

SECTION FOR CHILD CARE REGULATION PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS IN REGULATED CHILD CARE

Missouri Law: Section 210.221.1(3), RSMo states, “The department of health and senior services shall have the following powers and duties.....To promulgate and issue rules and regulations the department deems necessary or proper in order to establish standards of service and care to be rendered by such licensees to children.”



Rule:

Family Child Care Homes – 19 CSR 30-61.085
Group Homes and Centers – 19 CSR 30-62.082
License-Exempt Child Care Facilities - 19 CSR 30-60.100

All outdoor activity areas should be maintained in a clean and safe condition. A well maintained physical premise assures that children are in a safe environment and are less likely to be injured, both inside and outside the facility. An outdoor play area used **exclusively** for school-age children is not required to have a fence.

Fences should be constructed to prevent children from crawling, falling through or becoming entrapped. Play areas must be safe for children’s activities, well-maintained, be free of hazards and have good drainage. The facility must be free of asbestos. Children must not have access to hazardous materials. Hazardous materials must be stored securely and out of the reach of children. Facilities are required to have their walls, ceiling, floors and equipment finished with materials that can be cleaned easily, free of splinters, cracks and chipped paint.

Often times in the child care setting; there are issues with the physical requirements which results in a rule violation. The most frequent violations result from the following:

- Outdoor hazards;
- Outdoor play area;
- Hazardous items that are accessible to children;
- Ceiling and wall issues (dirty walls, chipped paint, cracks and splinters);
- Outdoor area fence (i.e. broken missing lock, large holes which allow a child to escape) ; and
- Hazardous materials (i.e. unstable equipment, animal feces, broken glass, barbed wire, rocks, matches, cleaning supplies, medicines, alcohol and flammable liquids.)

Rationale:

A well maintained physical premise assists in assuring that children are in a safe environment and are less likely to be injured both inside and outside the facility. Proper maintenance is a key factor when trying to ensure a safe learning and play environment for children. Each playground is unique and requires a routine maintenance program developed specifically for that setting. Providers should conduct routine checks on both indoor and outdoor space to ensure licensing requirements are met and the physical premise is safe for children. Providers are encouraged to contact their Child Care Facility Specialist if they have questions about licensing requirements.