# Square Footage in Family Child Care

Information from other states

**Small family child care homes** – most states up to six children in care

**Large family child care homes** – most states are seven or more in care with 12-16 maximum

***States with the same requirements for small and large family child care homes (28):***

**25 square feet**: North Carolina

**30 square feet**: Tennessee, Texas, Georgia

**35 square feet:** Alabama, Arizona (35 square feet required for infants, 25 square feet for ages 2 and up), Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska (4-8 children), Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

**40 square feet:** New Hampshire, Pennsylvania.

***States with requirements for large family homes only – usually 7 or more children in care (9):***

**35 square feet**: Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois (8 or more), Iowa (6 or more in care), Maryland (9-12 children), Oregon

**40 square feet:** Mississippi (6 or more children in care)

***Other language (8):***

* California: “Adequate space for quiet and active play“ (small and large)
* Connecticut: “Sufficient space” for small family (6 or fewer)
* Delaware: “Adequate space” for small and large
* Indiana: “Adequate space”
* Maryland: “sufficient floor area” for up to 8 children
* Massachusetts: “Of sufficient size for the children served, and must encourage plan and learning” additional rules describe
* New York: “Adequate space” (small and large)
* Vermont: “Adequate space”

***No requirements or couldn’t find (12):*** District of Columbia, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Virgin Islands, and Wyoming

**More detail from New York**:

The language is vague but they are able to work with the intent. Small homes are not as much an issue as large because they are limited to caring for six children. In the application process, the licensor conducts an on-site visit to access space.  They ask where the children all nap?  They lay out cots or mats—do they all fit? Can the caregiver reach an individual child who may be in need?  If not, would removing some furniture help? Could the caregiver use additional space in the home?  If after evaluation and remediation, the space seems inadequate, they allow the provider to commit to smaller numbers or they consider taking formal action to limit the license to smaller numbers.  Limitation is rare, most times the provider can understand the correlation between space and safety of children.