Health and Safety Checklist – Public School Operated Programs – DCF 251

Use of form: Section 120.13 (14), Wis. Stats., allows for school boards to establish and provide or contract for the provision of day care programs for children without being licensed by the department of children and families; However, those programs are required to meet the standards for licensed day care centers established by the department of children and families (DCF 251 Licensing Rules for Group Child Care Centers). In November of 2014, new federal requirements were signed into law that require annual inspection of public school operated programs as a condition of receiving federal child care subsidy funds. While every administrative rule in Chapter DCF 251 is important to the quality of the program, the department has identified a subset of rules which, if violated, are likely to pose the most serious threat to the health, safety and welfare of children in care. This checklist contains that subset of health and safety rules and will be used by DCF staff to notify public school operated child care programs of the rules within DCF 251 that will be monitored annually for compliance and to document program compliance and / or areas of deficiency observed during the initial assessment visit.

Instructions – DCF Staff: During the initial assessment visit, address each item on the checklist to determine the program's compliance, or areas of deficiency, with the health and safety rules. If the program is in compliance with the specific rule, check "Met." If a specific rule does not apply to the program, check "N/A" for not applicable. If the program is not in compliance with the specific rule, record your observations in the comments section and describe the area of deficiency.

Instructions – Public School Operated Program: Public school operated child care programs may use this checklist to familiarize themselves with the health and safety rules that will be monitored annually. However, if the program is looking for a self-monitoring tool to ensure compliance with DCF 251 Licensing Rules for Group Child Care Centers in its entirety, they should refer to the department's form DCF-F-CFS0063 Licensing Checklist – Group Child Care Centers.

"School-age child" means a child 5 years of age or older who is enrolled in a public school or a parochial or other private school.

Name of the Public School Operated Program	Facility ID Number
Yes No This program serves only school-age children (children age 4 and above who are also enrolled in the school district fo 12).	r academic purposes – 4K-
Yes No This program serves school-age children in groups separate from children who are under age 5.	
Yes 🗌 No This program serves children younger than age 5 who are not enrolled in the school district for academic purposes.	
Yes No This program is located in a building currently in use as a school building.	
Licensing Specialist Conducting the Assessment	Initial Assessment Date

Name and Title of District Representative Present

Code Section (Subsection)	Page	Code Section (Subsection)	Page
251.04 Operational Requirements	2	251.08 Transportation (if applicable)	7
251.05 Staff	2	251.09 Infant and toddler care (if applicable)	8
251.06 Physical plant and equipment	3	251.095 Care of school-age children (if applicable)	8
251.07 Program	6		

