

Standards Alignment Definitions

"Accessible" means that children can reach the materials and they are allowed to use them.

"Accessible to the child" means areas of the early learning program and materials that the children can easily get to on their own.

"Accommodations" means program curriculum and instruction, activities, and materials that have been adapted to help children with special needs function within their surroundings.

"Active" is a licensing status used by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to refer to providers who are actively providing regularly scheduled care for children.

"Active shooter" is an individual actively engaged in harming or attempting to cause harm.

"Adaptive Equipment" means equipment (such as eye glasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, crutches, prostheses, oxygen tanks) that helps children with special needs adapt to and function within their surroundings.

"Ambulatory" means walking independently.

"American Indian children" means any unmarried person under the age of eighteen who is:

(1) A member or eligible for membership in a federally recognized Indian tribe, or who is Eskimo, Aleut, or other Alaska native and a member of an Alaskan native regional corporation or Alaska native village;

(2) Determined or eligible to be found Indian by the Secretary of the Interior, including through issuance of a certificate of degree of Indian blood, or by the Indian health service;

(3) Considered to be Indian by a federally recognized or non-federally recognized Indian tribe; or

(4) A member or entitled to be a member of a Canadian tribe or band, Metis community, or non-status Indian community from Canada.

"Applicant" means an individual who has made a formal request for a child care license.

"Appropriate" means that the materials will interest and challenge children in terms of their ages and abilities.

"Appropriately" means correct or right for the particular situation.

"Approved water source" is a source of water obtained from a public water system, or a non-public water system that is designed, constructed, maintained,

and operated in accordance with the state Department of Health (DOH) or local health jurisdiction.

"Assessment" is a process of gathering ongoing and comprehensive information about specific aspects of a child's knowledge, behavior, skill level, or personality by a mental health or early learning professional.

"ASTM" stands for American Society for Testing and Materials.

"ASTM D-4236" stands for American Society for Testing and Materials. This is the standard practice for specifically labeling art materials for chronic health hazards.

"Available" means easy to get to and ready for use or service.

"Bias" means a tendency to believe that some people or ideas are better than others that usually results in treating some people unfairly. (Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary)

"Bathroom" means a room containing a built-in flush-type toilet.

"Body of water" or **"Bodies of water"** is a natural area or human-made area or device that contains or holds more than two inches of water. Examples of bodies of water are swimming pools, wading pools, ditches, canals, fish ponds, water retentions, excavations and quarries.

"Brief periods of time" means the amount of time necessary for an early learning provider to step out of the room to use the bathroom or make a quick call; generally 5 minutes or less.

"CACFP" means the Child and Adult Care Food Program established by congress and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Capacity" means the maximum number of children the early learning provider is authorized by the department to have in care at any given time.

"Carpet cleaning" is the removal of stains, dirt, or allergens by mechanical means or other methods.

"CCDF" or **"Child Care and Development Fund"** is the federal child care program designed to assist low-income families in obtaining high quality child care and development and to support high quality child development services.

"Center early learning program" or **"center based"** is a facility providing regularly scheduled care for a group of children birth through twelve years of age for periods of less than twenty-four hours.

"Certificate of exemption (COE)" means a form that is approved by the Department of Health and consistent with the requirements of WAC **246-105-**

050(2); or an immunization form produced by the state immunization information system.

“Certificate of immunization status (CIS)” means a form that is approved by the Department of Health (DOH) and consistent with the requirements of WAC **246-105-050(1)**, or an immunization form produced by the state immunization information system.

“Certification” means department approval of a person, home, or facility that does not legally need to be licensed, but requests evidence that they meet the foundational licensing requirements.

“Child” means an individual who is younger than age thirteen, including any infant, toddler, preschool-age child, or school-age child as defined in this chapter.

“Child abuse or neglect” means the physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, abandonment, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by any person indicating the child's health, welfare, and safety is harmed.

“Child care” means the developmentally appropriate care, protection, and supervision of children that is designed to promote positive growth and educational experiences for children outside the child's home for periods of less than twenty-four hours a day.

“Child Care Basic Training” is curriculum designed to meet the initial basic training requirement for early learning program staff working in licensed or certified programs in Washington State. It serves as a broad introduction for professionals who are pursuing a career in the early care and education field.

“Children with Food Allergies” are children who have an overreaction of the immune system to a substance that's harmless to most people. The body's immune system treats the substance (called an allergen) as an invader and over reacts releasing chemicals that can cause symptoms that range from annoying to serious or life threatening. Common allergens may include food, pollen, mold, or medications.

“Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA)” is a wood preservative and insecticide that is made up of 22% arsenic, a known carcinogen.

“Clean or cleaning” means to remove dirt and debris from a surface by scrubbing and washing with a detergent solution and rinsing with water. This process must be accomplished before sanitizing or disinfecting a surface.

“Complete and in good repair” means most (about 80%) of the materials are unbroken, have all their pieces and can be used by the children.

"Confidential" means the protection of personal information, such as the child's records, from individuals who are not authorized to see or hear the information.

"Contagious disease" means an illness caused by an infectious agent of public health concern which can be transmitted from one person, animal, or object to another person by direct or indirect means including transmission through an intermediate host or vector, food, water, or air. The Department of Health publishes a list of contagious diseases, which can be found at www.doh.wa.gov

"Continuously" means without interruptions, gaps or stopping.

"Core Competencies" is what early learning care and educational professionals need to know and be able to do to provide quality care and education for children, as specified by the current department's booklet, Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals.

"CPS" stands for Child Protective Services which is the Washington state agency that investigates reports of child abuse, neglect, exploitation or maltreatment.

"CPSC" stands for United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"Cultural" or **"Culturally"** means in a way that relates to the ideas, customs, and social behavior of different societies. (Source: Oxford Dictionaries)

"Curriculum Philosophy" means a written statement of principles developed by an early learning provider to form the basis of the learning program of activities, including age appropriate developmental learning objectives for children.

"Denied a license" means an action by the department not to issue a child care license to an applicant for an initial license, or to an early learning provider operating under an initial license seeking a non-expiring full license, based on the applicant's or early learning provider's inability or failure to meet the requirements of chapter [43.215](#) RCW or requirements adopted by the department pursuant to chapter [43.215](#) RCW.

"Department" refers to and means the Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL).

"Department Approved Sanitizer" means a sanitizer that has been evaluated and approved by the department to determine efficacy and safety in the early learning program space.

"Developmentally appropriate" means

- (1) The early learning provider interacts with each child in a way that recognizes and respects the child's chronological and developmental age;
- (2) Knowledge about how children grow and learn;
- (3) Reflects the developmental level of the individual child, and

(4) Interactions and activities are planned with the developmental needs of the individual child in mind.

“Developmental Screening” is the use of standardized tools to identify a child at risk of a developmental delay or disorder. (Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, Healthy Child Care America, 2009)

“Director” means the person responsible for the overall management of the center early learning program including the facility and operation.

“Discipline” means a method used to redirect a child in order to achieve a desired behavior.

“Disinfect” or **“disinfecting”** means to eliminate virtually all germs from inanimate surface by the process of cleaning and rinsing, followed by:

(a) A chlorine bleach and water solution of one tablespoon of chlorine bleach to one quart of cool water, allowed to stand wet for at least two minutes; or

(b) Other disinfectant product if used strictly according to the manufacturer's label instructions including, but not limited to, quantity used, time the product must be left in place, adequate time to allow the product to dry or rinsing if applicable, and appropriateness for use on the surface to be disinfected. Any disinfectant used on food contact surfaces or toys must be labeled safe for food contact surfaces.

“Disqualified” means the department has determined that an individual's background information prevents that person from being licensed, certified, or authorized by the department to care for or have unsupervised access to children receiving early learning services.

“DOH” means the Washington State Department of Health.

“Drinking or potable water” is water suitable for drinking by the public as determined by the state department of health or local health jurisdiction.

“DSHS” stands for Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

“EA” or **“Early Achievers”** is a state-wide system of high quality early learning that connects families to early learning and care programs with the help of an easy-to-understand rating system and offers coaching, professional development, and resources for providers to support each child's learning and development.

“Early Learning Program” means the provision of regularly scheduled care for a group of children birth through twelve years of age for periods of less than twenty-four hours, as licensed by the department. Center early learning programs provide services for more than twelve children. Family home early learning programs includes twelve or fewer children in the family living quarters where the early learning provider resides as provided in RCW 43.215.010 (1)(c).

“Early Learning Provider” refers to all persons who are qualified to work with children in an early learning program consisting of owners, center directors, program supervisors, lead teachers, assistants and aides.

“Early learning program space” means the indoor and outdoor space on the premises approved by the department for the purpose of providing licensed child care.

“ECEAP” or **“Early Education and Assistance Program”** is a comprehensive preschool program that provides free services and support to eligible children and their families.

