

## Summary of Rule Changes Effective July 1 and August 1, 2010

### Family Child Care Homes

Over the last year the North Carolina Child Care Commission has been working on rulemaking in the areas of children's health and nutrition, enriching outdoor activities and quality school-age care, based on research reviewed on outdoor learning environments, quality activities for school-age care, and preventing obesity in young children. The majority of these rules became effective July 1, 2010, with the exception of a few that carried over to August 1, 2010. The following is a summary of the rule changes; please refer to the rulebook for complete rule text. It is available online at [www.ncchildcare.net](http://www.ncchildcare.net).

- Changes to definitions include:
  - Defining health care professionals, first aid kits, and if weather conditions permit. (Rule .0102)
  - In addition, changes were made to the definition of Basic School-Age Care (BSAC) training to allow for equivalent training if approved by the Division. (Rule .0102)
- A new rule was adopted to address caregiver interactions. Caregivers will be required to relate to children in positive ways by helping children feel welcome and comfortable, treating them with respect, listening to what they say, responding to children with acceptance and appreciation and participating in many activities with the children. (Rule .1703) *Examples are provided in the rule text.*
- Several changes were adopted around developmentally appropriate activities as planned on the written schedule. The written schedule must:
  - Include a minimum of one hour of outdoor time throughout the day, if weather conditions permit. (Rule .1718)
  - Include a daily gross motor activity which may occur indoors or outdoors. (Rule .1718)
- When screen time is provided it must be offered only as a free-choice activity, used to meet a developmental goal, and limited to no more than a total of 2 ½ hours per week for each child two years of age and older. Screen time includes, but is not limited to, television, videos, video games, and computer usage. Screen time usage periods may be extended for special events, projects, or occasions such as holiday or birthday celebrations. Screen time is prohibited for children less than two years of age. The operator must offer alternative activities for children under the age of two years. (Rule .1718)
- Accommodations for breastfeeding mothers shall be provided that include seating and an electrical outlet in a place other than a bathroom that is shielded from view by staff and the public which may be used by mothers while they are breastfeeding or expressing milk. (Rule .1702)
- Rule changes were made to the administrative penalties following the substantiation of any abuse or neglect complaint or the issuance of any administrative action against a child care facility. The rule now states parents must be notified within 30 days and the operator must document the date the written notice was given to all parents and have parents sign an acknowledgement that they have received the notice. (Rule .2201)
- Voluntary Rated Licenses rules related to a three-component star rated license were repealed and will be removed from the rules since they are no longer valid. (Section .2800)