

Child Care Definitions

Adult is any individual eighteen (18) years of age or older.

The **assistant** is an adult who is employed or volunteers in the home to care for children in case of an emergency, to meet staff/child ratios, to substitute for the provider during absences or to assist the provider with the care of children.

Caregiver is the child care provider or an assistant.

Child care provider or **provider** is the person(s) licensed or required to be licensed under section 210.221, RSMo in order to establish, conduct or maintain a child care facility. This person(s) shall have the following rights and responsibilities as determined by the division:

- (A) Ultimate responsibility for making and implementing decisions regarding the operation of the facility; and
- (B) Ultimate financial control of the operation of the facility.

A **child day care center** or **center**, whether known or incorporated under another title or name, is a child care program conducted in a location other than the provider's permanent residence, or separate from the provider's living quarters, where care is provided for children not related to the child care provider for any part of the twenty-four (24)-hour day.

Day care is care of a child away from his/her own home for any part of the twenty-four (24)-hour day for compensation or otherwise. Day care is a voluntary supplement to parent responsibility for the child's protection, development and supervision. Day care may be given in a family day care home, group day care home or day care center.

A **day care facility** or **facility** is a day care home, day care center or group day care home.

Director is the director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Department is the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

A **family day care home** or **home**, whether known or incorporated under another title or name, is a child care program where care is given by a person licensed as a family day care home provider for no more than ten (10) children not related to the provider for any part of the twenty-four (24)-hour day. The provider may be licensed to operate no more than one (1) family day care home or group day care home.

Graded boarding school is a public or private school which provides education in at least the first through the sixth grade and which provides lodging and meals for the pupils for the standard school term.

A **group day care home**, whether known or incorporated under another title or name, is a child care program where care is given by a person licensed as a group day care home provider for eleven (11), but not more than twenty (20), children not related to the child care provider, for any part of the twenty-four (24)-hour day. A group day care home shall be in a location other than the provider's permanent residence or separate from the provider's living quarters. The provider may be licensed to operate no more than one (1) group day care home or family day care home.

Infant is any child under twelve (12) months of age.

Night is the part of the twenty-four (24)-hour day between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Nursery school is a program operated by a person or organization with the primary function of providing an educational program for preschool-age children for no more than four (4) hours per child per day.

Preschool child is any child two through five (2--5) years of age who is not in kindergarten for five (5)-year-old children.

Premises is a house(s), dwelling(s) or building(s) and its adjoining land.

Related is any of the following relationships by marriage, blood or adoption between the provider and the children in care: parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, stepparent, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or first cousin.

School-age child is any child five (5) years of age or older who is in kindergarten or elementary school.

School system is a program established primarily for education and which meets the following criteria:

- (A) Provides education in at least the first through the sixth grade; and
- (B) Provides evidence that the school system's records will be accepted by a public or private school for the transfer of any student.

Staff/child ratio is the number of caregivers required in relation to the number of children in care.

Summer camp is a program operated from May to September by a person or organization with the primary function of providing a summer recreational program for children no younger than five (5) years of age and providing no day care for children younger than five (5) years of age in the same building or in the same outdoor play area.

Toddler is any child between twelve to twenty-four (12--24) months of age.