Starting a Childcare Business
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Child care is regulated by the Province of Alberta and the municipality.

The Province of Alberta is responsible for the rules and regulations for any type of child care business.

The City of Edmonton is responsible for zoning and building code compliance.
Childcare is regulated by the Province of Alberta.

Contact the Government of Alberta for information on provincial licences and certificates:

- Starting and operating a licensed child care program
- Child care licensing handbook: facility-based programs
- Health and safety guide for operators of child care facilities
The City of Edmonton requires that each business go through three permit and licensing steps. Not every business will require each permit or licence; the City determines which are necessary.

1. **Business Licence**: ensures a business follows the City's rules and regulations.
2. **Development Permit** (zoning approval): tells you what you can build and how you can use a property.
3. **Building Permit**: audits plans and construction work so the business space is safe, accessible to all, and meets standards of the Alberta Safety Codes.

Daycares and day homes are exempt from a City of Edmonton business licence provided **provincial licensing** in place.

Zoning approval and building permit review is still required.
We are here to help!
There are many supports available to help with your business, which include:

- zoning clarification
- what permits are needed
- timelines associated with the permit process

Contact us: 1:1 Business Support
Childcare Models

This guide outlines the 3 most common scenarios and the City of Edmonton permits and licences required.

1. 1 - 6 children
   - Home based business

2. 7 - 10 children
   - Home based business

3. 10+ children
   - Converting a house
   - Commercial location
Operator requirements:

✔ You must live in the home that you will operate the childcare business in.

✔ You must meet the Government of Alberta requirements.

✔ Maximum of 6 children, not including your own.

Permit and licence requirements:

❏ In general a business licence, development permit, or building permit is not required.

❏ Direct Control Zone (DC) is an exception and will require an additional zoning review.

Resources:

Zoning information (DC zones):

- enter the address
- scroll down and click ‘current zone’

1:1 Business Support Team
Operator requirements:

✔️ You must **live in the home** that you will operate the childcare business in.

✔️ You must meet the Government of Alberta requirements.

✔️ Maximum of 10 children, not including your own.

Permit and licence requirements:

- major home-based business development permit
- building permit and any necessary trades permits

A business licence is not required.

The application is reviewed against the [Zoning Bylaw](#) and must comply with the Alberta Building Code.

Resources:

For more information and to apply, visit [Home-Based Business](#).

Contact [Building Permits](#) before making an application. Significant upgrades are usually required.

You must get development approval before building permits and trades permits.
Operator requirements:

✔ You **do not** live in the home that you will operate the childcare business in.

✔ You must meet the Government of Alberta requirements.

Permit and licence requirements:

- development permit
- building permit and any necessary trades permits

A business licence is not required.

The application is reviewed against the [Zoning Bylaw](#) and must comply with the Alberta Building Code.

Resources:

- Apply [online](#)
- [Child Care Services Checklist](#)

You must get development approval before building permits and trades permits.

Commercial signs are a separate [application](#).
Questions?

Contact us!

1:1 Business Support

- Overall process, permit information, and grants (no cost)