



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5180:2-13-12 Safe equipment and environment for a licensed family child care provider.

Effective: July 1, 2026

(A) What are the safe equipment requirements for a licensed family child care provider?

- (1) Equipment, materials, and furniture shall be in good condition, sturdy, safe and easy to clean and maintain.
- (2) Furniture, equipment and materials which are not usable due to breakage or being a hazard, shall be removed immediately and stored away from children until repaired or replaced.
- (3) Air conditioners, heat pumps, electric fans and space heaters shall be mounted or placed out of the children's reach or have safeguards which prevent children from being injured.
- (4) Indoor swings, (excluding infant swings), slides, climbers and climbing apparatuses shall not be placed over carpet, concrete, tile, or any similarly hard surface. There shall be shock absorbent protective covering under and around this equipment. If climbing equipment is over three feet high, landing mats at least one and one half inches thick shall be used. The protective covering shall be used and placed according to manufacturer's guidelines.
- (5) All children's equipment shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.
- (6) General-use trampolines, ball pits, and inflatable play equipment intended for climbing and bouncing, including but not limited to slides and bounce houses shall not be permitted for use at the family child care home. Individual-use, personal-sized therapy trampolines no larger than forty-eight inches in diameter may be used by children under direct supervision.

(B) What are the safe environment requirements for a licensed family child care provider?

- (1) Weapons, firearms and ammunition materials shall be kept inaccessible to children, out of sight of children and secured in locked storage areas. Weapons and firearms include air rifles, hunting slingshots and any other projectile weapon.
- (2) Each of the following groups will be permitted to have the following weapons unsecured in a family child care home, unless specifically not permitted by the family child care program owner or prohibited pursuant to division (C)(3)(a) of section 2923.126 of the Revised Code. Although permitted to be in the home, the weapons shall not be accessible to children.
 - (a) Handguns may be carried by an individual with a valid concealed handgun license and are to be kept out of sight of the children.



5180:2-13-12

2

- (b) Weapons may be carried by an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces if also carrying valid military identification and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of section 2923.125 of the Revised Code.
 - (c) Weapons may be carried by a law enforcement official who can document that his or her jurisdiction requires ready and immediate access to the weapon or as otherwise permitted pursuant to section 2923.1214 of the Revised Code.
- (3) Illegal drugs or substances shall not be on the premises. Alcohol shall be kept inaccessible to children.
- (4) Type B homes are to have carbon monoxide detectors that meet the following requirements:
 - (a) In single family homes, there shall be at least one UL listed carbon monoxide detector located in the basement and on each level of the home in which child care is provided.
 - (b) In multi-family buildings, there shall be at least one UL listed carbon monoxide detector located in the basement and on each level of the unit in which child care is provided.
 - (c) The carbon monoxide detectors shall be placed, installed, tested and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- (5) In accordance with section 2923.1212 of the Revised Code, the family child care provider shall post a sign that contains a statement in substantially the following form: "Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person's control, convey or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance onto these premises."
- (6) The licensed family child care provider shall maintain an indoor temperature of at least sixty-five degrees Fahrenheit. If the homes indoor temperature exceeds eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit, ventilation that produces air movement or air conditioning shall be provided.
- (7) Children in care shall be protected from any items and conditions which threaten their health, safety, and well being, including but not limited to: stoves, bodies of water, window covering pull cords, telephone cords, electrical cords, extension cords, lead hazards, asbestos, wells, traffic, provider's, staff's or



5180:2-13-12

3

household member's personal belongings and other environmental hazards and dangerous situations. If a potential lead hazard is identified, the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY) will make a referral to the appropriate agency.

- (8) Floor surfaces shall be maintained to not cause a tripping hazard.
- (9) Toys or other materials small enough to be swallowed shall be kept out of the reach of infants and toddlers.
- (10) Cleaning and sanitizing equipment and supplies shall be stored in a space that is inaccessible to children. Cleaning agents, aerosol cans and all other chemical substances shall be stored in a designated area in their original containers and/or clearly labeled.
- (11) Mercury thermometers shall not be used.
- (12) Electrical outlets, including surge protectors, within the reach of children shall have child proof receptacle covers when not in use unless designed with safety guards, except for homes which serve school-age children exclusively.
- (13) Renovations and remodeling to the home shall be conducted in a safe manner to ensure that lead poison hazards are not introduced into the environment as required by Chapter 3742. of the Revised Code.
- (14) Unless toilets and sinks are of suitable height for use by the children, the home shall provide a sturdy, nonslip platform on which the children may stand.
- (15) Lawnmowers, sharp tools, machinery and other equipment shall not be used or stored where children have access to them.
- (16) All areas used by children shall be ventilated and shall provide protection from rodents, insects and other hazards.
- (17) Aerosol spray products shall not be used in rooms where children are in attendance.
- (18) All utilities shall be operable.
- (19) The home shall contain a kitchen sink, refrigerator and stove or microwave oven in working condition.



5180:2-13-12

4

- (20) If gates are used in the home, they shall be firmly anchored when in use. Gates at the top of stairs shall be wall mounted. Gates shall have no spaces where a child could become entrapped. Accordion style gates shall not be used.
 - (21) Handles of pots and pans placed on top of a stove or oven shall be directed inward so they are not easily accessible to children.
 - (22) The home shall have both hot and cold running water. The temperature of the hot water shall not exceed one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit unless the provider demonstrates that the hot water faucet can be made inaccessible or inoperable when children are in care.
- (C) What are the regulations for having pets in a licensed family child care home?
- (1) Pets and animals are permitted if they present no apparent threat to the safety or health of the children.
 - (2) All local and state ordinances governing the keeping of animals (exotic or domesticated) shall be followed.