

## Who Regulates Child Care?

Child care in Maryland is regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care's (OCC), Licensing Branch.

The Licensing Branch's thirteen Regional Offices are responsible for all regulatory activities, including:

Issuing child care licenses and registrations to child care facilities that meet state standards;

Inspecting child care facilities annually;

Providing technical assistance to child care providers;

Investigating complaints against regulated child care facilities;

Investigating reports of unlicensed (illegal) child care; and

Taking enforcement action when necessary.

OMAR Regulations and other information about the Office of Child Care may be found at:

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care)



## What are the types of Child Care Facilities?

**Family Child Care** – care in a provider's home for up to eight (8) children

**Large Family Child Care**— care in a provider's home for 9-12 children

**Child Care Center** – non-residential care

**Letter of Compliance (LOC)** – care in a child care center operated by a religious organization for children who attend their school

**All facilities must meet the following requirements:**

- Must obtain the approval of OCC, fire department and local agencies;
- Must have qualified staff who have received criminal background checks, child abuse and neglect clearances, and are not on the sex offender registry;
- Family child care providers must maintain certification in First Aid and CPR;
- Child Care Centers must maintain a ratio of one staff certified in first aid and CPR per every twenty (20) children at all times;

## Did You Know?

Regulations that govern child care facilities may be found at:

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/regulations](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/regulations)

The provider's license or registration must be posted in a conspicuous place in the facility;

A child care provider must enter into a written agreement, with a parent, that specifies fees, discipline policy, presence of animals, the use of volunteers, and sleeping arrangements for overnight care;

Parents/guardians may visit the facility without prior notification any time their children are present;

Written permission from parents/guardians is required for children to participate in any and all off property activities;

All child care facilities must make reasonable accommodations for children with special needs;

A "Teacher" qualified person must be assigned to each group of children in a child care center;

Staff:child ratios must be maintained at all times in child care centers;

Parents/guardian must be immediately notified if children are injured or have an accident in care;

Child care facilities may have policies beyond regulatory requirements;

OCC should be notified if a provider has violated child care regulations;

Parents/guardians may review the public portion of a licensing file; and

The provider's compliance history may be reviewed on [CheckCMD.org](http://CheckCMD.org).