

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

34-1499-03

See HB 1141

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

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19           Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
20 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21           402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--

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

24           (d) Minimum training requirements for child care  
25 personnel.

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

30           a. State and local rules and regulations which govern  
31 child care.

- 1           b. Health, safety, and nutrition.  
2           c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.  
3           d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
4 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
5 development.  
6           e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including  
7 using a checklist or other similar observation tools and  
8 techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.  
9           f. Specialized areas, including computer technology  
10 for professional and classroom use, as determined by the  
11 department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a  
12 child care facility.  
13           g. Early literacy and language development of children  
14 from birth to 5 years of age.

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16 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall  
17 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care  
18 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1  
19 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced  
20 by passage of a competency examination. Successful completion  
21 of the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into  
22 community college credit in early childhood education,  
23 pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a  
24 portion of the required training shall be granted to child  
25 care personnel based upon educational credentials or passage  
26 of competency examinations. Child care personnel possessing a  
27 2-year degree or higher that includes 6 college credit hours  
28 in early childhood development or child growth and  
29 development, or a child development associate credential or an  
30 equivalent state-approved child development associate  
31 credential, or a child development associate waiver

1 certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training  
2 requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and e.

3 2. The introductory course in child care shall stress,  
4 to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the  
5 study of children.

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

13 4. Child care personnel shall be required to complete  
14 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training in early  
15 literacy and language development of children from birth to 5  
16 years of age.

17 ~~5.4.~~ Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified  
18 child care professionals to provide training of child care  
19 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the  
20 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community  
21 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be  
22 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when  
23 possible. Other district educational resources, such as  
24 community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be  
25 designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist  
26 or are determined not to have the capability to meet the  
27 coordination requirements set forth by the department.

28 ~~6.5.~~ Training requirements shall not apply to certain  
29 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not  
30 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance  
31 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

1           7.6. The department shall evaluate or contract for an  
2 evaluation for the general purpose of determining the status  
3 of and means to improve staff training requirements and  
4 testing procedures. The evaluation shall be conducted every 2  
5 years. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to,  
6 determining the availability, quality, scope, and sources of  
7 current staff training; determining the need for specialty  
8 training; and determining ways to increase inservice training  
9 and ways to increase the accessibility, quality, and  
10 cost-effectiveness of current and proposed staff training. The  
11 evaluation methodology shall include a reliable and valid  
12 survey of child care personnel.

13           8.7. The child care operator shall be required to take  
14 basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5  
15 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory  
16 training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

17           Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
18 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsections (5) through  
19 (10) are renumbered as subsections (8) through (13),  
20 respectively, and new subsections (5), (6), and (7) are added  
21 to that section, to read:

22           402.313 Family day care homes.--

23           (1) Family day care homes shall be licensed under this  
24 act if they are presently being licensed under an existing  
25 county licensing ordinance, if they are participating in the  
26 subsidized child care program, or if the board of county  
27 commissioners passes a resolution that family day care homes  
28 be licensed. If no county authority exists for the licensing  
29 of a family day care home, the department shall have the  
30 authority to license family day care homes under contract for  
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1 the purchase-of-service system in the subsidized child care  
2 program.

3 (a) If not subject to license, family day care homes  
4 shall register annually with the department, providing the  
5 following information:

6 1. The name and address of the home.

7 2. The name of the operator.

8 3. The number of children served.

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

13 5. Proof of screening and background checks.

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

17 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern  
18 child care.

19 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

20 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

21 d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
22 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and  
23 self-help skills development.

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

27 f. Early literacy and language development of children  
28 from birth to 5 years of age.

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

31 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

1           8. Proof of completion of the required continuing  
2 education units.

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

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

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

14           (7) Operators of family day care homes shall be  
15 required annually to complete a health and safety home  
16 inspection self-evaluation checklist developed by the  
17 department. The completed checklist shall be signed by the  
18 operator of the family day care home as certification that  
19 basic health and safety standards are being met.

20           Section 3. Subsections (4) through (6) of section  
21 402.3131, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)  
22 through (8), respectively, and new subsections (4) and (5) are  
23 added to that section to read:

24           402.3131 Large family child care homes.--

25           (4) In order to further develop their child care  
26 skills and, if appropriate, their administrative skills,  
27 operators of large family child care homes who have completed  
28 the required introductory course shall be required to complete  
29 an additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training  
30 annually.

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

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