



HB 1141

2003

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child care; amending s. 402.305, F.S.;
 3 revising inservice training requirements for child care
 4 personnel; requiring training in early literacy and
 5 language development; amending s. 402.313, F.S.; requiring
 6 annual training and an annual health and safety home
 7 inspection self-evaluation by family day care home
 8 operators; requiring training in early literacy and
 9 language development; amending s. 402.3131, F.S.;
 10 requiring annual training of operators of large family
 11 child care homes; requiring training in early literacy and
 12 language development; providing an effective date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
 17 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--

19 (2) PERSONNEL.--Minimum standards for child care personnel
 20 shall include minimum requirements as to:

21 (d) Minimum training requirements for child care
 22 personnel.

23 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that
 24 all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour
 25 introductory course in child care, which course covers at least
 26 the following topic areas:

27 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern
 28 child care.

29 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

30 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.



HB 1141

2003

31 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
32 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills
33 development.

34 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using
35 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to
36 determine the child's developmental age level.

37 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for
38 professional and classroom use, as determined by the department,
39 for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care
40 facility.

41 g. Early literacy and language development of children
42 from birth to 5 years of age.

43
44 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall
45 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care
46 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1
47 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by
48 passage of a competency examination. Successful completion of
49 the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into
50 community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant
51 to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of
52 the required training shall be granted to child care personnel
53 based upon educational credentials or passage of competency
54 examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or
55 higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early childhood
56 development or child growth and development, or a child
57 development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved
58 child development associate credential, or a child development
59 associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted



HB 1141

2003

60 from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and
61 e.

62 2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to
63 the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study
64 of children.

65 3. On an annual basis in order to further their child care
66 skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care
67 personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care
68 training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing
69 education unit ~~approved 8 clock hours~~ of approved inservice
70 training, or an equivalent as determined by the department.

71 4. Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5
72 continuing education unit of approved training in early literacy
73 and language development of children from birth to 5 years of
74 age.

75 ~~5.4.~~ Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified
76 child care professionals to provide training of child care
77 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the
78 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community
79 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be
80 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when
81 possible. Other district educational resources, such as
82 community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be
83 designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist or
84 are determined not to have the capability to meet the
85 coordination requirements set forth by the department.

86 ~~6.5.~~ Training requirements shall not apply to certain
87 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not
88 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance
89 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.



HB 1141

2003

90 ~~7.6-~~ The department shall evaluate or contract for an
91 evaluation for the general purpose of determining the status of
92 and means to improve staff training requirements and testing
93 procedures. The evaluation shall be conducted every 2 years. The
94 evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, determining the
95 availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff
96 training; determining the need for specialty training; and
97 determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to
98 increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of
99 current and proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology
100 shall include a reliable and valid survey of child care
101 personnel.

102 ~~8.7-~~ The child care operator shall be required to take
103 basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5
104 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory
105 training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

106 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
107 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsections (5) through
108 (10) are renumbered as subsections (8) through (13),
109 respectively, and new subsections (5), (6), and (7) are added to
110 said section, to read:

111 402.313 Family day care homes.--

112 (1) Family day care homes shall be licensed under this act
113 if they are presently being licensed under an existing county
114 licensing ordinance, if they are participating in the subsidized
115 child care program, or if the board of county commissioners
116 passes a resolution that family day care homes be licensed. If
117 no county authority exists for the licensing of a family day
118 care home, the department shall have the authority to license



HB 1141

2003

119 family day care homes under contract for the purchase-of-service
 120 system in the subsidized child care program.

121 (a) If not subject to license, family day care homes shall
 122 register annually with the department, providing the following
 123 information:

124 1. The name and address of the home.

125 2. The name of the operator.

126 3. The number of children served.

127 4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one other
 128 competent adult to be available to substitute for the operator
 129 in an emergency. This plan shall include the name, address, and
 130 telephone number of the designated substitute.

131 5. Proof of screening and background checks.

132 6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour training
 133 course, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination,
 134 which shall include:

135 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child
 136 care.

137 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

138 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

139 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
 140 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self-
 141 help skills development.

142 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using
 143 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to
 144 determine a child's developmental level.

145 f. Early literacy and language development of children
 146 from birth to 5 years of age.

147 ~~g.f.~~ Specialized areas, as determined by the department,
 148 for owner-operators of family day care homes.



HB 1141

2003

149 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

150 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing
 151 education units.

152 9. A completed health and safety home inspection self-
 153 evaluation checklist, pursuant to subsection (7).

154 (5) In order to further develop their child care skills
 155 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of
 156 family day care homes shall be required to complete an
 157 additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training
 158 annually.

159 (6) Operators of family day care homes shall be required
 160 to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training
 161 in early literacy and language development of children from
 162 birth to 5 years of age.

163 (7) Operators of family day care homes shall be required
 164 annually to complete a health and safety home inspection self-
 165 evaluation checklist developed by the department. The completed
 166 checklist shall be signed by the operator of the family day care
 167 home as certification that basic health and safety standards are
 168 being met.

169 Section 3. Subsections (4) through (6) of section
 170 402.3131, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)
 171 through (8), respectively, and new subsections (4) and (5) are
 172 added to said section to read:

173 402.3131 Large family child care homes.--

174 (4) In order to further develop their child care skills
 175 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of
 176 large family child care homes who have completed the required
 177 introductory course shall be required to complete an additional
 178 1 continuing education unit of approved training annually.



HB 1141

2003

179 (5) Operators of large family child care homes shall be
180 required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved
181 training in early literacy and language development of children
182 from birth to 5 years of age.

183 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.