

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 497,000

Number of accredited centers: 56

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 31

STAR Number of children one adult can
care for: 4 infants * 5 toddlers * 10
preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group size: Good standards for infants
and toddlers; no standards for
preschoolers and school-agers.

Caregiver training: Center directors:
BA with 15 hours in early-childhood or
related field, 12 annually. Center
staff: None to start, 12 hours
annually. Family child care providers:
None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is
regulated: 6+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family
child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have inspections 3 times a year (most are unannounced).

Family child care homes have inspections once a year (most are unannounced).

FACE Indiana law requires every school district to offer school-age care.

Former governor Evan Bayh's "Step Ahead" initiative continues to expand the supply of child care. **State**

investment: 19 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Indiana continued to break new ground on child care financing. But the state failed to move ahead with several important initiatives that could have improved family child care.

Indiana has come up with some innovative ways to tackle the tough issue of how to pay for child care. About two-thirds of the state's 92 counties are now drawing up plans to expand and improve child care with help from private businesses. This new effort grew out of former governor Evan Bayh's Step Ahead initiative, which got

all of Indiana's counties to draw up comprehensive plans for child care and other children's services. The program was developed in cooperation with the Child Care Action Campaign, a national advocacy group.

Every county is now developing its own approach, with some interesting results. In Howard county, for example, businesses donated toys, supplies and furniture to local child care programs. In Miami county, several employers helped pay for a new child care center and are planning to open another in the future.

At the same time, however, Indiana officials weakened rules for family child care, allowing providers to care for larger groups of children than in the past. Some caregivers can now take in as many as 16 kids at a time. State lawmakers also vetoed a proposal to require family child care providers to have 6 hours of annual training.

IOWA

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FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 263,000

Number of accredited centers: 124

Number of accredited family child care

homes: 5

STAR Number of children one adult can

care for: 4 infants * 6 toddlers * 8

preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

10 continuing education units, 3 years of experience, and 1 year of experience in administration to start; 10 hours in the first year, then 6 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start; 10 hours

in the first year, then 6 hours

annually. Family child care providers:

None to start, 10 hours annually (2 hours after 3 years).

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is

regulated: 7 children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Fair. Family child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have inspections at least once a year (some visits are unannounced); 20% of family child care homes have inspections each year (some visits are unannounced).

FACE State created thousands of new child care slots. **State investment:** 37 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Information on network not available.

HEART Iowa continues to take modest steps to improve both the quality and supply of child care.

State lawmakers approved a \$6 million increase in child care funding this past year, enough to create new slots for several thousand children across the state. A task force made up of state officials and advocates had recommended a \$10 million infusion of state money to improve child care. So while the legislature didn't go the whole way, this is very concrete progress.

Iowa also improved training requirements for family child care providers--they must now learn CPR and basic First Aid procedures.

Part of the reason Iowa keeps moving ahead in its efforts to improve child care is the number of lively and creative activists. In one recent campaign, for example, the Iowa Child Care Coalition and the state's resource and referral agency produced about 3,000 dolls and displayed them in the rotunda of the state capitol. Each doll had a note attached which described the needs of a real child in the state.

KANSAS

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FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 257,000

Number of accredited centers: 46

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 7**

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KANSAS

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FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 257,000

Number of accredited centers: 46

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 7**

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 3 infants * 7 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 16 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

12 college credits to start, plus 6 months experience, 5 hours annually.

Center staff: 12 college credits and 6 months experience to start, 10 hours annually. Family child care providers:

None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 1+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no Hib or HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections at least once a year.

FACE Kansas recently expanded its R&R statewide. **State investment:** 43 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Kansas took some small steps ahead, especially in the area of helping parents find care.

Kansas used federal money to expand its network of resource and referral services, making it easier for parents to learn about child care programs. By December 1997, a statewide R&R network should be in place.

The state is also developing a new career development program for child care workers. A task force made up of child care advocates and experts are designing new courses to be used statewide. Kansas already has good standards for training and adult supervision--far better than other Plains states. Its standards on infant care are among the best in the country.

Last spring, the state also set up a system to produce background checks on caregivers and other staff in child care facilities within 48 hours. Under the old system, this process would take weeks or months, during which time the caregivers could already be working.

