



Dear Child Care Center Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in applying for a license to operate a child care center. Upon receiving this packet, please contact your local licensing office for assistance (phone numbers are listed at the end of this document). In this packet you will find:

- This welcome letter and procedures for licensure
- Child Care Center and Out-of-School Time Care License Application
- New Mexico Kids Child Care Resource and Referral application and letter
- Background Check instructions
- Useful phone numbers
- Self-Study Child Care Center Checklist (this can help you assess what is involved in operating a child care program.)
- Regulations governing licensed child care facilities (8.16.2 NMAC)

When reviewing the Child Care Licensing Regulations (8.16.2 NMAC), please note the following:

- You must obtain approval from the following state, city or county authorities before a license can be issued (Please see Section 8.16.2.20 A3 of the Child Care Licensing Regulations):
 - 1) Zoning and building;
 - 2) Fire authority; and
 - 3) New Mexico Environment Department or other environmental health authority for the following:
 - Kitchen, if meals are prepared on site or served in the facility
 - Private water supply, if applicable.
 - Private waste or sewage disposal, if applicable.
 - Swimming pool, if applicable.
- The director must meet qualifications as outlined in the Licensing Regulations (Section 8.16.2.22).
- You must have 35 square feet of indoor activity space measured wall to wall on the inside for each child in the center (Section 8.16.2.20 B3).
- You must have 75 square feet of outdoor activity space for each child using the area at one time (8.16.2.20 B3).
- You must meet the toilet and sink requirements outlined in Section 8.16.2.28 G.
- You must meet the window and exit requirements outlined in Section 8.16.2.28 F.
- Background check (See Background Check Regulations (8.8.3 NMAC) for more information)
 - Directors and owners must be cleared before a license is issued.
 - All direct providers of care must submit two completed fingerprint cards within 24 hours of their start date.
 - Until receiving a background clearance, the applicant must at all times be under direct physical supervision by a cleared staff-member.

- To be licensed, there must be at least one person in the center at all times who is certified in CPR and First Aid (8.16.2.25 B).

Licensing Requirements

- Refer to the enclosed Center Checklist and the Licensing Regulations (8.16.2 NMAC) and ensure that you meet all applicable requirements.

Submission of Licensing Application

To begin the licensing process, you must complete and submit the following:

- Licensing Application
- Supporting Documentation:
 - Zoning approval
 - Building approval/certificate of occupancy
 - Fire inspection
 - Environment Department approval
 - Director's resume
 - Director's proof of degree
 - Director's background check clearance
- Application fee of \$55.00
 - Attach in the form of a check or money order to the application and make payable to the State of New Mexico.
 - Fees are non-refundable.
- The New Mexico Kids Child Care Resource and Referral Service Application/Renewal form is voluntary.
 - Submitting the New Mexico Kids CCR&R form allows your child care program to come up when parents are looking for child care on www.NewMexicoKids.org. It will also help ensure that you receive calls from parents for only the type of care you offer (for example the days, hours, and ages you serve).

Processing of Licensing Application and Initial Visit

- After we receive your application, a licensing surveyor will call you to either:
 - schedule an initial visit; or
 - let you know that your packet is not complete.
- We will schedule an initial visit within two weeks of receiving a complete application and assurance that you are meeting applicable licensing requirements.
- You must demonstrate that you are in full compliance at the initial visit. At this point, a license will be issued.
- After a license is issued, the licensing authority will conduct annual reviews, follow-up visits, unannounced visits and complaint investigations

Starting a child care center may seem complicated at first, but there is help available to assist you in starting and maintaining a quality child care program that meets the needs of the children in your community. Please use the resources included in this licensing packet.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the licensing office in your area:

Metro Region

Kim Brown, District Manager
505-841-4825
3401 Pan American Freeway NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia,
Torrance, Socorro)

Southwest Region

Chris Jennings-Collins, District Manager
575-373-6609
760 Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88005
(Dona Ana, Otero, Sierra, Luna, Grant,
Hidalgo, Catron, Lincoln)

Southeast Region

Kathleen Alonzo, District Manager
575-625-1078
#4 Grande Avenue Plaza Suite A
Roswell, NM 88202
(Chaves, Eddy, Lea, Roosevelt, Curry,
Quay, Guadalupe, DeBaca)

Northern Region

Melissa Romero, District Manager
505-476-5510
1920 5th Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, San
Juan, McKinley, Cibola, San Miguel,
Mora, Colfax, Harding, Union)

**Child Care Services Bureau
1-800-832-1321**

