



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5180:2-18-01 Definitions for registered and approved child day camps.

Effective: July 1, 2026

As used in this chapter:

- (A) "Adult" means an individual who is at least eighteen years of age.
- (B) "Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)" means a certified registered nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse midwife or certified nurse practitioner under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code.
- (C) "Approved child day camp" means a child day camp approved pursuant to section 5104.22 of the Revised Code.
 - (1) Approved child day camps shall meet one of the following requirements:
 - (a) Be accredited by the American camp association (ACA).
 - (b) Be accredited by any nationally recognized organization that accredits child day camps by using standards that the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY) has determined are substantially similar and comparable to those of the ACA.
 - (2) Approved child day camps shall meet the requirements in sections 5104.21 and 5104.22 of the Revised Code, and Chapter 5180:2-18 of the Administrative Code.
- (D) "Authorized representative" means an individual employed by a child day camp that is owned by a person other than an individual and who is authorized by the owner to do all of the following:
 - (1) Communicate on the owner's behalf.
 - (2) Submit on the owner's behalf child day camp registrations and applications for approval.
 - (3) Enter into provider agreements for publicly funded child care.
- (E) "Child" means an infant, toddler, preschool child or school-age child.
- (F) "Child care" per section 5104.01 of the Revised Code means all of the following:
 - (1) Administering to the needs of infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and school-age children outside of school hours;
 - (2) By persons other than their parents, guardians, or custodians;
 - (3) For part of the twenty-four-hour day;



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- (4) In a place other than a child's own home, except that an in-home aide provides child care in the child's own home;
- (5) By a provider required by Chapter 5104. of the Revised Code to be licensed or approved DCY, certified by a county department of job and family services, or under contract with the department to provide publicly funded child care as described in section 5104.32 of the Revised Code.
- (G) "Child day camp" means a program in which only school-age children attend or participate, that operates for no more than twelve hours per day and no more than fifteen weeks during the summer. For purposes of this chapter, the maximum twelve hours of operation time does not include transportation time from a child's home to a child day camp and from a child day camp to a child's home.
- (H) "Child day camp administrator" means the person responsible for the daily operation of the child day camp. The administrator and the owner may be the same person. The administrator is also a child day camp staff member.
- (I) "Child day camp owner" includes a person, as 'person' is defined in section 1.59 of the Revised Code, or a government entity.
- (J) "Child day camp staff member" means an employee of an approved child day camp whose primary responsibility is to provide care and supervision of children. Only a child day camp staff member may be part of the staff-to-child ratio.
- (K) "Corrective action plan" describes the action taken by the program to correct a licensing non-compliance. This plan does not confirm whether the program is in compliance with the rule or negate the non-compliance finding. Corrective action plans are submitted in the Ohio statewide licensing system and are to be completed in their entirety to be approved.
- (L) "Dentist" means a person issued a certificate to practice in accordance with Chapter 4715. of the Revised Code and rules adopted by the state dental board or a comparable body in a state.
- (M) "Employee" means an individual who receives compensation for duties performed in an approved child day camp; or who is assigned specific working hours or duties in an approved child day camp. This includes contracted employees or self-employed individuals who are compensated by the program and who has unsupervised access to children in the program.
- (N) "Field trips" means infrequent or irregularly scheduled excursions from the camp.