KENTUCKY

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THIS STATE
NOT FINAL

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FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 343,000

Number of accredited centers: 92

**Number of accredited family child care
homes:** 13

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 5 infants * 10 toddlers * 12
preschoolers * 15 (6 yrs), 20 (7-9 yrs)
school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 12 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 12 hours
annually. Family child care providers: 6
hours of training in first 3 months, 6
hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated:** 4+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB until
August 1998).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE The state boosted spending on pre-K programs this year, which are available in every school district. But Kentucky simultaneously reduced funding for other programs and raised fees for some subsidized child care slots. **State investment:** 86 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND])).

Will be revised

HEART Kentucky made a bigger commitment to pre-kindergarten this year, but simultaneously lowered its total child care spending.

State legislators agreed to spend an additional \$1 million on pre-kindergarten programs, bringing total funding to more than \$38 million. This boosted the number of children served in pre-K to about 21,000--about 1,000 more than last year. The lawmakers are also earmarking any surplus in the state education budget for pre-K--a wonderful innovation.

At the same time, however, they voted to lower overall child care

spending by \$6 million over the next two years and to raise fees for families that use state-sponsored child care. This will impose a hardship on many families who depended on such subsidized child care.

Still, children who do find a space in child care will be safer from disease. Every child must now have a shot to prevent meningitis within 30 days of enrolling in a child care program. By this time next year they'll be required to have a hepatitis shot as well.

LOUISIANA

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Number of children under 6: 378,000

Number of accredited centers: 43

Number of accredited family child care homes: 0

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 6 infants * 12 toddlers * 14 preschoolers * 25 school-agers.

Group size: Poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

30 hours to start, plus 1 year of experience, none annually. Center

staff: None. Family child care

providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 7 children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have unannounced inspections at least once a year; family child care homes are inspected only upon complaint.

FACE The state has no comprehensive initiatives to increase the supply of child care. **State investment:** 17 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART State officials have proposed some serious steps to improve child

care, a welcome move in a state that ranks among the worst in the nation.

Officials at the state's department of social services have proposed the following: Lowering the child/staff ratios, requiring TB tests and mandating more training for caregivers, especially for family child care workers who presently have no training requirements. "We're finally on the verge of having some good things happen this year," says Steve Phillips, director of the bureau of licensing in the state's Department of Social Services.

State officials and activists have also been working to create a career development program for child care workers. A special advisory council, made up of a group of child care professionals, advocates, state education officials and others will run focus groups and workshops--in an effort to design new caregiver training programs. The state's resource and referral agency, as well as local universities and community colleges,

will then offer the courses to
interested caregivers.

MAINE

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FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 102,000

Number of accredited centers: 11

**Number of accredited family child care
homes:** 8

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 4 infants * 5 toddlers * 10
preschoolers * 13 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards,
except for school-age.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 2
years of college including 9 credit
hours in child-related topics, plus 6
months experience, to start; 24 hours
annually. Center staff: None to start,
24 hours annually. Family child care
providers: None to start, 6 hours
annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 3+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE This state still has no broad-based plan or funding to expand child care services. **State investment:** 29 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Maine launched a statewide program to improve caregiver training this year.

State officials here have put together an ambitious career development program that includes courses, degrees and a formal career ladder for caregivers. By next year, the state hopes to develop a computer database which caregivers can use to find out about training opportunities. "Finally, caregivers are being recognized as something more than

babysitters," says Kathy Carey, a child care center director and president of the Central Maine chapter of the NAEYC.

Just as important, the state plans to eventually make a caregiver's educational record available to parents via a computer database. Caregivers will be asked to voluntarily provide these records; it will not be mandatory.

As we went to press, state lawmakers were also considering a bill that would require all family child care homes to obtain certification, limit the size of the groups of children they care for, and receive state inspections. Without such a law, about 1,351 family child care homes are "registered" with the state, but are not required to follow even minimal safety requirements.

MARYLAND

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FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 490,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 61.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 2.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 3 infants * 6 toddlers * 10
preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 6
college credits to start, 6 hours
annually. Center staff: 6 college
credits to start, 3 hours annually.

Family child care providers: 9 hours to
start, 6 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated:** 1+ children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: [ND].

Inspections: Centers have one announced
inspection a year. Family child care
homes have one announced inspection
every other year.

FACE Maryland increased its child care budget by \$1 million, even though funds across the state were tight. **State investment:** 56 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Despite budget constraints, Maryland strengthened its support for child care. The state's impressive resource and referral service will expand this year.