DCF 251.04 OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
251.04(3) Reports The licensee shall report to the department all of the following. If the report is made by telephone, the license written report to the appropriate regional licensing office within 5 business days of the incident. Fax, e-mail, and letter are accept filing a written report:			
(3)(j) REPORT - ABUSE OR NEGLECT Any suspected abuse or neglect of a child by an employee or volunteer that was reported under s. DCF 251.04 (8), including any incident that results in a child being forcefully shaken or thrown against a surface, hard or soft, during the child's hours of attendance, within 24 hours after the occurrence.			
(3)(m) REPORT – COMMUNICABLE DISEASE Any confirmed case of a communicable disease reportable under ch. DHS 145 in a child enrolled at the center or a person in contact with children at the center, within 24 hours after being notified of the diagnosis. The licensee shall also notify the local health department within 24 hours after the center is notified of the diagnosis.			
251.04(6) Children's Records	_	_	
(6)(a)6. CHILD RECORD – HEALTH HISTORY Documentation of each child's health history that includes the following:			
a. The name and birthdate of the child. b. The full names of the child's parents. c. A telephone number where the parent can be recorditions, such as asthma, cerebral palsy, diabetes, epilepsy, food allergies, or gastrointestinal or feeding concerns. If the child allergy, a statement from a medical professional indicating an acceptable alternative. f. If the child has a medical condition, trigg cause a problem, signs or symptoms for the child care worker to watch for, steps a child care worker should follow, when to call regarding symptoms, when the condition requires emergency medical care, and identifications of all child care workers who hav specialized training or instructions to help treat symptoms.	hild's me has a m jers that a paren	edical hilk t may ht	
(6)(a)6m. CHILD RECORD – IMMUNIZATION HISTORY Documentation that indicates the child's immunization history is in compliance with s. 252.04, Stats., and ch. DHS 144. (Department of Health Services' Child Care Immunization Record form may be used.)			
251.04(8) Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect	•		
(8)(a) MANDATED REPORTING – CHILD ABUSE A licensee, employee or volunteer at a child care center who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected as defined in ss. 48.02 (1) and 48.981 (1), Stats., shall immediately contact the county department of social services or human services or a local law enforcement agency, as required by s. 48.981, Stats.			
DCF 251.05 STAFF			
251.05(2) Staff Records	1	_	
(2)(a)2. STAFF RECORD - COMPLETED BACKGROUND CHECK Documentation from the department, either paper or electronic, that indicates a child care background check was completed in compliance with the timelines and requirements specified in s. 48.686, Stats., and ch DCF 13 and the person is eligible to work in a child care program.			
251.05(3) Qualifications of Staff			
(3)(b) ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA PREVENTION TRAINING Training on preventing abusive head trauma. Each child care worker, center administrator, center director, volunteer counted in staff-to-child ratio, or substitute who provides care and supervision to children under 5 years of age shall document completion of department-approved training in abusive head trauma, and appropriate ways to manage crying, fussing, or distraught children prior to beginning to work with children under 5 years of age. (Note: The SBS/AHT prevention training component is included in the courses "Introduction to the Child Care Profession" and "Fundamentals of Infant and Toddler Care" if the course was taken after 7/1/05.)			

DCF 251.05 STAFF (continued)	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
(3)(c) CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. All employees in regular contact with children shall obtain, maintain and place in the employee's file a current certificate of completion for infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use from an agency approved by the department within 3 months after beginning to work with children in care. Volunteers included in determining staff-to-child ratios shall obtain a certificate of completion in infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation after volunteering for 240 cumulative hours. The time spent obtaining or renewing cardiopulmonary resuscitation training may be counted towards the required continuing education hours.			
(3)(cm) CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT - BIENNIAL TRAINING Training on child abuse and neglect reporting requirements. Within one week after beginning work at the center and at least every 2 years thereafter, each employee or volunteer who comes in contact with children in care shall complete training in all of the following:			
(3)(k)1. CONTACT WITH PERSON – ILLNESS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE No licensee, employee, volunteer, visitor, or other person with symptoms of serious illness that presents a safety or health risk to children or a communicable disease that is reportable under ch. DHS 145 and transmitted through normal contact may be in contact with the children in care.			
DCF 251.06 PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
251.06(1) Building			
(1)(a) COMMERCIAL BUILDING CODE – COMPLIANCE, INSPECTION REPORT The building in which a center is located shall comply with applicable state and local building codes. The licensee shall maintain a building inspection report that specifies that the building meets the WI commercial building codes for use as a group child care center.			
* DCF 251.095(3) Exceptions for programs serving only school-age children in school buildings. Section DCF 251.06(1)(a) on maintaining a building inspection report.			
251.06(2) Protective Measures		•	
(2)(a) POTENTIAL SOURCE OF HARM ON PREMISES The indoor and outdoor premises shall be free of hazards including any recalled products.			
(2)(b) ELECTRICAL OR HOT SURFACE PROTECTION Steam radiators, fireplaces, wood burning stoves, electric fans, electric outlets, electrical heating units and hot surfaces, such as pipes, shall be protected by screens or guards so that children cannot touch them.			
* Exception for programs serving only school-age children - 251.095(2)(a) Section DCF 251.06(2)(b) but only in regard to protection of electrical outlets			
(2)(c) POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ITEMS ON PREMISES Firearms, ammunition and other potentially dangerous items may not be kept on the premises.			
(2)(d) ACCESS TO MATERIALS POTENTIALLY HARMFUL TO CHILDREN Materials harmful to children, including power tools, flammable or combustible materials, insecticides, matches, drugs, cleaning supplies, bleaches, and other hazardous, toxic, or poisonous articles shall be appropriately labeled and stored in areas inaccessible to children.			
(2)(g) STAIRS, WALKS, RAMPS, PORCHES – SAFETY Stairs, walks, ramps and porches shall be maintained in a safe condition and free from the accumulation of water, ice or snow.			

