

**MADISON ACCREDITATION STANDARDS
FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
June 2004**

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DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE MADISON ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Different people and organizations use terms related to children's ages differently. In these standards, we sometimes describe children specifically by age. When we are using more general words (such as "infant" or "toddler") we use the following definitions (which are similar to the definitions used by the National Association for Family Child Care):

Infants: Children between the ages of birth and 12 months.

Toddlers: Children between the ages of 13 and 35 months.

Preschoolers: Children from the age of three through five years of age.

School-Agers: Children 6-12 who are participating in a before-school, after-school, or care during summers or school holidays.

Ages are given as general guidelines, not as hard-and-fast rules. These guidelines should be combined with your knowledge of each child's individual development in deciding what kind of programming is appropriate.

About genders: When referring to children, we have alternated using male and female pronouns (he/she, his/her, etc.) When referring to providers, we used feminine pronouns. It is not the intent to exclude male providers, but we felt the text would be more readable this way.

About the child's family: For purposes of readability, we use the term "parent" to refer to the person or people who are raising the child. The term is meant to include guardians, grandparents, foster parents, step-parents, or any other adult who has responsibility for the child.

I. INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Provider's Interactions with Children

- A. The provider's verbal and non-verbal communication with children helps build positive relationships and conveys support, respect and trust.
1. The provider and children seem relaxed.
 2. The sound of the environment is primarily marked by pleasant conversation, laughter, and busy activity rather than harsh, stressful noise or enforced quiet.
 3. The provider respectfully approaches children to watch, listen, talk, sing, play, and share ideas.
 4. The provider has back and forth verbal and non-verbal conversations with each child every day.
 5. The provider recognizes each child's unique personality and skills in positive ways.
 6. The provider uses information about family cultural traditions and home language words to respond warmly and appropriately to each child.
 7. With sensitivity to children's preferences, the provider shares affection with each child (for example, hugs, a lap to sit on, a hand to hold)
 8. The provider offers comfort and reassurance when children show distress, fear, or discomfort.
 9. The provider responds to each child's toilet learning, bottle weaning, and special needs calmly and with a positive attitude.

The Provider's Interactions with Parents

- B. The relationship between provider and parents conveys trust and respect.
1. The provider encourages parents to visit at any time. The visits can be planned ahead or unannounced.
 2. The provider works cooperatively with parents to set schedules for eating and sleeping, toileting and guidance. The provider individualizes the program, within reason, to respond to parents' specific requests, preferences, and values.
 3. The provider shows acceptance of various kinds of families, religious beliefs, cultural differences, and decisions to work outside the home.
 4. The provider recognizes the strengths of each family, and speaks positively about the day care families when opportunities occur during the course of the day.

5. The provider is aware of community resources for children and families, and shares that information with parents at appropriate times.
- C. The provider strives for effective and open communication with parents.
1. The provider clearly describes her child care services in a contract signed by the provider and the parent, and consistently delivers the services described in the contract.
 2. The provider greets parents pleasantly at drop-off and pick-up times.
 3. The provider is reachable by telephone whenever children are present, or regularly listens to an answering machine or voice mail.
 4. The provider encourages conversations with parents about changes that may affect the child or the care of the child. Examples include:
 - Talking with parents about changes occurring in the provider's life.
 - Encouraging parents to share major changes in their own life.
 - Informing parents in a supportive way when children are having difficulties, and talking with parents to discuss possible ways to address the concerns.
 5. The provider informs parents of children's minor and more serious injuries, exposure to communicable diseases and any other health concerns.
 6. The provider lets parents know ahead of time when a substitute or assistant will be responsible for their children.
 7. If the provider does not speak the language of the parents, the provider finds an effective way to communicate with them.
 8. At least once a year the provider seeks feedback from parents about their experience in the family child care home. For example, the provider might:
 - Distribute a survey
 - Have one-on-one discussions
 - Host an informal gathering of all parents in care
- D. The provider uses effective methods to work out differences with parents that may arise and affect their business relationship or child care issues.
1. The provider seeks out parents' comments, questions and concerns about their child's care situation.
 2. The provider initiates discussions soon after incidents of concern occur.
 3. The provider uses the staff of the Family Child Care System as a resource to discuss concerns or problems and, when necessary, uses the System staff for mediation.

4. The provider has a written grievance procedure that is made available to parents. This procedure includes all of the following:
 - Steps for parents to follow if they have concerns or complaints
 - A timeline for response to complaints
 - Clearly articulated procedures for the parent to bring unresolved concerns to staff of the Family Child Care system.

- E. The provider treats information about children and families in a confidential manner.
 1. Unless written parental permission is given for exceptions, children's records and information about families are accessible only to the child's parents, the provider, staff of the Family Child Care System, and regulators as required by law.
 2. Discussion of problems and concerns between parents and provider about specific children are held in private.
 3. Sensitive information about the children and parents is not shared with other families in the care group or with other providers. The System staff may be used for consultation in a confidential manner.

- F. The provider encourages parents to be involved in the family child care home.
 1. Parents are encouraged to share their interests, skills, and cultures with the children in the program (for example, music, books, cultural objects, family pictures).
 2. Parent permission is required for field trips and special events.
 3. Parents are invited to participate in field trips and special events.

- G. The provider gives parents the information they need about daily activities in order to stay in touch with how and what their child is doing in the family child care program.
 1. There is opportunity for daily exchange of information about the children's activities, feelings, and needs (for example, notes, telephone calls, time to talk at drop-off or pick-up).
 2. The provider keeps a daily record for each child under age 2 regarding sleeping, eating, and elimination patterns, and makes it available to the parent at the end of each day.
 3. Parents are informed in advance about special planned activities (for example, special events, field trips, substitutes).

- H. The provider has established formal and informal ways to communicate with parents about their child.

1. The provider communicates regularly with parents regarding changes in the child's mood, behavior and development, and about child guidance practices used by the parents and the provider.
2. The provider offers parents a conference at least once every 12 months.

The Provider and the Provider's Family

- I. The provider balances the family child care program with her family's own needs.
 1. The arrangement of space and use of materials is balanced to meet the needs of both the child care program and the provider's family.
 2. The provider is in general agreement with her family about the use of the home for child care, and has resolved major concerns.
 3. When appropriate, the provider keeps her own family's toys and personal items safe and off limits to children in care.
 4. If the provider's own child is part of the program, the provider takes steps to make the experience a positive and developmentally appropriate one for all involved.
 5. The provider's family members are courteous and respectful when they interact with the child care children and families.

Family to Family

- J. The provider encourages the families in the care group to form positive relationships with each other. Examples of ways this may happen are:
 - The provider and/or parents plan activities where child care families get together recreationally.
 - The provider posts information for parents about community events that families may want to do together.

The Provider and the Community

- K. The provider maintains supportive relationships outside the family child care home.
 1. The provider seeks out the support of friends, family, other providers, and/or community organizations.

II. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

The Home and Outdoor Space

- A. The environment is organized to support the activities of the program.

1. There is enough indoor space for play and activities to meet the developmental needs of children in care.
2. All areas of the home used by children and the provider are well lit and adequately ventilated.
3. Materials that are likely to cause odors are disposed of regularly to avoid unpleasant smells.
4. The temperature of the home is in a comfortable range, and no less than 67°. Fans, air conditioning, or other means of air circulation are used if the inside temperature exceeds 80°.
5. The family child care home is well organized, physically comfortable, and welcoming. For example:
 - There is a designated space for parent-provider communication (such as a bulletin board, parent mailboxes, etc.)
 - There is a space for each child to store personal items.
 - Children's art and materials of interest are displayed.
6. There is a soft area where children can sit with the provider.
7. Space can be arranged so that a child can have quiet time alone.
8. Space is available for babies to safely and freely crawl around.
9. Sturdy, low furniture is available for young toddlers who are learning to stand, cruise, and walk.
10. The provider arranges for reasonable adaptations to the home to meet the special needs of each child. For example, if a child is not able to stand, toys and equipment are moved within the child's reach; furniture may be moved to accommodate a child in a walker.
11. Areas can be created for many types of activities such as block play, dramatic play, music, fine motor, large motor, quiet play, reading, resting, and eating.
12. School age children are provided with some separate space for their program activities and storage of materials.
13. Shades, curtains or other window coverings are available to darken the area used for napping.
14. There is a clean, safe outdoor play area with open space for active, large motor activities and exploration.

15. There is play and equipment and/or materials that encourage a variety of large motor activities appropriate to the ages and interests of children in the group.

