

## SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS: EARLY HEAD START STANDARDS VS. CHILD CARE LICENSING/ABC

Indicator	Early Head Start	Child Care Licensing	ABC Level C	ABC Levels B and B+	ABC Levels A and A+
<b>Ratios</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant/Toddler (EHS/MSHS): one teacher for every four infants/toddlers</li> <li>• Prekindergarten (HS/MSHS): two paid staff per class</li> <li>• 3 year olds — 15-17 children per class</li> <li>• 4 &amp; 5 year olds — 17-20 children per class</li> </ul>	<p>Infants &amp; Toddlers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-1 year: 1 teacher per 5 children</li> <li>• 1-2 years: 1 teacher per 6 children</li> <li>• 2-3 years: 1 teacher per 8 children</li> </ul> <p>When there are mixed age groups in the same room, the staff:child ratio shall be consistent with the age of the majority of the children when no infants or toddlers are in the mixed age group.</p> <p>When infants or toddlers are in the mixed age group, the staff:child ratio for infants and toddlers shall be maintained. The ratios applicable to the youngest child in the group apply.</p>	Follows licensing requirements.	<p>Meets licensing requirements.</p> <p>Recommendation to meet ratios listed below, additional points if met.</p> <p>Infants &amp; Toddlers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-1 year: 1 teacher per 5 children</li> <li>• 1-2 years: 1 teacher per 5 children</li> <li>• 2-3 years: 1 teacher per 7 children )</li> </ul>	<p>Required:</p> <p>Infants &amp; Toddlers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-1 year: 1 teacher per 5 children</li> <li>• 1-2 years: 1 teacher per 5 children</li> <li>• 2-3 years: 1 teacher per 7 children</li> </ul>
<b>Group Size</b>	<p>Maximum group size is eight infants/toddlers, with two teachers.</p> <p>Maximum group size for one teacher is six young children, with no more than two under the age of 2; maximum group size is 12 young children, with no more than two younger than 18 months, cared for by two teachers.</p>	No specified group size.	No specified group size.	<p>Recommendation to meet group sizes listed below, additional points if met.</p> <p>Infants &amp; toddlers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-1 year: class size 10</li> <li>• 1-2 years: class size 10</li> <li>• 2-3 years: class size 14</li> </ul>	<p>Required:</p> <p>Infants &amp; toddlers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-1 year: class size 10</li> <li>• 1-2 years: class size 10</li> <li>• 2-3 years: class size 14</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Teacher Qualifications</b></p>	<p>Early Head Start teachers must have a minimum of an Infant - Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) or a comparable credential or a preschool CDA (or comparable credential) with training in infant toddler development. <i>Family child care</i> Early Head Start teachers must have previous early child care experience and, at a minimum, enroll in a Child Development Associate (CDA) program, an Associate's degree program, or Bachelor's degree program in child development within six months of beginning service. The family child care provider must acquire the credential or degree within two years of beginning service.</p>	<p>Teachers must be at least 18 years of age, and able to read and write.</p> <p>A teacher/caregiver who began employment in a regulated child care center in South Carolina after June 30, 1994, must have at least a high school diploma or GED and at least six months experience as a teacher/caregiver in a regulated child care facility. However, a teacher/caregiver who is prevented from obtaining a high school diploma or GED because of a disability, and who otherwise is qualified to perform the essential functions of the position, must have at least a high school Certificate of Completion and at least six months of experience as a teacher/caregiver in a regulated child care facility. If a teacher/caregiver does not meet the experience requirements, the teacher/caregiver must be directly supervised for six months by a staff person with at least one year experience as a teacher/caregiver in a regulated child care facility. Within six months</p>	<p>All teaching staff must have a high school diploma/GED, and meet child care licensing requirements.</p> <p>All teaching staff must have six months of experience in a regulated facility to work with children unsupervised.</p>	<p>Lead teachers must meet child care licensing requirements plus: high school diploma or GED with signed plan to complete SC Early Childhood Credential (ECD 101) in one year.</p> <p>Assistant teachers must meet child care licensing requirements and demonstrate positive interactions with children by engaging them in age-appropriate activities and communications.</p> <p>Lead teachers must have six months of experience in licensed facility with experience related to care and development of children.</p>	<p>All teachers must meet child care licensing requirements, plus: all teachers employed for one year must have SC Early Childhood Credential (ECD 101) and 50% of teachers must have ECD Certificate or current CDA.</p> <p>Lead teachers must have six months of experience in licensed facility with experience related to care and development of children.</p> <p>Assistant teachers must meet child care licensing requirements. 25% of assistant teachers must have ECD 101.</p>

