

ADULT OR CHILD DAY CARE FOR LESS THAN 24 HOURS ^{1,2}

CODE SECTIONS and PAGE REFERENCES are from the 2018 North Carolina Building Code

OCCUPANCY GROUP	R-3 [§310.5; page 46]	R-4 [§310.6; page 46]	I-4 ⁴ [§308.6; §308.6.1; §308.6.2; §308.6.3; §308.6.4, §308.6.5 page 45]	E ^{3,8} [§308.6.1; page 45]	E ^{3,8} [§305.2; §305.2.1 - §305.2.3 page 38] CHILDREN ONLY (ALSO INCLUDE Facilities Licensed by DHSR Mental Health Section)	A-3 (This Occupancy Group is not Licensed by Div of Aging or DHSR Mental Health Section) ADULTS ONLY
Age (in years)	Any	Any	Adults and Children 2 ½ or less	2 ½ or less	Older than 2 ½	Any
Occupant Load (in persons)	1 to 8 ⁵	6 to 16 ⁶	> 5	6 to 100	> 5	> 50
Portable Fire Extinguishers	2-A:10-B:C	2-A:10-B:C	§906 NC Fire Code	§906 NC Fire Code	§906 NC Fire Code	§906 NC Fire Code
Automatic Sprinklers	NR ⁷ §903.2.8 exc. 1	NR ⁷ §903.2.8 exc. 1	NR ⁴ §903.2.6 exc. 2	NR ⁷ §903.2.3	NR ⁷ §903.2.3	Required §903.2.1.3
Manual Fire Alarms	NR	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required when Occupant Load > 300
Floor Level:					1 st grade + younger: on LED	No Limitation
Not Sprinkled	On LED [§429.1.1; page 74]	Not addressed	On LED [§429.1.1]	On LED with exit door direct to exterior On LED [§429.1.2; pg 94]	2 nd grade: not more than 1 story above LED	
Sprinkled	On LED [§429.1.1]		On LED [§429.1.1]	NR	[§430.3; page 94]	
Number of Exits	[Table 1006.3.2.2(2), 1006.3.1 & Table 1006.2.1; §1006.2.1 Exception Number (1) table controls]	2 except where on LED + direct exit to exterior [§429.1.2 + Exc.; Table 1006.3.2(2) Footnote e]	2 required where occupant load exceeds 10 [Table 1004.1.2, Table 1006.2.1 & Table 1006.3.2]	2 except where on LED + direct exit to exterior [§429.1.2 + Exc.; Table 1004.1.2]	2 except where on LED + direct exit to exterior [§429.1.2 + Exc.; Table 1004.1.2]	2 required where occupant load exceeds 49 [Table 1004.1.2 & Table 1006.3.2(2)]

- 1 Care Services providing services to any child for less than four (4) hours per day and/or less than four (4) months a year are not licensed or regulated by the Division of Child Development; however, NC Building Code requirements shall apply [§305.2]. PROGRAM TYPE EXAMPLE: Summer camps, Pre-School Care or After School Care.
- 2 Existing facilities do not have to meet the 2018 NC Building Code unless doing major renovations, expanding or moving to a different facility or site. You can use the 2018 North Carolina Existing Building Code for all day cares facilities going into existing building. [There is no difference on whether it is a new license or transfer license \(change in ownership\)](#). Please see governing licensing agencies for Building Inspection Forms.
- 3 Assembly spaces (i.e., auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium, library, etc.) which are accessory to Group E buildings are not considered as separate occupancies.) [Section 508.2]
- 4 I-4 Day Care Facilities on the LED occupant load great than 5 with no direct exterior exits for classrooms containing children Pre-School Age (PSA) or provide care for more than 100 children (PSA)
- 5 Allowed to have five (5) preschool children and three (3) school-aged (K-12) children [Div. Of Child Development Licensing Rules and Section 310.5 on page 46]
- 6 Allowed to have no more than twelve (12) children when any preschool child is in child care. This number may increase to fifteen (15) if all children are school-aged (K-12). [Div. Of Child Development Licensing Rules]
- 7 Table 1020.1 Footnote d: Facilities without sprinkler systems shall have 1-hour fire-resistant corridors regardless of occupant loads. Group E is Table 1020.1 Footnote g
- 8 Public buildings currently approved for Education Occupancy should be considered approved for the licensed operation of a child care center within its facilities when the participants in care are school age. Session Law 2009-123: General Statutes Chapter 115C Section 1 §115C-521.1 Building Standards for Preschool Students

ABBREVIATIONS: LED = Level of Exit Discharge NR = Not Required K – 12 = Kindergarten through 12th Grade Exc. = Exception Pre-School Age = 2½ years of age or less
All day care facilities, licensed or unlicensed, will be regulated by the provisions of the NC Building Code. NC Residential Code does not apply.