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More information about child care rules:

www.del.wa.gov/laws/rules

A family home child care provider is licensed to provide direct care, supervision, and early learning opportunities for 12 or fewer children in the home of the provider. The family child care rules are developed and maintained as required by RCW 43.215. DEL filed updated family home child care rules on Nov. 14, 2011. They will go into effect March 31, 2012.

The rules are the result of a four-year, legislatively required negotiated rule making process. Members of the negotiated rulemaking team (NRMT) included the Service Employees International Union 925—which represents family home providers—as well as parents, DEL staff, representatives of the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network and others. DEL used recommendations from this process to develop draft licensing rules, which then went through the public comment process and additional conversations between DEL and SEIU 925.

The filed family home rules are research-based and focus on health, safety and positive outcomes for children. Among other things, the rules:

- Increase education and training standards for family home providers and their staff. The 2004 family home rules do not require any minimum education to become a provider. The new rules require providers to have, at minimum, a high school education or equivalent. Current providers have until March 31, 2017, to meet these minimum education requirements.
- Require a higher level of communication between the provider and families around child development and the provider's child care philosophy.
- Enhance standards for playground safety, food service, cribs, emergency preparedness, nurture and guidance and screen time.
- Require DEL to do a noncriminal background check for anyone age 13 to 16 who lives in the home, and anyone age 14 to 16 who works as a volunteer or assistant.

DEL is offering training to family home providers and to DEL licensing staff to help ensure broad awareness of and understanding of the new rules prior to implementation.

