

Caring and Sharing

Provider Milestones

5 Years

- Rachel Berg
- Jessica Christensen
- Genesis Ponce & Aaron Selbitschka

25 Years

- Laurie Mondry
- Ann Pardo

30 Years

- Cheryllee DeRusha
- Kathleen Krinke
- Desiree Rotter

Welcome New Providers

August 2024

- Kelsey Verschoor
Newport



Community Services
Child Care Licensing
14949 62nd Street N.
Stillwater, MN 55082

[Child Care Licensing
Website](#)

Continuous Licenses

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, all family child care licenses will be issued on a calendar year (January-December) cycle and will automatically renew after a licensing fee is invoiced and paid before year-end rather than expiring after one or two years. Providers who have a relicensure visit this fall will notice their new license will expire Dec. 31, 2024. DHS will issue new licenses in December that will span January-December of 2025.

The [Guidance on Family Child Care Continuous Licenses document](#) provides additional guidance about how this change will impact family child care training requirements. Information about other topics related to continuous licenses will be shared at a later date.

Background Studies

As a reminder, licensed providers and individuals affiliated with those providers must complete a background study every five years. *Do not submit study applications more than 90 days before the current expiration date.* Washington County Licensing will send an email reminder to providers at the 90 day mark.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is currently covering the costs of child care background studies. DHS will continue to cover child care background study and fingerprinting fees through Dec. 31, 2025. This includes household members or anyone affiliated with a child care program.

Provider Highlight



The provider highlight for this edition is **Kayley Richard** of Cottage Grove. Kayley will have been a licensed provider for one year as of October. Kayley was chosen for her B license and how she tackles caring for the youngest of Washington County. Kayley started out at a B1 license with three infants and moved to a B2 license when they turned one.

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What are the ages of the children currently in your program?

I have three boys 18 months old and an infant girl who is eight months old. Fun fact – everyone’s birthday is in February.

Why did you decide to pursue a B2 license?

I had worked with children of all ages for a long time and I just really enjoyed the younger age and felt that I knew a lot about that age and development. I have a major in Early Childhood Youth Development and when I found out it was an option to have more infants, I decided to give it a try and it is going well!

What do you think the advantages of having a B2 license are?

I really enjoy the smaller group size. It is a more specific way to make sure the children in the program are all at similar learning states. I feel easily prepared with the developmental toys that I need, as well as a nice safe sleep set up. It is nice during the day to have similar nap times (when they all nap).

Tell me about some fun things you can do with a smaller group?

I can bring all of the children in a wagon to a local park easily by myself. It is easier for me to keep an eye on the smaller group when out and about. I do have a schedule, but I also need to be very flexible due to a need for a diaper change or a bottle. It is easier to go with a flow when the children are similar ages.

How do you communicate to parents since your age group does not have the skills to tell them about their day?

I send text messages and pictures throughout the day. I also complete daily sheets with diapering, eating, and naptime information. When parents pick up, I also provide verbal updates.

What are the biggest challenges of working with infants and toddlers?

The biggest challenge is the lack of communication development. Understanding how they are feeling without being able to communicate.

How do you make sure to do self-care?

Ideally the children take a good nap, and you get a lunch break, but that does not happen every day. When that happens, I just remind myself that it is normal and that children are busy bodies. In the evening, on those days, I will do something that is good for me to get my mind off the day, where I am only thinking about me and taking care of myself.

What do your little ones enjoy doing outside?

This summer, they enjoyed the sensory table, a sprinkler, and watering cans outside. I have a fake golf set, and they all really enjoy that as well. Going for walks is also a favorite activity. They all love pointing out things on walks, and garbage/recycling day is BIG! They all get outside every day as much as possible with nap schedules.

What do you hope children/families gain from being a part of your program?

I hope that the children know they are loved and cared for in my program. I also want the parents to know their children



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are working on all the right things as they grow and develop and, even as they get older that their needs will still get met.

Do you have any advice for someone wanting to switch to or start a B2 license?

Do not be intimidated by babies or young children because they cannot talk. At least try it out and see if it works for you. Go with the flow and work from how their interests are growing and changing. Do what seems right

for you and have what you need to set yourself up for success. Don't be afraid to talk to others who work with kids, or reach out to your licensor. Communicate well with the parents as the children cannot do that on their own.

If anyone who enjoys working with kids is thinking about doing child care, it is worth it. It is a great job to be in. There are hard days and there are good days. It is a lifestyle change because your job happens in your home, but it is worth it and rewarding.

Provider Hub

The Provider and Agency Hub at the Department of Human Services (DHS) heard from providers regarding their concerns about the upcoming Hub. DHS has created a new [Provider Hub: Getting Started webpage](#) for providers. This webpage contains learning tools, technology skills self-assessment, and a printable technology resource guide.

Reminder: *Provider Hub is currently not in use for family child care providers.* The expected launch date will be the summer of 2025.