Materials and Equipment

- B. Materials and equipment are developmentally suited and appealing to all children in the group.
 1. There is a range of materials available to children to support their growth in all developmental areas.
 2. Materials are clean and in good repair (for example, no broken or missing pieces).
 3. There is a sufficient amount and variety of toys and materials for the number and developmental range of children in the group.
 4. Materials reflect the lives of the children in the group and people of many races and cultures. Materials and books include positive, non-stereotyped images of girls and boys, women and men, people with different abilities and occupations, and people of different ages in a variety of activities.
 5. Equipment is altered or adaptive equipment is provided for children's special needs. If a child works with an agency that has written an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for the child, the provider makes a good faith effort to follow those guidelines.
 6. Materials are located close to the place children are likely to use them, and children are able to find and replace materials on their own. For example:
 - Materials are stored in predictable places
 - Small items belonging together are contained together
 - Pegs are supplied for smocks and dramatic play items
 - Shelves are uncluttered so that when a child removes an item, s/he can see where to replace it.
 - Many of the books are stored together in a way that children can easily choose the one they want.
 7. If faucets are not within reach of children, a secure step is located in front of any sink where children age 2 and over wash their hands.
 8. Chairs, tables, dishes, and utensils are comfortable for the ages and development of the children.
 9. No violent or sexually explicit pictures or materials are present.
 10. Providers add and/or rotate materials on a regular basis in response to children's developmental needs and interests.

11. Materials in storage are well organized and are stored out of children's sight when possible.

III. THE DAILY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Philosophy

- A. The family child care home has a clear philosophy and goals concerning the care and education of children.
 1. The provider gives parents a written statement of the philosophy for the family child care home.
 2. The provider is able to give specific examples of how her routines and activities for children relate to the philosophy of the program.

Child-Initiated Activities

- B. Children learn through self-paced play, and through active engagement with materials, the provider, and other children.
 1. Children have opportunities throughout the day to move about, make choices about their activities, and follow their own interests at their own pace. They are active and engaged most of the time.
 2. Infant and toddler activities focus on individualized activities and spontaneous interactions in group play.
 3. For school-age children, children direct most of their own activities, with the provider giving assistance when needed.

Provider Strategies

- C. The provider uses a variety of techniques to address, extend, and support children's development and self-guided play.
 1. The provider notices and builds upon the learning experiences and teaching opportunities that happen naturally in daily home life.
 2. If themes or units are used, they are changed in response to children's interests.
 3. The provider plans and changes activities based on children's individual needs by using the following strategies:
 - Adjusting activities based on children's different learning styles
 - Playing back-and-forth games with babies and toddlers
 - Supporting play in different developmental areas
 - Supporting children as they try to learn new skills

- Engaging with each child during routines and/or play every day
 - Respecting a child's wish not to participate in a planned learning activity
 - Breaking tasks into simpler ones, adding materials, and suggesting new ideas as children learn new skills
4. The provider suggests and explains activities and choices to children.
 5. The provider observes and describes to children what they are doing and asks them open-ended questions about their activities.
 6. The provider occasionally joins in children's play. In doing so, she is respectful of children's play and participates without taking over.
 7. The provider helps children learn to participate in routine activities cooperatively.

Daily Schedule and Routines

- D. The daily schedule is suitable to the length of the day and the children served.
 1. The schedule is clear and consistent for children and parents.
 2. The flow of the day is in harmony with children's schedules.
 3. The provider's daily planning allows ample time for play and routine.
 4. The provider is flexible enough to change plans based on children's needs, and responds as calmly as possible to unexpected situations.
- E. Transitions throughout the day are calm and relaxed.
 1. The provider helps children as needed during separation at drop-off and pick-up times.
 2. The provider gives children advanced notice when a change in activity is coming, and children are given an opportunity to finish or save their work.
 3. Children have time to make transitions without being rushed.
 4. Whenever possible, children have an active rather than passive role during transitions.
 5. At clean-up times, the provider has clear expectations for children based on their abilities, and gives positive assistance when needed.
 6. Children are not required to wait unnecessarily.
 7. When a child attends more than one program, the provider plans for a smooth transition between programs. Examples include children who attend half-day early

childhood or Head Start programs, or only come to the provider's home before and/or after school.

- F. The schedule offers a balance of activities.
1. Most activities are child initiated. Activities planned by the provider are planned according to the interests and abilities of the children.
 2. The provider plans for some time when the children are together and interact in a group, but infants and toddlers are not expected to participate in planned group activities.
 3. Children are provided with opportunities for both quiet and active play every day. Children have opportunities during the day for privacy and relaxation. The provider takes children outdoors every day, weather permitting. If the group cannot go outside for active play, it is offered in some way indoors.
 4. Children, particularly, the very young, are protected from noise and activity that may be over-stimulating (including music, radio, and television).
 5. School-agers have space and time to relax quietly and engage in large motor activities after school.
- G. Caregiving routines promote security and age-appropriate independence.
1. Self-help routines such as handwashing, toileting, tooth brushing, eating, napping, resting, and dressing are planned to meet each child's individual needs. For example:
 - The provider allows enough time for children to do things for themselves.
 - The provider recognizes children's efforts at self-help, and is supportive if lapses occur.
 2. Providers strive to make nap/rest time relaxing and comfortable for all children.
 3. Non-sleepers can have a choice of quiet activities.
- H. In homes with infants or toddlers, routines are individualized. The provider talks to babies and toddlers about what is happening during routines, and encourages them to be active participants.
1. Children's diapers are checked frequently, and are changed when they are wet or soiled except during naps.
 2. Parents and providers agree on a toilet learning approach, based on each child's developmental readiness. The provider recognizes children's attempts at toileting, and responds calmly to accidents.
 3. Babies are fed on their own schedule.

4. The provider holds an infant while bottle feeding, talks to the infant, meets her/his gaze.
5. The provider offers safe finger foods to toddlers.
6. Infants and young toddlers sleep on their own schedules.

Guidance

- I. The provider has clear and consistent expectations and uses positive techniques for guiding children's behavior and helping them develop self control.
 1. The provider encourages children's positive behavior by planning ahead: setting up age-appropriate environment, activities, and routines.
 2. The provider reduces power struggles with children by being clear about children's choices. When appropriate, children participate in establishing the rules for behavior.
 3. The provider uses an appropriate positive approaches when guiding a child's behavior. Examples include:
 - Redirecting a child to more appropriate behavior or activities.
 - Explaining expectations in positive, developmentally appropriate terms.
 - Staying nearby to help children maintain self-control
 - Using encouragement
 - Acknowledging children's positive behavior
 - Letting children experience the safe natural consequences of their actions rather than imposing limits or punishment.
 - Handling minor problems calmly and quickly, before they become more serious.
 4. Strategies used to guide children's behavior are intended to help children regain self-control and composure. Use of time outs should be limited, since strategies other than time-out are usually more effective in guiding behavior. Time outs are never used with children under three. If time-outs are used with older children, they last no more than one minute in length for each year of the child's age, and are never more than five minutes.
 5. Physical punishment is prohibited. The provider does not shame, criticize, tease hurtfully, threaten, or yell at children, and is not physically rough with them (for example, jerking, pulling, pushing).

Computers, Television, Videotapes, and other Audio-Visual Media

- J. Computers and audio-visual media are used only when they have a clear purpose and support children's development.

1. If the provider offers such activities as computer software, audio tapes, films, and videotapes, all materials are previewed by the provider to assure that they are developmentally appropriate for the children who are using or watching the materials.
2. Television, if used, is limited to programs that only have content that is appropriate to children.
3. If the provider uses “passive” media such as television, films and video, they are used appropriately and on a limited basis, rather than as regular daily events. Other activity options are also available, and children are not required to view the program. The provider talks with children about what they are viewing.
4. Materials showing violent, sexually explicit, or stereotyped content may not be used or viewed by children.
5. Computers, if used, promote children’s active involvement, learning, creativity, or fun.

IV. SUPPORTING CHILDREN’S DEVELOPMENT

Child Development

- A. The provider has clearly defined developmental goals for children.
 1. The provider knows the general pattern of children’s growth and learning, and understands that each child has a unique pattern within that normal range of development.
 2. The provider gathers information about individual children from discussion with parents and her own observations and/or assessment. The provider can give specific examples of how this information is used in planning a program that is culturally and developmentally appropriate for each child.
 3. When the provider believes a child’s development is substantially different from expected development in the early years, she works with parents and community agencies (where applicable) to address the child’s needs.

Social and Self-Development

- B. The provider supports the development of positive self-esteem by helping children understand and appropriately express their feelings and needs.
 1. The provider helps children express themselves, using strategies appropriate to each child’s level of development. Examples are included in Appendix II.
 2. The provider avoids using statements that discount or belittle children’s feelings (for example, “you’re not hurt”), or requiring apologies.

