



## **OVERVIEW**

Day Care Center requirements as a Home Occupation were amended effective August 5, 2004 to permit up to fifteen (15) children within the residence subject to State approval and certain limitations. Five (5) children or less are now allowed within the residence without a permit, but must meet the requirements of a Home Occupation (see Bulletin No. P7).

Day Care Centers (6-15 Children) are permitted in all districts as a Home Occupation, but not in a manufactured dwelling. North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Child Development Division requirements must be met. The maximum allowable area shall not exceed twenty-five (25) % of the gross floor area of the residence.

1. **Open Space and Recreation:** Play space and open space requirements for a Child Daycare shall be provided in accordance with the regulations of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Child Development Division.
2. **Security Fencing:** Outdoor activity area(s) for children shall be provided in accordance with the regulations of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Child Development Division. Fences shall comply with the requirements in Article 6-5 (Fences) of this Ordinance and shall be located outside the street setback.
3. No more than one (1) program, including after school care, may be operated at the same location during a twenty-four (24) hour period.

## **PERMITS REQUIRED**

The North Carolina Department of Insurance classifies these Day Care Centers as Residence-R-4 and they must comply with the IBC code.

1. Fire alarms system, smoke detectors;
2. Two (2) grade level exits to the exterior;
3. Handicapped accessibility is required and the 20% rule for new construction will apply.

A Building Inspection in addition to Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Fire, and if applicable Environmental Health inspections will be required.

## **APPROVAL PROCEDURES**

A Home Occupancy Pre-application is submitted to the Planning and Zoning Section, Planning & Development Department along with a complete set of floor plans and a site plan. Plans are reviewed by staff for compliance with development requirements.

Once plans have been reviewed and approved, the applicant makes a permit application through the Permit Section. When the permit is issued, the required inspections can then be scheduled.

If the applicant is not the owner, a notarized statement of permission from the owner is required.

The applicant will coordinate approvals from the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Child Development Division and Environmental Health, Food and Lodging as required. Evidence of approval will be required prior to a Final Certificate of Occupancy being issued.

## **CONTACTS:**

NC Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Division of Child Development (919) 662-4499

Environmental Health, Food & Lodging  
(336) 641-3652

Fire Marshal (336) 641-7565

This bulletin is intended for public information purposes only. It summarizes and omits some provisions. It is not to be construed or used as an official Development Ordinance or Health Department interpretation in any legal proceeding.