[Email the DHS child care Provider Hub team](#) with your questions.



Tech Skills Self-Assessment (e-learning)

Use this interactive e-learning to understand what technology skills you will need to use the Provider Hub and whether you will need to prepare.



Tech Skills Support Guide (PDF)

This guide is a summary of the technology skills needed to use the Provider Hub. It highlights the words you might need to talk about computers if you or someone you are helping are having technology problems. It also includes a list of resource links and phone numbers for more support.



Tech Skills: Printable Resource List (PDF)

These resources might help you find funding or discounts to get online, classes to learn more tech skills, or people who can help you with either.

Follow Along Program



Babies and young children grow and learn at their own rate. However, some children may need help to grow up healthy and learn new skills. Minnesota's Follow Along Program helps families track

their child's development and lets them know if their child is growing and behaving like other children the same age.

Find out more about the Follow Along program or enroll on the [Follow Along website](#).

Immunization Forms

Effective August of 2024, the Minnesota Department of Health has updated the immunization form used for family child care. The new form now provides a colorful schedule showing when each type of vaccination is due and continues to provide space to document when there is an exemption from being immunized.

The new form is no longer intended to document when a specific vaccination has been received.

Effective immediately replace any immunization record forms with the new, [“Are Your Kids Ready? Child Care and Early Childhood Programs Immunization Law” form.](#)

Are Your Kids Ready?

Child Care and Early Childhood Programs Immunization Law

Children are required to receive immunizations before enrolling in child care and early childhood programs in Minnesota or submit an exemption. This requirement applies to all licensed child care centers, family child cares, certified license exempt child cares, and early childhood programs such as preschool, school readiness plus, voluntary prekindergarten, and early childhood special education. Look for your child’s age group in the chart below and see how many total doses of each vaccine are needed for their age.

Required Immunizations	3-4 months	5-6 months	7-15 months	16-23 months	24 months to kindergarten
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	2 Doses	2 Doses	3 Doses	3 Doses	3 Doses
Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP)	1 Dose	2 Doses	3 Doses	3 Doses	4 Doses
Polio (IPV)	1 Dose	2 Doses	2 Doses	2 Doses	3 Doses
Pneumococcal (PCV)	1 Dose	2 Doses	3 Doses	3 Doses	
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	1 Dose	1 Dose	1 Dose	1 Dose	1 Dose
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)				1 Dose	1 Dose
Varicella (chickenpox)				1 Dose	1 Dose
Hepatitis A (Hep A)					1 Dose

Baby Milestones: When Babies Babble, Say Their First Word and Use a Sentence

One of the most reliable and extraordinary ways that a baby can communicate is to smile. Between 6-8 weeks, a baby will start engaging with her parent by smiling. This smile that draws people to the baby and entices them to “ooh,” “ahh” and whisper sweet words to the child is the starting point on the baby’s journey to talking.

Other milestones on a child’s journey to language development are babbling, saying their first words and using simple sentences.

When do babies start babbling?

While babies make sounds when they’re very young, at 7-8 months a baby is at the stage where they might start to use consonant and vowel sounds together.



This is what we call babbling—sounds like “ma,” “ba” and “da” all strung together to make trilling sounds. You might hear your baby singing in their crib in the morning, or he might use a short syllable to get your attention.

At this stage, the child is likely not yet attaching the sounds to meaning, but they are moving toward the 9-10 month stage of using those syllables along with gestures to play peek-a-boo or wave bye-bye.

To encourage babbling, repeat your baby’s sounds and say simple words that use the same sounds. For example, if the child says, “bababa,” you can repeat “bababa” and add “banana,” while showing the child a banana.

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When do babies understand words?

Signs of understanding words show up around age 1. If you ask a 1-year-old to get their favorite toy or a diaper, she will show you that she understands what you want (even if she does not choose to share it with you). She may use tones and sounds along with pointing to communicate. Parents can start to expand the child's sounds into the correct word. For example, if the child says "goggie" (instead of "doggie") and points to the toy dog, you can respond, "You want that doggie? The doggie is so cuddly."

When do babies say their first words?

On the path to saying their first words at around 8 months, the age of 15 months is a time of frustration for some babies. They continue practicing their sound combinations, pushing the adults in their world to fulfill their needs and wants by understanding their sound-to-meaning connection.

At around 18 months, you are likely to hear the first word that is connected to meaning, like "mama" to call their mother. In fact, many 18-month-olds can speak two or three single words. It is at this stage that caregivers can start to expect their child to follow an easy direction like "sit, please" or "show me your nose." Shared reading becomes more enjoyable for both the child and caregiver at this time. Pointing to pictures and trying new words can be an enjoyable part of each day.

To encourage first words, use a picture book with photos of the people or pets in your child's life. Say their names and talk about what is happening in the photo. Repeat the words the child says, and add a little clarity or some more details from the picture. For example, if the child points to a photo of their pet and says its name—let's say it's "Max,"—the caregiver can add, "Max the dog is sitting on the blanket! Max, get off the blanket, silly dog!"