“Early Childhood Education (ECE) Initial Certificate” is Washington’s Initial Certificate in Early Childhood Education serves as the point of entry for a career in early learning and covers foundational content for early learning professionals.

“Early Childhood Education (ECE) Short Certificate” is Washington’s Short Certificate in Early Childhood Education offers areas of specialization, building on the State’s Initial Certificate.

“Early Childhood Education (ECE) State Certificate” is Washington’s State Certificate in Early Childhood Education is the benchmark for Level 2 Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals and prepares for the next step, an associate’s degree in Early Childhood Education.

“Electronic record” means a record generated, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means for use in an information system or for transmission from one information system to another.

“Electronic signature” means a signature in electronic form attached to or logically associated with an electronic record including, but not limited to, a digital signature. An electronic signature is a paperless way to sign a document using an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a record, and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Emergency preparedness” means a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response.

“Enforcement action” means a department issued:

- (a) Denial, suspension, revocation or modification of a license;
- (b) Probationary license;
- (c) Civil monetary penalty (fine); or
- (d) Disqualification from having unsupervised access to children in care.

“EPA” means the Environmental Protection Agency.

“Exclusionary discipline” is denying admission of a child to a facility as a result of the child’s behavior.

“Exempt or exemption” means a type of immunization status where a child has not been fully immunized against one or more of the vaccine-preventable diseases due to medical, religious, philosophical or personal reasons.

“Expulsion” is ending the enrollment of a child in the early learning program because of the child’s challenging behavior and the early learning provider is unable to meet the child’s needs.

“External medications” means a medication that is not intended to be swallowed or injected but is to be applied to the external parts of the body, such as medicated ointments, lotions, or liquids applied to the skin or hair.

“Family home early learning program” means an early learning program licensed by the department where child care is provided for twelve or fewer children in the family living quarters where the early learning provider resides as provided in RCW [43.215.010](#) (1)(c).

“Family living quarters” means an early learning provider's or license applicant's residence and other spaces or buildings on the premises that meet the facility requirements of this chapter and are approved by the department for child care.

“Fully Qualified” means an early learning provider who meets background, education, experience, and training requirements for the position they hold.

“Good Standing” means the status of an early learning program in between monitoring visits that does not have any of the following:

- (a) Valid complaints;
- (b) A history of noncompliance related to those valid complaints or pending from prior monitoring visits;
- (c) Other information that when evaluated would result in a finding of noncompliance with this section.
- (d) The department shall consider whether an early learning program is in good standing when determining the most appropriate approach and process for monitoring visits, for the purposes of administrative efficiency while protecting children, consistent with this chapter. If the department determines that an early learning program is not in good standing, the department may issue a probationary license, as provided in RCW [43.215.290](#).

“Harshness” is the quality of being unpleasantly rough, cruel, jarring to the senses or difficult to accept or experience.

“Health jurisdiction” refers to either the state Department of Health that regulates larger on-site sewage systems, or the local health jurisdiction that regulate private and smaller on-site sewage systems.

“Household member” means one or more individuals who live in the same dwelling and/ or share living accommodations and may consist of family relatives or some other groups of people.

“Immunization” is the process whereby an individual is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine.

“Inaccessible to children” means an effective method or barrier that reasonably prevents a child’s ability to reach, enter, or use items or areas or is very difficult or impossible to get.

“Inactive” is a licensing status used by the department to refer to early learning providers who have requested and have been approved to temporarily cease caring for children and close their early learning program.

“Inclusion” is the action of including or of being included within a group or structure.

“Individual care plan” a specific plan to meet the individual needs of a child with a food allergy or special dietary requirement due to a health condition.

“Infant” is a child birth through eleven months of age.

“Interest area or center” is a defined area that supports a specific type of play (e.g., blocks and accessories; flannel boards with puppets; language and literary materials; fine motor manipulatives, such as interlocking blocks and manipulatives; art materials for drawing, painting, clay or play dough; music and movement; dramatic play).

“Intimidation” is to frighten or threaten someone in order to persuade them to do something that they do not want to.

“Integrated Pest Management (IPM)” means an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices, with pesticide application as a last resort pest control method.

“Language Expansion” means that the early learning provider adds detail or new, more exact words to build on ideas that children are expressing.

“Lead teacher” means the early learning provider who is the lead staff person in charge of a child or group of children and implementing the activity program.