Like officials in many states, those in Maryland found themselves under severe pressure to make budget cuts. Yet even while the overall state budget declined for the first time since the Depression, child care funding increased by \$1 million last year.

Nevertheless, advocates fear the state will still have trouble meeting the growing demand for child care. "In two years, as more people are moved off welfare, we fear we won't have enough money or space to provide child care for everyone who needs it," says Sandy Skolnik, executive director of the Maryland Committee for Children.

Maryland has been ahead of most other states in providing extensive

child care resource and referral services--and it continues to be a pioneer in this area. Data on child care providers is now being computerized; the Maryland Committee for Children is working to make special software available in a variety of settings, from libraries to businesses to government offices.

MASSACHUSETTS

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FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 521,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 401.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 1.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 3 infants * 4 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 15 (6&7 yrs), 13 (8&9 yrs) school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: .

14 college credits to start, plus
management training; none annually.

Master teachers: 12 college credits to
start, 20 hours annually. Center staff:

High school vocational program to
start, 20 hours annually. Family child
care provider: None to start, 5 hours
annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated:** 1+ children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: +

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have announced and
unannounced inspections every 2 years.
Family child care homes have announced
and unannounced inspections every 3
years.

FACE Massachusetts supports a broad
array of child care programs and
increased funding for them this year,
despite a tight state budget. **State
investment:** \$1.18 for every \$100. **R&R:**
Statewide network (+).

HEART Massachusetts continues to increase funding for child care, significantly boosting the number of children served. Prekindergarten and other early education programs got an additional \$10 million.

Governor William Weld proposed increasing spending by \$23 million this year, which would bring the total child care spending in Massachusetts to \$283 million by 1998. Such funding is badly needed in the face of ever-increasing demand for child care across the state.

The state also allocated \$25 million to improve salaries for caregivers in many child care programs, a move that should help reduce turnover in centers. Other states should follow this example.

As long as they hire an assistant, family child care providers here will soon be able to take in up to four more children (for a total of ten). This move increases the supply of care and also boosts its quality. In effect, the new assistants will improve the adult-to-child ratio in many homes.

MICHIGAN

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FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 914,000.

**Number of accredited child care
centers: 109.**

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 15.**

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for: 4 infants * 4 toddlers * 10
preschoolers * 20 school-agers**

Group Size: No standards.

**Caregiver training: Center directors:
60 college credits to start, none
annually. Center staff: None. Family
child care providers: None.**

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated: 1+ children.**

**Immunizations: Centers: +. Homes: Not
regulated.**

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Homes:
Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: [ND].

Inspections: Centers and large family child care homes have announced and unannounced inspections in alternating years; 10% of small family child care homes have unannounced inspections each year.

FACE This state gave child care a lift this year with \$44 million in new funds, creating 14,000 new slots. **State investment:** 37 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Michigan has dramatically increased funding for child care this year, and so far, maintained its commitment to use the money only for licensed programs.

Michigan increased its spending on child care by \$44 million, which means that nearly 14,000 more kids will be served this year. Next year, child care funding is slated to reach \$201 million, a \$16 million boost over 1997 spending. One key part of the budget: A

special program to recruit caregivers who want to specialize in infant care, since demand for such care is so great in this state.

In this state, as in so many others, there has been a raging controversy over how to expand child care options without diluting the quality of programs. Governor Engler had previously considered a radical approach to child care, which would have allowed parents to use state funds to pay unlicensed caregivers. Child care activists and providers managed to convince Engler that this was a bad idea, and it was never officially proposed. Another idea Engler floated--an elimination of background checks for caregivers--was also shelved.

MINNESOTA

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FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 404,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 205.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 121.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 7 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 9 college credits, plus 6 months supervisory experience, to start; annual training equal to 2% of hours worked. Center staff: 24 college credits, plus 2 years experience, to start; 40 hours annually. Family child care providers: 6 hours to start, 6 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 2+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have one unannounced inspection every other

year; family child care homes have one unannounced inspection every other year.

FACE Minnesota increased its funding of child care this year, investing \$192 million in new funds. **State investment:** 61 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Minnesota continues to be a leader on child care, with state lawmakers authorizing significant funds to expand and improve parents' options.

This spring, Minnesota's legislature approved more than \$200 million in funds for child care. That translates into 13,000 more families getting help paying for child care this year. State lawmakers also designated funds to expand resource and referral services to help families find care, and approved Governor Arne Carlson's proposal to give \$1 million in new state money to train and recruit caregivers to meet the new demand.

