New Rules for the Transportation of Children in Licensed Child Care Facilities

The Early Learning Division, along with the Childhood Care and Education Committee of the Early Learning Council, evaluated new research on safe transportation of children, public comments on proposed rule language and the potential for financial or practical impact on child care providers.

In June of 2017, the Early Learning Council met and adopted rule language for Registered Family Child Care, Certified Family Child Care, Certified Center Care and Regulated Subsidy Child Care.

The new rule states:

“The following vehicles may be used to transport child care children:
(a) A vehicle manufactured to carry fewer than ten passengers;
(b) A school bus or a multi-function school activity bus;
(c) A vehicle manufactured to carry ten or more passengers that was manufactured in 2010 or after; or
(d) A vehicle manufactured to carry ten or more passengers that was manufactured before 2010, with the following conditions:
   (A) Travel speed may not exceed 50 mph; and
   (B) The vehicle must have an annual safety inspection by a garage, dealership or auto repair shop. Proof of inspection must be on the form provided by the Early Learning Division or on a form provided by the inspector which contains the same information.”

What does this mean for Registered Family Child Care?  
The current rule for Registered Family Child Care (OAR 414-205-0110.10) that prohibits the use of 15-passenger van has been replaced with the above rule language. If you are renewing November 1, 2017 or later, you must have the inspection form completed by your next renewal date or your mid-license period date, whichever comes first.

What does this mean for Certified Family Child Care and Certified Child Care Centers?  
Previously there have not been any rules prohibiting or regulating any types of vehicles for the transportation of child care children. If you are renewing November 1, 2017 or later, you must have the inspection form completed by your next renewal date.

What does this mean for Regulated Subsidy providers?  
Previously there have not been any rules prohibiting or regulating any types of vehicles for the transportation of child care children. If your redetermination is November 1, 2017 or later, you must have the inspection form completed by your next redetermination date.
Do all of my vehicles used to transport child care children need to have the annual safety inspection?
No. The only vehicles that are required to have the annual safety inspection are those vehicles that:
   a) Are manufactured to carry ten or more passengers;
   b) Were manufactured prior to 2010; and
   c) Are not a school bus or a multi-function school activity bus.

Does the 50 mph speed restriction apply every time I transport child care children?
No. The only vehicles that may not exceed the 50 mph speed restriction are those vehicles that:
   a) Are manufactured to carry ten or more passengers;
   b) Were manufactured prior to 2010; and
   c) Are not a school bus or a multi-function school activity bus.

Where do I find the Vehicle Safety Inspection form?
The safety inspection form is available on the Early Learning Division’s website at https://oregonearlylearning.com/news-resources/resource-library/. Your licensing specialist will also have copies of the form.

Where do I go to get the inspection done?
You can get the inspection done at any certified mechanic or service shop. The service technician should have a current Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accreditation. We encourage the use of the Early Learning Division form. If you choose to use a form provided by the service technician, you must ensure that all required inspection points have been addressed.

What if I have questions about the new rule or the inspections?
The best place to ask questions and receive guidance would be your licensing specialist. You can also contact the Office of Child Care at: 1-800-556-6616.