"License" means a permit issued by the department authorizing an applicant by law to operate an early learning program and certifying that the applicant meets the foundational requirements under licensure.

"Licensed space" means the indoor and outdoor space on the premises approved by the department for the purpose of providing licensed child care.

"Licensee" means the individual, organization, or legal entity listed on the license issued by the Department of Early Learning authorized to provide an early learning program.

"Lockdown" means restricted to an interior room, with few or no windows inside the facility while the building is secured for a period of hours.

"Modification of the license" or "modification to the child care license" means department action to change the conditions identified on a current license.

"Moisture resistant" means a surface incapable of being penetrated by water or liquids.

"Monitor" means to observe and check the progress or quality.

"Motor Disabilities" means a physical limitation that impacts or limits daily living.

"Natural barrier" means a physical feature that protects or hinders travel through or over.

"Non-expiring license" or "non-expiring full license" means a full license that is issued to an early learning provider following the initial licensing period, as provided in WAC [170-151-087](#), [170-295-0095](#), or [170-296A-1450](#), as appropriate.

"One year of experience" means the early learning provider demonstrates at least twelve months of early learning experience, verified by a resume and references:

(a) In a supervisory role in an early learning program setting where the individual was responsible for supervising staff and complying with licensing standards; or

(b) As a Washington state:

(i) Child care center or school age center director, program supervisor, or lead teacher as defined in chapters [170-151](#) and [170-295](#) WAC; or

(ii) Family home early learning provider or qualified lead staff person.

"Parallel-talk" means the early learning provider talks about what the child is doing, seeing, eating, or touching.

"Parent or Guardian" means birth parent, custodial parent, foster parent, legal guardian or those authorized by the parent or other entity legally responsible for the welfare of the child.

"Peer Interaction" means the relationships that children have with one another, not with adults. It includes how infants and toddlers play near one another, and how preschoolers play together, their communication, and whether they fight or get along peacefully.

"Personal needs" means an early learning provider's hygiene, toileting, medication, cleansing, eating or clothing needs. "Personal needs" do not include smoking or use of tobacco products, illegal drug use or misuse of prescription drugs, conducting business or related activities, sleeping or napping, screen time, or leaving children in care unattended.

"Pest" means an animal or plant which has a harmful effect on humans, their food or their living conditions.

"Pesticides" means chemicals that are used to kill weeds, pests, particularly insects.

"Pet" means a domestic or tamed animal or bird kept for companionship or pleasure and treated with care and affection.

"Physical restraint" means holding a child as gently as possible for the minimum amount of time necessary to control a situation where that own child's safety or the safety of others is threatened.

"Plan Review" is the process by which a potential applicant meets with the designated department representative to examine or review detailed architectural floor plans, improvements and the premises to a given lot or building site. Architectural plans provide graphic representations of the following, but not limited to the location of proposed classrooms, bathrooms, kitchen facility, outdoor play area, exit travel pathways, building foot print, water and sanitary lines. These graphic representations are used to determine if the site meets WAC licensing requirements.

"Poisons" includes but is not limited to, substances, chemicals, chemical compounds (other than naturally occurring compounds such as water or salt), or similar items, that even in small quantities are likely to cause injury or illness if it is swallowed or comes into contact with a child's skin, eyes, mouth, or mucus membranes.

"Premises" means the licensed or unlicensed space at the licensed address including, but not limited to, buildings, land and residences.

"Preschool age children" means a child thirty months through six years of age not attending kindergarten or elementary school.

"Professional Development Support Plan" is a formal means by which an individual who is supervising staff sets out the goals, strategies and outcomes of learning and training.

"Program supervisor" means the center early learning provider responsible for planning and supervising the learning and activity program.

"RCW" means Revised Code of Washington, 43.215.

"Readily available" means able to be used or obtained quickly and easily; at someone's disposal.

"Reasonable access" means a fair and sensible way of getting near, at, or to something or someone.

"Relationship Based" or **"Relationship-based professional development (RBPD)"** is defined as using professional relationships as a primary method to support the professional growth and development of adult learners. This includes ongoing goal setting, observation, assessment, action planning, reflection and feedback.

"Revocation" or **"revoke"** means the formal action by the department to close a center or family home early learning program and remove the license due to the early learning provider's failure to comply with chapter [43.215](#) RCW or requirements adopted pursuant to chapter [43.215](#) RCW.

"Routine care" means typical or usual care provided to a child during the time the child is enrolled in the early learning program (e.g., feeding, diapering and toileting, napping and resting, playing and learning).

