



BCACCS REFERENCE SHEET FOR THE 2016 BC CHILD CARE LICENSING REGULATION AMENDMENTS

Upon review of the most recent amendments to the CCLR BCACCS has found the following to be the most relevant changes to our work:

- **Early Childhood Education Certificate - Section 11 and 19**
 - A photocopied Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Certificate may now be posted in a child care facility instead of posting the original certificate issued by the ECE Registry.
 - *Regulations have been amended to allow photocopies of certificates instead of originals to be posted. This has been done to reduce barriers to educators while still ensuring families remain informed.*
 - A licensee (employer) must now validate and keep a record of that validation for all employees (including substitutes) who hold ECE Certification (ECE, ECE Assistant, I/T ECE, SN ECE). Validation must be done through the Ministry of Children and Family Development's online [Certificate Validation](#).
 - *As an added precaution to reduce the use of fraudulent credentials licensees will now be required to validate and keep a record of all ECE certificates for employees (permanent and casual).*
- **Smoking – Section 13**
 - The definition of smoking has been updated.
 - *Regulations have been amended to clarify the definition of smoking and now include reference to both the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes. As before employees must not smoke on the premise of a licensed child care facility or in any vehicle used to transport children.*
- **Outdoor Play Space - Section 16**
 - The requirement for 7m² per child has been changed to 6m² per child.
 - *Regulations have been amended to reduce the barriers to opening child care programs in spaces where outdoor play areas could be limited. This may not a positive change for children as studies show that reduced space increases conflict and injury while increase access to the outdoors promotes wellbeing.*
 - Allow children of similar ages (types of care programs Section 2) to play together in the outdoor play space.
 - *This could be a positive change for First Nations and Aboriginal programs running multiple programs with similar age groups. This will allow programs to use the same space as the same time **providing that** the space and staff ratios are still maintained for the overall group size. At the same time this change could impact quality of care if programs frequently use a common area together and over-stimulate children by overloading play sites.*

- **Staff and Volunteers - Section 19**

- Removing the requirement for a pre-employment doctor's letter of health.
 - *Regulations have been amended to reduce the barriers when hiring employees. It will provide one less step, one less cost. The Medical Health Officer retains the ability to request a doctor's letter if necessary at any time.*
- Separating volunteer requirements from requirements of staff by removing the requirement for volunteers to:
 - a. have completed 20 hours of training;
 - b. provide a resume and,
 - c. provide a doctors letter of health.
- A potential volunteer must complete a criminal record check, provide character references and provide evidence of their immunization status.
 - *These regulation amendments represent some beneficial reductions in requirements; however, there are still significant requirements in place. For programs trying to encourage the participation of Elders these requirements may continue to prove too many barriers.*

- **Records - Section 56**

- The Child Care Licensing Regulation requires a number of policies and procedures such as safe release of a child, food and drink. A requirement has been added to ensure that policies and procedures are implemented by staff.
 - *This amendment to the regulation should not prove a significant change. It is intended simply to clarify the **duty to implement** policies and procedures of child care programs.*

- **Reportable Incidents - Schedule H**

- The definition of an "emergency restraint" has been updated.
 - *This amendment should increase the clarity of when incident reports are needed and also, hopefully further remind educators that restraining a child is a serious event.*

To find out more about the changes to the regulations and current standards of practice go to:

Child Day Care Legislation & Standards of Practice

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care/child-day-care-legislation-standars-of-practice>

The most updated version of the BC Child Care Licensing Regulations can be found at:

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/332_2007