



CHILD DAY CARE ESTABLISHMENTS

There are basically three types of day care establishments for children in the City of Los Angeles. This Matrix is intended as an aid to the general public in establishing small and large family day care homes for children in the City of Los Angeles. It also covers the general requirements for establishing a day care center.

Use	Small Family Day Care Home	Large Family Day Care Home	Day Care Center
Number of Children Permitted	Up to eight including children under the age of 10 who reside in the home	9 to 14 including children under the age of 10 who reside in the home	Limited based on state license and square footage of building or room
Duration of Stay	Less than 24 hrs per day	Less than 24 hrs per day	Less than 24 hrs per day
Type of Building Permitted	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family Dwelling	Any building with C of O for daycare
Permanent Sleeping Accommodations	Not permitted <i>(see note 1 below)</i>	Not permitted <i>(see note 1 below)</i>	Not permitted <i>(see note 1 below)</i>
Building Permit Required	No	No	Yes
Plans Required <i>(see note 2 below)</i>	No	No	Yes
State License Required <i>(see note 3 below)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Tax Registration Certificate Required <i>(see note 4 below)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes

Use	Small Family Day Care Home	Large Family Day Care Home	Day Care Center
Fire Permit Required <i>(see note 5 below)</i>	No	Yes if for more than 12 children	Yes if for more than 6 children
Fire Dept Requirements <i>(see note 6 below)</i>	Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors	Contact the Fire Department for a complete list	Plans must be submitted to the Fire Dept for plan check
Permitted In The Following Zones	A1, A2, RA, RE, RS, R1, RU, RZ, RMP, RW1, RW2, R2, RD, R3, RAS3, R4, RAS4, R5, CR, C1, C1.5, C2, C4, C5, CM	A1, A2, RA, RE, RS, R1, RU, RZ, RMP, RW1, RW2, R2, RD, R3, RAS3, R4, RAS4, R5, CR, C1, C1.5, C2, C4, C5, CM	RAS3, R-4, RAS4, R-5, CR, C1, C1.5, C2, C4, C5 <i>(see note 7 below)</i>
Other Zoning Code Requirements	No	<i>(see note 8 below)</i>	<i>(see note 9 below)</i>
Building Code Requirements	No	No	<i>(see note 10 below)</i>
Disabled Access Requirements	No	No	Yes - must comply with Title 24 requirements

1. The use of cots or mats for napping purposes is permitted, provided all employees, attendants and staff personnel are awake and on duty for the care of the children.
2. Plans must be prepared by a Civil or Structural Engineer or Architect licensed by the State of California.
3. For more information regarding state licensing requirements go to www.cdss.ca.gov.
4. The business tax registration certificate can be obtained from the City of Los Angeles Office of Finance. For more information go to www.finance.lacity.org
5. The Fire Permit can be obtained from the City of Los Angeles Fire Department which can also be applied for through the City of Los Angeles Office of Finance when obtaining the business tax registration certificate.
6. For a complete set of requirements contact the City of Los Angeles Fire Department.

7. Also permitted in the R3 zone for up to 20 children maximum. In accordance with ZA 92-1025 (ZAI) a child care center may also be considered an incidental use to a church, where such program is conducted by the church. This would also apply where there is existing conditional use status unless the conditional use status terms and conditions specifically prohibit the establishment of a day school, nursery school or child care program. No additional parking would be required.
8. See section 12.22A3(b)(1) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.) for complete requirements. These requirements are summarized as follows:
 - Drop-off facilities, such as curb spaces or driveway area, which are necessary to avoid interference with traffic and promote the safety of the children shall be provided
 - The use shall not create an unreasonable level of disruption or interference with the peaceful enjoyment of the adjoining and neighboring properties
 - Name plates and signs shall conform to the provisions of Section 12.21A7 of the L.A.M.C.
 - Play equipment, swings, sand boxes, or structures shall be located in the rear yard only
 - No loud speaker or public address system shall be installed or operated on any open portion of the premises, and any phonograph, radio or other recorded music used in connection with any activity shall be sufficiently modulated to ensure that the use does not disturb the adjoining and neighboring residents
 - The existing residential character of the building and site shall be maintained, including the exterior facade, landscaping, fences, wall, lawn area and driveways
 - The floor space of any dwelling unit used for the operation of a large family day-care home shall not be increased for such use, and the floor space shall not be altered to reasonably preclude its continued use as a dwelling unit
 - There shall be at least 300 feet between the lot containing the building where the proposed large family day care home will be located and the building housing any existing large family day care home. This distance is to be measured along the shortest street route between the two lots as determined by the Department of Recreation and Parks. If the proposed large family day care home does not comply with this spacing requirement, then the operator may apply to the City Planning Commission for an exemption pursuant to Section 12.24X25 of the L.A.M.C.
 - A Notice of Intention to Operate a Large Family Day Care Home shall be filed in the public office of the Department of City Planning, on forms provided by the Department per Section 12.22A3(b)(2)
9. Several limitations exist with respect to setbacks, height, parking, floor area etc. Please consult with the Department of Building and Safety zoning counter to verify requirements.
10. A day care center is considered a group E occupancy per the City of Los Angeles Building Code (LABC). Plans must be presented to the Department for plan check indicating compliance with all requirements of the LABC for group E occupancies.