



Fire Prevention Division

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Home Daycare Fire Code Check Sheet (City of Wichita Residents Only)

Listed below are requirements that must be complete prior to your final inspection:

- 1.) Residential address must be clearly visible from the street and be on a contrasting background. It is required to be posted on the structure.
- 2a.) Exits doors will be checked. No unusual or difficult locking devices are allowed and the doors must open easily. There must be two means of egress out of the home. They can be by doors, sliding patio doors, and windows (must meet requirement). A second means of egress cannot be through a garage. Exits on the second level or upstairs must have a direct exit leading outside and a staircase leading down to ground level. Bi-level homes usually have a deck or staircase leading out of the upper level.
- 2b.) Windows being used as a second means of egress (basements are most common) need to meet a clear opening requirement of 821 square inches (5.7 sq. ft) or bigger. The windowsill off the floor must not exceed 44 inches. It is very important to understand that the opening is the part of the window that children and adults need to crawl out of. Not the total circumference of the window! The easiest way to find out the square inches of the window is to take the height of the opening and multiply it by the width of the opening.
- 2c.) Basements using windows as a second means of egress are required to have a staircase leading out of the window well. **A ladder is not considered a staircase.**
- 3.) Smoke alarms are required in all rooms the children will occupy. This does exclude bathrooms. Typically, bedrooms are used as playrooms and/or sleeping rooms. If this is the case, each room will need its own smoke alarm. They can be hardwired to the electrical system with a battery back up; or, they can be powered with a 10-year lithium battery. Smoke alarms are also required on each level of the home.
- 4.) All doors that lock from the inside (i.e. bathrooms/closets) must have an opening device within 5 feet of the door to allow quick access to anyone who may have locked themselves in. Another option is to remove the lock and replace it with a standard doorknob.
- 5a.) Child resistant protective covers are required on all unused electrical outlets; this includes the kitchen and the bathroom. It is recommended that you purchase extra protective covers. This is the most common violation found.
- 5b.) Power strips are to be used in place of extension cords.

6a.) Maintain at least an 18-inch clearance around all water heaters, furnaces, and other gas and electrical appliances.

6b.) Keep clear access to all electrical panels.

7.) A minimum 2A10BC fire extinguisher is required. The numbers can go up, but they cannot go down. For example, a 3A10BC fire extinguisher is acceptable. A 1A10BC is not acceptable. If childcare will be conducted on more than one level of the home, a fire extinguisher must be provided for each level. Fire extinguishers are required to be serviced and tagged annually. If you purchase a new fire extinguisher, you must show the inspector the receipt of purchase. If it is not a new fire extinguisher, it must be serviced and tagged by a State Certified Service Technician. Because you are required to service and tag your fire extinguisher annually, it is recommended that you purchase a rechargeable fire extinguisher. Otherwise, you will be required to purchase a fire extinguisher every year.

8.) Written emergency procedures for fire, tornadoes, and storms are to be provided (they must be approved by the Wichita Fire Department) at the time of inspection. Generalize them, in other words, do not make them so detailed that it confuses things.

9.) A barrier that prevents children from getting too close or burned protects all from heating devices (i.e. heaters, stoves and fireplaces).

10.) AN ANNUAL INSPECTION BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED IF THE BASEMENT OR SECOND LEVEL IS BEING USED AS A REGISTERED OR LICENSED HOME DAYCARE.

If you live in a tri-level, quad-level, or a bi-level home and you want to use the basement or sub-basement for daycare, you still need to have an annual inspection by the fire department.

11.) Registered daycare providers are not required to have an initial inspection by the fire department unless they are using a basement or second upper level. The fire-code requirements still have to be met. A licensed daycare provider has to have their first initial inspection done by the fire department, regardless of what level of the home is being used.

12.) A Fire Life Safety Agreement form has to be filled out and posted. A Fire Life Safety Agreement is a contract between the provider and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's office that the home daycare provider is going to uphold the fire-code. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE AND YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY.** Every year a renewal of the Fire Life Safety Agreement has to be filled out and mailed to the State.

13.) The Wichita Fire Department does not charge for an inspection of the home daycare. Our Goal is to assure that the daycare is a safe environment for everyone.

THE WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES IF THE HOME DAYCARE IS READY FOR INSPECTION PRIOR TO CALLING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SET-UP AN APPOINTMENT.