

HB 0569

2004

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to child care personnel training; amending  
 3           s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring child care personnel to be  
 4           trained in recognizing and preventing shaken baby  
 5           syndrome, preventing sudden infant death syndrome, and  
 6           understanding early childhood brain development; providing  
 7           an effective date.

8  
 9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11           Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
 12   402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13           402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--

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

16           (d) Minimum training requirements for child care  
 17 personnel.

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

22           a. State and local rules and regulations which govern  
 23 child care.

24           b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

25           c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

26           d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
 27 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
 28 development.

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

32 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for  
 33 professional and classroom use and early literacy and language  
 34 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as  
 35 determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care  
 36 personnel of a child care facility.

37 g. Recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome,  
 38 preventing sudden infant death syndrome, and understanding early  
 39 childhood brain development.

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

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57 from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and  
58 e.

59 2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to  
60 the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study  
61 of children.

62 3. On an annual basis in order to further their child care  
63 skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care  
64 personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care  
65 training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing  
66 education unit of approved inservice training, or 10 clock hours  
67 of equivalent training, as determined by the department.

68 4. Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5  
69 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours  
70 of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in  
71 early literacy and language development of children from birth  
72 to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is  
73 completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or  
74 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 3.

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

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86           6. 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.

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

106           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.