

Resource: Licensing and Background Checks

Check with your local [Child Care Resource and Referral \(CCR&R\)](#) agency or your local or state child care licensing office by visiting our [State by State Resource Map](#) for information on your state's licensing and [background check requirements](#). Every state has different licensing requirements and your local CCR&R can help you learn about the regulations for family child care homes in your state. Over the next several years, new federal law will require states to conduct criminal background checks on all child care employees that work at a licensed, license-exempt, regulated, and registered child care provider.

Use this checklist to ask questions of your local [Child Care Resource and Referral \(CCR&R\)](#) agency or your state licensing consultant to help you think through the steps you will need to take to become a licensed family child care provider and to obtain a background check.

Question	Response		Comment
Do I need to have a license in order to open a family child care home?	Yes	No	
If I choose not to become licensed, have I contacted my local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency to help me provide quality care?	Yes	No	
Is there a fee to get licensed, and if so, how much?	Yes	No	
Does my program have to be inspected? <i>Who conducts the inspections and how frequently do they occur?</i>	Yes	No	
How many children can I care for at one time?	Infants: _____ Toddlers: _____ Preschool: _____ Pre-K: _____ School-age: _____		

Licensing and Background Checks *continued*

Question	Response	Comment
<p>Do I need to get a background check?</p> <p>How much does it cost?</p> <p>How often will I need to do a background check?</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p>Cost: \$ _____</p>	
<p>Will the other people who live in my home need to have a background check?</p> <p><i>How often will people who live in my home need to have a background check?</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	
<p>Do I need a degree or special certification to operate a family child care home in my state?</p>	<p>Yes No</p>	

Licensing and Background Checks *continued*

Question	Response	Comment
<p>What type of training do I need to open up a family child care home? Who offers the training? What costs are associated with the trainings?</p> <p>What ongoing training will I need to do?</p>	<p>Required initial trainings:</p> <p>Health and Safety</p> <p>Food/Nutrition</p> <p>Inclusive Child Care</p> <p>Other: _____</p> <p>Required ongoing trainings:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>If I have staff, what training requirements will they need?</p>		
<p>What type of equipment and supplies do I need?</p>		