Kansas Administrative Regulations

Department of Health and Environment

Article 4.—Maternal and Child Health—Licensed Day Care Homes and Group Day Care Homes for Children.

28-4-115. Facility.

(a) Water supply and sewerage systems. Each applicant, each applicant with a temporary permit, and each licensee shall ensure that public water and sewerage systems, where available, are used. If a nonpublic source for the water supply is used, the water shall be safe for drinking and shall be tested annually by a department-certified laboratory. If a well is used, the well shall be approved by the local authority for private well permitting, the department, or a licensed water well contractor. A copy of the test results and the approval shall be kept on file at the facility. Each private sewerage system shall be maintained in compliance with all applicable state and local laws.

(b) Drinking water for children under 12 months of age. If children under 12 months of age are enrolled in a facility using water from a nonpublic source, including private well water, commercially bottled drinking water shall be purchased and used until a laboratory test confirms that the nitrate content of the private well water is not more than 10 milligrams per liter (10 mg/l) as nitrogen.

(c) General environmental requirements. Each facility shall have 25 square feet of available play space per child and shall be constructed, arranged, and maintained to provide for the health and safety of children in care. Each applicant, each applicant with a temporary permit, and each licensee shall ensure that the facility meets the following requirements:

(1) Has walls that are in good condition;

(2) is skirted and anchored if a mobile home;

(3) has a 2A 10B:C fire extinguisher;

(4) has a working smoke detector on each level of the facility;

(5) is uncluttered, visibly clean, and free from any evidence of vermin infestation and any objects or materials that constitute a danger to children in care;

(6) has kitchen and outdoor trash and garbage in covered containers or in tied plastic bags;

(7) meets all of the following requirements for each heating appliance:

(A) Has a protective barrier for each freestanding heating appliance to protect from burns; and

(B) has each heating appliance using combustible fuel vented to the outside;

(8) has each electrical outlet covered or inaccessible to prevent easy access by a child when the outlet is not in use;

(9) has any power strip or extension cord positioned in a manner that prevents a tripping or shock hazard;

(10) has each stairway with more than two stairs railed;

(11) if any children under 2.5 years of age are in care, meets all of the following requirements:

(A) Has each stairway equipped with balusters not more than four inches apart or guarded to prevent a child's head or body from falling through;

(B) has each stairway guarded by a secured door or gated to prevent unsupervised access by the child, including a latching device that an adult can open readily in an emergency;

(C) does not have any accordion gate in use; and

(D) does not have a pressure gate at the top of any stairway;

(12) has a readily available second means of escape from the first floor;

(13) has each lockable interior door designed to permit the door to be unlocked from either side in case of an emergency;

(14) is maintained at a temperature of not less than 65 degrees Fahrenheit and not more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the play area;

(15) does not have any window coverings with strings or cords accessible to children in care;

(16) has at least one bathroom with at least one sink and one flush toilet. All fixtures shall be in working order at all times. An individual towel and washcloth or disposable

products shall be provided for each child. The use of common towels shall be prohibited. Hand soap shall be readily accessible in each bathroom; and

(17) has interior and exterior surfaces of the facility that are free from peeling, chipping, cracking, scaling, and loose paint.

(d) Fire safety. Each facility shall be approved for fire safety by a fire inspector.

(e) Basements and other floors. A basement or a second floor used for child care in a facility shall be approved for fire safety by a fire inspector before use. A third floor shall not be used for child care.

(f) Refrigerator. A refrigerator shall be available for the storage of perishable foods. Refrigerated medications shall be in a locked box.

(g) Storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous items. The following hazardous items shall be safely stored, handled, and disposed:

(1) All household supplies, cleaning supplies, dangerous chemicals, and all bodily care products containing alcohol or bearing warning labels to keep out of reach of children shall be in locked storage or stored out of reach of children under six years of age. Soap used for hand washing may be kept unlocked and placed on the back of the counter by a sink.

(2) All medications shall be in locked storage or stored out of the reach of children under 10 years of age.

(3) Chemicals and cleaning supplies shall be used and disposed of in accordance with the product safety label.

(4) Sharp instruments shall be stored in drawers or cabinets equipped with childproof devices to prevent access by children or stored out of reach of children.

(5) Tobacco products, ashtrays, lighters, and matches shall be stored out of reach of children.

(h) Storage of weapons. No child in care shall have access to weapons. All weapons shall be stored in a locked room, closet, container, or cabinet. Ammunition shall be kept in locked storage separate from other weapons.

(i) Outdoor play area. The designated area for outdoor play and large motor activities on the premises shall meet all of the following requirements:

(1) The outdoor play area shall be fenced if the play area adjoins that of another child care facility, as defined in K.S.A. 65-503, and amendments thereto, or if the area surrounding, or the conditions existing outside, the play area present hazards that could be dangerous to the safety of the children, which may include any of the following:

(A) A fish pond or a decorative pool containing water;

(B) railroad tracks; or

(C) a water hazard, including a ditch, a pond, a lake, and any standing water.

(2) Outdoor play equipment that is safely constructed and in good repair shall be available and placed in an area free of health, safety, and environmental hazards.

(3) The use of a trampoline shall be prohibited during the hours of operation of the facility. If a trampoline is on the premises, the trampoline shall be made inaccessible to children during the facility's hours of operation.

(4) Climbing equipment and swings shall be either anchored in the ground with metal straps or pins or set in cement, to prevent movement of the equipment and swings.

(5) All surfaces under and around climbing equipment and swings shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Impact-absorbent surfacing material shall be installed in each use zone under and around anchored equipment over four feet in height, including climbing equipment, slides, and swings.

(B) Impact-absorbent surfacing material shall consist of material intended for playground use, including shredded bark mulch, wood chips, fine sand, fine gravel, shredded rubber, unitary surfacing material, or synthetic impact material.

(C) Hard-surfacing materials, including asphalt and concrete, shall not be used in any use zone. Hard-packed dirt shall be covered with an impact-absorbent surfacing material as specified in paragraph (i)(5)(B). This requirement shall apply regardless of the height of the climbing equipment, slides, and swings.

(D) Surfaces made of loose material shall be maintained by replacing, leveling, or raking the material.

(6) Swings shall not have wooden or metal seats.

(7) Teeter-totters and merry-go-rounds designed for school-age children shall not be used by children under five years of age.

(j) Each facility licensed on and after March 1, 2012 shall have a designated area for outdoor play and large motor activities as part of the licensed premises.

(Authorized by K.S.A. 65-508; implementing K.S.A. 65-508 and K.S.A. 65-530; effective, E-80-18, Oct. 17, 1979; effective May 1, 1980; amended May 1, 1981; amended May 1, 1983; amended May 1, 1984; amended May 1, 1986; amended May 1, 1987; amended Feb. 26, 1990; amended Feb. 3, 2012; amended Aug. 2, 2024.)

***** Authenticated Kansas Administrative Regulation *****