



What to Look for in a Proposed Child Care Center Location

Type of Building:

1. Preferably one story, fire safe construction, located in the commercial zone, and structurally meeting all state and local building codes.
2. Adequate outdoor area (minimum 750 sq. ft. total, and minimum 75 sq. ft. per child) readily accessible to the indoor play areas and toilets for capacity desired.
3. Window area meets mandatory requirements of not less than 8% of the floor area.
4. Windows that open, (with screen), or a mechanical ventilation system providing fresh air at the rate of 5 cubic feet per minute, per occupant.
5. Exit doors that swing outward toward the natural direction of exiting a room or building.
6. Doors that are not less than 3 feet wide.
7. Each floor occupied by children must have at least two exits. Acceptable exits to the outside from all areas used by children for play, napping, and food service.
8. Playrooms adequate for good programming and required teacher ratio.
9. For information on environmental issues, [view Wisconsin Department of Health Services "Choose Safe Places" guidelines](#)
10. A fire alarm system or interconnected smoke detectors.
11. Consider the location in relationship to where parents work, live, drive past, etc.

The Playrooms:

1. Suitable size and arrangement to permit good program planning and necessary supervision, considering 35 sq. ft. per child as a minimum.
2. Adequately heated in the winter and ventilated in the summer.
3. Floors that provide for safety, warmth, and cleanliness.
4. Permits storage within reach of where used, allows for the storage of children's play equipment on low open shelves and for the children's personal belongings in cubbies. Space needs to be available for the storage of children's outer garments at their own level.
5. Furnishings can be arranged so as not to interfere with exits and permit storage when not in use.

The Bathroom:

1. Readily accessible to the indoor and outdoor program.
2. One toilet is required for the first ten children, with one additional toilet for every 15 children.
3. Staff will need to have toilet facilities.
4. Fixtures need to be suitable in size and height. If not, provisions for platforms need to be considered.
5. Doors need to be able to be opened from the outside.

Kitchen:

1. Adequate space and equipment to provide for food service capacity.
2. Meets state and local code requirements; consider dishwashing regulations.
3. Ensures good program planning in relationship to food service.

Isolation, Office, Staff Lounge, Storage:

1. Adequate to meet use/need and readily accessible.

Outdoor Play Area:

1. Close access to indoor play area and bathrooms, providing 75 sq. ft. per child minimum space and permitting supervision.
2. Provision for shaded area.
3. Adequately fenced, surfaced, and drained.
4. Permits best equipment placement considering safety factors and good program planning with supervision.

Parking Facilities:

1. Permits parent, or designated person, ease in dropping off and picking up of children.
2. Allows for enough parking spaces for employees at any given point throughout the day. Allows for a handicapped zone.