

Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

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Child Care Licensing and Regulation A Key Topic Resource List

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Research Connections conducted a comprehensive search of its collection for resources focused on child care licensing and regulation. This search produced results grouped in three broad areas:

- Regulatory policies and practices,
- Relationship of licensing to quality of care and child outcomes, and
- Relationship of licensing to child care and labor markets.

From the many results in each area, *Research Connections* selected a limited number of resources of various types, including reports and papers, fact sheets and briefs, summaries, and reviews. Selection criteria included policy relevance and relatively recent publication. The full results came from searches on the phrases: “child care licensing,” “licensed child care,” “child care regulations,” “regulatory policy,” “regulatory compliance,” and “family child care regulations.”

Resources are organized according to publisher type and publication date. *Research Connections’* one-sentence description is included for each resource on the following list. For complete citations, which include abstracts and full text for some resources, click on the titles.

REGULATORY POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Government

- **Colbert, Judith A. (2005) [Minimizing risks to children in licensed child care settings: A literature review and state survey](#). Olympia: Washington State, Division of Child Care and Early Learning.**
A multistate study of the relationship between child care licensing requirements and risks of care-related injuries to children, with recommendations for strengthening licensing rules in Washington State.
- **Washington (State). Department of Social and Health Services. (2005) [Report on effective legal proceedings to ensure provider compliance](#). Newark, DE: Koch Consulting.**
A comparison of the child care licensing system in Washington state to systems in ten other states, with an analysis of effective licensing system components, and recommendations for improvements in enforcement capability.
- **United States. Government Accountability Office. (2004) [Child care: State efforts to enforce safety and health requirements](#). (GAO-04-786) Washington, DC: U.S. Government Accountability Office.**
A report by the Government Accountability Office to House Representative Sander M. Levin regarding the regulation of child care health and safety requirements in states supported by the Child Care and Development Fund.

Journals

- **Ceglowski, Deborah A., Davis, Elizabeth E. (2004) [Where child care is above average?: Licensing, legislation, and indicators of quality care in Minnesota](#). Early Education and Development, 15(3), 343-360.**
An overview of Minnesota's current child care system, examining indicators of quality, and comparing Minnesota's policies and standards to other states to assess strategies that states could use to support child care.
- **McGaha, Cindy, Snow, Charles, Teleki, Jane. (2001) [Family child care in the United States: A comparative analysis of 1981 and 1998 state regulations](#). Early Childhood Education Journal, 28(4), 251-255**
A survey of regulations for family child care homes in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in 1981 and 1998, with an analysis of the relationship between state regulations and compliance and major indicators of family child care quality.
- **Gormley, Jr., William. (2000) [Early childhood education and care regulation: A comparative perspective](#). International Journal of Educational Research, 33(1), 55-74.**
A comparative analysis of early education and care regulatory systems in France, Germany, Sweden, and the United States designed to help increase understanding of regulatory practices, innovations, and issues from a cross-national perspective.
- **Gallagher, James J., Rooney, Robin, Campbell, Susan. (1999) [Child care licensing regulations and child care quality in four states](#). Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 14(3), 285-312.**
An analysis of child care regulations in four states, comparing regulations aimed at child welfare and safety versus those aimed at child development.

Universities and Research Organizations

- **The National Association for Regulatory Administration & the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center. (2006). [The 2005 child care licensing study: Executive Summary](#). Conyers, GA: National Association for Regulatory Administration.**
A summary of a compilation of data on state child care licensing programs and policies, including staffing, monitoring, and enforcement, and child care center licensing regulations, for all 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2005.
- **LeMoine, Sarah, Morgan, Gwen. (2004) [Do states require child care programs to educate children?: Infant/toddler rules to assure early education and strong relationships](#). (Report No.3) Champaign: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting.**
An analysis of states' licensing standards for infant/toddler child care centers, examining if regulations mandate an educational program.
- **LeMoine, Sarah, Morgan, Gwen. (2004) [Do states require child care programs to educate children?: Qualifications for teachers and directors in child care centers](#). (Preview of Report No. 4) Champaign: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting.**
A review of states' minimum and maximum education qualification requirements for child care center staff and directors and developmental training requirements for child care professionals.
- **Morgan, Gwen, LeMoine, Sarah. (2004) [Do states require child care programs to educate children?: State center licensing requirements for child development and early education](#). (Report No. 1) Champaign: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting.**
A review of states' licensing regulations for child care centers and analysis of states' requirements and intentions to include educational programs as a component of licensed child care.
- **Morgan, Gwen, LeMoine Sarah. (2004) [Do states require child care programs to educate children?: Preschool and child care center rules](#). (Report No. 2) Champaign: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting.**
A review of whether states mandate educational programs as part of their licensing regulations for full-time child care and preschool centers.
- **Kagan, Sharon Lynn, Rigby, Elizabeth. (2003) [Policy matters: Setting and measuring benchmarks for state policies: Improving the readiness of children for school: Recommendations for state policy](#). Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy.**
A presentation of a school readiness policy logic model, with recommendations and benchmarks for state policymakers in critical areas such as child care subsidies, licensing, accreditation, standards, assessment, professional development, systems development, facilities, capital investments, and kindergarten quality.

