



Daycare Centers & Family Daycare

Public Information Handout

What are the types of daycares?

Daycare use includes day or evening care for two or more children outside of the children's homes. The caregivers receive a fee for this care. Daycare uses also include the daytime care of teenagers or adults who need assistance or supervision.

A "family daycare" as defined by RCW 74.15.020 gives care to twelve or fewer children at any one time including the children of the provider and is located in the actual residence of the provider.

A daycare center is typically not in the home of the provider, but at a separate location. Examples of other businesses meeting this definition include: preschools, nursery schools, latch key programs and adult daycare programs. A daycare center can be licensed for more than twelve individuals needing care.

Where can a family daycare be located?

A family daycare is allowed outright in any zone where a residence is permitted since the caregiver is typically conducting a family daycare out of his/her own home. The main restriction to this type of daycare is that care can be provided to twelve or fewer children or clients.

Where can a daycare center be located?

A daycare center located in a residential zone is a conditional use and is processed as a Type II application. However, in the RSF (Residential Single Family) zone, daycare centers up to forty children are permitted outright if locating within a building that currently contains or did contain a college, medical center, school, religious institution or a community service facility.

Daycare centers are allowed outright in all commercial zones (O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC) and in the Light Industrial zone (LI). In heavier industrial zones, however, there are some restrictions. In the HI (Heavy Industrial) zone, a daycare center is a Conditional Use. The center would be allowed provided they comply with the conditional use approval criteria, the development standards, and other requirements in the code. The conditional use review process and approval criteria are stated in SMC 17C.320 Conditional Uses.

And in the PI (Planned Industrial) zone, a daycare center may be permitted as a part of a binding site plan under the provisions of the subdivision code, or a planned unit development under the provisions of the zoning code. A minimum of fifty percent of the site within the planned

unit development or binding site plan shall be in manufacturing and production, industrial service or office uses. A daycare center is allowed within the planned unit development or binding site plan provided that the site development includes a design, landscape and transportation plan which will limit conflicts between the daycare center and industrial uses.

Does parking need to be provided?

For a family daycare, the normal required parking for the residence is all that needs to be provided.

For a daycare center the minimum parking spaces is one per five hundred (500) square feet of floor area. The maximum allowed number of parking spaces is one space per two hundred (200) square feet of floor area. Accessory uses to the daycare center than can be excluded from the square footage calculations include offices, play areas and parking.

What kind of licenses are needed?

To obtain a business license or if you have any questions about licensing requirements please call:

Taxes & Licenses
(509) 625-6070

Washington Department of Revenue:
(509) 482-3800

For licensing of the actual daycare please call the
Department of Social and Health Services.

For more information contact:

Planning Services Department
3rd Floor, City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, Washington 99201
(509) 625-6060

www.spokaneplanning.org