3. The provider has positive regard for children's efforts at a skill or task whether or not the child is successful or the task is completed, and acknowledges specific aspects of their efforts.
 4. The provider reacts calmly to children's needs for dependence and independence.
- C. The provider actively promotes social skills and positive relationships among children.
1. The provider models positive social interactions for children.
 2. The provider helps each child find positive ways to interact with others and supports children in developing friendships. Examples are included in Appendix II.
 3. The provider uses naturally occurring events and conflicts to help children talk through their feelings, listen to each other, and learn a variety of ways to interact (for example, by planning together, taking turns, sharing, making lists, asking permission, etc.)
 4. The provider helps children notice when people are being unfair and learn effective ways to stand up for each other and themselves.
 5. Infants have opportunities to be in safe contact with each other and with older children in the group.
 6. School-age children have time and encouragement to pursue friendships and interests, and plan their own activities together.
- D. The provider assures respect for the diversity that exists within the community.
1. The provider helps children understand and respect differences among people in the group (for example, physical traits, age, gender, personality styles, abilities and skills, family structure, language, cultural traditions, etc.
 2. The provider models positive regard for all differences and responds warmly and factually to children's feelings or questions about them.
 3. Girls and boys have equal opportunity to participate in all activities and use all equipment and materials.
 4. The provider introduces cultural activities based on the authentic experiences of children, families, and the provider herself rather than on stereotyped images of various cultures.
 5. The provider demonstrates respect and sensitivity for the religious beliefs and practices of all children and families enrolled, including those who not do believe in any religion.

6. The provider does not engage in religious teaching or practices. She does not introduce activities or display materials that relate to any one religious tradition to the exclusion of others, or that advance or inhibit religion in general.

Physical and Sensory Development

- E. The provider offers a wide range of opportunities for children’s sensory, large, and small motor development.
1. Children have daily opportunities for large motor activities while using safe and developmentally appropriate equipment. See examples in Appendix II.
 2. Children have daily activities for small motor activities while using safe and developmentally appropriate equipment. See examples in Appendix II.
 3. The provider helps children learn to identify and express physical sensations and learn the names for the parts of their bodies.
 4. The provider plans for developmentally appropriate sensory experiences both indoors and outdoors. See examples in Appendix II.
 5. The provider helps school-age children organize and participate in active games and sports.

Thinking, Reasoning and Problem-Solving

- F. The provider helps children enjoy learning and using a variety of thinking skills.

In homes with infants and toddlers, the provider establishes routines, activities, and interactions to help babies understand the world around them. See examples in Appendix II.

1. The provider takes advantage of every day events to encourage children to think about questions, investigate answers, and solve problems. See examples in Appendix II.
2. The provider encourages children to develop and show their understanding through a variety of activities such as drawing, dramatics, writing stories, photos, etc.

Early Language and Literacy Development

- G. The provider ensures that children hear language around them and engage in a wide range of early language and literacy experiences.
1. The provider uses conversational speech with children, varied in tone, volume and expression.
 2. The provider reads to children daily.

3. The provider offers rich language experiences for infants and toddlers. See examples in Appendix II.
4. The provider plays with words and language with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. See examples in Appendix II.
5. The provider introduces, models, and supports opportunities for children to use and understand written and oral language. See examples in Appendix II.

Math and Science

- H. Children engage in math and science activities on a daily basis.
1. The provider takes the opportunity to help children learn math and science concepts as they participate in everyday activities. See examples in Appendix II
 2. The provider offers planned activities that reinforce these scientific and mathematical consequences.
 3. As children are ready, the provider asks children “what if” questions.
 4. Children have opportunities to explore the natural and physical world.

Creative Expression

- I. Art and other self-expression activities are open-ended and child-directed.
1. The provider encourages children to experiment with and enjoy the process of creation using a variety of media. The provider doesn't expect children's products to all look the same.
 2. The provider offers opportunities for creative expression in art, music, dance and dramatic play that adapt easily to the developmental stages of the children in the group.
 3. The provider displays or photographs artwork created by each child, and saves some for parents.
 4. Older children have the opportunity to undertake long-term creative projects of their choosing.
- J. Children are encouraged to express themselves with a variety of art activities using increasingly complex tools and media. (See Appendix II for specific examples.)
1. During free play times, children have access to basic art materials appropriate to their developmental skills and interests.
 2. The provider uses protective coverings for floor, tables, and other areas of her home during messy art activities so that the children can create freely.

3. The provider offers school-age children experiences with increasingly complex art and craft projects that they help choose.
- K. Children are encouraged to express and enjoy themselves with a variety of musical and movement activities.
1. The provider engages children in music and movement activities with children. See Appendix II for examples.
 2. Equipment and materials are available for children to create their own music and movement activities independently.
- L. The provider facilitates children's increasingly complex pretend play.
1. The provider provides opportunities for children to engage in complex pretend play. See Appendix II for examples.

Health, Safety and Nutrition

- M. The provider helps the children learn sound health, safety, and nutritional practices.
1. The provider models, encourages, and discusses sound health, safety and nutritional practices as the opportunity arises in daily life.
 2. The provider helps children recognize physical cues and sensations in their bodies that identify feelings of hunger and satisfaction, fatigue, sickness, pain, fear, safety, and need for toileting.
 3. The provider helps children gain awareness of community members who help children and adults stay healthy and safe.
- N. The provider helps children learn skills and develop habits that contribute to physical and psychological health.
1. The provider helps children learn basic self-care skills, and provides opportunities for children to use these skills on a daily basis. See Appendix II for examples.
 2. The provider accepts and responds calmly to lapses in self-help skills (such as spills and toilet accidents).
 3. The provider consults with parents if a child seems generally sad, angry, or more emotionally fragile than is typical for that child.
- O. The provider helps children learn skills and habits that contribute to their safety.
1. The provider helps children learn to consider the safety implications of their actions and play.

2. The provider teaches children developmentally appropriate safety rules related to potentially unsafe situations in their environment and daily lives. See Appendix II for examples.
3. The provider works with parents to help children learn self-identification information as appropriate for their age level. See Appendix II for examples.

V. HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

- A. The home environment is clean and safe, and meets the Health and Safety requirements of Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 45 Licensing Rules for Family Child Care Centers for Children, 45.05 Home.

Supervision

- B. Children are under appropriate adult supervision at all times.
 1. The provider can see and hear children under age 2 at all times, with these exceptions: (1) when children are sleeping; (2) brief intervals such as a quick bathroom break or to get something from another room and return immediately. Immediately before and immediately after such brief intervals, the provider does a visual check to confirm the child(ren)'s safety and wellbeing.
 2. The provider can see or hear children under age 5 while outdoors.
 3. Children age 5 and older may be out of sight and sound of the provider but the provider knows where they are and what they are doing.
 4. The provider's attention is focused on the children. Telephone calls, personal demands, business-related tasks, and visitors do not take priority over caring for the children.
 5. The provider is not employed in another occupation during child care hours.
 6. The provider never leaves children in a car without an adult being present.
 7. Children are not permitted to leave the program with anyone other than their parent or specific individuals designated by a parent in writing or verbally. Non-custodial parents must have written permission of the custodial parent to pick up their child.
 8. The provider has an agreement with another adult who is available during hours of care to provide assistance in case of an emergency. This name, telephone number and address are posted near the phone.

Safety

- C. The provider ensures the safety of all children in her group.

1. The provider complies with all safety precautions on the Home Safety Checklist (Appendix III) and completes the checklist quarterly.
2. The provider remains awake, available, and able to respond to the needs of children when children are in care.
3. Wisconsin law identifies all family child care providers as mandated reporters of possible childhood abuse and/or neglect. If the provider has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, she will immediately contact Dane County Department of Human Services or a local law enforcement agency.
4. If the provider does not speak English, she is able to communicate basic emergency information in English.

D. The provider ensures that no other person in the home represents a threat to the safety of the children in care.

The provider ensures that no one on the premises during the hours of care consumes or is under the influence of alcoholic beverages or non-prescribed controlled substances.

1. The provider protects the children from witnessing any physical or verbal abuse and/or frightening or threatening situations.
2. The provider makes sure that no person will be in contact with the children whose behavior, mental condition, or physical condition gives reasonable concern for the safety of children.
3. The provider expects any person in the home (including family members, visitors, and parents of children in care) to abstain from negative guidance of children enrolled in the family child care home.

E. The provider ensures that pets are free from disease and will not hurt the children.

Parents are informed of any pets before enrollment, and are notified in writing before new pets are introduced.

