



Different Types of Child Care Programs

Child care programs can be licensed, license-exempt, or exempt. Licensed programs can be in an individual's home, a group care setting, or a child care center.

Licensed Child Care Center

- 20 children or more being cared for at a separate facility
- Often grouped into classrooms by age

Licensed Group Child Care Home

- 11-20 children cared for at a separate facility OR an area separate from the child care educator's living quarters

Licensed Family Child Care Home

- Up to 10 children cared for in the child care educator's home

License-Exempt

- Programs run by a religious organization
- Preschool programs that operate less than 4 hours per day

Exempt

- Six or fewer children cared for in the child care educator's home
- Summer camps
- School system-operated programs



Regulation Requirements

Licensed Programs

- Have regular fire, sanitation, and health inspections
- Require licensing inspection at least twice per year
- Must follow Missouri's child care licensing rules, like ratios, group size, and staff training. Full licensing regulations can be found here:

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/rules-laws>

License-Exempt Programs

- Have routine fire, sanitation, and health inspections
- Require an annual site visit, but do not have full licensing inspections
- Must comply with certain child care laws and regulations but are not required to follow full licensing rules, such as ratio, group size, and staff training. Full license-exempt regulations can be found here:

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/rules-laws>

Exempt Programs

- Do not have fire, sanitation, or health inspections
- Do not have licensing inspections
- Not generally included in our database.
- May list with Child Care Aware® of Missouri if they meet Child Care Aware® of Missouri's listing standards, such as a health and safety self-certification, agreement to use safe sleep practices, and a Family Care Safety Registry background check.

