

Child Care Requirements in Iowa

	Non-Registered Home	Child Development Home A	Child Development Home B	Child Development Home C	Licensed Center	Licensed Preschool	Department of Education Program
State regulated		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maximum capacity	5*	8*	12*	16*	*Varies by licensing	*Varies by licensing	School determined
Facility & Records Inspection		Randomly selected	Randomly selected	Randomly selected	Every 2 years	Every 2 years	Food service & Fire Marshall inspection every 2 years
Minimum age of caregiver	18 yrs	18 yrs	20 yrs	21 yrs	Lead teacher 18 yrs	Director 21 yrs	
Iowa child abuse registry check	✓	Household members 14+	Household members 14+	Household members 14+	✓	✓	✓
Iowa criminal records check		Household members 14+	Household members 14+	Household members 14+	✓	✓	✓
Experience required			2 years or 1 year with child related degree	5 years or 4 years with a child related degree	A combination of experience and education	A combination of experience and education	
Minimum education required			High school or GED	High school or GED	Lead teacher High school or GED	High school or GED	Iowa Teacher Certificate Bachelors or higher
Non-smoking environment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fire Extinguisher & smoke detectors		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 direct exits			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Space requirements			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quiet area for sick children			✓	✓	✓	✓	

* A home provider's own preschool children ARE included in their legal capacity. Their school-age children are not unless they are being home-schooled.

* Child Development Home A: Limit of 6 preschool children with a maximum of 4 under the age of 2. Of these no more than 3 can be under the age of 18 months. They can also care for 2 school-agers for less than 2 hours at a time.

* Child Development Home B: Limit of 6 preschool children with a maximum of 4 children under the age of 2. Of these no more than 3 can be under the age of 18 months. They can care for 4 school-agers (which can be full-time when school is not in session.) 2 additional part-time preschool or school-age children can be in care for a total of no more than 180 hours per month. When there are more than 8 children are present for more than 2 hours, an assistant 14 years or older needs to be present.

* Child Development Home C: Limit of 12 preschool children with a maximum of 4 under the age of 2. They can care for 2 school-agers for less than 2 hours at a time. 2 additional part-time preschool or school-age children can be cared for a total of no more than 180 hours per month. Whenever there are more than 8 children or if 4 babies under 18 months of age are present , the business partner who is 20 or older needs to be present.

* Center and preschool staff to children ratios: babies up to 23 months 1:4; 2 year olds 1:6; 3 year olds 1:8; 4 year olds 1:12; 5 year olds and older 1:15.

If you have concerns about any child caregiver, contact your county Department of Human Services.