



INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - ZONING CODE

REFERENCE NO.: L.A.M.C. 12.22A3

Effective: 01-01-2023

DOCUMENT NO. P/ZC 2023-014

Revised: 09-09-2024

Previously Issued As: Handout

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. For detailed information on opening a day care program in the City of Los Angeles, look for Child Care Resources on the CIFD website (<https://communityinvestment.lacity.gov/>).

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	Any Dwelling Unit	Any Dwelling Unit	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>	No	No	Yes

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Use	Small Family Day Care Home	Large Family Day Care Home	Day Care Center
Fire Permit Required <i>(see note 5 below)</i>	No	No	Yes for more than 6 children
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	No	<i>(see note 8 below)</i>
Building Code Requirements	No	No	<i>(see note 9 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.gov
5. To start the process to obtain a Fire Permit, customers can obtain a Fire Permit Business Referral Slip from the Office of Finance when obtaining their business tax registration certificate. The slip will refer the customer to the Department of Building and Safety for zoning approval.
6. For more information on fire department regulations, 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 religious institution, where such program is conducted by the religious institution. 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. General zoning requirements regarding building heights, setback, or lot dimensions as applied to all residences still apply. Please consult with the Department of Building and Safety's [Same Day Virtual Counter for Building and Zoning](#) information to verify requirements.
9. A day care center is considered a group E and/or I 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 and/or I occupancies.