

Parental Access

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.22 The custodial Parent(s) of the child shall at any time the child is in attendance be permitted access to all child care areas of the Center and shall make his or her presence known to Center Staff prior to removing the child from the Center.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.06 The Parent(s) of a Child shall be permitted access to all child care areas of the Home at all times a Child is in attendance, unless otherwise ordered by a court of proper jurisdiction.

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To promote good relations with parents and provide consistency for children. To ensure parents' right of access to a center, providing the opportunity to monitor the quality of care their children receive. To help prevent the release of any child to an unauthorized person, and to enable the center staff to provide close supervision of the children in their care.

Clarification

Parents should be encouraged to observe and participate in the care of their children and to form a partnership with staff caring for their children. An open-door policy may be the single most important method for monitoring the treatment of children while in the care of others. When access is restricted, areas observable by the parents/guardians may not reflect the quality of care the children actually receive and inhibits amicable relationships with the enrolled families. Parents should be allowed to enter child care areas, but policy should mandate that they check with a staff member before entering the children's areas and/or taking their child from the center. This policy permits staff to be aware when any one enters or exits the premises for safety purposes.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care programs must permit parents access to all child care areas at any time when their child is present.
 - Note: Upon arrival, parents must immediately make their presence known to the person in charge of the child care program.
 - Reminder: The parental access statement must be posted with the child care program's posted notices.
 - TIP: Obtain legal documentation of custody agreements and maintain on file (if applicable, due to custody situations).
 - Organizational TIP: Information regarding parental access must be listed in the child care program's policies and procedures.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>