

*State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*  
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE



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July 24, 2017

RE: Written Testimony for Child Care Center and School Age Program Regulations

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) would like to thank the Department of Children, Youth, and Families for their hard work in drafting the new Child Care Center and School Age Program Regulations. The new regulations are clear and concise. The updates made are positive and focus on the health, safety, and well-being of all children in these programs.

The OCA has only a few concerns about the new regulations. The regulations change the definition for "older toddler" and "younger toddler." In addition, the regulations change the staff/child ratio for "older toddlers." The impact this has is that toddlers twenty-seven (27) to thirty-six (36) months will have a higher staff/child ratio and an increased number of older toddlers in one classroom. Ultimately, these older toddlers will have less supervision and a lower of quality of care while in a licensed child care center, which can lead to accidents, oversights, and overall less safety of this age group. The OCA is not in support of these changes to the previous regulations.

The OCA is in support of the transparency that DCYF is requiring of all child care centers to parents, the public, and to DCYF, itself.

Thank you,

  
Diana Robbins, Esq.

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