

# Early Care and Learning Programs in Vermont

Prequalified  
Prekindergarten  
Programs (375)

237 private  
138 public school operated

STARS programs

75% of all regulated programs

Regulated Programs (1471)  
CBCCPP (694) and FCCH (777)

Informal Family Friend and Neighbor Care



**1.1 Legal Authority to Regulate Service** A person providing care for children from more than two (2) families other than their own must be registered or licensed in accord with these regulations. No person agency, corporation, partnership or individual shall operate or maintain a registered or licensed family child care home without approval from the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) and a current license issued by the Child Development Division (CDD). The legal authority for these regulations is in Vermont Statutes at 33 V.S.A. §§ 105(b) & 3502.

**1.2 Purpose** The purpose of these regulations is for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, well-being, positive growth and development of children who receive services in Family Child Care Homes and Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs. These regulations reflect the baseline or minimum standards for child care programs regulated in Vermont. All regulated programs shall have the option of exceeding the regulations set by the Department for Children and Families.

## Definitions

**Family Child Care Home** referred to as the “FCCH” in regulations, means the residence of a person approved to provide developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision designed to ensure wholesome growth and educational experiences for children outside of their own homes for periods of less than twenty-four (24) hours per day. This is the physical location where care is provided. *“Family Child Care Provider,” referred to as the “FCCP” in regulations, means the person who has been approved to operate a registered or licensed FCCH, is responsible for the operation of that FCCH and considered legally responsible for compliance with these regulations. The FCCP approves or develops the FCCH’s program and curriculum and supervises staff*

The difference between Registered FCCH and Licensed FCCH is that more is required of Licensed FCCH, especially in terms of Teaching and Learning. They are allowed more children, often have staff besides the FCCP and are paid the same rates as CBCCPP.

**Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs** referred to as the “CBCCPP” in regulations, means the program and facility approved to provide developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision designed to ensure wholesome growth and educational experiences for children outside of their home for periods of less than twenty-four (24) hours per day. A CBCCPP license is specific to a physical location where services are provided.

**STARS Programs** STARS stands for the STep Ahead Recognition System. It is Vermont’s system for recognizing and improving quality in all regulated program settings. Participation is



voluntary but there are bonuses and other incentives that encourage programs to apply to reward and support quality improvement.

- ☆ One-star programs are examining their practices to enhance the services they provide. They may be fairly new, just starting on a path of improvement and growth, or be stronger in one area.
- ☆ Two-star programs are making a commitment to strengthen their practices. They may have made some progress in many areas or more progress in one or two areas.
- ☆ Three-star programs have made improvements and are working to reach specific goals. They have either made substantial progress in two or three areas or have made some improvements across all five areas.
- ☆ Four-star programs are established programs that have met several standards of quality in all five areas. Many four-star programs are also nationally accredited.
- ☆ Five-star programs are outstanding in all five areas. Many five-star programs are also nationally accredited.

**Prequalified Prekindergarten Education Programs** In order to be considered for prequalification, a program must:

- Have 4 or 5 STARS or 3 STARS with a plan to reach 4 within 2yrs and/OR NAEYC Accreditation
- Align curriculum to the Vermont Early Learning Standards
- Have a VT AOE licensed early childhood educator or early childhood special educator on staff according to type of program:
  - Public Program = 1 licensed teacher per program
  - Private Center-Based = 1 licensed teacher per program
  - o Family Child Care= 1 licensed teacher OR a licensed mentor teacher for a min of 3hrs/wk
- Use Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) online assessment system and participate in (free) trainings to ensure reliable staff usage of TSG
- Comply with all requirements of federal and state laws for your enrolled children with special needs including:
  - o Allowing access by school district early childhood special education and related service personnel.
  - o Federal: ADA,504, IDEA and State: VT Child Care Program Licensing Regulations
- Operate a non-religious program
- If private, apply all of the statewide tuition received for 10 hours of publicly funded pre-K to the families' costs.



**Department for Children and Families  
Child Development Division**

*Agency of Human Services*

Links to CBCCPP and FCCH regulations

[http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/Licensing/CBCCPP\\_Regulations\\_FINAL.pdf](http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/Licensing/CBCCPP_Regulations_FINAL.pdf)

[http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/Licensing/FCCH\\_Final.pdf](http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/Licensing/FCCH_Final.pdf)