Minnesota had several other important initiatives pass this year. One new law significantly boosts

caregiver training across the state by funding scholarships for caregivers to get on-the-job training. Another new law gives grants for nontraditional care--such as programs for kids with special needs and care during weekends and other off hours.

MISSISSIPPI

THIS STATE
NOT FINAL

STAR

CROSS

FACE

HEART

Number of children under 6: 220,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 28.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 0.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 5 infants * 12 toddlers * 14 preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 15 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 15 hours annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor. **Size at which family child care is regulated:** 6+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Centers: Fair. Family child care homes: Not regulated.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have announced and unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE Mississippi still lacks a plan to expand its supply of child care. **State investment:** 4 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART Mississippi still trails most states on important measures of quality in child care.

This state's low standards make for some dangerous situations. The state's licensing director, for example, tells us that she learned of one situation where a woman was looking after 17 children at once in her private home.

This was perfectly legal under state law, since restrictions affect only non-related children, and all these children were related to one another.

In the past, Mississippi had just three inspectors to oversee the 1500 licensed centers in the state. But this year, lawmakers tripled the budget for inspection, to hire twelve more inspectors and thus reduce caseloads from about 500 centers per person to 100. The legislature deserves recognition for this move.

Legislators also voted for several innovative programs that could help working parents. One new law will give employers a tax break if they sponsor transportation to child care centers and family child care homes in rural parts of the state. This would help solve a significant problem for many parents, according to Jane Boykin, president of the Mississippi Forum on Children and Families.

The legislature also increased the state tax credit for employers who help workers with child care expenses, from

25 to 50 percent. That means companies can write off 50 cents on the dollar for contributions to community child care programs or initiatives they undertake themselves.

Finally, the state has also actively worked to improve the training of child care center directors. This year, Mississippi paid tuition for well over 100 directors to take courses in early education, a move that should improve the quality of care for children in this state.

MISSOURI

STAR STAR

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FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 409,000.

**Number of accredited child care
centers: 31.**

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 12.**

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 8 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 16 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards; no standards for preschoolers or school-agers.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 12 college semester hours, plus 2 years experience, to start; 12 hours annually. Center staff: None to start, 12 hours annually. Family child care providers: None to start, 12 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 5+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have inspections twice a year (1 unannounced).

FACE Missouri continues to fund some local initiatives to expand care. **State investment:** 32 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Missouri is making some modest progress toward improving the quality of care in some child care programs.

More and more school-aged programs in Missouri are earning state accreditation, under a grants program developed three years ago by the state department of education. Happily, the Missouri Center for Accreditation reports it is now "swamped" with applications for accreditation, which means school-age programs are meeting higher standards. These new rules are not the same as those required for NAEYC accreditation, but they are far better than having no standards at all.

Advocates here managed to beat back a bill in the state legislature which would have hurt many family child care providers by requiring them to be in compliance with all local business zoning laws--a problem that plagues many child care providers across the country.

Child care programs in religious institutions are now subject to inspection, and state officials have

asked for funding to hire more
inspectors to visit these centers.

MONTANA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 73,000.

**Number of accredited child care
centers: 10.**

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 7.**

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for: 4 infants * 8 toddlers * 8
preschoolers * 14 school-agers.**

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

**None. Center staff: 8 hours to start,
none annually. Family child care
providers: None.**

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated: 3+ children.**

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have inspections twice a year (1 unannounced). 20% of family child care homes have inspections once a year (some unannounced).

FACE Montana makes only modest investments in expanding child care.

State investment: 11 c for every \$100.

R&R: Statewide network (+).

HEART Montana took some modest steps to improve the quality of care this year.

A proposal to require more training for family child care providers across this rural state was tabled by the legislature this year, but the state did institute an important safety rule: Play areas in family child care will now have to have soft surfaces, which should protect kids who fall from jungle gyms, swings and other equipment.

State officials continued to wrangle over requirements that all kids have

their shots before they enroll in a child care program. Child care providers housed in churches and other religious institutions asked to be exempt from such rules and provoked a heated debate. So far, state officials have resisted the pressure to loosen requirements.

NEBRASKA

STAR STAR STAR

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FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 168,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 15.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 7.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 4 infants * 6 toddlers * 10
preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 12 hours annually for
those who work with children. Center

staff: None to start, 12 hours

annually. Family child care providers:

None to start, 10-12 hours annually,
depending on date of licensure.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is

regulated: 4+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Child care centers have inspections every two years (may be announced or unannounced).