DCF 251.06 PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
(2)(i) DETERIORATING PAINT There shall be no flaking or deteriorating paint on exterior or interior surfaces in areas accessible to children.			
(2)(im) LEAD-BASED PAINT, TOXIC FINISHING MATERIALS No lead-based paint or other toxic finishing material may be used on indoor or outdoor furnishings and equipment.			
 Yes No Is there a hot tub on the premises? (2)(k) HOT TUB − COVERED OR FENCED A hot tub located in a room or area accessible to children shall have a visible, locked, rigid cover or be enclosed by a locked fence at least 4 feet tall. The lock shall be installed so that the lock is inaccessible to children. 			
251.06(3) Emergency Plans and Drills			
(3)(a) EMERGENCIES – WRITTEN PLANS Each center shall have a written plan for taking appropriate action in the event of an emergency, including fire, tornado, or flood; extreme heat or cold; loss of building services, including heat, water, electricity, or telephone; human-caused events, such as threats to the building or its occupants; allergic reactions; lost or missing child; vehicle accidents; or other circumstances requiring immediate attention. The plan shall include all of the following:			
(3)(b)1. EMERGENCIES - ROUTES AND SHELTER AREAS POSTED Post the fire evacuation route and tornado shelter areas.			
(3)(b)2. EMERGENCIES - PRACTICE WRITTEN PLANS Practice the fire evacuation plan monthly, and tornado drills monthly from April through October.			
(3)(b)3. EMERGENCIES - STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES Make sure that all staff members know what their duties are if there is an emergency.			
251.06(4) Fire Protection			
(4)(a) FIRE EXTINGUISHERS – OPERABLE, INSPECTED, LABELED Each fire extinguisher on the premises of a center shall be operable at all times, inspected once a year by a qualified person and bear a label indicating its present condition and date of the last inspection.			
* DCF 251.095(3) Exceptions for programs serving only school-age children in school buildings. Section DCF 251.06(4)(a) on fire extinguishers.			
(4)(d) EXITS & PASSAGEWAYS – UNOBSTRUCTED, MINIMUM WIDTH Exits and exit passageways shall have a minimum clear width of three feet and be unobstructed by furniture or other objects.			
(4)(e) EXTENSION CORD USE An extension cord may not be used permanently with an appliance.			
(4)(f) ELECTRICAL OUTLET LIMIT No more than two electrical appliances may be plugged into any one wall outlet.			
(4)(i) EXIT LIGHTS All exit lights shall be lit at all times.			
(4)(j)1. FIRE ALARMS & SMOKE DETECTORS - INSTALLATION Fire detection and prevention systems, including smoke detectors, heat or flame detectors, pull stations, and sprinkler systems shall be installed and operated in accordance with ch. SPS 316 and chs. SPS 361 to 366, the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code; applicable local ordinances; and the manufacturer's instructions.			

