

Child Care Fire Safety Self Checklist

1. Exits

Exit doors must be able to be opened from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort, and swing in the direction of the exit travel when serving an occupant load (all occupants) of 50 or more. When exiting from the building leads to areas that are fenced in, by fire code requirements, the gates cannot be locked. **Note: Dead bolts are not allowed.**

Rooms used for child care purposes shall not be located above or below the first story, except as allowed by the Oregon Structural Specialty Code.

2. Fire Extinguisher Requirements

At least one 2-A 10BC (or larger) fire extinguisher shall be provided in each facility (for every 3000 sq.ft) and/or at each level. 40BC fire extinguishers are required when a fixed extinguishing system (in a previously existing facility) is installed over cooking appliances. Newly constructed kitchens may need a K-Guard extinguisher when grease laden vapors are created.

3. Smoke Detectors

It is required that smoke detectors be provided in all areas where children nap. **Note: In commercial buildings being used for child care purposes, smoke detectors should be wired in an approved manner.** In dual-use facilities, battery-operated smoke detectors are allowed. **Note: New construction may need to meet additional requirements.**

4. Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

If fireplaces are utilized, a tight-fitting screen should be provided or the fireplace rendered inoperable. If wood stoves are used during operational hours, children in these areas should be under constant supervision, adequate safeguards should be provided to prevent contact by the children. The provider shall have written evidence that the wood stove has been inspected and approved for use by the local building official.

5. Paths of Egress

Paths of egress shall not be obstructed at any time. All facilities shall have a fire evacuation plan posted. Cots, mats, etc., shall not block the path of egress, nor any required exit door.

6. Fire Notification

Some audible means of notifying the occupants in case of fire drill or fire shall be provided. This may be accomplished by a bell, buzzer, or horn or whistle. Where the occupant load is more than 50, an approved fire alarm system shall be provided meeting the minimum provisions of NFPA Pamphlet 72, 1999 edition.

**NOTE: The above are the most common fire safety considerations for child care operators.
More technical requirements will be evaluated by the fire inspectors.**