

Family Home Child Care - Frequently Asked Questions

Regulated Family Child Care Home providers (licensees) operate child care services in residential premises under requirements that promote the health, safety and well-being of children in an environment that supports their growth and development.

Can I operate a child care home without becoming regulated?

Yes. In Saskatchewan, regulation by the Ministry of Education is optional for Family Child Care Home providers who care for eight or fewer children, including their own children under the age of 10. However, regulated homes receive considerable funding and support from the Government of Saskatchewan.

How many children can I care for if I become regulated?

Regulated Family Child Care Homes can care for up to eight children, including their own children under the age of 10.

All Group Family Child Care Homes are required to be regulated and can care for up to 12 children. The individual operating the group home must have an adult assistant caregiver when the number and ages of the children in attendance requires it.

Section 6 of *The Child Care Regulations, 2015* provides further restrictions on the numbers and ages of the children in child care.

What grants are available to develop and operate a regulated Family Child Care Home?

Government supports available to regulated home-based care providers includes the following grant funding:

- One time on opening:
 - [Start-up Grant](#) (\$3,525) – This grant assists with the additional costs of opening a child care home, such as equipment and furnishings.
 - [Fire Health and Safety Grant](#) (\$2,400) – This grant is intended to offset the costs associated with meeting fire, health and safety requirements.
- Ongoing:
 - [Parent Fee Reduction Grant](#) – This grant is intended to make child care more affordable for all families with children under the age of six who are in provincially regulated child care. Monthly grant amounts distributed to the regulated child care home varies.
 - [Nutrition Grant](#) (\$80/space/month) – Supports the costs of providing nutritious meals and snacks from children.
 - [Equipment Grant](#) (\$300/space/year) – Supports program related costs, such as children’s toys, equipment, furnishings, craft supplies, and children’s activities.
- Other grants include:
 - **Training, Tuition and Skill Enhancement Grants** – A variety of grants are available to assist in building a qualified workforce along skill enhancement. Grants include:
 - [Tuition and Book Reimbursement Grant](#) – Covers the cost of tuition and books purchased with respect to classes in Early Childhood Education (ECE) successfully completed by the licensee or a person employed in a facility.
 - [Professional Development Grant](#) – This grant assists with attending approved professional learning events.

- [Inclusion Program Grant](#) (\$300 to \$3,200/child/month) – Assists with additional costs of providing child care services to a child with exceptionally high needs.

I live in an apartment or condo, can I become regulated?

All Family Child Care Homes must be in a residence, whether they are owned or rented. In situations where the home is not owned or is part of a condo complex, applicants would need to get landlord/condo board approval and investigate insurance and fire requirements. Home Child Care providers may choose to rent a house specifically to be used for child care.

In circumstances where you are not the only tenant, or where you rent a portion of the home, a criminal record check is required for each adult that resides within the home. For more information on licensing requirements, please see [Section 10](#) of *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*.

Home child care providers will also need to consider the outdoor play area requirements set out in [Section 67](#) of *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*.

How big does my residence/house and yard need to be?

[Section 66](#) of *The Child Care Regulations, 2015* describes the requirements for Usable Floor Area of the space you intend to use for child care.

Applicants will need to consider [Section 67](#) regarding the outdoor play area. If a suitable outdoor play area cannot be provided on the property, an Alternate Play Plan will be required. Ministry staff can provide a template to complete during the licensing process.

Can I open a regulated Family Child Care Home if I am on a work visa/permit?

The Ministry of Education will consider applications for opening a regulated Family Child Care Home from individuals who are over 18 years of age and are residents of Saskatchewan, whether permanent residency has been granted or a valid work visa is in place. Follow the steps to apply to start a regulated child care home here: www.saskatchewan.ca/childcarehome

Individuals who are under 18 years of age, on a student visa, or are not a resident of Saskatchewan are not eligible to open a regulated child care home in Saskatchewan.

What training is required to open a regulated child care home?