DCF 251.06 PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
(4)(j)2. FIRE ALARMS & SMOKE DETECTORS - MAINTENANCE All fire detection and prevention systems, including smoke detectors, heat or flame detectors, pull stations, and sprinkler systems shall be maintained in operating condition and shall be immediately repaired or replaced if any unit or part of a unit is found to be inoperative.			
(4)(jm)1. FIRE ALARMS & SMOKE DETECTORS - DRILLS A signaling device, such as a smoke, heat, or flame detector, shall be used to conduct monthly fire evacuation drills.			
(4)(jm)2. FIRE ALARMS & SMOKE DETECTORS - TESTING The licensee shall document that the fire detection and prevention systems are monitored by a fire prevention agency or that the detectors and alarms have been tested monthly.			
251.06(11) Outdoor Play Space Yes No The outdoor play space is on the premises of the center			
(11)(b) OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE – REQUIRED FEATURES Except when an exemption is requested and is approved by the under par. (c), a center shall comply with all of the following requirements for outdoor play space:	e depart	tment	
(11)(b)6m. CREOSOTE OR PCP TREATED WOOD Wood containing creosote or pentachlorophenol (PCP), including railroad ties, may not be accessible to children.			
(11)(b)7. OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE – ENCLOSURE The boundaries of the outdoor play space shall be defined by a permanent enclosure not less than 4 feet high to protect the children. Fencing, plants, or landscaping may be used to create a permanent enclosure. The permanent enclosure may not have any open areas that are greater than 4 inches.			
* Exception for programs serving only school-age children - 251.095(2)(c) Section DCF 251.11(b)7. Concerning a permanent enclosure of outdoor space. If hazards exist, such as traffic or bodies of water, the boundaries of outdoor play space shall be made known to the children.			
(11)(b)8. OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE – PROHIBITED SURFACES Concrete and asphalt are prohibited under climbing equipment, swings, and slides.			
(11)(bm) OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT – PROVIDED Outdoor equipment shall be safe and durable. The outdoor equipment shall be all of the following: 1. Used in accordance with all manufacturer's instructions and any manufacturer's recommendations that may affect the safety of children in care. 2. Scaled to the developmental level, size, and ability of the children. 3. Of sturdy construction with no sharp, rough, loose, protruding, pinching, or pointed edges, or areas of entrapment, in good operating condition, and anchored when necessary. 4. Placed to avoid danger or injury or collision and to permit freedom of action.	f		
(12)(a)1. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - USE Aboveground and in-ground swimming pools on the premises may not be used by children in care.			
(12)(a)2. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - ENCLOSURE Swimming pools shall be enclosed by a 4-foot fence with a self-closing, self-latching door. Spaces between the vertical posts of the fence shall be 4 inches or less.			
(12)(a)3. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - GATE CLOSED & LOCKED If access to the pool is through a gate, the gate shall be closed and visibly locked during the licensed hours of the center.			
(12)(a)4. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - DOOR CLOSED & LOCKED If access to the pool is through a door, the door shall be closed, visibly locked, and equipped with an alarm at the door that signals when someone has entered the pool area. The door may not be used as an exit.			

