

# 5

## Child Care Centers

### Group Sizes



### Child Care Challenge

Arlington County child care centers have reported challenges complying with **both** local code and state standards governing child care centers.

### Background Information

- Most center-based child care programs are subject to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers.
- Arlington County is the only Virginia jurisdiction that may also regulate center-based child care programs.
- Chapter 52 of the Arlington County Code governs the operations of most center-based programs in Arlington, including child care centers, preschools, nursery schools, Parent's-Day-Out programs, and cooperative preschool programs.
- Most center-based child care programs operating in Arlington must comply with **both** Chapter 52 and the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers.

### CCI Action Plan

**Quality Action Step 5.** Examine local child care regulations.

- Consider aligning local codes with VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, and submit proposed recommendations for revisions to local codes and processes (e.g., Chapter 16, Chapter 52, and Chapter 59).

### What is Group Size?

In center-based child care programs, group size refers to the maximum number of children allowed in a group per classroom, as determined by age. There shall be at least one Lead Teacher for each group, and the minimum number of teachers per group varies depending on the children's age(s); refer to Teacher-to-Child Ratio Requirements Handout for more information.

### Existing State Standards and Local Code

- The VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers do not include group size requirements for center-based child care programs, while Chapter 52 does. In addition, programs participating in the VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program are subject to group size requirements.
- The VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers are in the process of being revised. In the February 5, 2018 Virginia Registrar of Regulations, VDSS advertised possible changes to the existing Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, which included proposed group size requirements identical to those currently in place for the VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program.

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## Group Sizes (cont.)

Group Size Requirements			
Age	Arlington County Chapter 52 Group Size Requirements	VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program Group Size Requirements	VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers Group Size Requirements
Birth up to 16 months	9	12	N/A
16 months up to 2 years	9	15	N/A
2 years	10	24	N/A
3 years	16	30	N/A
4 – 5 years	20	30	N/A
6 – 14 years	25	N/A	N/A

### Alternative Regulations

Below are two alternatives to the existing local requirements. The third option is the existing local requirements. *Use the table below to think about which option you will choose to place your dot at the end of the evening.*

OPTIONS	CHOICE (check one)
1. Amend Chapter 52 to align with the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers group size requirements (i.e., no group size requirements currently).*	
2. Amend Chapter 52 to align with the VDSS Child Care Subsidy group size requirements.	
3. Do not change Chapter 52's current group size requirements.	

\*The VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers are in the process of being revised. In the February 5, 2018 Virginia Registrar of Regulations, VDSS advertised possible changes to the existing Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, which included proposed group size requirements identical to those currently in place for the VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program.