



# Preschool Recreation and Child Day Care Center Certification Regulations

## *Position Statement*

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Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Day Care Certification regulations provide standards to aid in protecting the health, safety and rights of children to reduce risks in child day care centers.

The purpose of PA Code Title 55 Chapter 3270 is to facilitate the safe and healthful care of a child in a “child day care center.” These regulations extend to care provided for a preschool child in private or public, profit or nonprofit facilities, which by certain legal interpretation, include municipal recreation and park services.

While the safety and security of children enrolled in day camps, swim lessons, nature play, and other indoor and outdoor recreation programs is always vitally important, (including strict legal and ethical standards in staff recruitment and training), municipal recreation agencies also legitimately provide emotional, cognitive, communicative, perceptual-motor, physical and social development of children outside the confines of a “child day care center.”

PRPS affirms the tremendous personal and community value of (and popular demand for) safe and secure, developmentally appropriate, child-centered recreation services provided apart from certified child day care centers. However, the highly limiting restrictions imposed by the Code prevent most recreation providers from feasibly complying with such certification requirements in the outdoor settings of parks and the indoor multi-use amenities of recreation centers and other facilities.

On behalf of more than 2000 professional member practitioners, and parents, preschoolers and communities throughout the Commonwealth, PRPS advocates that public recreation and park programs be specifically exempted from complying with Child Day Care Center Certification regulations by the Department of Human Services provided that the municipality adopts by ordinance or resolution the [PRPS Protocol for Public Preschool Recreation Programs](#).