



Introduction

The *Child Day Care Act* (the Act) is the legislation or law that describes how children should be cared for in facilities outside of their homes in Nunavut. The *Child Day Care Standards Regulations* (Regulations) were written to further explain the Act.

The Act and Regulations are not intended to inhibit the creativity of those who operate child care facilities and deliver early childhood programs. Their purpose is to set minimum standards that ensure the quality care, instruction and supervision of children.

By meeting the requirements for a license and by following procedures set out in the Act and Regulations, an operator of a child care facility ensures that all required standards are met. Operators receive information about necessary upgrades and modifications, inspection requirements and schedules, and ways to ensure that requirements are maintained.

Other legislation and regulations

In addition to the *Child Day Care Act* and *Child Day Care Standards Regulations*, a variety of federal, territorial and local legislation and regulations are identified in this manual because they apply to child day care operators, facilities and early childhood programs. Meeting the requirements of these laws ensures the health, safety and well-being of all children and staff, and also ensures that a license remains in good standing.

Purpose of this manual

This manual is for people who have, or want to apply for, a Child Day Care Facility License to operate a child care facility. This could be either a day care centre or a family day home. The manual looks at each regulation and explains what it means to existing and aspiring operators.

Organization of the manual

Section 1 lists a number of terms defined in the Regulations, as well as a number of terms used in this manual, and explains what they mean.

Beginning with Section 2, each section of this manual begins with a **heading** and a summary of the main idea of the regulations that will be explained in that section. **Subheadings** name each regulation, and a **shaded box** quotes, or summarizes, the regulation. (Sections of the Act are also quoted, if they are needed to understand a regulation.) Usually the shaded box is telling an operator or a license applicant what they have to do. A number of subheadings follow the shaded box:

Why

- explains the reason why this topic has been included in the Regulations

What it means

- identifies things that will show proof that the operator or license applicant has met the requirements of the topic, and in some cases
- explains what something looks like or what someone other than the operator will do

How

- tells the operator or license applicant some of the steps or things they can do to meet the requirements of the regulation
- provides ideas and practices that are part of a quality early childhood program

Best practices once a program is licensed

- appears only in *Section 2: Licenses*
- is for those who already have a license and are operating either a centre or a family day home. It lists things that operators can do to ensure a quality program and license renewal

Duties of the Director of Child Day Care Services

The *Child Day Care Act* and *Child Day Care Standards Regulations* give certain duties and powers to the Director of Child Day Care Services (the Director). In addition to fulfilling the duties assigned by the Act and Regulations, the Director also provides support and guidance to the Regional Early Childhood Officers (ECOs) who work directly with child care facility operators. The Director sometimes delegates duties and powers to the Early Childhood Officers.

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