When do toddlers start using simple sentences?

"Go outside." "Want that." "My ball." A 2-year-old might use short phrases with items, actions and even descriptions. She knows that "up" means "pick me up" and "down" means "put me down." She can follow two-step directions like "pick up the truck and put it on the shelf" or "blow kisses to grandpa." At this age, she is aware of communication codes and should start speaking more understandable words as the year progresses.

To encourage sentence development, talk to your toddler. Talk a lot! Talk about what you see and what you are doing. Expand on any words or ideas that they express. If the child says, "me down," respond with "you want to get down." This is a great age for songs and rhyming games like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

What about using more than one language or a language other than English?

Use the language that is most comfortable for you and those in your home. Families who use more than one language in their home should continue to do so! Language access is the most important part of learning. The more children hear language (any and all language), the more likely it is that they will learn all that they hear. Children who learn two languages at the same time, or one language shortly after the first, tend to have strong cognitive, social, literacy and emotional skills.

Children have so much innate potential! For more information about child development and important milestones, visit our "[What Are Milestones?](#)" page.



New Email Address or Phone Number

Please keep your licenser informed of any changes to your home/cell phone numbers

and email address so you can continue to receive notifications from us.

Training

DISCLAIMER: In preparation of this newsletter, every effort has been made to offer the most current, correct, and clearly expressed information possible. Nevertheless, inadvertent errors in information may occur. For training information, please check the sponsor listing to be certain of all the details related to the training.

Trainings sponsored by:

Washington County Community Services

Reporting Child Maltreatment (Abuse & Neglect) Training for Mandated Reporters

This training is designed for mandated reporters or others interested in learning more about requirements for reporting child abuse and neglect in Washington County.

View more information on the [Child Protection website](#).

*[Access the packet forms](#) before the training.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 | 6-7:30 p.m.

FREE

Online with Teams

[Register via email](#)

Develop

Registration: [On the Develop Tool Minnesota website](#).

In-Person Classes:

Active Supervision: Provider Self Care and Privacy

Identify the effects of caregiver mental health and well-being on supervision of and interaction with children. Identify appropriate self-care and privacy strategies that promote effective supervision and safety in child care.

KCF: VIIB

Saturday, Nov. 9 | 9-11 a.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

Park High School, Cottage Grove

Pediatric and Adult First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

KCF: VIIB

Saturday, Nov. 9 | 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

\$45 | 4 credit hours

Sun Ray Library, St. Paul

Health and Safety I

Enhance health and safety management in the family child care setting. Review Minnesota Rule 2 health and safety licensing standards along with best practices related to children's health/wellness, medication administration, responding to allergies, food safety standards, standard

precautions, infectious diseases, and mandated reporting. Explore influences on health and safety and promote a safe environment with child care practices to minimize risks for children. KCF: VIIA

Monday, Nov. 11 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

FREE | 2 credit hours

Veterans Memorial Community Center,
Inver Grove Heights

Encouraging Curiosity in Young Children

Discover and be self assured about creating the kinds of experiences that help young children develop a positive attitude about curiosity, exploring, experimenting and investigating. This course is based on the work of Fred Rogers. KCF: I

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

Room for Growing North, Forest Lake

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)/Abusive Head Trauma (AHT)

KCF: VIIB

Tuesday, Nov. 26 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

Forest Lake Area High School, Forest Lake

Inclusion: Developmentally Appropriate Care for All Children

Examine key concepts of developmentally appropriate inclusive care, including the important role of the caregiver in creating an encouraging environment. Explore skills in observation, ways to foster positive social interaction, and strategies to promote productive play within child care settings. KCF: IVA

Thursday, Dec. 5 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

M Health Fairview Sports Center, Woodbury

Save the Date

Washington County Licensing and South Washington Schools Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) will be offering an in-person collaborative training **Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025** in Woodbury. More information to come!



Community Services
Child Care Licensing
14949 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Washington County Child Care Licensing Contact Information

- Annie Walton, Licensor: [Email Annie](#) | 651-430-6539
- Becky Knighton, Senior Licensor: [Email Becky](#) | 651-430-6574
- Jennifer Rodriguez, Licensor: [Email Jennifer](#) | 651-430-6485
- Michelle McIntosh, Licensing Unit Supervisor: [Email Michelle](#) | 651-430-6476
- Child Care Licensing Email/Case Aide Phone Line: [Email Child Care Licensing/Case Aide](#) | 651-430-8307

Key Contacts

- Think Small:
 - Grants: 651-287-6919
 - Navigator: 888-986-8207 ext. 6005
 - Professional Development: 651-641-3549
- Training/register for classes through the [Develop website](#)

Contact Us for Article Submissions

Contact Becky Knighton, using the information above, with questions or to submit article submissions. The Child Care Licensing program of Washington County Community Services publishes this newsletter bi-monthly.