

Provider Information

Center-Based Standards - ABC Child Care Program
South Carolina Department of Social Services

Name of Provider _____ FEIN/SSN# _____

Name of Facility (if different) _____

Address _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail Address _____ FAX # _____

Phone# _____ Contact person/owner _____

0-2 Meets Part I Required Standards I through V Yes No

0-2 standards: Reviewer _____ Review date _____ Enrolled Yes No Score _____

3-5 Meets Part I Required Standards I through V Yes No

3-5 standards: Reviewer _____ Review date _____ Enrolled Yes No Score _____

6-12 Meets Part I Required Standards I through V Yes No

6-12 standards: Reviewer _____ Review date _____ Enrolled Yes No Score _____

Type of Visit

Enrollment visit Unannounced monitoring visit Technical Assistance visit

Provider Type

Private, non profit Public Private, for profit
 Church operated/licensed Head Start Center School District Other (define)

Introduction to ABC Child Care Program Standards

Level

The following standards constitute the criteria for Level B child care and development services to be purchased under the ABC Child Care Program. Providers will be enrolled as Level B service providers based on their compliance to the standards for the age group to be served. Providers may elect to enroll to serve 0-2 year olds, 3-5 year olds, and/or 6-12 year olds.

The standards for the ABC Child Care Program exceed the state licensing and regulatory requirements for Child Care Centers in South Carolina. All providers classified as Level B enrolled in the ABC Child Care Program must first meet regulatory requirements governing their operation according to statute and SC Department of Social Services child care licensing regulations and must maintain a history of compliance with those regulations.

The ABC Level B standards have been divided into progressive parts. Part I consists of Standards I-V which are required for all Level B enrolled providers. Compliance will be based on documentation from the service provider as well as on-site observation and review by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) staff. The potential provider must meet or be able to meet all Standards I-V prior to participating in an on-site observation of the remaining standards. Initial grant funding is available through SCDSS to Level B enrolled providers who are serving an eligible ABC Child Care Program child.

Upon determination of compliance to Part I. Standards I-V, an observation of the facility will be conducted with the potential service provider. On the date of the review, Part II, III and IV of the standards that are applicable for age groups to enroll or continue enrollment will be completed by the reviewer.

In order to become enrolled, a provider must reach a minimum 80% compliance level overall on Standards VI, VII, VIII, and IX for each age group to be enrolled as measured by the SCDSS reviewer.

The reviewer will conduct an analysis of the potential provider's staff-child ratio to determine compliance with the ABC Child Care Program staff-child ratios which are more stringent than regulatory requirements. All providers who elect to participate in the ABC Child Care Program must meet the staff-child ratios as defined by the South Carolina Child Care Regulations (Section 114-504: Supervision) as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Maximum Ratios</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Maximum Ratios</u>
Birth – 1 year	1:5	4-5 years	1:17
1-2 years	1:6	5-6 years	1:20
2-3 years	1:8	6-12 years	1:23
3-4 years	1:12		

Groups meeting ABC ratios and group size will be awarded points for compliance. ABC staff-child ratios and group size are as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Maximum Ratios</u>	<u>Group Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Maximum Ratios</u>	<u>Group Size</u>
Under 2 years	1:5	10	5-6 years	1:15	30
2-3 years	1:7	14	6-9 years	1:18	36
3-4 years	1:11	22	9-12 years	1:20	40
4-5 years	1:13	26			

The reviewer will observe in at least one classroom for each age for 30 minutes to one hour and provide ratings for the following standards:

- **Standard VII - Staff-Child Interactions** is based on the reviewer's observation of the caregivers in each room or group and measures staff members' availability and responsiveness to children, positive verbal interactions with children, opportunities for children to be responsible and have choices, and positive guidance techniques.
- **Standard VIII - Activities** is based on the reviewer's rating of the center's activities by room or group and measures the balance, choice and variety of activities (minimum of 5 interest/activity areas with minimum of 5 different materials per area) within a planned daily schedule that allows for individual differences and is developmentally appropriate.
- **Standard IX - Physical Environment A. (Indoor Environment)** is based on the

reviewer's rating of each room for 0-2 and 3-5 year olds and centerwide for 6-12 year olds and measures the quantity, variety and durability of age-appropriate materials and their accessibility to children.

- **Standard IX - Physical Environment, B. (Outdoor Environment)** is based on the reviewer's rating of the center's outdoor playground area designated for children's use. The reviewer's rating will measure the sufficiency, safety, and age-appropriateness of the outdoor playground area.

Each numbered item under Standards VII, VIII, and IX carries a weighted score if met. If the item is not met, it receives a score of 0. The total possible points for a center will be calculated on the number of caregivers and number of rooms/groups observed for the applicable age group. The number of points the center receives will then be divided by the total possible points for the age group observed to determine the percent of compliance for the applicable age group. See Parts II, III and IV for specific scoring criteria of each age group.

The requirement of 80% compliance for each age group (0-2, 3-5, and 6-12) allows for an individual center to accommodate for program weakness in one area by possible strengths in another area. The rating system also provides an evaluation of the program by staff, room, and overall center compliance to the standards. The review report includes summaries of each room observed and each age group. Thus, a program failing to meet 80% compliance can target areas of non-compliance for upgrading.

The completed assessment of the program's performance on the standards is returned to the provider with notification of successful enrollment, continued enrollment, or notification of failure to meet enrollment standards. Limited one-time grant funding may be available at initial enrollment as recommended by the reviewer. Provider business agreements are made for a period of two years. Non-correction of deficiencies or repeated deficiencies can result in provider termination from the ABC Child Care Program or non-renewal of the business agreement.