

COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES LICENSING PROGRAM

Section 29 of the Child Care Licensing Regulation requires the licensee of a Family Child Care facility to:

- (a) be at least 19 years of age,
- (b) be able to provide care and mature guidance to children,
- (c) have completed a course, or a combination of courses, of at least 20 hours duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition, and
- (d) have relevant work experience.

The Child Care Licensing Regulation requires that an applicant for a licence to operate a Family Child Care facility must have obtained at least 20 hours of relevant courses or training. It is recommended that applicants contact the “Child Care Resource and Referral Program” for their community and their local community colleges for information on related courses and training. Applicants may also want to pursue courses/training that can be accessed through distance education programs, such as those offered at Vancouver Community College, Northern Lights College, and Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute. Information on how to contact these institutions may be obtained from your local Licensing office. You may also want to check out if any relevant courses/training are being offered through your local chapter of Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC), or child development programs, or parent support groups in your community.

Family Child Care is defined as:

“being a program in which the licensee

- i. is a responsible adult, and
- ii. personally provides care, within the licensee’s personal residence, to no more than 7 children.

In addition to care, the licensee of a Family Child Care facility must provide children with:

- A comprehensive and coordinated program of indoor and outdoor activities that
 - Is designed for the development and care of children,
 - Is appropriate for the age and development of children, and
 - Complies with the program standards set out in Schedule G of the CCLR.
- Opportunities for social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth, and
- An indoor and outdoor play area.

A licensee’s home does not include outbuildings such as a separate mobile home, renovated barn, garage or other detached physical structure, which may be connected to the principal residence by means of a covered walkway. Family Child Care is not to be located in public buildings such as schools, recreation centres or churches.

Schedule E of the Child Care Licensing Regulation permits the following number of children to be cared for in a Family Child Care Home within the maximum group size of 7 children:

1. If any child younger than 12 months old is present:
 - a) No more than 3 children younger than 48 months old and,
 - b) Of those 3, no more than one child younger than 12 months old.
2. If no child younger than 12 months old is present:
 - a) No more than 4 children younger than 48 months old and,
 - b) Of those 4, no more than 2 children younger than 24 months old.

For the purpose of *Schedule E*, the group size does not include any person who is 12 years of age or older and related by blood or marriage to the licensee. Children who are in care and not related to the licensee may be up to 13 years of age.

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The intent of *Schedule E* is to set age groupings to promote and facilitate quality child age programming while allowing family child care providers greater flexibility with regard to age restrictions of children in their care. The age mix allows for sibling groups to remain together.

Where a child day care service is provided in a licensee's home, two operators may not get together at one facility to provide care if the ages and number of children in care at one facility exceeds the requirements of *Schedule E*.

The following table provides you with a visual aid for understanding the ages and numbers of children allowed within the maximum group size of 7 children in a licensed Family Child Care facility:

Number of children under 12 months of age	Number of children under 2 years of age	Number of children under 4 years of age	Number of children 4 years of age or older	<u>Total number of children in care at any one time</u>
1	2	0	4	7
1	1	1	4	7
1	0	2	4	7
1	0	0	6	7
0	0	4	3	7
0	2	2	3	7
0	2	1	4	7
0	2	0	5	7
0	1	3	3	7
0	1	2	4	7
0	1	1	5	7
0	1	0	6	7
0	0	1	6	7
0	0	0	7	7

For more information on this topic, please refer to the Director of Licensing's Standard of Practice – Family Child Care which is available from the Community Care Licensing Branch website: http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/ccf/child_care.html

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