for children.

Some organizations may be exempt from the requirements to be licensed as a child care center.

The chart below explains the exemptions from child care center licensure found in PA 116. The examples and questions are guides to help you determine if your organization is exempt from child care center licensure but are not all inclusive. If you are unsure if your organization is exempt, please contact Child Care Licensing at 517-284-9730 or [MiLEAP- CCLB-help@michigan.gov](mailto:MiLEAP-CCLB-help@michigan.gov).

Child Care Center Exemptions in PA 116

Programs and Activities that Are Exempt from Child Care Licensing Requirements	Conditions that MUST be Met for Exemption	Examples	Questions to Help Determine
Religious Instructional Classes MCL 722.111(1)(i)(i)	Children attend less than 3 hours a day (infinite time frame) OR less than 8 hours a day for a period of 4 weeks or less in a 12- month period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s weekly bible studies on Wednesday nights. Vacation bible school for a week in the summer. 	Are you a religious organization? Are you offering religious classes, trainings, or seminars? Do children attend for less than 3 hours a day? Do children attend for less than 8 hours a day, but only for a few weeks?
Religious Organization During Religious Services MCL 722.111(1)(i)(ii)	Parents or guardians must be attending a religious service. Children cannot be in care more than 3 hours while the children’s parents or guardians are attending religious services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An infant nursery for children when parents are at a religious service. A playgroup for children when parents are attending a religious ceremony. 	Are you a religious organization? Are parents or guardians attending a religious class, training, ceremony, or seminar? Are children in care for less than 3 hours?
Single Subject Training for School-Age Children MCL 722.111(1)(i)(iii)	Children must be engaged in a single subject training. The exclusion only applies to the time children are engaged in the supervised, school-age training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutoring program. Evening dance classes or soccer practice. Robotics club or weekly scout meetings. 	Are you serving school-age children? Are you offering training in one single subject? Are children engaged in that one single subject the entire time they are in care?
On-site Child Care MCL 722.111(1)(i)	Parents are on-site during the duration of care at the same physical address of the child care services and parents do not leave the site. Parents are readily available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care at a local gym when parents are working out on-site. Child care at a place of employment if the parents are working on-site. 	Are parents on-site at the same address the entire time children are in care? Are parents readily available? If parents leave the site for lunch or another activity, do the children go with the parents?
Group Athletic and Social Activities for School-Age Children MCL 722.111(1)(i)(iv)	Children can come and go at will. The exclusion only applies for the time children are engaged in the group athletic or social activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym time at a recreational center. Utilizing the services at a community center or library. School social events such as dances and sporting events. 	Are the children school-age? Can children freely arrive and leave without a parent or guardian?
Therapeutic Services MCL 722.111(1)(i)(v)	The program primarily provides therapeutic services to a child AND all children in care need to be receiving therapeutic services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical therapy for a child diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Behavior therapy for a child with autism. 	Are all the children receiving therapeutic services? Are the therapeutic services offered to treat the children’s diagnosis?
Programs for Children 13 Years of Age and Older. MCL 722.111(1)(i)	The program serves only children 13 years of age or older.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer programs for high schoolers at the local college. 	Do you serve only children 13 years of age and older?

For more information, please visit michigan.gov/michildcare.