



City of Ann Arbor

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES — PLANNING DIVISION

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CHILD DAY CARE GUIDELINES

There are three types of child day care facilities allowed by the City Code. The following guidelines help explain the types and zoning requirements for each.

Child Care Center: A facility used principally for receiving one or more children for care for periods of less than 24 hours a day.

Child care centers are a permitted principal use in most districts besides AG, R1, R2, and ORL. In R1 (Single-Family Dwelling) and R2 (Two-Family Dwelling) districts, child care centers are allowed as a “special exception use” if the use meets the following standards and receives approval from the Planning Commission:

- The parcel must have a minimum of 7,500 square feet of gross lot area.
- One (1) off-street parking space must be provided for each caregiver required to staff the facility at its state-licensed capacity.
- There must be adequate parking available for drop-off and pick-up within 250 feet of the center. These parking spaces must be shown on the center's site plan.
 - The number of spaces shall equal two (2) plus one (1) additional space for each 20 children that the facility is licensed to care for.
- Occupancy of the center may not be increased without amending the special exception use permit.

Child care centers in ORL districts are subject to additional special exception use standard requirements found in City Code Chapter 55, Article II, Section 5:10.14A.

Note: Currently, adult day care centers are not addressed in the City Code; however, they are treated the same as child care centers for zoning purposes.

Group Day Care Home: An accessory use of a private, single-family dwelling in which up to 12 minor children are given care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day.

A group day care home must meet the following standards:

- A zoning compliance permit must be obtained from the City's Planning & Development Services Unit.
- The dwelling must be located on a lot with at least 5,000 square feet of gross lot area.
- One (1) off-street parking space must be provided for each caregiver not living in the dwelling.
- Two (2) parking spaces must be available for drop-off and pick up within 250 feet of the home.

Group day care homes are allowed as permitted accessory uses in single family homes in most zoning districts except ORL, M1, and M2.

Family Day Care Home: an accessory use of a private dwelling in which up to 6 minor children are received for care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day.

Family day care homes are allowed as a permitted accessory use in single family homes, townhouses, or apartments in most districts except ORL, M1, and M2.

State Licenses and Zoning Compliance

Child care centers and group day care homes that care for at least seven (7) children must be licensed by the State of Michigan Department of Social Services. Family day care homes that care for one (1) to six (6) children must be registered by the Michigan Department of Social Services. Both licensing and registration requires an application and inspection. For more information, please refer to the State of Michigan Department of Human Services [Child Care webpage](#).

Before receiving licensure or registration, the State of Michigan requires applicants for child care centers and group day care homes to obtain a zoning compliance permit from their local jurisdiction. The City of Ann Arbor zoning compliance permit application may be found at www.a2gov.org/zoning.

If you are not sure whether a day care center is allowed in your district, or for more information about City Code Chapter 55 that regulates child day care facilities, please contact a city planner in the Planning & Development Services Unit at 734.794.6265 or planning@a2gov.org.