

New Rules: Why and What

- Good quality child care has a positive effect and poor quality care has a harmful effect on children.
- Current rules are 15 years old (6/88)
- Child Safety is our #1 priority. DE needs to ensure that the baseline quality of child care is not harmful to its children.



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New Research: What We Have Learned

- The first three years are critical for a young child's developing brain.
- The quality of a child's child care has a significant impact on their later success, especially in school.
- Having staff well trained in child development has a direct relationship with the quality of care the children receive.
- Every child needs the stability provided by a consistent caregiver who is responsive to his or her needs.



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How were the rules revised?

- Current research, the Delaware Quality Study and rules from other states were reviewed.
- A draft was developed.
- A task force of 41 dedicated people spent 18 months carefully and thoroughly reviewing and revising the rules.
- The final draft was completed and shared with the child care community and general public.



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What did we learn from the Delaware Baseline Quality Study?

- Strengths:
 - Committed staff
 - Good interactions with children
- Weaknesses:
 - Poor hygiene practices
 - Learning activities for children are insufficient
 - Infant & toddler care is most in need of improvement



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Major Changes

- Title – Early Care & Education and School-Age Centers
- Change in exemption from licensure
- New positions –
 - Curriculum Coordinator
 - Teacher
- Increased pre-service education
- Reduced staff/child ratio and addition of maximum group size



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New Positions and Their Qualifications

- **Administrator (formerly Program Director)**
 - A.A. in related field with 15 ECE credits including training in ECE administration
 - 2 years experience
- **Early Childhood Curriculum Coordinator (New)**
 - A.A. in related field with 15 ECE credits
 - 2 years experience for A.A. and 1 year for B.A.



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New Positions and Their Qualification

...continued

- **Teacher (New)**
 - ECE I and II – 120 clock hours
 - One year experience
- **Assistant Teacher (formerly Caregiver)**
 - ECE I – 60 clock hours
 - Six months
- **Intern (formerly Assistant Caregiver)**
 - Cannot be alone with children
 - Complete 15 specific hours of training after beginning employment



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How much does this training cost?

- Teacher – approximately \$500 for 120 hours of education (\$4.16 per hour)
- Assistant Teacher – approximately \$250 for 60 hours of education (\$4.16 per hour)
- ** One teacher is required for every 4 assistant teachers and interns.



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How Does This Compare To Other Professions?

Certified Nursing Assistant	232 hours	\$1738 (\$7.49 p/hr)
Nail Technician	125 hours	\$1450 (\$11.60 p/hr)
Certified Massage Technician	132 hours	\$1375 (\$10.42 p/hr)
Basic Office Skills	240 hours	\$2012 (\$8.38 p/hr)
Early Childhood Teacher	120 hours	\$500 (\$4.16 p/hr)



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Ratios and Group Size

How Do We Compare?

	Infant	1 Yr. Olds	2 Yr. Olds	3Yr. Olds	4 Yr. Olds	5Yr. Olds	School Age
MD	1:3 Max 6	1:3 Max 9	1:6 Max 12	1:12 Max 24	1:12 Max 24	1:15 Max 30	1:15 Max 30
NJ	1:4 Max 20	1:7 Max 20	1:10 Max 20	1:10 Max 20	1:12 Max 20	1:15 Max 20	1:18 Max 30
PA	1:4 Max 8	1:5 Max 10	1:6 Max 12	1:10 Max 20	1:10 Max 20	1:10 Max 20	1:12/ 1:15 24/30
DE Proposed	1:4 Max 8	1:6 Max 12	1:8 Max 16	1:10 Max 20	1:12 Max 24	1:12 Max 24	1:15 Max 30



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Next Steps

- Public Hearing: Opportunity for formal comment
- Review Comments and Revise Rules if needed
- Rules Adopted
- Rules Effective: 3 to 6 months after adoption; some rules will be phased in over the next 2 to 4 years.



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