Different Types of Child Care Programs

Child Care Programs can be licensed, license-exempt, or exempt. Licensed programs can be in an individual’s home, in a group care setting, or in a child care center. Read about each one here!

**LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME**
Up to 10 children cared for in the child care educator’s own home

**LICENSED GROUP CHILD CARE**
11-20 children cared for at the child care educator’s home or at a separate facility

**LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER**
More than 20 children cared for at a separate facility; often grouped into classrooms by age

**LICENSE-EXEMPT**
- Programs run by a religious organization
- Preschool programs that operate no more than 4 hours per day

**EXEMPT**
- 6 or less children cared for in the child care educator’s own home
- Summer camps
- Programs operated by a school system
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Licensed Programs:
- Have regular fire, sanitation, and health inspections.
- Require licensing inspection.
- Must follow Missouri’s child care licensing rules, such as ratios, group size, and staff training. Full licensing regulations can be found here: health.mo.gov/safety/childd/childcare/lawsregs.php.

License-Exempt Programs:
- Have routine fire, sanitation, and health inspections. Those regulations can be found here: s1.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/19csr/19c30-60.pdf.
- Do not have licensing inspections.
- Are not required to follow licensing rules, such as ratio, group size, and staff training.

Exempt Programs:
- Do not have fire, sanitation, or health inspections.
- Do not have licensing inspections.
- Are not typically included in our database.
- May list with us if they meet Child Care Aware® of Missouri’s listing standards, such as a health and safety self-certification, agreement to use safe sleep practices, and a Family Care Safety Registry background check.

Child care licensing reports are provided with all Child Care Aware® of Missouri referrals and can also be checked at webapp01.dhss.mo.gov/childcare/search/searchengine.aspx.