1. The provider supervises interactions between pets and children by sight.
2. The provider maintains rabies immunization records of any cats or dogs on the premises, and assures that immunizations are up to date and signed by a veterinarian.
3. Pet droppings and materials for care and feeding of pets are kept out of children's reach.
4. Based on continuing observation of the children and the pet(s) and knowledge about the temperament of both, the provider determines if the pet(s) are a threat to children's safety. If there is any question whether the pet(s) are a possible danger to the children, the pet(s) are kept in an area inaccessible to children.

Health

- F. The provider is physically and emotionally healthy and suited to caring for children.

The provider seems to enjoy children and delight in their development.

1. The provider is physically and mentally able to actively supervise and play with children.
2. The provider has a documented physical exam, signed by a physician, at least once every two years, and a negative tuberculosis test every two years.
3. The provider takes precautions to avoid extreme stress, and learns to use stress management techniques to handle unavoidable stress.
4. The provider deals with personal issues outside of times when children are in care.

- G. The provider takes precautions so that other people do not jeopardize the children's health.

Smoking is not allowed on the premises during hours of care.

If any person in the home has symptoms of illness or a communicable disease that may be transmitted through normal contact, the provider ensures that that person is not in contact with children.

Children who become ill are separated from other children but within sight or hearing of the provider, and parents are called to pick the child up.

Upon enrollment, each child's file has up-to-date immunization records or has a written exemption.

- H. The provider attends to children's special health needs.

If a child has been diagnosed as having a special health need, the provider works to understand the condition, follows all prescribed treatments, and works with parents and other specialists as needed, to the best of her ability.

1. The provider administers medications and other remedies only with written authorization signed by parent(s) and dated for each administered dose.
2. If a child receives a superficial wound, the provider puts on disposable gloves and cleans the wound with soap and water only, and protects the wound with a band-aid or bandage.
3. The provider does not give children bottles of milk in bed, or allow children to walk around sucking on a bottle.
4. Children's food allergies are posted in the kitchen.

- I. The provider minimizes transmission of disease in a variety of ways.
1. The provider washes her hands with soap and running water before and after feeding, eating and diapering; after having contact with bodily fluids and assisting with toileting; before preparing or serving food; and after touching animals.
 2. The provider makes sure that children wash their hands with soap and running water before and after eating; after toileting, diaper changes and nose blowing; before preparing and serving food; and after touching animals.
 3. If the kitchen sink is used for handwashing after toileting, changing diapers, or assisting with toileting, the sink and faucet handles are disinfected immediately.
 4. If the provider and children are in an area where running water is not available (such as on a field trip), the provider provides individual wipes or hand sanitizing solution for the children and herself.
 5. Liquid soap in a pump dispenser and individual towels (disposable or individual) are provided for the children. If individual cloth towels are used, they do not touch each other when hung up to dry, and are washed at least weekly or as they become soiled.
 6. The provider is familiar with and uses universal health precautions when dealing with bodily fluids that may contain blood.
 7. Tables are cleaned and sanitized before and after meals and as they become soiled.
 8. Toys mouthed by children are washed and sanitized before reuse.
 9. Children do not share personal items such as combs, brushes, toothbrushes, dishes, eating utensils, bibs, bottles, towels, washcloths, bedding, or pacifiers.

Diapering and Toileting

- J. The provider consistently follows sanitary procedures related to diapering and toileting.

The provider changes children's diapers on an easily cleanable surface that is washed with soap and water and then with a disinfectant solution after each use.

1. A sink with running hot and cold water is very close to diapering and toileting areas.
2. Materials to clean and change children are readily accessible during diaper changing.
3. Wet and/or soiled diapers are disposed of in a closed container, out of children's reach, and near to the changing area.
4. Potty chair receptacles are emptied, rinsed, and disinfected immediately after each use.

Meals and Snacks

- K. The provider encourages nutritious eating in a relaxed, social atmosphere.

The provider interacts with children to make feeding, meals, and snacks relaxed, social times. When possible, she sits with children during meals.

1. The provider encourages children to taste foods, but children are not forced to eat.
2. Except for special events such as picnics and field trips, children eat meals and snacks at the table.
3. Food is never used as a reward or withheld as a punishment.
4. Babies are fed when they are hungry.
5. Babies of any age are held during bottle feedings.
6. If the provider prepares meals and snacks, she posts weekly or daily menus, and follows the USDA Child And Adult Food Program (CAFP) guidelines for menus and food preparation.
7. If parents bring the food, the provider supplies parents with current child nutrition information from the USDA CAFP. The provider is prepared to supplement the meal if all required food components are not supplied.
8. Perishable items supplied by parents are refrigerated until eaten.
9. The provider offers the children the opportunity to have a snack or meal every three hours.

VI. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONALISM

Regulation

- A. The provider complies with applicable Federal, State, County, and City child care regulations related to providing child care.

Providers caring for 4 or more children are licensed by the Wisconsin Dept of Health and Social Services under HFS 45, Licensing Rules for Family Day Care Centers.

1. Providers not requiring a state license are Dane County certified as a Family Day Care Provider under DWD 55, Day Care Certification.
2. The provider permits visits (which may be either announced or unannounced) by appropriate persons for the purpose of monitoring compliance and investigating complaints.

3. The provider ensures that any time the children are transported by car, the driver will have a valid driver's license, the vehicle used will be registered in the state of Wisconsin, the vehicle will be adequately insured, and the driver uses child restraint devices as required by law.

B. The provider is a member of a Madison Accredited Family Child Care System.

The provider works cooperatively with the Madison Accredited Family Child Care system staff to meet Madison Accreditation Standards in an annual re-accreditation of the family child care home.

- A provider who is accredited by the National Association of Family Child Care may be eligible for an alternate accreditation process in the year she is accredited or re-accredited by NAFCC.
 1. The provider cooperates with the Family Child Care System in an annual evaluation of her services and child care practices, and uses this information to set goals for improvement.
 2. The provider completes and promptly returns the required annual rate survey initiated by the City Tuition Assistance Coordinator in late summer.
 3. Providers serving City of Madison Tuition Assistance clients follow the guidelines set by the City Tuition Assistance Program (see Appendix IV).

Child and Adult Ratios

- C. The number of children cared for in the family child care home is limited to best meet the needs of the children. The family child care system may limit the number of children cared for by the provider, based on an evaluation of individual circumstances.
1. The provider must consider both the physical space available and her own personal resources for providing care.
 2. The total number of children must include the provider's own children and/or any other children under the age of seven living in the home (relatives, friends, or foster children).
 3. The total number of children must include any children in care over the age of seven who are not members of the provider's family.
 - a. There may be times when neighborhood or school playmates who are over the age of 7 are on the premises to visit the provider's own children. As long as the visits don't interfere with the provider's primary responsibilities with the day care children, the visitors aren't included in the group size or number.
 - b. Children over age 7 who visit the family child care home to play with children in care (not the provider's own children) or to act as a "helper" for

the provider are considered to be in the care of the provider, and must be included in the group size and number.

4. There may be occasions when a non-resident adult will visit the family child care home, with or without his/her own children under the age of 7. The provider's first responsibility is to children in care. The provider is expected to maintain appropriate supervision and activities of day care children when another adult is visiting.
5. Since children with special needs may require more care, the group size should be adjusted as needed.

D. The maximum number of children legally cared for by one adult varies depending on the ages of the children and the level of regulation attained by the caregiver.

County-Certified Providers: Providers who are both Dane County certified and City of Madison Accredited may care for the following numbers of children:

Chart 1 Madison Accredited Providers Who Are County Certified			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Provider's Children Under 7*	Child Care Children Under 7*	Additional Children 7 and Over	Maximum Group Size
1	3	2	6
2	3	1	6
3	3	0	6
4	2	0	6
5	1	0	6
6	0	0	6

*The following conditions apply when infants and toddlers are in a county certified and Madison accredited family child care home:

- a. If 3 or more children are under one year of age, there shall be no other children in the group, including the provider's own children under 7.
- b. If the combination of the provider's children and child care children includes 5 children under 36 months of age, there shall be no other children in the group under age 7.

State Licensed Providers. When child care is provided for 4 or more children under the age of 7 excluding the provider's children or relatives, a Wisconsin State Family Child Care license is required. Providers who are both State Licensed and Madison Accredited may care for the following number of children:

Chart 2 Madison Accredited Providers Who Are State Licensed			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Under 2 years*	2-6 years*	1 st grade and above in care less than 3 hrs/day**	Maximum # of children per provider
0	0	8	8
0	8	0	8

Chart 2 Madison Accredited Providers Who Are State Licensed			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Under 2 years*	2-6 years*	1 st grade and above in care less than 3 hrs/day**	Maximum # of children per provider
1	7	0	8
2	4	2	8
3	2	2	7
4	0	0	4

*The following conditions apply when infants and toddlers are in a state licensed and Madison accredited family child care home:

- c. If 3 or more children are under one year of age, there shall be no other children in the group, including the provider's own children under 7.
- d. If the combination of the provider's children and child care children includes 5 children under 36 months of age, there shall be no other children in the group under age 7.