Other Organizations

- **Citizens Committee for Children of New York. (2004) [Child care oversight: Assuring safety, health and learning in early care and education services](#). New York: Citizens' Committee for Children of New York.**
A study of the monitoring and oversight of center based and family child care in New York City, focusing on licensing, staffing, facilities, health, and safety, with quality enhancement recommendations for city and state agencies.

- **Morgan, Gwen. (2003) [Regulatory policy](#).** In: **Early Childhood Education and Care in the USA, 65-85.** Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
An overview of current regulatory and licensing policies for early childhood education and care programs in the United States.

- **Blank, Helen, Behr, Andrea, Schulman, Karen. (2001) [State developments in child care, early education, and school-age care: 2000](#).** Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.
A compendium of state actions regarding child care, early education, and school age child care issues in the year 2000, including comparative state tables for areas such as subsidies and standards.

*For 50-state information on child care licensing regulations, go to our [50 State Databases on the Internet](#), and scroll down to National Child Care Information Center. Search NCCIC's database for information by geographic region on child care licensing.

RELATIONSHIP OF LICENSING TO QUALITY OF CARE AND CHILD OUTCOMES

Government

- **Fiene, Richard. (2002) [13 Indicators of quality child care: Research update](#).** Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.
An annotated bibliography of research conducted since 1992 on thirteen key child care quality indicators used in developing child care licensing regulations.

Journals

- **Moon, Rachel Y., Kotch, Lauren, Aird, Laura (2006) [State child care regulations regarding infant sleep environment since the Healthy Child Care America-Back to Sleep campaign](#).** *Pediatrics*, 118(1), 73-83
An examination of the effectiveness of the Healthy Child Care America-Back to Sleep campaign in terms of how licensed child care centers and family child care homes have adapted state regulations for the infant sleep environments.
- **Raikes, H. Abigail, Raikes, Helen, Wilcox, Brian. (2005) [Regulation, subsidy receipt and provider characteristics: What predicts quality in child care homes?](#)** *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 20(2), 164-184
A study of the influence of family child care regulations, the concentration of children cared for who received public child care subsidies (i.e., subsidy density), providers' level of education, and reported annual training hours on global quality and caregiver sensitivity in four Midwestern states.
- **Clarke-Stewart, K. Alison, Vandell, Deborah L., Burchinal, Margaret, O'Brien, Marion, McCartney, Kathleen. (2002) [Do regulable features of child-care homes affect children's development?](#)** *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 17(1), 52-86
An analysis comparing the effects of the regulable and nonregulable features of family child care homes on infants' and toddlers' cognitive development using data from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Study of Early Child Care.

- **Campbell, Nancy. (2001) [Applying the military model to improve child care in every state, for every child care.](#) Policy & Practice of Public Human Services, 59(3), 8-10.**
A review of the steps taken by the military to improve its child care system after the enactment of the Military Child Care Act of 1989.
- **Phillips, Deborah A., Mekos, Debra, Scarr, Sandra, McCartney, Kathleen, Abbott-Shim, Martha. (2001) [Within and beyond the classroom door: Assessing quality in child care centers.](#) Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 15(4), 475-496.**
A study of the relationship among process indicators and structural features of quality and regulatory compliance in child care centers.
- **Azer, Sheri, LeMoine, Sarah, Morgan, Gwen, Clifford, Richard M., Crawford, Gisele M. (2000) [Regulation of child care.](#) Early Childhood Research and Policy Briefs, 2(1).**
This policy brief reviews the current status of child care licensing in the U.S. and makes recommendations for improved licensing standards to increase quality of care. The report also addresses the question of what dimensions of quality can be regulated.

