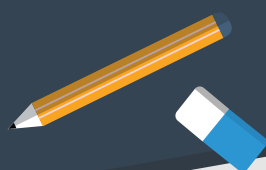


Application

for Licensure as a Child Care Provider



The following steps are involved in the process to obtain a license to operate a child care center, an out of school time facility, a licensed child care family home or registered child care family home and to access Division programs offered by the Family Support Unit (Child Care Assistance Program) and the Health and Nutrition Unit (USDA Food Program):

#1



The prospective applicant contacts Child Care Licensing Staff at this number:

501-682-8590

#2



The prospective applicant will be given contact information for the Child Care Licensing Specialist in their area and information on how to schedule the required Pre-application Orientation Class.

#3



The prospective applicant will attend the Pre-Licensing Class and will receive information on the steps involved in obtaining a license, including:

- the applicable licensing requirements
- required background check results must be received on the owner and employees prior to opening
- financial considerations and business liability
- Fire Department approval
- Health Department approval
- zoning requirements
- The Child Care Assistance Program
- The USDA Nutrition Program

- Better Beginnings, Arkansas's quality rating and improvement system

* New licensees must qualify for Better Beginnings, level 2, in order to participate in the child care assistance program.

#4



The prospective applicant will contact the Child Care Licensing Specialist in their area to discuss their plans for operating a licensed facility and to determine if they are ready to submit an application for licensure.

The Child Care Licensing Specialist will offer technical assistance, both before submission of an application and during the application process.

The Licensing Specialist will provide the prospective applicant with information on how to participate in the Child Care Assistance Program and the USDA Nutrition Program.

The Licensing Specialist will also offer to review plans and blueprints, visit proposed site locations with the prospective applicant and provide information on how to obtain zoning, Fire and Health approvals.

#5

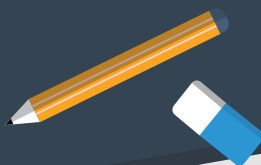


The prospective applicant will submit a completed and signed application form when they are within 60 days of their anticipated date of opening their center/home.

*Applications, by law must be processed within 60 days of receipt. If an applicant is unable to meet the necessary requirements for licensure within that time frame, they will be asked to withdraw their application, until they are able to proceed with the application process.

Application

for Licensure as a Child Care Provider



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#6



The assigned Licensing Specialist will contact the applicant within two business days of receipt of the application to discuss the applicant's plans and to offer technical assistance during the application process.

#7



The following must be in place before the application will be approved and the applicant can provide care to a licensable number of children:

*More than 5 children at any time



- A completed application, signed by the owner
- A qualified Director *centers only
- Background check results must be received for the owner and any staff who have been hired prior to approval of the application
- Approval from the Fire Department
- Approval from the Department of Health if the applicant plans to prepare and serve meals to children.
- Verification that a boiler inspection has been scheduled with the Department of Labor *water heater inspection required by Arkansas law
- Zoning approval, if required for the location of their center/home.
- Child Care Liability Insurance *a minimum of one million dollars in coverage for centers and 100 thousand dollars for homes
- A reasonable plan with a proposed budget, covering costs of staffing, facilities, utilities, equipment, safety and nutrition. *centers only
- A walk-through of the building and grounds by the Licensing Specialist to ensure that there are no hazards that could pose a risk to children in care
- Transportation requirements have been met, if the applicant plans to transport children
- The appropriate licensing fee has been paid.

*The applicant will receive a license fee notice in the mail, with information on the amount of the fee and the address where the fee will be mailed to.

- Licensed Homes - \$15
- Registered Homes - no fee required
- Centers [both child care and out of school time]-
up to 17 children - \$15, 17 to 99 children- \$50,
100 or more children - \$100

#8



To participate in Better Beginnings, the new provider should notify the Better Beginnings Specialist at 501-320-8981. The Specialist will send an application to complete.

#9



To participate in Child Care Assistance services, contact Division Administrative Staff at 501-682-8947. You will be advised of options to participate.

#10



To participate in Feeding services, the provider should contact the Health & Nutrition Unit at 501-682-8869 or 1-800-482-5850 ext 28869. Unit staff will notify provider of decision within 30 days.