**The following conditions apply if there are school-age children in a licensed and Madison accredited family child care home:

- e. As indicated in Chart 2, Column 3, Additional children over the age of 6 are permitted for less than 3 hours a day. If these children are in care for the full day such as in-service, vacation days or summer, they must be included in the numbers defined in Chart 2, Column 2.

Overnight Care

E. Individual providers may be specifically accredited for overnight care.

1. Providers will meet the membership requirements of a Madison family child care system, and the Madison Standards of Accreditation for Family Child Care Providers.
2. Overnight care will be done only in the home of the accredited provider.
3. If a provider offers accredited care overnight, the program must be state licensed. State licensing requires that the provider remain awake when children are in care.
4. A provider that offers accredited overnight care may care for children a maximum of 12 hours in any 24 hour period. Although not prohibited, working a second job outside of care hours may impact a provider's ability to be accredited (i.e., sleeping schedule, physical capacity).
5. The maximum number of hours that the child is in the care of the provider is 12 hours in any 24 hour period.
6. Children must be under adult supervision at all times.
 - The provider or an adult substitute who meets the applicable Madison standards must be present at all times.
 - No person under 18 years may be left in sole charge of the children.

- The provider gives Family Child Care System staff a written plan for their review and approval describing how children will be supervised throughout the night (i.e., electronic monitoring, checking on children, other adults in the home, provision for substitute care, quarterly parent-provider discussion).
7. Children may share a room with other children. Children may not share a room with adults.
 8. Each child will have his/her own bed or cot.
 9. Each child's bed has its own linens, which is laundered before being used by another child.
 10. The program for children will be suitable to the time of the day children are in care.
 11. Appropriate materials and equipment will be available to children during their waking hours. Activities and routines will be compatible with the child's daily schedule.
 12. Emphasis will be placed on parent/provider communication to ensure adequate exchange of information of children's needs and the care situation. Parents and providers will meet or speak by phone on at least a quarterly basis.

Training

- F. The provider meets or exceeds the education and training requirements of Madison accredited family child care providers:
 1. The provider meets the entry-level training requirements of county certification or state licensing, as applicable.
 2. The provider completes a minimum of 20 hours of training annually in family child care related issues, early childhood care and education topics, or related fields. The provider may use the Family Child Care System training resources to partially or fully complete the required training.
 3. Documentation of completed training is on file.
 4. The provider completes SIDS prevention training before caring for children under 2 years of age. Documentation of the completion of this training is on file.
 5. The provider successfully completes a course in CPR for infants and children every two years. The course must include training in rescue breathing and first aid for choking. Documentation is on file.
- G. The provider plans for her own professional development to improve her knowledge related to early childhood care and education. Examples include:

- Active involvement with other family child care providers.
- Involvement in a related professional groups or activities (such as Dane County AEYC, NAFCC, CDA advisor, participation in a mentor program, etc.)
- Visits to the home of other family child care providers.

Enrollment

- H. The provider and prospective parent(s) exchange information to assure a good match.
1. The provider offers verbal and written information about the family child care policies and program, allows the parents to visit the family child care home, and encourages the parents to discuss their values and wishes regarding such topics as eating, sleeping, toileting, and discipline.
 2. The provider is willing to give references to prospective parents if requested.
 3. The provider will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual preference, creed, handicap, funding status or national origin or ancestry in accepting children.

Policies

- I. The provider has written policies for the family child care business that are given to parents that include the following topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment and termination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Sick days (Child and provider) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/s health or medical policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacations (child and provider) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration of medication | <input type="checkbox"/> Payment schedule and late fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual parent conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field trip policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Child Care System membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Release of children | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child abuse and neglect reporting | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent grievance procedure (see page 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality | |

Parent-Provider Agreement

- J. The provider and parent(s) discuss and sign a written parent-provider agreement.
1. The provider and parents discuss the family child care policies and sign an agreement prior to the beginning of care which defines the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Termination of care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fees | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency arrangements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Payment schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Release of children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illness policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacations | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for each child in care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meals | |

2. The agreement is reviewed on an annual basis; the provider schedules a time with parents for an annual contract review.
3. The signed agreement is in the child's file, and parents are given a copy.
4. The provider shares information with parents about the City of Madison Accreditation Standards and the Dane County Certification Standards or Wisconsin State Licensing rules (whichever apply).

Business Practices

- K. The provider maintains accurate records and forms as listed in Appendix V of these standards.
- L. The provider follows standard and legal business practices.
1. The provider maintains necessary financial records of income and expenses.
 2. The provider meets legal requirements for operating a small business, for example: pays taxes, social security, employer's share of social security and worker's compensation if there are employees.
 3. The provider gives parents receipts upon payment of fees and gives parents her business identification number with the first receipt and upon future request.
 4. The program is covered by insurance including liability insurance, vehicle liability insurance if the provider transports the children in her own car, and accident insurance for employees when applicable.

Staff

- M. The provider assures that staff of the accredited family child care program are qualified for their responsibilities.
1. A provider who has employees has the following policies:

<input type="checkbox"/> Job descriptions	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> Work rules	<input type="checkbox"/> Termination procedures
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Salary schedule
 2. The provider ensures that any assistants and substitute providers who are not employees of the Family Child Care System are over 18 years of age and work well with children and adults.
 3. The provider assures adequate supervision of assistants.
 4. Assistants under the age of 18 always work in the presence of an adult.

5. The provider allows a member of the Family Child Care System staff to interview any substitute or assistant who works with children in her Madison accredited family child care home on a regular basis (six or more hours a week).
 6. The provider's assistant(s) must meet the minimum training requirements for providers (e.g., Dane County certification course, SIDS training if there are children under age 2, CPR for infants and toddlers renewed every 2 years).
 7. The provider ensures that the assistant/substitute has read through the Madison accreditation standards and has agreed in writing to follow the described child care practices.
 8. The provider notifies parents in advance and introduces an assistant or substitute before she is solely responsible for the children, except in the case of an emergency.
 9. The provider orients the substitute/assistant by sharing information concerning the children in care, especially concerning health and nutrition needs including allergies, and emergency procedures, daily routine, home environment, emergency practices, and policies of the family child care home.
- N. The provider establishes respectful working conditions for staff.
1. The provider and assistant spend time together on a regular basis to share observations of children.
 2. Assistants are provided a ½ hour break when they work more than 5 hours a day with the children.
 3. The provider encourages the assistant's on-going training and professional growth.

Exceptions

- O. The provider will operate her business in compliance with these standards
1. The provider can request an exception to a specific standard for a specified and limited period of time based on special circumstances.
 2. Exceptions that involve licensing or certification requirements must have prior approval of licensing or certification.
 3. A request for an exception must be made in writing to the Family Child Care System prior to the time the exception is needed.
 4. The request for an exception must clearly identify the reason for the request, the dates for which the exception is requested, and how care will be monitored during the period of the request to assure that standards are maintained.

5. The Family Child Care System staff and director will review the request. If the request is denied, system staff will inform the provider of that denial. If system staff recommend approval, they will submit their recommendation to the City of Madison specialist responsible for accreditation of the system, who will grant or deny the request.
6. If the City of Madison specialist denies the request, the provider may appeal the denial to the Community Services Supervisor within 10 working days from the notification of the denial. The Community Services supervisor will make a final binding determination within 30 days of the receipt of the appeal.

APPENDIX I: RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

June 2004

It is not necessary to have all new, “store bought” materials. As long as they are clean, safe, sturdy, and developmentally appropriate, home-made toys, items from garage sales, and common household materials are acceptable.