FACE This state increased its spending to expand the supply of child care.

State investment: 63 c for every \$100.

R&R: No statewide network.

HEART Nebraska is working hard to improve caregiver training. But the state lacks a comprehensive plan to improve and expand care.

Nebraska expanded the offerings at its caregiver training center this year. The center, located in Omaha, has a lending library and information hotline as well as classes. Through these classes, child care workers can meet licensing requirements and work toward gaining credentials in early childhood education. Nebraska's

training standards still lag behind those of its neighbors, however-- especially Kansas. That state requires all child care center teachers to take college courses in child development before they start work.

The Nebraska legislature is expected to pass a bill that will require annual unannounced inspections of all child care programs. Currently, centers must only be inspected once every two years. And there is good news for parents of preschoolers in eight communities: The state funds collaborative preschool projects in one urban and seven rural areas.

NEVADA

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FACE

HEART

Number of children under 6: 134,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 5.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 1.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 6 infants * 10 toddlers * 13 preschoolers * 13 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: Combination of child-related education and experience to start; 3 hours in the first 6 months, then 3 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start; 3 hours in the first 6 months, then 3 hours

annually. Family child care providers:

None to start; 3 hours in the first 6 months, then 3 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 5+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections twice a year.

FACE This state still has no broad initiatives to expand child care

services. **State investment:** 17 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network. **HEART** Governor Bob Miller's leadership on child care has become stronger, but the state legislature has not shown the same improvement.

Governor Miller is showing new interest in child care: He has volunteered to chair the National Governors Association's child care committee. He has also urged the legislature to apply for federal child care funds. To do that, however, state lawmakers had to pledge to put up state matching funds, a move which had not yet been approved by the state legislature as we went to press. Advocates in this state describe the legislature as apathetic on child care issues.

Licensing standards here remain inadequate, but there has been an effort to improve them. The state's child care licensing board has proposed new rules, including one that would require more training for directors and teachers at child care centers.

A statewide summit on child care and economic development looked at how high-quality child care helps a community's economy. The meeting was sponsored by a private child care organization in conjunction with the governor's office. Participants vowed to make child care better by improving licensing standards. These plans are still vague, however.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART

Number of children under 6: 114,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 27.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 1.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 6 toddlers * 8 preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None. Master teacher: 144 hours of workshops to start; none annually.

Center staff: 72 hours of workshops to start; none annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 4+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have inspections once a year (may be announced or unannounced).

FACE New Hampshire still does little to expand child care services for its residents. **State investment:** 52 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART This conservative state continues to have a mixed record on child care.

New Hampshire is one of the few remaining states that doesn't provide public kindergarten for its kids. But Governor Jeanne Shaheen, a working

mother of three, says she wants to change that. We hope she does--and then turns her attention to the education and care of even younger children.

State lawmakers seem divided about their commitment to child care. On the one hand, a bill which would have provided more money to pay for caregiver training was defeated. But more families are now eligible for child care help, and standards for caregivers who receive state funds have been improved slightly.

NEW JERSEY

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 717,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 115.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 19.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 7 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 18 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: None. Master teachers: 6 college credits in early childhood education and 4 years experience to start, none annually. Center staff: 15 college credits to start, none annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 6+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: [ND].

Inspections: Centers have inspections every 3 years; 20% of family child care homes have monitoring visits once a year (may be announced or unannounced).

FACE The state will expand its supply of some child care under the governor's new budget. **State investment:** 50 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Prodded by welfare reform changes, New Jersey is taking a greater interest in child care than it has in the past.

New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman highlighted children's issues in her budget proposal this year, increasing child care spending by about \$27 million. "A budget is always a competition for priorities, and we're pleased that children were one of her priorities," said Ciro Scalera, executive director of the Association for Children of New Jersey.

The governor wants to spend the great majority of the money to help thousands more families with the cost of child care. Like many states, New Jersey wants to move some women from welfare to work as child care providers--a controversial concept. New Jersey is approaching the idea with some important safeguards, however. These new providers will have to meet health and safety standards and take special training sessions. The state will also pair providers with mentors

and pay for them to join an association
of family child care providers.

