Every licensed child care facility must meet the minimum state child care licensing standards pursuant to s. 402.305, F.S., and ch. 65C-22, F.A.C., which include, but are not limited to, the following:

**General Requirements**
- Valid license posted for parents to see.
- All staff appropriately screened.
- Maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios:
  - Under 1 yr. old: 1:4
  - 1 yr. old: 1:6
  - 2 yrs. old: 1:11
  - 3 yrs. old: 1:15
  - 4 yrs. old: 1:20
  - 5 yrs. old & older: 1:25
- Maintain appropriate transportation vehicles (if transportation is provided).

**Physical Environment**
- Maintain sufficient usable indoor floor space for playing, working, and napping.
- Provide space that is clean and free of litter and other hazards.
- Maintain sufficient lighting and inside temperatures.
- Equip with age and developmentally appropriate toys.
- Provide appropriate bathroom facilities and other furnishings.
- Provide isolation area for children who become ill.
- Practice proper hand washing, toileting, and diapering activities.

**Training Requirements**
- 40-hour introductory child care training.
- 10-hour in-service training annually.
- 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of training in early literacy and language development.
- Director Credential for all facility directors.

**Health Related Requirements**
- Emergency procedures that include:
  - Posting Florida Abuse Hotline number along with other emergency numbers.
  - Staff trained in first aid and Infant/Child CPR on the premises at all times.
  - Fully stocked first aid kit.
  - A working fire extinguisher and documented monthly fire drills with children and staff.
- Medication and hazardous materials are inaccessible and out of children’s reach.

**Food and Nutrition**
- Post a meal and snack menu that provides daily nutritional needs of the children (if meals are provided).

**Record Keeping**
- Maintain accurate records that include:
  - Children’s health exam/immunization record.
  - Medication records.
  - Enrollment information.
  - Personnel records.
  - Daily attendance.
  - Accidents and incidents.
  - Parental permission for field trips and administration of medications.

**Parent’s Role**
- The parent’s role in quality child care is vital to its success. In partnering with the caregiver to achieve this goal, parents should:
  - Familiarize themselves with the child care standards used to license the child care facility.
  - Inquire about the qualifications and experience of child care staff, as well as staff longevity.
  - Know the facility’s policies and procedures.
  - Communicate with the caregiver.
  - Visit and observe the facility.
  - Participate in special activities, meetings, and conferences.
  - Talk to their child about their daily experiences in child care.
  - Arrange alternate care for their child when they are sick.

To report non-compliance with state licensing standards, please contact your local licensing office.
Quality Child Care offers healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect.

When evaluating the quality of a child care setting, the following indicators should be considered:

**Quality Caregivers**
- Are friendly and eager to care for children.
- Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
- Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and responsive to each child’s individual needs.
- Use a pleasant tone of voice and frequently hold, cuddle, and talk to the children.
- Help children manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- Allow children to play alone or in small groups.
- Are attentive to and interact with the children.
- Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of social and emotional needs and developmental tasks for all children.
- Communicate with parents.

**Quality Environments**
- Are clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, and child-friendly.
- Provide easy access to age-appropriate toys.
- Display children’s activities and creations.
- Provide a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.

**Quality Activities**
- Are children initiated and teacher facilitated.
- Include social interchanges with all children.
- Are expressive including play, painting, drawing, story telling, music, dancing, and other varied activities.
- Include exercise and coordination development.
- Include free play and organized activities.
- Include opportunities for all children to read, be creative, explore, and problem-solve.

To report suspected or actual cases of child abuse or neglect, please call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873.

For additional information, please visit www.myflorida.com/childcare or contact your local licensing office below:

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