Physical and Sensory Development

For children under two:

Washable objects to grasp, handle and mouth
Low, sturdy furniture to pull up to standing
Music
Sensory items-water, play dough, instruments
Simple art supplies
Beginning manipulative toys, balls
Toddler-sized climber
Push/pull toys
Low riding toys without pedals
Other_____

For children over two:

Manipulative toys, blocks
Art supplies
Writing tools
Scissors
Practical life items
Climber
Slide
Music, instruments
Pedal riding toys
Balls
Sensory items-sand, water, clay, dirt
Bean bags, hula hoops
Other_____

Early language and literacy

For children under two:

Durable books (for example, board and cloth books)
Simple pictures and photographs
Child’s name and other written words visible
Crayons, paper and other small motor materials
Play telephone
Other_____

For children over two:

Variety of fiction and non-fiction books
Recorded books and songs in child's home language
Large paper for group stories
Crayons, markers, pencils
Homemade blank books
Small clipboards with paper
Chalkboard and chalk
Wall alphabet for letters
Other _____

Mathematical Concepts:

Picture dominos for matching
Slot box for sorting
Nesting cups for sequencing
Easy board games for counting, wall calendar
Scale, tape measure for measuring
Puzzles, blocks for shape and spatial orientation
Pattern blocks, stringing beads patterning
Wall calendar for numerals
Other _____

Science Concepts

Water and water toys
Sand and sand toys
Toy vehicles, smooth flooring, ramps
Magnets
Magnifier
Large thermometer
Scale
Child friendly cooking utensils
Plants and animals
Child friendly garden tools, seeds
Items from nature (rocks, shells, plants, etc)
Other _____

Creating and Expressing

For children under two with supervision:

Crayons
Play dough
Paint brushes
Non-toxic paint
A variety of recorded music
Simple musical instruments
Other _____

For children over two:

- Variety of drawing and painting tools
- Safe child sized scissors
- Glue or paste, tape
- Variety of papers, fabrics, yarn, etc
- Clay /play dough
- Small wood pieces and similar items for collage or building
- Musical instruments
- Variety of recorded music
- Recycled materials
- Other _____

Dramatic Play

- Dress-up clothing
- Hats
- Props for enacting themes and roles
- Blocks of different sizes and shapes
- Stuffed animals and dolls
- Miniature people, animals, vehicles
- Other _____

Daily Living

- Child Sized: wood working tools
- snow shovels and rakes
- cleaning equipment (towels, spray bottles, etc.)
- cooking utensils
- eating dishes and utensils
- pitchers and serving dishes
- gardening tools
- computer
- Other _____

APPENDIX II: RECOMMENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

June 2004

Social and Self-Development

Support Development of Positive Self-Esteem

Infants and Toddlers

- Respond to the physical and emotional needs of infants promptly.
- Accept and describe feelings and needs of children who do not talk.
- Hold and touch infants often.
- Enjoy back and forth, verbal and non-verbal communication with them.
- Understand and acknowledge individual infants'/toddlers' sounds and gestures
- Talk to Infants and toddlers about what they are doing and what you are going to do.
- Give infants and toddlers time to respond to your voice.
- Accept toddlers' expression of preferences and concern.

All children as appropriate to their age and development

- Recognize and comment on children's positive actions.
- Use children's names in songs, games, and conversation
- Display children's art work, projects, and photographs.
- Discuss individual differences, likes and dislikes.
- Give equal encouragement for children to take part in all activities, regardless of sex, cultural background, or special needs.
- Provide each child with experiences in which he or she can be successful.
- Respect all children's desire for privacy.

School-Agers

- Encourage school-age children to take increasing responsibility for themselves.
- Ask for and respond to school-age children's suggestions about activities and snack.

Promote Social Skills and Positive Relationships Among Children

Infants and Toddlers

- Play simple games with infants
- Provide infants opportunities to be in safe contact with other children.
- Play games like hide and seek, ball, and chase with toddlers.

All children as appropriate to their age and development

- Help children develop an increasing awareness of how other people feel.
- Help children develop an increasing awareness of how their actions affect others
- Provide enough materials for children to play and do table activities together

- Encourage children to learn each other's names.
- Help verbal children express feelings and resolve conflicts with words.
- Encourage children to help each other.
- Provide opportunities for children to play or work along and to respect each other's work and space.
- Help children get to know the parents of other children, and other people in the community.
- Promote everyday courtesy and consideration of others.
- Encourage children to treat you, your family, and your home with respect.

School-Agers

- Encourage older children to lead games, teach skills, and share special interests.
- Encourage school-age children to plan and play organized games.
- Provide community involvement opportunities for school-agers.

Assure Respect for Diversity

All children as appropriate to their age and development

- Encourage understanding and acceptance of the special needs of all children in the group.
- Incorporate the interests, traditions, cultures, and languages of the children's families into daily activities.
- Choose play materials that reflect the special interests of the children in care.
- Provide books, pictures, and experiences with people from a variety of racial groups, cultures, family structures, and with a variety of abilities.
- Incorporate stories, toys, music and food from a variety of cultures into daily activities.
- Respect the preferences and practices of all families' holiday celebrations.

Enhancing Physical and Sensory Development

Support Sensory, Large and Small Motor Development

Infants and Toddlers

- Offer infants objects to grasp, handle, and mouth.
- Provide infants with "tummy time" to help strengthen muscles in the back, arms and neck.
- Provide safe places for mobile infants to crawl and explore.
- Provide furniture for pulling up to standing.

All children as appropriate to their age and development

- Provide opportunities for children to learn and practice large motor activities:

<input type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Crawling
<input type="checkbox"/> Running	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing
<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Jumping
<input type="checkbox"/> Throwing	<input type="checkbox"/> Balancing
<input type="checkbox"/> Kicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Swinging
<input type="checkbox"/> Catching	<input type="checkbox"/> Playing active games

- Dancing
- Starting and stopping movements
- Allow time and opportunity for children to do activities that promote fine motor development:
 - Grasping
 - Turning book pages
 - Eating with utensils
 - Scribbling
 - Cutting with age-appropriate safety scissors
 - Buttoning
 - Zipping
 - Using a variety of art materials
 - Playing with small manipulative toys.
- Provide age-appropriate sensory experiences indoors and out: water, sand, playdough

School-agers

- Give older children the opportunity to learn new complex skills: Bike riding, ball games, jump rope, computer graphics, cooking, crafts.

Thinking, Reasoning and Problem-Solving

Help children use a variety of thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

Infants and Toddlers

- Create space where infants and toddlers are able to freely explore objects, home, and outdoor spaces.
- Move infants often to vary the things they see, hear, and feel.
- Engage infants in verbal and non-verbal “conversations,” respecting the infant’s pace.
- Encourage babies to experiment with cause-and-effect activities such as banging, throwing, and pounding.
- Play hiding games with infants and toddlers.
- Play simple pretend games with toddlers.

All children as appropriate to their age and development

- Play hiding, guessing, and matching games
- Offer children the opportunity to learn by doing and experimentation
- Help children use a variety of ways to gain information and understanding, such as reference materials, hands-on exploration, asking other people.
- Encourage children to comment, predict, and ask questions when reading stories together.
- Ask preschoolers and school-agers “what-if” questions.
- Provide materials that encourage exploration and problem-solving (for example, blocks, puzzles, construction toys, science activities, cooking).
- Provide activities that can be successful for children with a variety of learning styles (visual, verbal, auditory, motor, emotional, artistic)
- Create opportunities for children to engage in elaborate child-directed pretend play.
- Ask open-ended questions which welcome children’s creative ideas.

School-agers

- Help older children gain information through books, field trips, visitors.

Early Language and Literacy Development

Help children develop early language and literacy skills.

Infants and Toddlers

- Imitate an infant's sounds and facial movements.
- Give infants time to respond to the adult voice.
- Talk about what you are doing and what the child is doing during play and caregiving routines.
- Naming people and things for babies, both in conversations and while looking at books and pictures

All children as appropriate to age and development

- Enjoy songs, chants, and rhymes together.
- Read books together.
- Use rich conversational speech with children.
- Listen, respond to, and expand on what children have to say.
- Tell stories using materials children can handle (for example, flannel boards, magnetic boards, puppets, toys)
- Ask open-ended questions that allow children to describe events, objects, and relationships.
- Encourage writing through scribbling, drawing, writing the child's name
- Make writing a part of every day life by making lists, labels, signs, messages, and group stories.
- Encourage children to draw or dictate their stories.

School-agers

- Invite school-age children to read with younger children.
- Encourage school-age children to write newsletters, make signs or posters, write thank you cards.
- Teach jump rope rhymes and word games to older children.

Math and Science

Incorporate math and science concepts into daily activities.

- Provide children with opportunities to learn and use math and science concepts as children participate in every day activities.

All children as appropriate to age and development

Observing

Recognizing and creating patterns

- Experimenting
- Matching
- Counting
- Measuring
- Manipulating objects
- Reading counting books
- Predicting

- Recording information
- Sorting
- Sequencing
- Becoming familiar with time concepts
- Recognizing shapes
- Solving problems together
- Using recipes and calendars

Creative Expression

Provide open-ended art experiences.

