

The Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) requires each state to meet national standards for foster homes. The Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) licensing standards are consistent with the new model standards. However, there are slight deviations Washington is currently working to meet.

What's New?

Orientation: Information on medication administration will be added to Foster Parent Orientation – covering information as outlined in WAC 110-148-1560 through 110-148-1595.

Policy 5110 and 5120: Medical examinations must be completed one year prior to the date the application is received for processing by LD.

Each household member must be interviewed in the family's home.

At least one reference must be received from a relative and one from a non-relative.

WAC 110-148-1320: You must have proof of current immunizations for any children living in the household, not including those in out of home care. LD may grant a medical exemption to this requirement if the immunization is contrary to the child's health as documented by a licensed health care provider.

You and all household members must have pertussis and influenza immunizations to serve foster children who are under the age of two or medically fragile as defined in WAC 110-148-1305. An exception may be granted if the immunization is contrary to your or the household member's health as documented by a licensed health care provider.

WAC 110-148-1365: At least one applicant in the home must have functional literacy (i.e., the ability to read medication labels) and applicants must be able to communicate with the child, DCYF, health care providers and other service providers.

WAC 110-148-1390: If your home is licensed for six foster children, capacity cannot be exceeded except to allow:

- A. Parenting youth in foster care to remain with their children;
- B. Siblings to remain together;
- C. A child who has an established, meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family; or
- D. A family with the necessary special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability.

WAC 110-148-1440: The home must have a properly operating kitchen with a sink, refrigerator, stove and oven.

WAC 110-148-1445: You must maintain adequate sewage and garbage facilities, as well as recycling disposal service if it is available.

WAC 110-148-1455: Your swimming pool must be equipped with a life-saving device, such as a ring buoy. Swimming pools must be emptied after each use and if it cannot be emptied, it must have a working pump and filtering system.

WAC 110-148-1460: Your home's evacuation plan must be reviewed with children and posted in a prominent place in the home.

WAC 110-148-1465: You must have at least one carbon monoxide detector on each level of occupancy in the home and at least one near each sleeping area.

WAC 110-148-1470: You must not co-sleep or bed share on any sleeping surface with children in care.

WAC 110-148-1495: You may not smoke in motor vehicles used to transport children.

WAC 110-148-1510: The driver or owner of a vehicle transporting foster children must have proof of current registration.

