

Caring and Sharing

New Providers

Aug. 2025

- Namrata Pradhan
Woodbury

Sept. 2025

- Tiffany Perlt
Cottage Grove

Provider Milestones

5 Years

- Jennifer Quinn

15 Years

- Margorie Lapinski

25 Years

- Lori Widmyer

Contact Info.

Keep your licensor informed of any changes to your contact information so you continue to receive our notifications.



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

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

Fire Marshal Training

On Oct. 9, Washington County Licensing proudly hosted the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office for an informative and hands-on fire safety training. The session focused on fire prevention strategies for everyday households, as well as homes licensed for child care and foster care.

Our presenter, Tony Clifton from the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office.



Providers donned fire fighter gear to experience escaping out a mock window.

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Nearly 30 participants attended, engaging in interactive activities designed to deepen their understanding of fire safety practices.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who joined us and to the State Fire Marshal's Office for sharing their expertise on such a vital topic.

Correction Orders

What do they really mean and how do you handle them?

As we navigate the change to continuous licenses in 2025, here are a few things to remember about correction orders:

- The intention of a correction order is to help educate and provide guidance regarding rules and/or statutes that pertain to licensed family child care programs.
- Correction orders may be issued for violations that:
 - Do not imminently endanger the health, safety, or rights of children in care.
 - Are not serious or chronic.
 - Can be corrected within a reasonable time.
- Correction orders can be seen on [Licensing Information Lookup](#).
- You can appeal correction orders.
 - The directions are attached to every correction order.

- Remember each licensing visit is unique.
 - Comparing visit outcomes with other providers' visits does not tell the whole story.
- Getting a correction order does not mean you are not a great provider, rather it means you need to change or fix something which is not meeting a rule or statute.
- Fun fact: The county wants you to succeed in your program! Everyone's goal is the same – help care for children in a safe manner.
- We are all human and we are all capable of making mistakes.

Please reach out to your licensor if you are unsure of rule or statute specifics. We are here to help.

Training Requirements - 2025

With the change to continuous licensing, training requirements are now tied to a calendar year cycle.

For example, when a licensor visits in 2026, they will review training completed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

Most trainings can be completed at any time during the calendar year, as long as they are completed before Dec. 31. *There are two exceptions to this: Family child care providers, second adult caregivers,*

and substitutes have two years and 90 calendar days to complete Pediatric First Aid and CPR training. The timeline is based on the date the training was previously taken.

License holders/caregivers must complete all required training between Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025. During your licensing visit, your licensor will review training completed in the previous calendar year. *Any training violations*

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determined will be marked as unmet in the electronic monitoring system and a correction order will be issued.

If you have any questions on whether you have met your training requirements for the year, you may send

your licensor your completed 2025 trainings for review before the year is over.

Please refer to [DHS' Training Requirements for Licensed Family Child Care](#) for questions on training.

Background Study Fees

Through an agreement with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is currently covering the cost of child care background studies for all child care provider types. DCYF previously was going to cover the cost of the fees

through 2025. However, child care background study and fingerprinting fees will continue to be covered until further notice; this includes household members or anyone affiliated with a child care program.

Early Childhood Screening

Early childhood screening is a quick and simple check of how children are growing and developing. It is not a test, and it is not about determining kindergarten readiness. *Screening is recommended between the ages of 3 and 4 years old.*

Early childhood screening is required by the State of Minnesota for any child enrolling in a public school and is provided free of charge.

During screening, a trained professional will check:

- Vision and hearing.

- Height and weight.
- Immunization history.
- Large and small muscles.
- Thinking, language, and communication skills.
- Social and emotional development.

For families wanting more information or to schedule an appointment, they should contact the school district where they reside. For general screening information, visit the [Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families website](#).