Regulated Family Child Care Home providers are required to complete one three-credit unit course in ECE within the first year of becoming regulated. This course must be from a recognized post-secondary institution, such as a public college or university. In addition, the licensee of a regulated child care home must complete first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training prior to becoming regulated.

Regulated Group Family Child Care Home providers are required to complete an ECE I certification within three years of being regulated.

Professional development supports continuous learning and skill development; therefore, all regulated Family Child Care Home providers are required to complete six hours of professional development each year. The Ministry of Education offers many professional development supports, including online workshops supporting the implementation of Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide.

What costs are associated with ECE certification training?

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested in tuition-free early childhood education training and professional development opportunities through Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), College Mathieu, Dumont Technical Institute, Carlton Trail College, Great Plains College, North West College, Northlands College, Southeast College and Suncrest College. These training opportunities prioritize enrolment of staff working in regulated child care facilities, but others are welcome to register in a program if space permits.

ECE programs that are routinely offered by Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions as part of their regular opportunities are not tuition-free. To inquire about the regular ECE training delivered by these post-secondary institutions and how to apply, please contact the post-secondary institutions directly.

To assist with the costs of these programs, regulated child care facilities and employees who are pursuing an ECE I, II, or III, may be eligible for a [Tuition Reimbursement](#) and Tuition Reimbursement Top-Up Grant to cover the cost of the course (tuition and required books).

What are the steps to become regulated?

Step 1. [Family Child Care Home Applicant Information Session](#)

There are many regulatory requirements and demands in preparing for and operating regulated child care. The session provides a wealth of information for individuals to determine if they should continue their pursuit of becoming a Family Child Care Home operator.

You may also read through the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#) which describes all the requirements to open and operate a regulated child care home.

Step 2. Initial Licensing Application

Your full application needs to include the completed:

- [Family Assessment Questionnaire – Family Child Care Home Applicants](#)
- [Criminal Record Check](#), including a [Vulnerable Sector Check](#), for you and anyone 18 years of age or older living in your home. Visit your local police service to apply for a criminal record check and a vulnerable sector check.
- [Direct Deposit Payment Request Form](#)

You will receive information to review and prepare yourself and your home while you wait to be contacted by ministry staff.

Step 3. Information Sessions

Applicants are provided with information to review and will attend a live information session. The sessions explain the foundations of regulated child care and the relationship between [The Child Care Act, 2014](#), [The Child Care Regulations, 2015](#), and the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#). It also explains how to read the regulations as presented in the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#).

Step 4. Ministry of Education Visitations and Communication

During this step, a consultant will visit the child care facility and is initially inspected to ensure essential regulations can be met. The Early Learning and Child Care Consultant will review several items, which may include the [Fire, Health and Safety Grant](#) and [Start-Up Grant](#). If all goes well, the applicant may proceed with scheduling the fire and heating inspections.

The Early Learning and Child Care Consultant may recommend the applicant apply for a [Developmental Licence](#).

Step 5. Information Sessions

Applicants are provided with two additional information sessions to review and attend. Home visitations may continue.

Step 6: Licence Meeting and Granting

Applicants who demonstrate compliance with licensing requirements and participate in a final licensing meeting are granted a Family Child Care Home License.

How long does it take to become a regulated Family Child Care Home?

Once the Early Years Branch has received your application package, Ministry of Education staff will be assigned to contact your home. On average, it takes six months to one year to obtain a licence from the Ministry of Education.

To accelerate the licensing process, applicants are encouraged to review the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#) which describes all the requirements in order to open a regulated child care home. Learning and being able to demonstrate understanding of the regulations is the responsibility of a licensee. You can access the manual online and are encouraged to print a copy for your facility.

Who can I call to ensure my application has been received and that I am in the queue to be regulated?

Once you have submitted your application you should hear from ministry staff within 10 business days. If you have further questions prior to applying or wish to confirm your application has been received, contact childcare@gov.sk.ca.

For More Information

- Website: www.saskatchewan.ca/childcarehome