DCF 251.06 PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
(12)(a)5. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - LOCKS Locks shall be located so that the locks cannot be opened by children.			
(12)(a)6. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - WALL & LADDER The free-standing wall of an aboveground pool may not serve as an enclosure unless it is at least 4 feet in height and not climbable. If a ladder is present, the ladder shall be removed or raised up so that it is inaccessible to children.			
(12)(a)7. ON PREMISES SWIMMING POOL - AREA FREE OF EQUIPMENT The area around the pool enclosure shall be free of toys or equipment that would allow a child to climb or otherwise gain access to the pool.			
(12)(am) ON PREMISES BEACH A beach on the premises may not be used by children in care. Access to a beach shall be controlled so that children may not enter the area.			
DCF 251.07 PROGRAM			
251.07(3) Equipment			
(3)(a) INDOOR EQUIPMENT – SAFETY Indoor and outdoor play equipment shall be safe and durable. The equipment and furnishings shall be:			
251.07(5) Meals and Snacks			
(5)(a)9m. SPECIAL DIETS – FOOD ALLERGY A special diet based on a food allergy may be served upon the written request of the parent.			
(5)(a)10. SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD & OTHER ALLERGIES Cooks, staff members, child care workers and substitutes having direct contact with the children shall be informed about food allergies and other allergies of specific children.			
251.07(6) Health	•		
(6)(a) OBSERVATION – SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS Each child upon arrival at a center shall be observed by a staff person for symptoms of illness and injury. For an apparently ill child, the procedure under par. (c) shall be followed.			
(6)(c)1. ILL CHILD – ISOLATION The child shall be isolated until the child can be removed from the center.			
(6)(dm)3.c. MEDICAL LOG - MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION Any medication dispensed to a child, on the date the medication is dispensed. The record shall include the name of the child, type of medication given, dosage, time, date, and the initials or signature of the person administering the medication.			
(6)(e)1. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE – EXCLUSIONS No child or other person with a reportable communicable disease specified in ch. DCF 145 may not be admitted to or be permitted to remain in a center during the period when the disease is communicable.			
(6)(f) <i>Medications.</i> 1. Center staff may give prescription or non-prescription medication, such as pain relievers, teething syrup, to a child only under the following conditions:	gels or	cough	
(6)(f)1.a. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION – PARENT AUTHORIZATION A written authorization that includes the child's name and birthdate, name of medication, administration instructions, medication intervals and length of the authorization dated and signed by the parent is on file. Blanket authorizations that exceed the length of time specified on the label are prohibited.			
(6)(f)1.b. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION – CONTAINERS & LABELING Medication is in the original container and labeled with child's name and the label includes the dosage and directions for administration.			