All children appropriate to their age and development

- Encourage process and experimentation rather than making a specific product in creative activities
- Give children frequent opportunities to scribble and paint.
- Talk to children about their choice of colors, shape, and use of space.

Provide increasingly complex art experiences.

All children appropriate to their age and development

- Expose children to a variety of art forms
- Allow children to combine different art materials and tools in creative ways
- Provide children with a wide variety of art tools and materials appropriate to their age
- Expose children to a variety of art forms appropriate for their age (visual arts, music, drama, and dance).
- Talk with children about objects, colors, and shapes in books, drawings and paintings made by others.
- Encourage school-age children to undertake long-term projects of their choosing, such as plays, art projects, and crafts.

Provide opportunities for children to express themselves with a variety of music and movement activities.

Infants and Toddlers

- Sing and chant with infants and toddlers
- Imitate their movements to music (clapping, swaying, etc.)

All children appropriate to age and development

- Engage children in music and movement activities:
 - Singing
 - Clapping games
 - Listening to recorded music
 - Finger plays
 - Acting out stories
 - Hearing music from different cultures
 - Moving to music
(dancing, marching, galloping, etc.)

Facilitate pretend play

All children as appropriate to age and development

- Observe, listen, and join in when children take on pretend roles or use objects for creative purposes.
- Offer household props and/or costumes to enhance children's pretend play.
- Encourage children to act out favorite stories and familiar themes.
- Support the efforts of older children to put on shows or plays for an audience.

Health, Safety and Nutrition

Help children learn sound health, safety and nutritional practices

All children as appropriate to development

- Help children learn to recognize and name physical cues and sensations:
 - Hunger and satisfaction
 - Fatigue
 - Sickness and wellness
 - Pain
 - Fear
 - Safety
 - Need for toileting

Help children learn skills and develop habits related to physical and psychological health

All children as appropriate to age and development

- Help children learn and use basic self-care skills:
 - Toileting
 - Handwashing
 - Toothbrushing
 - Dressing
 - Nose blowing
 - Not touching blood
 - Getting enough sleep
 - Being physically active
 - Mastering mealtime practices
 - Passing
 - Serving
 - Pouring
 - Using utensils
 - Drinking from a cup
 - Asking politely
 - Chatting respectfully

Help children learn skills and habits that contribute to their safety.

All children as appropriate to their age and development

- Teach children developmentally appropriate safety rules about:
 - Matches and fire
 - Medications
 - Stores and public places
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Potentially harmful objects, plants, and animals

Vehicles and streets

Work with parents to help children learn self-identification information:

First and last name

Age

Gender

Family phone number

Family address

Provider's name

(For older children) When and how to dial 911 and report and emergency

APPENDIX III: REQUIRED HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

June 2004

QUARTER

1 2 3 4

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM SAFETY

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Household cleaning products, insecticides and poisons are stored in their original containers, either in high cupboards or in locked areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Medicines and non-prescriptions (including vitamins) are stored out of children's reach in the original containers. Prescription and non-prescription medication for children in care must be kept in the original container. A written authorization for the medicine is on file, signed by parent(s) and dated for each administered dose. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where are medicines and vitamins stored? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Cabinets that contain any potentially harmful or dangerous items that are within a child's reach have safety latches or locks on the cabinet doors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Knives and other sharp objects are kept out of children's reach. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where are knives and sharp objects stored? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. To minimize risk of burns: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep hot liquids, foods, and cooking utensils out of a child's reach.• Place hot liquids and food away from the edge of the table.• Cook on back burners when possible and turn pot handles toward the center of the stove.• Avoid using tablecloths and placemats that can be yanked off, spilling hot liquids or food.• Keep high chairs and stools away from stove.• Do not keep snacks near stove.• Store cooking oils away from stove (not in cupboards over the stove). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Your home's hot water is adjusted to 120 degrees or less to prevent tap water scalds. Water temperature can be tested with a thermometer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. All foods, plastic bags (including balloons) and small items that children can choke on are kept out of children's reach. Test toys for size with a toilet-paper roll (if it fits inside the roll, it can choke a small child). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where are plastic bags, balloons and small items stored? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Solid food is cut into small pieces for infants and toddlers to prevent choking. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. A sink with hot and cold running water is close to diapering and toileting areas. If the kitchen sink is used for handwashing after toileting, the sink and faucets are disinfected after each use. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Children are never left unattended on the changing table. |

THROUGHOUT THE HOME

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Flammable or combustible materials shall be in properly marked containers and stored in areas inaccessible to children. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|

QUARTER

1 2 3 4

- Where are flammable and combustible substances stored?
- 12. Toys are free from loose parts, sharp edges or points and long cords.
- 13. Gates are used at the top and bottom of the stairs when toddlers are present. (Do not use accordion-style gates with wide spaces at the top. They can cause strangulation, if a child's head becomes entrapped).
- If gates are used in the home, please list where and why.
- 14. Children's clothing is checked for cords and drawstrings that may cause strangulation.
- 15. Toy chests either have a lightweight lid, no lid, or a safe-closing mechanism.
- 16. Windows have screens that are secure.
- 17. A working telephone is on the premises.
- 18. Emergency telephone numbers are near or on the phone. Include numbers for the EMS system, police, fire department, local hospital or physician, poison control, your own phone number, your emergency back-up's phone number and the numbers of the parent's home and work.
- 19. Poisonous plants are placed out of a child's reach. (For a list, call Madison Poison Control Center, at 800-222-1222.) Identify plants accessible to children. Remember to include outdoor garden plants.
- 20. Plastic outlet plugs or outlet covers are installed on all electrical outlets.
- 21. Break-away safety devices are installed on all window blind cords and cords are kept up out of reach of children. Cribs are never positioned near or beneath a window.
- 22. If firearms are stored on the premises, they are locked and inaccessible to children. Store guns individually locked and unloaded and store ammunition in a separate place.
- Where are firearms and ammunition stored?

NAP AREAS

- 23. Infants up to one year of age are placed on their backs to sleep.
- 24. The crib is safe.
 - a. Crib mattress fits snugly with no more than two fingers breadth between the mattress and crib railing.
 - b. Soft fluffy bedding, bumper pads, positioning devices (such as wedges), heavy blankets, and stuffed toys are removed from the baby's sleeping area.
 - c. Sleeping babies are checked to see that each baby's head and face remain uncovered during sleep.
 - d. The distance between crib slats is less than 2-3/8 inches (so infant's head doesn't get caught).
 - e. Sides of infant cribs are in locked position when in use.
 - f. Cribs are cleaned and disinfected regularly.

QUARTER

1 2 3 4

FIRE SAFETY

- 25. Electrical appliances (toaster, hairdryer, space heater, coffee pot, etc.) are unplugged or turned off.
- 26. Ensure that there are two unobstructed exits on each floor.
 - Identify your exits.
- 27. All woodburning stoves are inspected yearly and vented properly. Stoves are inaccessible to children.
- 28. Fireplace hearths have protective covering on hard or sharp edges.
- 29. Smoke detectors are installed and maintained in operating condition on each level of the home and in sleeping/napping areas.
 - a. Smoke detectors are tested monthly, and this testing is noted in a log
 - b. Batteries are replaced twice a year. The dates for the current year are:
Date: _____
- 30. A working fire extinguisher, with a minimum rating of 2A - 10 BC, is present in the home and inspected yearly.
 - a. Where is your working fire extinguisher?
 - b. What is the date of its most recent inspection?
- 31. Smoking is prohibited on the premises during child care hours. If smoking occurs outside of child care hours, cigarette butts and matches are safely disposed of.
- 32. All space heaters are approved, in safe condition, out of children's reach, placed at least three feet from curtains, papers, and furniture, and have protective covers.
- 33. Electrical cords are not frayed or overloaded, and are placed out of children's reach.

EMERGENCY PRACTICES

- 34. A first aid kit containing the following materials is readily available indoors, outdoors, and on field trips: Disposable gloves, wipes, plastic bags, band aids, sterile gauze, first aid tape, scissors, and thermometer.
 - Where is your first aid kit stored?
- 35. Provider must have planned emergency practices (i.e. tornado, fire evacuation) that are practiced monthly, with the dates and times noted in a log.
 - a. Explain your emergency practices for tornadoes.
 - b. Explain your emergency practices for fire evacuations.

CAR SAFETY

- 36. Children less than 12 years old ride in the BACK seat with appropriate child restraints or lap-shoulder restraints.
- 37. Rear-facing infant safety seats are used until infants weigh at least 20 pounds and are one year old.

