

Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Day Care Homes

Our mission is to protect and promote the health, safety, and mental development of children cared for in children's centers and family day care homes in Pinellas County.

Linda Tamanini M.S., Executive Director
Cecilia Burke, Chairman



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE IN PINELLAS COUNTY

The following is a summary of the requirements found in Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Large Family Child Care Homes. Large family child care homes must also meet all requirements in Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Family Day Care Homes.

WHAT IS A LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME?

Large Family Child Care Home - A large family child care home means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children with or without compensation from at least two (2) unrelated households and which has at least two (2) full-time child care personnel on the premises during the hours of operation. One (1) of the two (2) full-time child care personnel must be the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child care home must first have operated as a licensed family day care home for two (2) consecutive years in Pinellas County with an operator who has had a child development associate credential or its equivalent for one (1) year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care home. A large family child care home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following groups of children, which shall include those children under 13 years of age who are related to the caregiver:

- a maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age
- a maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age

Large family child care homes must meet and comply with all standards of this rule at all times unless there are insufficient numbers of children in care to meet the definition of a large family child care home in which case an additional employee is not required.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICANT?

The applicant for a large family child care home must meet the following requirements:

- Must have been licensed to operate a family day care home in Pinellas County for at least two years prior to application
- Must not have negative sanctions administered such as placement on the Pinellas County License Board Enforcement Plan, imposition of a Class I fine, or a finding of over capacity contained in the licensing history for at least two years prior to application
- Must have held a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent for a minimum of one year prior to application
- Must have documentation of a fire safety inspection performed by an authorized local fire department inspector
- Must show verification of a Florida driver's license and liability insurance only if transporting children in care

- Must have a written disciplinary policy that meets the guidelines outlined in the regulations
- Must have at least 35 square feet per child of usable indoor space in the home
- Must have a minimum of 270 square feet of usable outdoor play space located on the property with at least 35 square feet for each child utilizing the play space at any given time
- Must have a full time employee at least 18 years of age, on the premises.

IS ADDITIONAL TRAINING REQUIRED?

Yes. Within 90 days of licensure, all large family child care home operators must begin training in one of the following 10-hour specialized training modules:

- Infants and Toddlers Appropriate Practices (10-hours)
- Preschool Appropriate Practices (10-hours)
- School-age Appropriate Practices for school-age children (10-hours)
- Special Needs Appropriate Practices (10-hours)
- Basic Guidance and Discipline (5-hours web based)
- Computer Technology for Child Care Professionals (5-hours web based)
- Early Literacy in the Child Care Environment (5-hours web based)

This training must be completed within one year of the date the training began.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMPLOYEE IN A LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME?

An employee in a large family child care home must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must submit required background screening
- Must begin the 30-clock hour Family Child Care Training course within 90 days of employment and complete the course within one year of the date on which the training begins
- Verification of the 5-clock-hour early literacy course will be required. Employees approved on or before December 31, 2005, will need to complete the course by June 30, 2006. Employees applying on or after January 1, 2006, will need to complete the course prior to being approved as an employee.

You may request a copy of Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Large Family Child Care Homes that contains all of the requirements for a large family child care home. The licensing regulations are also available online at www.pclb.org.