DCF 251.07 PROGRAM (continued)	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
(6)(f)5. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION – AS LABELED & AUTHORIZED All medication for a child in care shall be administered by the center as directed on the label and as authorized by the parent.			
(6)(g)1. WIPING BODILY SECRETIONS Bodily secretions, such as runny noses, eye drainage, and coughed up matter shall be wiped with a disposable tissue used once and placed in a plastic-lined container.			
(6)(g)5. USE OF UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS Center staff shall adopt and follow universal precautions when exposed to blood and blood-containing bodily fluids and injury discharges.			
(6)(i)1. WASHING CHILD'S HANDS & FACE A child's hands shall be washed with soap and warm running water before meals and snacks, after handling a pet or animal, and after toileting or diapering. A child's hands and face shall be washed when soiled. For children under one year of age, hands may be washed with soap and a wet fabric or paper washcloth that is used once and discarded.			
(6)(i)2. ADULT HANDWASHING Persons working with children shall wash their hands with soap and warm running water before handling food, before and after assisting with toileting and diapering, after wiping bodily secretions from a child with a disposable tissue, and after exposure to blood or bodily fluids. If gloves are used, hands shall be washed after the removal of gloves.			
(6)(j)4. FIRST AID PROCEDURES First aid procedures shall be followed for serious injuries.			
DCF 251.08 TRANSPORTATION			
The program 🗌 provides regularly scheduled transportation 🗌 provides transportation for field trips 🗌 does not tra	nsport.		
251.08(4) Driver			
(4)(c)1. DRIVER RECORD – OBTAIN & REVIEW Prior to the day a driver first transports children in care and annually thereafter, the licensee shall obtain a copy of the driving record for each driver and place the record in the staff file. The licensee shall review each driving record to ensure that the driver has no accidents or traffic violations that would indicate that having children ride with the driver could pose a threat to the children.			
(4)(d)1. DRIVER – CELL PHONE USE Except as provided in subd. 2., a driver of a vehicle that is transporting children in care may not use a cellular phone or other wireless telecommunication device while loading, unloading, or transporting children, except when the vehicle is out of traffic, not in operation, and any of the following applies: a. The phone or device is used to call 911. b. The phone or device is used to communicate with emergency responders. c. The phone or device is used to communicate with the center regarding an emergency situation.			
251.08(6) Safety Restraints			
(6)(a) CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT SYSTEM No person may transport a child under the age of 8 in a motor vehicle, unless the child is restrained in a child safety restraint system that is appropriate to the child's age and size and in accordance with s. 347.48 Stats., and ch. Trans 310.			
(6)(b)1. SEAT BELT USE - CHILD Each child who is not required to be in an individual child car safety seat or booster seat when being transported under par. (a) shall be properly restrained by a seat belt in accordance with s. 347.68, Stats., and ch. Trans 315.			
(6)(b)2. SEAT BELT USE – ADULT Each adult in the vehicle shall be properly restrained by a seat belt in accordance with s. 347.48, Stats., and ch. Trans 315.			
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DCF 251.08 TRANSPORTATION (continued)	Met	N/A	COMMENTS
(6)(d) VEHICLE - FRONT SEAT USE Children under age 13 years who are in the care of the center may not ride in the front seat of a vehicle.			
251.08(8) Child Care Vehicle Safety Alarm			
 (8)(a) VEHICLE SAFETY ALARM – INSTALLED A vehicle shall be equipped with a child safety alarm that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting if all of the following conditions apply. 1. The vehicle is owned or leased by a licensee or a contractor of a licensee. 2. The vehicle has a seating capacity of 6 or more passengers plus the driver. The seating capacity of the vehicle shall be determined by the manufacturer. 3. The vehicle is used to transport children in care. 			
(8)(b) VEHICLE SAFETY ALARM – PROMPTS INSPECTION OF VEHICLE No person may shut off a child safety alarm unless the driver first inspects the vehicle to ensure that no child is left unattended in the vehicle.			
(8)(c) VEHICLE SAFETY ALARM – WORKING ORDER The child safety alarm shall be in good working order each time the vehicle is used for transporting children to or from a center.			
DCF 251.09 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INFANT AND TODDLER CARE Yes No The program provides care for children under age two years.			
(1) Applicability and General Requirements. (a) Group child care centers providing care and supervision to infants and comply with the additional requirements of this section.	toddler	s shall	
(1)(j) INFANT & TODDLER - CRIB MATTRESSES & COVERINGS Cribs and playpens shall contain a tight-fitting mattress and a mattress covering that fits snugly over the mattress.			
(1)(k) INFANT & TODDLER – BEDDING Sheets or blankets used to cover a child one year of age and over shall be kept away from the child's mouth and nose, and if sleeping in a crib or playpen shall be tucked tightly under the mattress.			
(1)(L) INFANT & TODDLER – SOFT MATERIALS IN CRIBS A child under one year of age may not sleep in a crib or playpen that contains soft or loose materials such as sheepskins, pillows, blankets, flat sheets, bumper pads, bibs, pacifiers with attached soft objects, or stuffed animals. No blankets and other items may be hung on the sides of the crib or playpen.			
251.09(2) Daily Program	•		
(2)(bm) INFANT & TODDLER – SLEEP POSITION Each child under age one shall be placed to sleep on his or her back in a crib unless otherwise specified in writing by the child's physician. The child shall be allowed to assume the position most comfortable to him / her when able to roll over unassisted.			
251.09(4) Diapering and Toileting			
(4)(a) INFANT & TODDLER - WORKER DIAPERING / TOILETING RESPONSIBILITIES Child care workers shall do all of the	e follow	ving:	
(4)(a)3. INFANT & TODDLER – DIAPER CHANGING SURFACE DISINFECTION Change each child on an easily cleanable surface which is cleaned with soap and water and a disinfectant solution after each use. The disinfectant shall be registered with the U.S. environmental protection agency as a disinfectant and have instructions for use as a disinfectant on the label. The solution shall be prepared and applied as indicated on the label.			
DCF 251.095 EXCEPTIONS & ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CARE			
Note: There are some exceptions to the requirements for programs serving school-age children (including children age who are enrolled in a public school). Please see the licensing rules for these exceptions found in DCF 251.095(2) and (3		bove	