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- (O) "Hazardous weather conditions" means winds of twenty miles per hour or greater, continuous or heavy rain, hail, extreme temperatures, lightening or tornado warnings or watches within a twenty mile radius of a child day camp activity site.
- (P) "Medical food" means food that is formulated to be consumed under the supervision of a physician, physician assistant (PA), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition.
- (Q) "Medication" means any substance or preparation which is used to prevent or treat a wound, injury, infection, infirmity or disease. This includes medication that is over the counter, or prescribed or recommended by a licensed dentist, licensed physician, physician assistant (PA), or advance practice registered nurse (APRN) certified to prescribe medication, and permitted by the parent for administration or application.
- (R) "Natural bodies of water" mean any river, stream, creek or spring or any natural or man-made lake or pond.
- (S) "Ohio professional registry (OPR)" is an online professional development tool for Ohio's child care professionals.
- (T) "Ohio statewide licensing system" is the DCY system for child care licensing, certification, approval, and step up to quality functions and activities.
- (U) "On-site" means a primary use space where regular child day camp programming takes place.
- (V) "Operate a child day camp" means to operate, establish, manage, conduct, or maintain a child day camp.
- (W) "Parent" means the father or mother of a child, an adult who has legal custody of a child, an adult who is the guardian of the child, or an adult who stands in loco parentis with respect to a child, and whose presence in the home is needed as the caretaker of the child. Parent has the same meaning as "caretaker parent" as defined in section 5104.01 of the Revised Code.
- (X) "Physician" means a person issued a certificate to practice in accordance with Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code and rules adopted by the state medical board or a comparable body in another state.
- (Y) "Physician assistant (PA)" means a person who has obtained a valid certificate to practice in accordance with Chapter 4730. of the Revised Code and rules adopted by the state medical board or a comparable body in another state.



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- (Z) "Primary use space" means any space, including buildings and/or tracts of land, that is used by the child day camp at least seventy per cent of the day for programming purposes involving the enrolled children. Primary use spaces do not include areas that are not owned, rented or operated by the camp such as field trip locations or routine trip locations.
- (AA) "Primitive campsite" means any outdoor space in a natural environment without access to electricity, water supply systems, central food service, sewage treatment facilities and/or housing.
- (BB) "Public children services agency (PCSA)" means an entity specified in section 5153.02 of the Revised Code that has assumed the powers and duties of the children services function prescribed by Chapter 5153. of the Revised Code for a county.
- (CC) "Registered child day camp" means a camp that has completed and submitted a registration and fee to DCY for the purpose of reporting the operation of a child day camp. Registered child day camps are assigned a registration number and are included in the DCY searchable database of child care providers in the state of Ohio. Registered child day camps shall abide by rule 5180:2-18-02 of the Administrative Code, but are not considered "approved child day camps" and are not required to abide by the rules in Chapter 5180:2-18 of the Administrative Code that refer to camps approved to provide publicly funded child care.
- (DD) "Routine trips" means repeated excursions off the child day camp premises which regularly occur on a previously scheduled basis with parental permission.
- (EE) "School-age child" means a child who is enrolled in or is eligible to be enrolled in a grade of kindergarten or above but is less than fifteen years old or, in the case of a child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than eighteen years old.
- (FF) "School building" has the same meaning and meets the requirements in the section 3301.55 of the Revised Code.
- (GG) "Special needs child care" refers to care provided for a child under the age of eighteen who:
- (1) Has one or more chronic (ongoing) health conditions; or
 - (2) Requires additional support due to severe developmental differences in one or more of the following areas:
 - (a) Social development.
 - (b) Emotional development.



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- (c) Cognitive development.
- (d) Communication skills.
- (e) Perception skills.
- (f) Perception and sensory processing.
- (g) Motor skills.
- (h) Physical health or mobility.
- (i) Behavioral development.

(3) These needs require regular and ongoing adaptations and/or daily specialized support to support their child's development. As a result, the level of care needed is significantly increased and leads to ongoing additional expenses for the child care program.

(HH) "Specialized activities" means those camp program activities that meet one or more of the following:

- (1) Require a specialized skill set or knowledge.
- (2) Use equipment, animals or tools that require supervision by a person skilled in their use.
- (3) Involve the use of fire or the use of heat-producing equipment or substances.
- (4) Require injury-protection equipment, such as, but not limited to, helmets, goggles or padding.
- (5) Consist of specific sport related programs only, such as, but not limited to, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, etc.

(II) "Supervision "means the process of overseeing care of children in a child day camp and includes the duty to keep children safe from harm.

(JJ) "Visitor" means an individual who is not considered an employee but may be temporarily present in the program. A visitor does not have assigned duties, is not used in ratio, or left alone with children,

(KK) "Voluntary temporary closure" means the program requests to stop serving children, but not close the approval. A voluntary temporary closure shall not exceed twelve months.



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(LL) "Volunteer" means an individual who is not considered an employee. A volunteer may have assigned duties, but is not counted in ratio, and is not left alone with children.