

## Commercial Daycare Questions

- 1) Is the daycare going to be licensed?
  - A. If it does not receive any government funding and meets all other requirements, it will not be reviewed by the health department. They are still subject to other requirements / inspections by the Health Department. Being unlicensed does not exclude the need for plan review by the Residential or Commercial NC Building Codes examiners.
  - B. If any government funding is received it must be licensed.
  - C. If licensed per health department it requires a kitchen, 2 compartment sink with 2' X 2' drain boards or countertops on both sides, separate hand sink, refrigerator, and can wash as a minimum.
- 2) Are they going to handle any food? If not and not licensed, the above would be all that is required.
- 3) If they are preparing, reheating, or handling food; they must have 16" X 19" X 14" bowl for a sink. (Wash utensils bowl ect.)
- 4) If Licensed the following will be required as well by health department
  - Carbon monoxide detectors
  - Child and Teacher storage area's
  - Sick area
  - Dry food storage area for kitchen
  - Finish schedule for all surfaces. Floor, walls, ceilings, cabinets are some examples.
  - Correct sizing of the water heater by the Health Department
  - If diapering, this requires at least 2 additional hand sinks, 1 for diapering station, 1 for prep station for bottles cereal and snacks.
  - All child accessible sinks require tempered water between 90 and 110 deg. F
- 5) There are more requirements for larger facilities.

## **Frequently Asked Code Questions for licensed commercial day cares.**

1. How many toilets are required?
  - a. Minimum of 3; 1 male, 1 female, 1 staff
2. Are sprinklers required?
  - a. Institutional-4 , yes
  - b. Educational, yes or rated corridors see below (4b.)
3. Is a drinking fountain required? Yes
4. Is a door directly to the exterior required for all classrooms?
  - a. Yes. First grade and less.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and above, If all rooms do not have direct access and no sprinkler system, then you would have to rate the corridor to the point of discharge to exterior or other rated fire area.
  - c. Or a NFPA 13 sprinkler system is required for the entire buildings fire area.
5. Can I have a day care on the second level of a building?
  - a. First grade and less shall be at level of exit discharge. Second grade and higher can go one level above or below the level of exit discharge.
6. Is gate hardware required?
  - a. Yes, exterior panic grade hardware
7. How many children can I have in one room?
  - a. NCSBC required 35 sq. ft. per child, with a maximum of 10 occupants (including staff) per room with one exit. If you are applying for licensing requirements, the star rating will come into play to determine the capacity for the room.
8. What other agencies do I need to contact?
  - a. NC Department of Child Development
  - b. Mecklenburg County Health Department
  - c. Department of Health and Human Services
  - d. Zoning, City of Charlotte or Mecklenburg County
  - e. Fire , Charlotte Fire Department or Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal
9. What is the occupancy classification of a day care?
  - a. If 100 or more children under the age of 2-1/2 years then it is I-4 (institutional)
  - b. 99 or less children under the age of 2-1/2 years old and rooms located on level of exit discharge with doors directly to exterior then E (educational)
10. Is a fire alarm required? Yes
11. Is it required to be monitored off site? Yes