NEW MEXICO

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE

HEART

Number of children under 6: 164,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 36.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 0.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 6 infants * 12 toddlers * 12
preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 24 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 24 hours
annually. Family child care providers:

None to start, 6 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated:** 5+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections twice a year.

FACE This state still has no major initiative to expand the supply of child care. **State investment:** 24 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART State officials here have not made child care a high priority.

New state rules for child care facilities went into effect this spring. The maximum number of toddlers one teacher can care for was reduced from 12 to ten in many centers. That's still too many, but it's a start. New Mexico also launched a new measure to promote quality; child care centers meeting higher standards can now get more state money.

But parents may have trouble finding these centers: The state has completely eliminated funding for resource and

referral. Existing state-funded R&Rs no longer help families find care; they are now devoted to training and technical assistance for caregivers and some consumer education for parents. Such training and education is valuable, but now parents will have a harder time finding good care even when they know what it is.

NEW YORK

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FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 1,637,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 225.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 83.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 5 toddlers * 7 preschoolers * 10 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

Bachelor's degree with 18 credits in early childhood education and experience to start; 15 hours in first year and then 15 hours every 2 years.

Master teachers: Bachelor's degree with 6 courses in early childhood education to start, 15 hours annually. **Center**

staff: None to start, 15 hours

annually. **Family child care providers:**

None to start; 15 hours in the first year, then 7.5 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 3+ children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers and large family child care homes have unannounced inspections every two years; 20% of small family child care homes have unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE New York continues to fund many child care programs, but funding did not increase by much this year. **State**

investment: 90 c for every \$100. **R&R:**

Statewide network (+).

HEART Governor George Pataki's

commitment to child care continues to be weak, but an infusion of federal funds will probably help this state expand the supply of care this year.

Governor Pataki recommended that child care aid be available only to parents with kids under the age of six. This proposal would obviously save New York State money--but it would be a blow to many working moms, and a big loss to school-age programs across this state.

State lawmakers did provide some minimal help for many families, however. In 1996, the legislature made the state child care tax credit refundable. That will provide many families with a refund as high as \$432.

Overall, child care in New York State seems to be in a holding pattern. Nearly 1 million kids in this state will need state subsidized child care in 1997; so far, only 110,000 receive it.

NORTH CAROLINA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 520,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 103.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 26.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 5 infants * 10 toddlers * 15
preschoolers * 25 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 20 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 20 hours
annually. Family child care providers:

None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated:** 3+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family
child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have one announced inspection a year; 5% of family child care homes have announced inspections every 2 years.

FACE The state continues to expand its supply of child care with more than \$21 million in new funding. **State**

investment: 58 c for every \$100. **R&R:**
Statewide network (+).

HEART Governor Jim Hunt remains staunchly committed to improving child care across the state. His ambitious "Smart Start" program has led to new child care spaces for thousands of kids.

No state has more action or more enthusiasm for improving child care than North Carolina. And no governor deserves more credit for fighting for child care than Jim Hunt. His "Smart Start" program has as its goal affordable, quality early childhood education for every child who needs it.

In the past four years, the state has created more than 30,000 new slots for child care and improved care for more than 150,000 kids.

The program ran up against some resistance in the state legislature in the past, but now a solid majority embrace the core tenets of Smart Start. This year, for example, state lawmakers decided to award permanent funding for the state's caregiver training program, Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.)--more than \$1 million a year in recurring funds. That means child care advocates won't have to come back every year to fight for money for early education. The T.E.A.C.H. program is now being copied by other states, including Illinois.

With all this progress, it's a shame that North Carolina's key standards aren't better. One adult is still allowed to care for up to five babies at a time, and caregivers are not required to have any education or training before they start work (a bill now before the legislature may change

this). This state could do better on these critical aspects of child care.

NORTH DAKOTA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART

Number of children under 6: 55,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 11.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 3.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 5 toddlers * 7 preschoolers * 18 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

Some college credits and experience to start; none annually. Center staff:

None to start, 10 hours annually.

Family child care providers: None to start, 5 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 6 children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers and family child care homes have inspections (some unannounced) every 2 years.

FACE This state still lacks a plan to expand its supply of child care. **State investment:** 11 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART North Dakota legislators have not made child care a priority.

North Dakota's child care advocates do manage to make important progress, though often without much support from state lawmakers. Most impressive in recent years: The state now has a training program dedicated to caregivers who work with infants and toddlers--a crucial issue across the country. Over the last two years, more than 1,000 caregivers attended the \$1 million infant/toddler development program, funded by a private

foundation. The principles of that program are now being incorporated into state licensing laws and voluntary guidelines for caregivers across the state, which should improve care for babies.