Share Your Story

Think Small is a nonprofit organization in St. Paul that advocates for improvements to Minnesota's early care and education system, and we want to hear from YOU! We are collecting stories from early childhood providers about your experiences with licensing, starting or maintaining your program, or anything else you'd like to share about your role in early care and education. Your stories shape our understanding of the powerful impact of your work and help us frame early childhood issues for policymakers and the public. You may consider any of the following prompts in your story:

- What barriers have you experienced in the licensing process?
- What was most helpful to you during the licensing process?
- If you could change anything about the licensing process, what would it be and why?
- What do you wish state lawmakers and the public understood about your experience?

Share your story using our online [Think Small Story Collection form](#).

What are adaptive skills and why are they important?

Joachim is a 3-year-old who is eager to help with tasks around the house. He likes to put napkins on the table for seder, and he likes to pour out a puzzle on the floor for play time. He likes to get himself dressed to go for a walk in cool weather with his bubbe (grandmother).

Joachim is growing and learning each day. He can meet his own needs in new ways that he couldn't do without help before. He is learning skills that will lead to taking care of himself and others as an adult. These "adaptive" skills are those that children use to explore and thrive in their daily activities.

Adaptive skills are also important in other areas of development. In our story, here is how Joachim might be using adaptive skills in thinking, interacting, moving, and playing.

- Joachim uses adaptive thinking skills and observations in several ways. He decides what to do with the napkins, he advocates for what he likes to do with the puzzle, and he remembers to put on his warm coat before going outside.
- Joachim might be using adaptive interacting skills with his caregivers by using words to listen and respond as he communicates about family traditions and fun activities. We can imagine him laughing with his caregivers. Laughter is an adaptive connecting skill that starts young and is used all our lives.
- Joachim uses adaptive moving skills by independently taking action to participate in plans for the day. He is learning how to fold the napkins, open the puzzle box, and put on his coat. He needs less help than he did when he was a baby!
- Joachim uses adaptive playing skills. He plays to learn more about what he likes and doesn't like to do, to imitate how his caregivers do things, and to try new things and see what happens.

Adaptive skills in young children are essential for their daily functioning and overall development. Some additional examples of adaptive skills that children learn over time include:

- Babbling to get a caregiver's attention.
- Getting another diaper.
- Brushing teeth (with help).
- Braiding hair.



- Pulling up socks.
- Scooping a favorite family food into a bowl.
- Telling a caregiver when they are hurt.
- Asking for help.
- Comforting someone who is crying.
- Sharing toys with a new friend.

Children are born with incredible brains that help them learn new skills quickly. Children listen, observe, watch, feel, and experience everything around them. As they grow, they can do more and more on their own, with adaptive tools that meet their needs.

During his early years, Joachim is learning all the time. He learns how to do more things for himself with activities like eating, moving his body, cleaning up his toys and books, and helping his family with routines. One day, these adaptive skills will help Joachim navigate school or his first job and help his family and community with challenges and celebrations. These skills will help him live his happiest life.

For more information on supporting your child's adaptive development, visit [HelpMeGrowMN.org](https://www.helpmegrowmn.org) and click on Encouraging Healthy Development.



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:

Develop

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

In-Person Classes:

SUID/AHT: Sudden Unexpected Infant Death/Reducing the Risk of Abusive Head Trauma

This class meets DHS Licensing training requirements for both Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT). Content includes recommendations to reduce Sudden, Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) including SIDS, suffocation, and other sleep related infant deaths; safe sleep environments; Minn. Child Care regulations related to safe sleep; as well as symptoms and consequences of abusive head trauma, risk factors for abusive head trauma; strategies to use when stressed, angry, or frustrated. KCF: VIIB

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

FREE | 2 credit hours

Park High School, Cottage Grove

Exploring the Family Caregiver Partnership

Examine the importance of building quality relationships with families of children with special needs as an essential element in successful child care placements. Explore specific strategies for building parent-provider partnerships including open communication, trust, respect, and other key components necessary for achieving the goal of successful inclusion and retention of all children. KCF: III

