

WAC

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## What gives the authority to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to license child care and charge licensing fees?

- The rules for child care centers are governed under chapters 43.215 RCW.
- The rules establishing licensing fees are adopted under authority of RCW 43.20B.110.

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RCW 43.215 states:

“The legislature finds that the early years of a child’s life are critical to the child’s healthy brain development and that the quality of caregiving during the early years can significantly impact the child’s intellectual, social, and emotional development. The purpose of this RCW chapter is:

- a) To establish the Department of Early Learning;
- b) To coordinate and consolidate state activities relating to child care and early learning programs;
- c) To safeguard and promote the health, safety, and well-being of children receiving child care and early learning assistance;
- d) To promote linkages and alignment between early learning programs and elementary schools and support the transition of children and families from pre-kindergarten environments to kindergarten;
- e) To promote the development of a sufficient number and variety of adequate child care and early learning facilities, both public and private; and
- f) To license agencies and to assure the users of such agencies, their parents, the community at large and the agencies themselves that adequate minimum standards are maintained by all child care and early learning facilities.”

## Things to think about before you start a child care center

The profession that you are about to enter is caring for our nation’s greatest treasures, our children. They are our future. The need for quality child care has increased as more parents have entered the workforce. The quality of child care a young child receives helps build the foundation for their futures.

While providing child care is a rich and rewarding occupation, it is also hard work and requires well trained professionals to partner with parents to raise happy, confident, creative, intelligent and emotionally healthy children. Some of the things to think about before you decide to start a child care center are:

- ◆ Is this the right business for you?
- ◆ Does the community need a new child care center?
- ◆ Where should the center be located?
- ◆ Do you have the necessary set up and operating costs?
- ◆ What is your timeline for starting your child care center?