A bill introduced into the legislature in early 1997 could have improved services in this state: It proposed a \$4 fee on birth certificates to create a Children's Fund. Half the money would be earmarked for child care. The bill was defeated, but will be resubmitted next year.

OHIO

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 999,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 161.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 7.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 5 infants * 7 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 18 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 4 college courses to start, none annually. Center staff: None to start, 15 hours annually for 3 years. Family child care providers: None to start; 12 hours of training in the first year, then 6 hours annually until they have completed 30 hours.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 7 children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have inspections (at least 1 unannounced) twice a year.

FACE Child care slots are rapidly expanding here, thanks to a big infusion of new state funds. **State investment:** 68 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Ohio maintains a strong commitment to child care under Governor George Voinovich's leadership.

Ohio has been working hard to create child care for its residents and has put serious money into the effort. As we went to press, the governor and state lawmakers appeared ready to boost funding significantly, so that 80,000 kids would receive care by 1998, an increase of 20,000 in two years. That's real progress. Ohio also expanded its pre-K programs.

The state now helps to fund an innovative program called RISE (Resources and Instruction for Staff Excellence) to train child care teachers to build closer relationships with parents. The \$1.25 million grant is being used to create parent-teacher sessions on child development. Such sessions not only cement relationships between teachers and parents, but also help answer parents' questions about discipline and development.

OKLAHOMA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 292,000.

**Number of accredited child care
centers: 38.**

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 7.**

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for: 4 infants * 8 toddlers * 12
preschoolers * 20 school-agers.**

Group Size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

Approved child care training program
and some management training to start;
20 hours annually. Master teachers:

None to start, 12 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 12 hours
annually. Family child care providers:

None to start, 10 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated: 1+ children.**

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Homes:
[ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections three times a year.

FACE This state continues to make child care funding a low priority. **State investment:** 79 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Oklahoma's commitment to child care remains relatively weak, especially on requirements for caregiver training.

Oklahoma's governor and state lawmakers have done little to expand or improve child care options for their constituents this year. State child care officials have promoted some measures, however, which could eventually improve the quality of care and help parents find care. Hearings were held this winter on the need to expand the state's resource and referral agencies: At the moment, the

state has only three R&Rs and they cover only half the state. The state is now planning to use federal funds to add six more R&Rs.

School-age care got a modest boost: The state hired two consultants to work with local communities to develop before- and after-school programs. This is a baby step, but it deserves recognition.

OREGON

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 288,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 27.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 4.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 4 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Good standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 15 hours annually.

Master teachers: None to start, 15

hours annually. Center staff: None to

start, 15 hours annually. Family child

care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 4+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers and larger family child care homes (7 or more children) have inspections twice a year (at least one unannounced); smaller homes are inspected only upon complaint.

FACE The state launched no significant new initiatives to expand the supply of care. **State investment:** 68 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Oregon has laid out its goals for improving child care in its "benchmark" program--and steadily works to meet them.

Oregon has taken a number of small steps to improve child care: A new background check on caregivers has been instituted, which includes an FBI check for criminal offenses. The state has also mandated an orientation session for anyone who wishes to open a family child care business. The two-hour briefing offers an overview of what it takes to make a home-based child care business work, and what training and support is available from the community and the state. The idea is to put the brakes on anyone who might enter the profession thinking it's an easy job, and then close up shop and leave parents in the lurch--a fairly common scenario. The innovation seems to be working. "Our certifier said she has not yet had to go out on a complaint for anyone who has gone through this overview," says Janis Sabin Elliot of the state's Child Care Division.

Oregon has also stepped up its efforts to ensure children's health and safety. For instance, it now has more power to revoke the licenses of child

care providers in serious violation of rules.

Family child care could be improved in this state if a bill pending before the legislature becomes law. Among other things, it would require providers to have training in CPR and first aid, which should be a basic standard for any good child care program.

PENNSYLVANIA

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 1,006,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 126.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 17.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 6 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 12 school-agers.

Group size: Good standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

Associate's degree with 30 credit hours in early childhood education or a related topic, plus 4 years experience, to start; 6 hours annually. Master

teachers: Associate's degree with 30 hours in early childhood education or a related topic, plus 2 years experience, to start; 6 hours annually. Center

staff: None to start, 6 hours annually.