Universities and Research Organizations

- **Ochshorn, Susan, Kagan, Sharon Lynn, Carroll, Jude, Lowenstein, A. E. (2004) [Child care and early education: The effects of regulation on the quality of early care and education.](#) Washington, DC: National Conference of State Legislatures.**
A review of recent research and policy on child care and early education program regulation, including information on current state regulatory strategies and processes in areas such as staff child ratios, staff training, safety, and physical environments.
- **Witte, Ann D., Queralt, Magaly. (2004) [What happens when child care inspections and complaints are made available on the internet?](#) (NBER Working Paper Series No. 10227). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.**
An assessment of how making child care provider inspection reports available on the internet affected the quality of care received by children using child care subsidies in Broward County, Florida, between 1999 and 2002.
- **Mitchell, Anne W., Stoney, Louise. (2003) [Early care and education system reform: Key elements.](#) Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center.**
A paper identifying the key elements of an effective early care and education system and offering a model that can be used to identify and compare the ways that each sub-system addresses the key elements.
- **Colbert, Judith A. (2002) [Regulating dimensions of quality in early care and education: A review of the research \[Seminar edition\].](#) St. Paul, MN: National Association for Regulatory Administration.**
A review of research on regulatable variables of child care program quality, and effects of regulatory activities, in the areas of staff qualifications, staff child ratios, group size, facilities, curricula, parental involvement, safety, health and nutrition.
- **Currie, Janet, Hotz, V. Joseph. (2001) [Accidents will happen?: Unintentional injury, maternal employment, and child care policy.](#) (JCPR Working Paper No. 268). Chicago: Joint Center for Poverty Research.**
A paper on the impact of selected child care regulations on the risk of injury for children in formal child care settings using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) and the Vital Statistics Detail Mortality (VSDM).

- Kagan, Sharon Lynn. (1996) [Reinventing early care and education: A vision for a quality system.](#) San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, Inc.
An anthology examining current issues related to early childhood care and education quality; covered topics include teacher certification, child care licensing, government funding, and child care policy.

RELATIONSHIP OF LICENSING TO CHILD CARE AND LABOR MARKETS

Journals

- Blau, David M. (2003) [Do child care regulations affect the child care and labor markets?](#) *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 22(3), 443-465.
An analysis of the estimated effects of child care regulations on the labor market for mothers of young children and outcomes in the child care market, including type of care, child care hours, costs, and expenditures per hour and per week.

Universities and Research Organizations

- Hotz, V. Joseph, Xiao, Mo. (2005) [The impact of minimum quality standards on firm entry, exit and product quality: The case of the child care market.](#) (NBER Working Paper Series No. 11873). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.
A study of the impact of minimum standards, in the areas of staff child ratios and staff education, on the supply and quality of child care in geographical markets within the United States between 1987 and 1997.
- Paskin, Laura, Stokley, Daniel, Vandergrift, Nathan (2005) [Achieving high-quality early learning and care in Washington State: An analysis of workforce and systemic components that influence quality.](#) Seattle, WA: Economic Opportunity Institute.
A discussion of strategies utilized by Washington State to improve child care and early education, focusing on issues of public funding, workforce indicators, and federal, state, and local programs.
- Heeb, Randal, Kilburn, M. Rebecca. (2004) [The effects of state regulations on childcare prices and choices.](#) (WR-137-NICHD). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.
An analysis of the effects of child care regulations on the price of child care, the type of care chosen, and the mothers' decisions to work.
- Cryer, Debby, Clifford, Richard M. (2003) [Early childhood education and care in the USA.](#) Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
A research-based investigation of key areas in early childhood care and education, including the definition of program quality, program content and curriculum, regulatory policy, financing issues, and staff training and compensation.
- Queralt, Magaly. (1999) [Childcare regulations: A method to pursue social welfare goals.](#) *Children and Youth Services Review*, 21(2), 111-146
An analysis of the effectiveness of state and local regulations in determining child care staff ratios for 692 child care centers serving preschool children, drawn from a national survey.

To view and sort the full search results from which these resources were selected, you may use the [Recreate Complete Search](#) function.

This Key Topic Resource List was developed by staff of Child Care & Early Education Research Connections. Special thanks to intern Beth Ann Gardiner, and to Meredith Willa.