

Child Care Services

The SD Department of Social Services Child Care Services (CCS) is committed to improving the quality, availability and affordability of child care in South Dakota. CCS helps parents, child care providers and others to promote the importance of providing safe, healthy and caring environments for children. In turn, parents and child care providers are encouraged to recognize and advocate for quality care of children.



**“Many things we need can wait,
the child cannot ...
To them we cannot say tomorrow,
their name is today.”**

-- Gabriella Marella
“For the Love of Children:
Daily Affirmations for People
Who Care for Children.”

Child Care Environments

Each child care program offers unique features and services for children and families. However, every family expects their child to receive quality, safe care.



South Dakota’s minimum child care regulations establish a foundation for basic health and safety on which a quality child care program can be built. Minimum regulations address:

- Number of staff needed.
- Nutritious meals and snacks.
- Amount of space needed.
- Types of program activities.
- Ages and qualifications for staff.
- Health practices.
- Fire and life safety features.

The safety and quality of child care programs is further enhanced by training, technical assistance and funding available through CCS.

Child Care Categories

South Dakota law defines the following types of child care programs currently registered and licensed in the state:

- **Registered Family Day Care:**
The care of 12 or less children in the provider’s own home. Registration is voluntary.
- **Licensed Group Family Day Care:**
The care of 13 to 20 children in the home or other type of facility.
- **Licensed Day Care Center:**
The care of 21 or more children.
- **Licensed Before & After School Center:** The care of 13 or more children. The facility cares for only school-aged children.

Licensed and registered programs may be eligible for public funding (Child and Adult Food Program, CCS Assistance Program, etc.).

By law, licensure is mandatory when care is given to 13 or more children, regardless of the age of the children and regardless if care is in a home or separate facility.

Consumer Protection Services

Communication between the parent and the child care provider is the key to a successful relationship. If you have a concern about the care of your child, you should:

- Talk with the provider or director.
- Respectfully tell them about your concerns and discuss the issue together. (A separate meeting may be needed.)
- Ask what you can do to help address the concerns.
- Ask what ideas they might have for the situation.
- If you've tried to address your concerns and nothing has changed, call your local Child Care Services office. (Phone numbers are listed on the back of this brochure.)

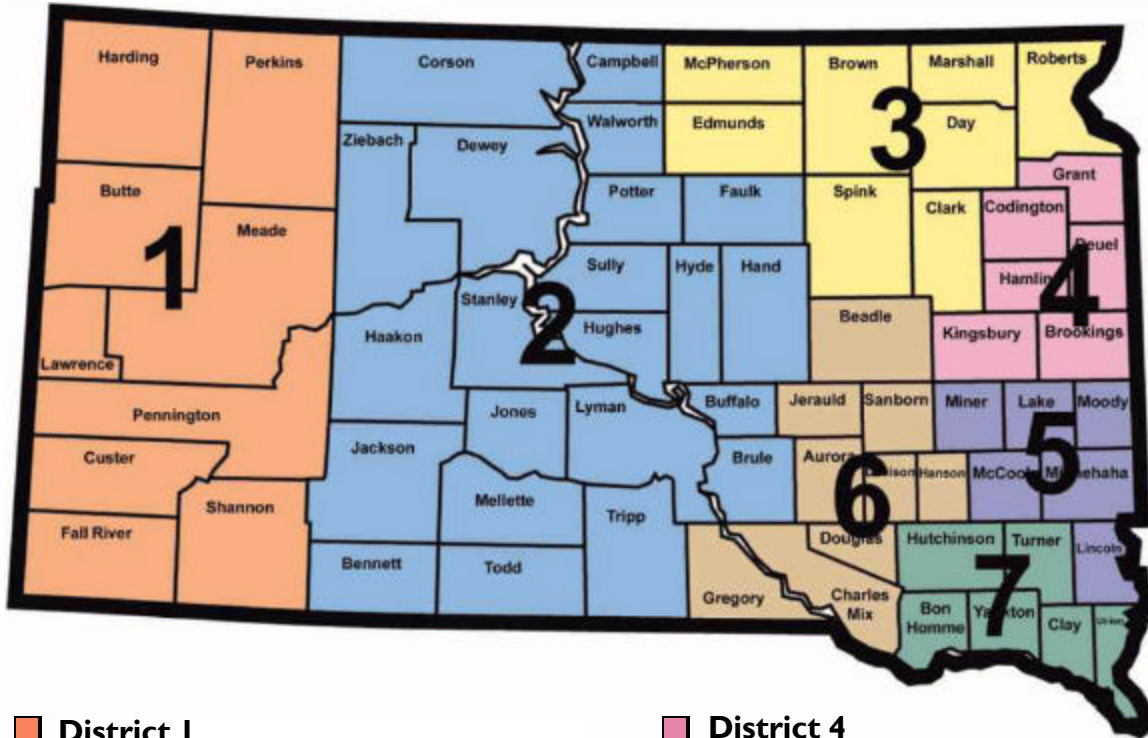
Your comments and experiences are important. While Child Care Services may not be able to address all of your concerns, trained social workers can offer ideas and suggestions for handling the situation.

Child Care Services Licensing Map

Child Care Services

700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
1-800-227-3020

www.state.sd.us/social/ccs/ccshome



District 1

111 New York, Rapid City, SD 57709
(605) 355-3545

District 2

700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501
1-800-227-3020, ext 5192 or (605) 773-4766

District 3

420 S. Roosevelt, PO Box 4730, Aberdeen, SD 57402, (605) 626-2340

District 7

3113 N. Spruce St., Suite 200
Yankton, SD 57078, (605) 668-3030

District 4

1310 S. Main Ave., Suite 101, Brookings, SD 57006, (605) 688-4334

District 5

811 E. 10th St., Dept. 6
Sioux Falls, SD 57103, (605) 367-7602

District 6

116 E. 11th Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 995-8000

Visit our web site at:

www.state.sd.us/social/ccs/ccshome



Child Care Services

1-800-227-3020

or 773-4766

Discrimination Prohibited: State and federal laws prohibit discrimination in all Department of Social Services' programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability and political beliefs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination write BOP/DSS, ATTN: HRM, 445 East Capitol, Pierre, S.D. 57501 or call (605) 773-6941. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest Department of Social Services' office.

15,000 copies of this document were printed by the Department of Social Services at a cost of 9.4 cents per copy. DSS/CCS/15M/1002

SOUTH DAKOTA

Child Care Licensing Program



Registration and Licensure of Child Care Environments

Department of Social Services
Child Care Services