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		<p>of being employed, a teacher/caregiver must have six hours of training in child growth and development and early childhood education or continue to be directly supervised.</p> <p>A teacher/caregiver who has two years of experience and was employed as of July 1, 1994, in a regulated child care center in South Carolina is exempt from the high school diploma, GED, and Certificate of Completion requirements.</p> <p>A teacher/caregiver may be 16 or 17 years of age if he/she is continuously supervised by a qualified teacher/caregiver who is in the room at all times.</p> <p>Staff persons who were employed prior to May 2005 are not required to meet these qualifications if the staff qualifications required in the prior state regulations are met. If a teacher/caregiver has had more than a 12-month break in service, the new guidelines must be met.</p>			

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<p><b>Director Qualifications</b></p>	<p>Early Head Start directors must have demonstrated abilities and skills in human services program management.</p>	<p>The center director and center co-director(s) shall be at least 21 years of age and meet one of the following qualifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A bachelor's degree or advanced degree from a state-approved college or university in early childhood education, child development, child psychology or a related field that includes at least 18 credit hours in child development and/or early childhood education;</li> <li>2. A bachelor's degree from a state-approved college or university in any subject area, and six months experience working with children in a regulated child care facility;</li> <li>3. An associate's degree from a state-approved college or university in early childhood education, child development, child psychology or a related field, that includes at least 18 credit hours in child development and/or early childhood education with six months work experience in a licensed, approved or registered child care facility;</li> <li>4. A diploma in child development/early childhood education from a state-approved</li> </ol>	<p>Center directors must have a high school diploma and experience working in a licensed child care setting, and meet child care licensing requirements pertaining to experience.</p>	<p>Center directors must meet child care licensing requirements plus:</p> <p>Center directors who have a high school diploma or GED must have a signed plan to complete SC Early Childhood Credential (ECD 101)/ diploma/degree within three years.</p>	<p>Center directors must have at least an associate's degree in child development/early childhood education.</p> <p>Center directors who have an associate's degree must have two years of experience in a regulated facility including one year of center management/administration and one year as caregiver.</p> <p>Center directors who have a bachelor's degree in another subject area must have a minimum of 12 credit hours in child development/early childhood education or a signed plan to complete the Director's Credential within three years of the date of hire; and six months of experience working in a regulated child care facility.</p>

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		institution or a child development associate credential (CDA), and one year work experience in a regulated child care facility; or 5. A high school diploma or GED with three years of experience in a regulated child care facility. One year shall include supervision of child care staff.			
<b>Professional Development</b>	<p>HS/EHS programs must provide pre-service and in-service training to program staff and volunteers related to health, safety, early learning, and comprehensive services.</p> <p>All programs must have a professional development plan for direct care staff and show advancement in that plan; use annual staff performance reviews to identify training needs and to improve staff competencies.</p>	<p>Center directors shall provide orientation for all new staff, volunteer(s), and emergency person(s) prior to their employment, volunteering, and student/teacher training.</p> <p>Orientation shall include:                      (i) specific job duties and responsibilities;                      (ii) child care licensing regulations; and                      (iii) policies and procedures of the center that affect the health and safety of children.</p> <p>Center directors shall participate in at least 20 hours of training annually, including five hours related to program administration and five hours in child growth and development, early childhood education and/or health and safety excluding first aid and</p>	<p>Teachers must have 15 hours of training each year.</p> <p>Directors must have 20 hours of training each year.</p>	<p>Teachers must have 15 hours of training each year, including five hours ECD, five hours of curriculum activities for children, one hour of physical activity and one hour of nutrition.</p> <p>Center directors must have 20 hours of training each year, including five hours related to program administration; five hours ECD, ECE, and/or health and safety; one hour of physical activity; one hour of nutrition; and training related to children with different abilities and needs.</p>	<p>Teachers must have 20 hours of training each year, including one hour of physical activity one hour of nutrition, and training related to children with different abilities and needs.</p> <p>Center directors must have 20 hours of training each year, including ten hours related to program administration; five hours in ECD, ECE, and/or health and safety; one hour of physical activity, one hour of nutrition; and training related to children with different needs and abilities.</p> <p>Center directors must also participate in one three-credit course every six years in management/ administration or early childhood education.</p> <p>At least 50% of all training hours must be obtained through certified trainers.</p>

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		<p>CPR training. The remaining hours shall be in Curriculum Activities, Nutrition, Guidance, or Professional Development and must include blood-borne pathogens training as required by OSHA.</p> <p>All staff, with the exception of emergency person(s) and volunteer(s), providing direct care to children shall participate in at least 15 hours annually, including five hours in child growth and development and five hours in curriculum activities for children excluding first aid and CPR training. The remaining hours shall be in Guidance, Health, Safety, Nutrition, or Professional Development, and must include blood-borne pathogens training as required by OSHA.</p> <p>When children with special needs are enrolled, the center director and staff members shall receive orientation and/or training in understanding the child's special needs and ways of working in group settings when children with special needs are enrolled.</p>			

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		<p>At least one person who is certified in pediatric first aid, including rescue breathing, CPR, and management of a blocked airway shall be present in the center at all times when children are in care, and during group outings or field trips. Training shall be provided by an individual who is certified by a recognized health care organization.</p>			