Family child care providers: None to start, 12 hours every 2 years.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 4+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have announced inspections once a year; 5% to 10% of family child care homes have inspections once a year (may be announced or unannounced).

FACE The state aims to create a statewide R&R system this year. **State**

investment: 41 c for every \$100. **R&R:**

No statewide network.

HEART Governor Tom Ridge has talked a great deal about child care, but hasn't always backed up his words with action--or money.

The situation in this state is a mixed bag: Ratios and training requirements are quite good, but child care centers and family child care homes rarely get surprise inspection visits, and there's no statewide resource and referral (R&R) system to help parents find care. But change is in the works. The state is using some of its federal money to create an R&R network this year, and legislation is pending to require unannounced inspections. Both would be welcome developments.

As we went to press, parents and child advocates here were responding to Governor Tom Ridge's latest budget proposal. He says he's made the largest-ever increase in child care funds--\$68 million. But nearly all of that is federal money; the governor

allotted only \$1 million in state funds
for child care aid to parents in low-
income jobs. Meanwhile, 11,700 children
needing subsidized care are on a
waiting list, and the state has a
budget surplus of nearly \$500 million!

RHODE ISLAND

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 83,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 12.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 7.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 4 infants * 6 toddlers * 9
preschoolers * 13 school-agers.

Group size: Good standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 20 hours annually.

Master teachers: Bachelor's degree,

must meet standards for Rhode Island
Early Childhood certification; 20 hours
annually. Center staff: Bachelor's
degree, must meet standards for Rhode
Island Early Childhood certification;
20 hours annually. Family child care
providers: None to start, 10 hours
every 2 years.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

**Size at which family child care is
regulated:** 4+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family
child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family
child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have unannounced
inspections twice a year; family child
care homes have inspections every 2
years (may be unannounced).

FACE This state eliminated its waiting
list for child care this year and
created an innovative program to expand
the supply of family child care. **State
investment:** 46 c for every \$100. **R&R:**
No statewide network.

HEART Rhode Island has taken several steps this year to improve the quality and supply of child care. Most notably, the state has made a pledge to serve all families on a waiting list for subsidized care.

RHODE
ISLAND

This state has managed to pull off a remarkable innovation--one that should be immediately copied by other states. Rhode Island is now offering paid health insurance to licensed family child care providers who care for children who receive state child care aid. This effort is meant to--and surely will--enhance the appeal of the child care profession and help keep providers in the field. One of the big reasons that many caregivers abandon the work is poor pay and lack of benefits, especially health insurance. The program may also encourage family child care providers to get a license and meet health and safety standards.

Child care advocates here are also excited about a new program called Rhode Island Quality Childcare 2000, a collaborative effort of many agencies

involved in early childhood education.
The plan is to educate the public about
the need for quality care through a
sophisticated public relations
campaign, and also to help child care
providers gain accreditation. Both are
important goals and deserve the
attention Rhode Island is giving them.

SOUTH CAROLINA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 330,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 51.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 1.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 6 infants * 10 toddlers * 13
preschoolers * 23 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 15 hours first year,

then 20 hours annually. Center staff:

None to start, 10 hours first year,

then 15 hours annually. Family child

care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is

regulated: 2+ children.

Immunizations: [ND].

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family

child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family

child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have unannounced inspections twice a year; family child care homes are inspected upon complaint.

FACE This state continues to make expansion of child care services a low priority. **State investment:** 45 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART The governor and legislators here have been uneven in their support of child care.

This state does little to protect children in family child care: Current rules for registered caregivers don't

even insist on such basics as electricity or working smoke detectors. Thankfully, the state is now reworking the rules and will submit them to the legislature next year. If lawmakers agree to the changes, family child care providers will have to meet stricter health and safety standards and complete eight to ten hours of child care training per year.

Still, South Carolina's got a long way to go: Earlier this year, Governor David Beasley requested \$4 million for child care--necessary so that the state could receive \$9 million in federal money. But at first, the legislature balked. Eventually, they agreed to put up \$2.5 million and have two state agencies raise the remaining funds.

SOUTH DAKOTA

STAR STAR

CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 63,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 4.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 0.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 5 infants * 5 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None. Master teachers: None to start, 20 hours annually. Center staff: None to start, 20 hours annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 13 children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: [ND].

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE The state provides only modest support for child care programs, but is working to recruit more child care