

STANDARD HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR CRECHES & AFTERCARE

STAFF FACILITIES:

An adequately lighted and ventilated office must be provided. The office may either double as a staffroom and sickbay, or these may be provided separately.

CHILDREN'S SECTION (2 - 6 YEARS):

1. An indoor play area of at least 1.5m^2 per child must be provided. Not more than one third of the indoor play area may be an enclosed veranda.
2. An outdoor play area of at least 1m^2 per child for the first 30 children must be provided. Children may be divided into groups and be taken outside one group at a time. If no outdoor space is available, add an extra 1m^2 per child.
3. Water closets and wash hand basins must be provided in the ratio of one for every 20 children or part thereof, irrespective of sex. Plastic buckets/basins may be used in place of porcelain wash hand basins.
4. Toilet facilities must be of the low-level type, or alternatively platforms of suitable height must be provided at the water closet pans and wash hand basins to be used by the children. Such platforms must be of an impervious material.
5. The hot water supply to the wash hand basins used by the children must be thermostatically controlled at a suitable temperature, alternatively, only cold water need be provided.

INFANTS SECTION (0 - 2 YEARS):

6. An indoor play area of at least 2m^2 per child must be provided.
7. A wash hand basin must be provided in the nursery (unless one is close-at-hand).
8. The following items must be provided in sufficient numbers:
 - a. Potties - one potty for every 5 children.
 - b. Racks for the storage of potties.
 - c. Baby baths - one baby bath for every 15 children.
 - d. Storage facilities for soiled nappies.

AFTERCARE:

9. An indoor play area of at least 1.8m^2 per child must be provided. Such area must be separate from the pre-school age groups.
10. An outdoor play area of at least 2m^2 per child must be provided. Such area must be separate from the pre-school age groups.
11. Water closets and wash hand basins, separate for sexes, must be provided in the ratio of one for every 20 children or part thereof.

KITCHEN:

12. No recommended size, but must be kept in a clean and hygienic condition at all times.
13. Usual health requirements apply, and for larger crèches the following may be required:

The kitchen must be provided with:

- a. A wash hand basin.
- b. A double bowl, double drainage board, stainless steel sink. At least one of the bowls must be of the deep pot-washing type.
- c. Adequate cooking and refrigeration facilities.

A hood and flue with an extraction fan and removable grease filters may be required over all cooking apparatus. The flue must extend to at least 1 metre above roof height and the average catchment velocity measured over the face of the canopy must not be less than 0.5 m/s.

14. The entrance of the kitchen must be adequately protected to prevent children from gaining free access thereto.
15. A separate space (not necessarily a separate room) for the preparation of baby food must be provided.

INDOOR PLAY AREA:

The indoor play areas must be provided with an insulating floor covering and be kept free of private furniture and suitably equipped for crèche purposes.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA:

16. The outdoor play area:
 - a. Must be provided with a fence with a height of at least 1.8m (if deemed necessary).
 - b. Must be free of dangerous articles, poisonous plants, obstacles, steps or excavations.
 - c. Should be provided with shady areas.
17. The swimming pool must be provided with a safety net.
18. All access gates to the outdoor play area and swimming pool area must be fitted with self-closing devices and childproof latches affixed at a high level.
19. The sandpit must be provided with a suitable cover to prevent the fouling of the sand, or alternatively the sand must be sanitized regularly and replaced with fresh sand at suitable intervals.

REFUSE YARD:

20. All refuse must be stored in a satisfactory manner pending removal, and for the larger crèches, a refuse yard of at least 9m² must be provided to serve the kitchen. Such yard must be:
 - a. Suitably enclosed, cement-paved, and grade and drained to the storm water system.
 - b. Provided with a curbed area of 1m², graded to a gulley which is connected to the main drain line for the washing of refuse receptacles.
 - c. Provided with a piped water supply to facilitate cleansing.
21. An adequate supply of washable refuse receptacles with close-fitting lids must be provided.

GENERAL:

22. All windows higher than 0,76m above outside ground level must be adequately protected to prevent children from falling out.
23. All low level glazed areas must be of safety glass.
24. The wall areas behind all sinks and wash hand basins must be tiled or suitably clad to a height of at least 300mm.
25. All internal walls must be painted with a light coloured, washable, lead-free paint.
26. All power points must be suitably protected.
27. The premises must be rodent-proofed in accordance with the Government Rodent-proofing Regulations.
28. A first aid box with the basic essentials must be provided.
29. The use of these premises for the purposes of a crèche is subject to:
 - a. The approval of the Land Use Department and Area Urban Planner, and
 - b. application for registration as a place of care in terms of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983) with the: **Regional Director, Provincial Administration: Western Cape Department of Social Services**