"Safe route" means a way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination that is protected from danger or risk.

"Sanitize" or **"Sanitizing"** means to reduce the number of microorganisms on a surface by the process of:

(a) Cleaning and rinsing, followed by using:

(i) A chlorine bleach and water solution of three-quarters teaspoon of chlorine bleach to one quart of cool water, allowed to stand wet for at least two minutes; or

(ii) Another sanitizer product if used strictly according to manufacturer's label instructions including, but not limited to, quantity used, time the product must be left in place, and adequate time to allow the product to dry, and appropriateness for use on the surface to be sanitized. If used on food contact surfaces or toys, a sanitizer product must be labeled as safe for food contact surfaces; or

(b) For laundry and dishwasher use only, "sanitize" means use of a bleach and water solution or temperature control.

"Sarcasm" means the use of remarks that clearly mean the opposite of what they say, made in order to hurt someone's feelings or to criticize something in a humorous way.

"Scaffolding" is a variation of instructional methods used to gradually move children toward stronger understanding and greater independence in the learning process.

"School-age children" means a child not less than five years through twelve years of age who is attending kindergarten or elementary school.

"Screen time" means watching, using or playing television, computers, video games, video or DVD players, mobile communication devices, and similar devices.

"Self-closing" means that it shuts automatically.

"Self-talk" means the early learning provider talks about what he or she is doing, seeing, eating, touching, or thinking.

"Shelter-in-place" means staying at the facility due to an external threat such as a storm, chemical or gas explosion, or other event that prohibits the occupants from safely leaving the facility.

"Short periods of time" means the amount of time necessary for an early learning provider to step out of the room to take care of program planning, talking with parents or going to an off-site appointment; generally 60 minutes or less.

"Sign" includes signing by physical signature, if available, or electronic signature.

"Sleeping equipment" includes a bed, cot, mattress, mat, crib, bassinet, play yard or "pack and play" and does not include any car seat or infant swing.

"Social Development" means increasing an awareness of others and the ability to form positive relationships with other children and adults.

"Special Needs" is a term used for children who require assistance due to learning difficulties, physical disability, or emotional and behavioral difficulties.

"Staff" means any early learning provider including owner, center director, center program supervisor, lead teacher, assistant, aide or volunteer providing care in the early learning program.

"Strengthening Families" means a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child

abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

"Suspension of a license" means a formal department action to stop a license pending a department decision regarding further enforcement action.

"Teaching strategies" are different techniques, curriculums, or styles used to support children's learning.

"Toddler" means a child twelve months through twenty-nine months of age.

"Transition" is the process or a period of time of changing from one activity or place to another.

"Tribal certification" means that the department has certified the tribe to receive state payment for children eligible to receive child care subsidies.

"Unlicensed Space" means the indoor and outdoor areas of the premises not approved as licensed space by the department that the early learning provider must make inaccessible to the children during child care hours.

"Unsupervised access" has the same meaning as "unsupervised access" in WAC [170-06-0020](#).

"Usable space" means the areas that are available at all times for use by the children in the early learning program and meet licensing requirements.

"Vapor product" means any: (a) device that employs a battery or other mechanism to heat a solution or substance to produce a vapor or aerosol intended for inhalation; (b) cartridge or container of a solution or substance intended to be used with or in such a device or to refill such a device; or (c) solution or substance intended for use in such a device, including, but not limited to, concentrated nicotine, non-nicotine substances, or supplemental flavorings. This includes any electronic cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems, electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, electronic pipes, hookahs, steam stones, vape pens, or similar products or devices, as well as any parts that can be used to build such products or devices. "Vapor product" does not include any drug, device, or combination product approved for sale by the United States food and drug administration that is marketed and sold for such approved purpose.

“Washington Administrative Code (WAC)”

“Walking independently” is being able to stand and move about easily without the aid of assistance of or holding onto an object, wall, equipment or other individual.

“Washington State Early Learning Guidelines” means published guidelines by The Department of Early Learning (DEL), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive Washington for children birth through third grade that outline what children know and are able to do at different stages of their development. To learn more, go to <http://www.del.wa.gov/development/guidelines/>

“Weapons” means an instrument or device of any kind that is used or designed to be used to inflict harm including, but not limited to, rifles, handguns, shotguns, antique firearms, knives, swords, bows and arrows, BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, electronic or other stun devices, or fighting implements.

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