Thursday, Nov. 20 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

Forest Lake Area High School, Forest Lake

Understanding Behavior: Making Sense of What You See and Hear

This 2-hour behavior guidance course will meet the licensed family child care annual training requirement. The objectives of the training are to help participants: Learn about how very young children's behavior is a form of communication and has meaning; and strategies to use to increase their capacity to support positive social emotional development through positive

relationships with infants and toddlers. KCF: IIC

Tuesday, Dec. 9 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

Park High School, Cottage Grove

Developmentally Appropriate Behavior Guidance

Explore key principles of early brain development and discover how early experiences shape children's growth and well-being. Examine the influence of culture and caregiver relationships in nurturing social and emotional development, building secure attachments, and creating environments where children thrive. Identify social and emotional skills essential for children's success in learning and life. Apply strategies to encourage positive behavior in early childhood settings. This course meets the 4-hour preservice Child Development and Learning/Behavior Guidance training requirement for family child care providers. KCF: I and IIC

Saturday, Dec. 13 | 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$20 | 4 credit hours

Woodbury Central Park, Woodbury

Online Scheduled Classes:

Laugh and Learn: The Role of Humor in Child Development and Culture

Discover the developmental benefits of humor in early childhood. Explore practical strategies to integrate humor into daily learning, supporting children's developmental strengths while honoring cultural diversity. Gain insight into how humor fosters social skills valued across cultures and joyful learning experiences that promote positive interaction with children. KCF: ID

Wednesday, Nov. 12 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$20 | 2 credit hours

Understanding Toxic Stress

Discuss the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Study. Explore how toxic stress and early experiences impact development and assess strategies for supporting children and families through toxic stress experiences. KCF: IIC

Wednesday, Nov. 19 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$10 | 2 credit hours

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De-clutter and De-stress Your Way to Success

Stop letting clutter control your life. If you've watched a "hoarding" show and thought, "Amateurs," or you simply want to be more organized, then this is the online training for you! Learn simple and specific solutions to de-clutter and organize your child care and time. Take proactive and deliberate steps to keep organized and reduce stress so you can spend your time enjoying life and the children in it! Warning: May instill a strong desire to rush home and organize everything! KCF: VI

Thursday, Nov. 20 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
\$10 | 2 credit hours

Language in Early Childhood

Explore language early childhood stepping stones. Discover activities to encourage children to engage and stay on track to becoming school ready. Create lesson plans that align with the Minnesota early learning standards. KCF: IIB

Tuesday, Nov. 25 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
\$10 | 2 credit hours

2025 Legislative Changes

The 2025 Legislature made several changes that impact licensed family child care. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families has prepared an [Implementation Plan for 2025 Legislative Changes](#) to assist you in understanding the new legislation and how it impacts family child care. The plan outlines each change, instructions for what providers need to do about each

change, the date the change takes effect, and guidance on how licensors will monitor these changes.

Talk to your licensor if you have any questions on the changes.

View the new [Licensed Family Child Care: Implementation plan for 2025 legislative changes](#).

REETAIN Bonuses

REETAIN bonuses help supplement income for early childhood educators as they work to establish a career in the field. *Bonuses are awarded annually ranging from \$500-\$3,000.* They can be used to cover professional or personal expenses.

REETAIN bonuses are awarded based on education and according to state/federal priorities, as funds allow. Applications opened in October for family child care

providers, and educators employed by a licensed child care center can apply in the spring. [View this video to learn more!](#)

- Who is this for? State and tribally licensed family child care providers.
- Applications open Oct.-Nov. 2025.

Learn more and apply on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota's website](#).

Provider of the Year

Washington County is accepting nominations for the next Provider of the Year! **Nominations are due Jan. 31, 2026.** The chosen provider will receive special recognition from the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Child Care Licensing team.

The Licensing Unit knows how important quality child care is to the families of our community and we want to celebrate. The [nomination form](#) can be found online in the Helpful Links section of our [Child Care Licensing website](#).



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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- Annie Walton, Licensor: [Email Annie](#) | 651-430-6539
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- Jennifer Rodriguez, Licensor: [Email Jennifer](#) | 651-302-6898
- 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.