

**For more information,  
contact the following  
agencies:**

Arizona Department of Economic Security  
Certified Child Care Home Providers  
Certified Child Care In-Home Providers  
Phoenix: (602) 542-4248  
Toll-free: 1-877-822-2322

<https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/child-care-home>

Child Care Resource & Referral  
Registered Homes  
Toll-free: 1-800-308-9000  
[www.azccrr.com](http://www.azccrr.com)

Arizona Department of Education  
Child and Adult Care Food Program  
Phoenix: (602) 542-8700  
Toll-free: 1-800-352-4558  
[www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/cacfp/](http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/cacfp/)

Arizona Department of Health Services  
Licensed Child Care Centers  
Certified Group Homes  
Phoenix: (602) 364-2539  
Tucson: (520) 628-6540  
Toll-free: 1-800-615-8555  
[www.azdhs.gov/licensing/childcare-facilities/index.php](http://www.azdhs.gov/licensing/childcare-facilities/index.php)



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**A Child Care Guide  
for Arizona Providers  
and Parents**

What is  
**REGULATED CHILD  
CARE in Arizona?**

Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)  
Arizona Department of Education (ADE)  
Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS)



# Arizona Tri-Agency Child Care Matrix

Regulating Agency: Department of Health Services (DHS) Department of Economic Security (DES) Department of Education (ADE)

| Type of Care                                     | Child Care Center<br>Public School<br>Program   | Child Care Group<br>Home         | Certified Family Child<br>Care Home Provider             | Certified Child Care<br>In-Home Provider | Registered* Child<br>Care Home<br>or a<br>Non-certified Relative<br>Provider* | Alternative Approval<br>Home (AA)                        | Center  |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Environment                                      | Center Based  | Home based at<br>provider's home | Home based at<br>provider's home                         | Home based at<br>children's home         | Home based at<br>provider's home<br>*Or child's home                          | Home based at<br>provider's home                         | Center based  |
| Number of Children for<br>Compensation           | 5 or more children  | Maximum of 10<br>children        | Maximum of 4 children                                    | Maximum of 4-6<br>children               | Maximum of 4 children   | Maximum of 4 children                                    | Based on license<br>capacity  |
| Adult : Child Ratio                              | Infants 1:5 or 2:11<br>Age 1 1:6 or 2:13<br>Age 2 1:8<br>Age 3 1:13<br>Age 4 1:15<br>Age 5 and Above 1:20 | 1:5<br>2:6-10                    | 1:4<br>(1:6, if provider's own<br>children are included) | 1:6                                      | 1:4<br><br>*1:4 (1:6, if provider's<br>own children are<br>included)          | 1:4<br>(1:6, if provider's own<br>children are included) | Infants 1:5 or 2:11<br>Age 1 1:6 or 2:13<br>Age 2 1:8<br>Age 3 1:13<br>Age 4 1:15<br>Above 5 1:20 |
| Mandatory Inspections                            | YES   | YES (bi-annual)                  | YES (bi-annual)  | YES (bi-annual)                          | NO  | YES <sup>1</sup>   | YES   |
| State Licensed/Certified                         | Licensed  | Certified                        | Certified  | Certified                                | Not licensed / certified  | Not licensed / certified                                 | YES   |
| Department of Child<br>Safety Central Registry   | Required  | Required                         | Required   | Required                                 | Required<br>* (provider only)   | Not Required   | YES   |
| Department of Public<br>Safety Fingerprint       | Required  | Required                         | Required   | Required                                 | Required<br>(provider only)   | Required (provider only)                                 | YES   |
| DES Contract/Subsidy<br>Eligibility <sup>2</sup> | Optional  | Optional                         | Required   | Required                                 | Not eligible<br>*YES  | NO   | NO  |
| Food Program<br>Eligibility <sup>3</sup>         | Optional  | Optional                         | Optional   | Not eligible                             | Optional<br><br>Optional / navigation   | YES  | YES   |

<sup>1</sup> Monitored by a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsor organization that contracts with ADE

<sup>2</sup> DES will reimburse a portion of child care expenses for eligible families who choose a DES-contracted child care provider.

<sup>3</sup> CACFP will reimburse CACFP-contracted child care providers a portion of food cost when providing creditable meals to children in care

\*Registered with Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)