

Disclaimer: Free Resources

These resources are provided as a free tool for parents/guardians to support their daycare journey.

They are intended for personal use only.

Please note:

- These materials may not be sold, redistributed, or used for commercial purposes under any circumstances.
- You are welcome to share these resources with other parents, provided they remain unaltered and free of charge.

By downloading or using these materials, you agree to respect the time, effort, and intention behind their creation. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to ethical sharing practices.

Thank you,

Ashlee Huggins



Suggested Use:

This guide is a simplified summary of publicly available BC daycare licensing regulations, created to help parents better understand key standards in child care. It is not legal advice and should not replace official documents or communication with your local licensing authority.

Review the information and focus on the areas that matter most to you when evaluating a daycare. You're welcome to use as much or as little as suits your family's needs.

BC Daycare Licensing Regulations:

Quick Guide for Parents

Staff Qualifications & Ratios

- Infant/Toddler (under 36 months): 1 educator per 4 children
 - At least one Infant Toddler Educator (ITE) required.
- Group 3–5 years: 1 educator per 8 children
 - At least one Early Childhood Educator (ECE) required.
- Preschool (4 hours max): 1 educator per 10 children
 - At least one Early Childhood Educator (ECE) required.
- School-age care (kindergarten–Grade 2): 1 educator per 12 children, School-age Care (Grade 2+): 1 educator per 15 children
 - Staff must be an ECE, ECEA, or Responsible Adult.

*Some programs may have licensing-approved exemptions in place due to staffing or other circumstances.

Space & Safety Requirements

- Indoor space: Minimum 3.7 square meters (39.8 sq. ft.) per child.
- Outdoor play area: Must be fenced and provide 7 square meters (75.3 sq. ft.) per child.
- Emergency drills: Fire drills must be conducted monthly.

Health & Safety Standards

- Nap & sleep checks: Staff must supervise children at all times, including regular checks during naps to ensure safety.
- Diapering & hygiene: Proper procedures must be followed, including handwashing.
- Sick child policy: A child must be sent home if they show signs of illness (fever, vomiting, etc.).

Food & Nutrition

- Meals/snacks must follow Canada's Food Guide.
- Food must be safe, age-appropriate, and properly stored.

Parent Communication & Records

- Daily records: Must document attendance, illnesses, and incidents.
- Serious incidents (e.g., injury, lost child): Must be reported to licensing within 24 hours.
- Parental access: Parents must be provided reasonable access to their child while in care, which may include visiting during operating hours.

Supervision & Behavior Guidance

- No physical punishment, emotional harm, or withholding necessities (e.g., food, naps).
- Positive guidance approaches must be used.

Licensing Inspections

- Childcare facilities must undergo regular inspections (at least 1x a year).

Licensing Inspections - continued

- Inspection reports are publicly available at:
 - Fraser Health Authority:
https://www.healthspace.ca/Clients/FHA/FHA_Website.nsf/CCFL-Child
 - Interior Health:
<https://hedgehogportal.interiorhealth.ca/Food/Table>
 - Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/community-care-facilities-licensing/child-care-licensing>
 - Northern Health:
https://www.healthspace.ca/Clients/NHA/NHA_Website.nsf
 - Vancouver Coastal Health:
<https://inspections.vcha.ca/#/home>

This is based on the Community Care and Assisted Living Act - Child Care Licensing Regulation. More information and details can be found at:

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/332_2007

Have a concern? Contact your local Health Authority Community Care Licensing Office. Find contact information here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/communications-engagement/reporting-on-child-care-facilities/making-a-complaint-about-a-licensed-child-day-care-facility>