

## **.22 Specific Requirements for Directors in Preschool Centers.**

- A. For preschool centers with 20 or fewer children, a director shall have completed:**
- (1) 1 year of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting; or**
  - (2) 2 years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider.**
- B. For preschool centers with 21 to 40 children, a director shall have:**
- (1) Earned 60 semester hours from an accredited institution of higher learning; and**
  - (1) Completed 2 years of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting, or 4 years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider.**
- C. For preschool centers with more than 40 children, a director shall have:**
- (1) Attained an associate degree with approved courses in early childhood education or a bachelor's degree in any field; and**
  - (2) Completed 2 years of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting, or 4 years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider.**
- D. An individual is considered qualified as a director of any size preschool center when that individual:**
- (1) Has completed:**
    - (a) 1 year of experience working under supervision primarily with preschoolers in a licensed child care center, nursery school, church-operated school, recreation and parks program, or similar setting; or**
    - (b) 2 years of experience caring for preschoolers as a registered family day care provider; and**
  - (2) Has received either:**
    - (a) Approval by the State Department of Education as a teacher under COMAR 13A.09.09 for early childhood education, including grades nursery through the third grade, and has 6 semester hours in early childhood education, or**
    - (b) Certification by the State Department of Education or by any other state for early childhood education, including grades nursery through the third grade.**
- E. An individual qualified and employed as a director of a preschool center for 20 or fewer, 21 to 40, or more than 40 children before December 31, 1991, is considered qualified to be a director of a preschool center under this regulation if continuously employed at the same or another center with the same or greater capacity limitations.**

**INTENT:** A director has a wide range of responsibilities, and these typically become more complex when there are more children in care. As the size of the center increases, more academic training and experience are required to help ensure that the director has developed the necessary ability and skills to make sound judgments about the center's overall operation.

**INSPECTION REPORT ITEM:** "Director qualified/present as required"

**COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:** The director meets the qualification requirements of the size range that includes the center's maximum child capacity.

**ASSESSMENT METHOD:** Review the facility's licensing record to determine if the director meets the applicable minimum qualifications.

### Notes:

- OCC construes the phrase "or similar setting" (which appears under §§ A(1), B(2), C(2), and D(1)(a) of this regulation) to mean a similar regulated or officially monitored setting.
- For detailed information about director qualifications and how to determine whether an individual meets those qualifications, see:

- [“Qualification Requirements for Center Directors and Staff,”](#) which is included in this Manual as Appendix A-5,
  - [“Staff Qualification Guidelines \(Chart\),”](#) which is included in this Manual as Appendix A-6, and
  - [“How to Conduct a Staff Evaluation,”](#) which is included in this Manual as Appendix A-7.
- The Regional Office may approve an operator’s request for a director qualifications variance under certain circumstances if certain compensating factors are present. The criteria for a qualifications variance are set forth in Circular Letter [98-01](#) (“Staff Variance Charts”), which is included in this Manual as Appendix B-7.