QUARTER

1 2 3 4

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. All car seats are secured in the BACK seat of the car.
- b. Seats are secured following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- c. Test for tightness by pushing the seat forward, backward, and side-to-side. Tighten the belt to ensure that the seat does not move more than ½ inch (1 cm).
- d. For proper adjustment, the seat belt buckle and latch plate (if needed) must be located well below the frame or toward the center of the seat.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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38. All children under 40 pounds use car seats during auto travel.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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39. All children 40-80 lb and less than 4’9: use booster seats and seat belts during auto travel.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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40. Children are never left unattended a car.

OUTDOOR AREA

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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41. Garden tools and lawn equipment, pesticides and herbicides are safely stored, out of reach of children.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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a. Where do you store garden, lawn equipment, gasoline, and grill lighter fluid?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

42. Playground equipment is assembled and anchored correctly according to manufacturer’s instructions and equipment is free from breaks, rust and splinters.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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43. Cushioning materials (i.e grass, mats, wood chips, or sand) are used under climbing equipment, slides, and swings according to Wisconsin State Licensing’s recommended guidelines for depth.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

44. If children have access to your garage, it is properly child-proofed.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

45. The yard is checked and cleared daily of any animal waste.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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46. With the exception of wading pools (see below), children do not have access to any bodies of water during hours of care, such as in-ground pools, on-ground swimming pools with rigid sides, hot tubs, ponds, lakes, or irrigation ditches. A permanent barrier or other measure prevents children from gaining access to these areas.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

47. If wading pools are used:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

a. The water is changed and the pool is disinfected daily.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

b. If children in diapers use the pool, it is sanitized before others use it.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

c. Pools are supervised by sight and sound at all times.

_____	Date
_____	Date
_____	Date
_____	Date

Quarter 1
Quarter 2
Quarter 3
Quarter 4

APPENDIX IV: REQUIRED CITY OF MADISON TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICIES

City of Madison Child Care Assistance Program Information for City Accredited Family Child Care Providers

What is the City's Child Care Assistance Program?

The City of Madison's Child Care Assistance Program pays child care costs on a sliding fee scale for low-income families who qualify for funding. Program criteria are detailed below.

Who is Eligible for Child Care Assistance?

To be eligible, families must have resided at least six months in the City of Madison. They must also qualify based on the City's income guidelines. Families whose incomes are above the income guidelines pay a portion of their child care expenses. This portion is called a family share.

City assistance is only for families who are not eligible for other child care assistance programs such as the Wisconsin Child Care Subsidy Program (W2).

Parent must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. be employed or looking for work; or
2. be enrolled in school or a training program; or
3. have special needs (i.e., family stress, child developmental problems, etc.).

What is the difference between the City and County Programs?

City families must use only a City accredited provider. County families may use City accredited, State licensed and County registered providers.

The City's income guidelines and child care rates differ from the County.

How are the City's Rates Determined?

The City's child care rates are based on the average of rates charged by City accredited centers and home care providers. An annual survey is completed in late summer with resulting rate changes implemented in October. The City will notify providers of rate changes.

City accredited programs must establish a fee schedule for child care services. If the provider's rate is above the City's maximum rates, the family will be responsible to pay the difference between the City and provider rates. Providers who charge rates that are lower than the City's maximum rates will be paid at the lower rate.

Providers are required to charge the same rate to City families as non-City families. In the case where there is a sliding fee scale offered to the public, the City will pay the scale's highest rate up to the City's maximum rate.

Provider-Parent Contract

Payment of Vacation and other Benefits

The City will be guided by the terms of the written, signed provider-parent contract regarding payment of vacations, sick leave benefits, holding fees, etc. The City will pay no more than its maximum rates for basic child care. The City can pay only one child care provider at a time. If alternate care is required, the City will pay one provider for the same time period.

What Documents should the Provider Receive?

A Tuition Aid Authorization form giving formal notice of payment will be issued to eligible families. The provider will receive a copy of the form. The Tuition Aid Authorization form includes: names of the child and parent, beginning date of eligibility or effective date of change, number of days eligible for care, City's payment rate, parent's family share, termination dates, and comments.

Any increase or decrease in care will require another authorization form.

How will the Provider be Paid?

The City will mail a billing statement for child care providers and centers every four weeks (not once a month). There will be 13 billing statements in a calendar year. A file copy will be included for the provider's use.

The provider should review the billing statement for accuracy, make adjustments if necessary (i.e., wrong rate or addition of authorized child care, etc.), sign and return the statement for payment. The City will review the returned statement for adjustments, and forward the statement to the City Accounting Office which will issue the check directly to the provider.

In the first billing period, providers will be paid for the actual number of days of care provided to new families. Subsequent billing periods will pay for four weeks of care.

When can the Provider Expect Payment?

The provider can expect payment about two weeks after the ending date of the statement. The directions at the bottom of the billing statement inform the provider of the scheduled payment date. Late statements are paid as City Accounting can make accommodations.

It is possible for a provider to arrange to pick up the check. Please write this request across the top of the billing statement. City Accounting will hold the check and notify the provider when the check is ready.

What are the Family's Responsibilities?

1. Each family is required to submit income verification when requested by this office. Continuing income eligibility is reviewed for every family on a semi-annual basis.
2. Families must notify the City of any change of address, income or occupation.
3. Families with a family share must pay that share directly to the child care provider. Families are responsible to pay to the child care provider any rate difference between the City's maximum rate and the provider's actual rate.
4. Families must give the child care program two weeks' notice when discontinuing care.

What are the Provider's Responsibilities?

1. In order to receive City child care assistance, the provider must maintain City accreditation.
2. The provider must complete and sign a contract with the parent regarding the terms of the child care being provided. The parent must receive a signed copy of the contract.
3. The provider must report the following to the City:
 - a. acceptance of a family for child care
 - b. beginning date of care
 - c. rate being charged
 - d. attendance problems or failure to use care for three consecutive days.
 - e. changes affecting child care assistance (i.e., decreased or increased hours of care, transfer to another child care provider, etc.)
 - f. care not provided (i.e., program vacation days, substitute care by another City accredited program, etc.)
4. The provider must submit accurate bills.
5. The provider must complete and return the City's annual rate review survey.

The City appreciates the facilitative and supportive role that providers have given to the City and its families. The providers' advocacy has been instrumental in working through some difficult situations.

What are the Family Day Care System's Responsibilities?

1. The family day care system refers City families to City accredited providers.
2. The family day care system ensures that providers are meeting City accreditation standards.
3. It is the system's responsibility to mediate child care concerns and issues with parents and providers.

What are the City's Responsibilities?

1. The City determines a family's eligibility for the City Child Care Assistance Program.
2. The City monitors continuing eligibility (income reviews, revised school schedules, etc.)
3. The City makes regular payments.
4. The City is required to give two weeks' notice to the family (and provider) concerning discontinuance or rate changes.

Where does the Provider go with Problems?

Providers who have child care concerns and issues should first contact the family child care system for support and assistance. Family child care system staff should contact the assigned child care specialist at the Office of Community Services for problem-solving and additional support services if needed.

The provider should contact the City Child Care Assistance Coordinator concerning problems and questions in the area of financial payment and other problems with the City Child Care Assistance Program.

We want to work in a positive, cooperative way to maintain a quality child care service for families. Please feel free to call with questions.

Office of Community Services
P.O. Box 2627
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 266-6520

APPENDIX V: REQUIRED FORMS

June 2004

1. The provider keeps these personal records on file:
 - Evidence of entry-level training
 - Current training record
 - SIDS training verification
 - CPR (every 2 years)
 - TB test results (every 2 years)
 - Current physical report (every 2 years)
 - Personal emergency contact names and numbers
 - Background Information Disclosure (BID) form for all people in the home 10 years of age or older.

2. The provider keeps the following business records:
 - Verification of certification of licensing
 - Documentation of liability insurance
 - Documentation of auto insurance
 - Copy of driver's license
 - Copy of vehicle registration
 - Pet immunization records, if applicable
 - Current fee schedule
 - Current schedule and ages of children in care

3. The provider keeps on file these records for each child:
 - Enrollment form
 - Daily attendance
 - Health form
 - Immunization record
 - Emergency contact form
 - Field trip permission
 - Signed copy of parent-provider agreement

4. A provider who has employees keeps the following records for each employee:
 - Evidence of entry-level training, where applicable
 - Evidence of the employee's age
 - Background Information Disclosure (BID) form
 - Employment agreement
 - Physical health form
 - TB test results
 - Emergency contact names and numbers
 - Work schedule
 - Pay verification

5. A provider who has other assistants and substitutes maintains the following records for each:
 - Training verification for SIDS
 - Training verification for CPR
 - Verification of other required training