

Issue Brief: Bermuda's Child Care Standards 2017

9 November 2017

NEED TO KNOW

The critical years for brain development of children is from 0-3 years and will impact their future behaviours and learning abilities. During these years the parent and child care provider guidance is critical.

Bermuda's Child Care Standards do not replace the current Day Care Regulations 1999 or the Children's Act 1998, which both place responsibilities of Day Care Centres and Day Care Providers. The Standards do:

- Provide a best practice model for everyone caring for a child—provider and parent
- Support activities providers are already doing
- Give examples and ideas for programming
- Ensure providers have policies in place to protect them, the child, and families
- Guide the provider in terms of health and safety measures that must and should be in place
- Coordinate training from agencies and organisations for career development
- Support the development, health and safety of our children

FAST FACTS

- The Standards will be reviewed annually
- The ratio of children for Day Care Providers is 3 children in the home. Day Care Centres must abide by the ratios as described in the Regulations.
- The Standards will be a reference document used by Providers, Parents and for licensing purposes.
- Training will be required for the next licensing period (2018) as per the Standards. These include 6 hrs for Day Care Providers and 10 hrs for Day Care Centre Staff.
- Policies need to be in place to ensure the safety of the provider and the parents. These include: emergency, complaints, sick child policy, etc.
- The Standards are available online at: <https://www.gov.bm/child-care-information-providers>

IDENTIFY NEXT STEPS

The Child Care Standards 2017 are online and are a working document to be adopted and implemented by Providers, Parents and Government organisations. They should be shared with all staff at Centres.

There are requirements within the Standards that will change the licensing process for providers going forward. These are, for ex-

ample, training requirements, an updated medical clearance form and policies. The licensing process is currently under review and updates will be communicated specifically before the next licensing period. We continue to seek feedback or questions on the Standards. These can be sent to: moh@gov.bm

