

Indiana Lawmakers Propose New Daycare Rules

Three lawmakers have created new rules that will apply to Indiana daycare facilities which receive federal money. These new rules include new requirements for training, and better staff to child ratios. The bills will work to close loopholes that did not require churches and unlicensed daycare centers to follow the standard safety regulations of other licensed facilities.

Many argue that if their tax dollars are being spent on daycare facilities, that they should be as safe as possible. Tracie Wells, a member of the Legislature's Committee on Child Care, says, "After a government shutdown and cuts across the board, we should not go on giving our hard-earned and scarce and needed tax dollars to people who cannot meet minimum standards for the care of children."

Recent studies in Indiana show that since 2009, out of at least 22 children who have died in an Indiana day care, 16 of the deaths took place at unlicensed daycare facilities. The lawmakers hope to eliminate this by requiring the child care providers of daycares which receive federal money to complete a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education, immediately report suspected abuse and neglect, meet specific staff to child ratios and orchestrate group sizes based on the children's ages.

More rules and regulations on daycare providers are always a good thing in my eyes, as the rate of [daycare abuse](#) is too high in this country.