

## Glossary:

1. **Background checks** - The process of checking for history of criminal charges of potential child care providers before they are allowed to care for children.
2. **Caregiver** – The person responsible for the care and education of the children in an early education program.
3. **Center** - A facility that provides care and education for any number of children in a nonresidential setting and is open on a regular basis (for example, it is not a drop-in facility).
4. **Child abuse** - For the purposes of this set of standards, its definition is considered to be that contained in the laws of the state in which the standards will be applied. While these differ somewhat, most of them contain basic elements as follows:
  - a. **Emotional abuse** - Acts that damage a child in psychological ways, but do not fall into other categories of abuse. Most states require for prosecution that psychological damage be very definite and clearly diagnosed by a psychologist or psychiatrist; this category of abuse is rarely reported and even more rarely a cause of protective action.
  - a. **Neglect** - Neglect is divided into two categories: general neglect and severe neglect.
  - b. **General neglect** - Failure to provide the common necessities, including food, shelter, a safe environment, education, and health care, but without resultant or likely harm to the child.
  - c. **Severe neglect** - Neglect that results or is likely to result in harm to the child.
  - d. **Physical abuse** - An intentional (non-accidental) act affecting a child that produces tangible physical harm.
  - e. **Sexual abuse** - Any sexual act performed with a child by an adult or by another child who exerts control over the victim. (Many state laws provide considerable detail about the specific acts that constitute sexual abuse.)
5. **Child :Staff ratio** - The maximum number of children permitted per teacher/caregiver
6. **Compliance** - The act of carrying out a recommendation, policy, or procedure.
7. **Corporal punishment** - Pain or suffering inflicted on the body (such as spanking).
8. **Credential** – A competency based award granted to early educators based on formal and informal education, experience working with young children, and observations of competency within the classroom.
9. **Early Education** – the care and education of young children between the ages of birth through five-years of age prior to entering formal kindergarten programs.

10. **Evaluation** - Impressions and recommendations formed after a careful appraisal and study.
11. **Facility** - A legal definition -the buildings, the grounds, the equipment, and the people involved in providing child care of any type.
12. **Health plan** - A written document that describes emergency health and safety procedures, general health policies and procedures, and policies covering the management of mild illness, injury prevention, and occupational health and safety.
13. **Immunizations** - Vaccines that are given to children and adults to help them develop protection (antibodies) against specific infections.
  
14. **Infant** - A child between birth and 18 months.
15. **Instructional Staff** - teachers/caregivers responsible for the early education instruction
16. **Legal operation** - in compliance with civil authorities regarding licensure exemptions, inspections
17. **Parent** - The child's natural or adoptive mother or father, guardian, or other legally responsible person.
18. **Preschooler** - children usually younger than those attending kindergarten
19. **Scope and Sequence** - A curriculum plan or guide in which a range of instructional objectives and skills are organized according to the consecutive levels in which they are expected to be taught.
20. **Staff** - all personnel employed at the facility, such as, but not limited to, caregivers, cooks, drivers and maintenance personnel
21. **Teacher** - The person responsible for the planning and implementation of the classroom early education program.
22. **Toddler** - A child generally between the ages of one to 3 years.