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

JOHN O. PASTORE CENTER  
Louis Pasteur Bldg., 4th flr.  
57 Howard Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
TEL: (401) 462-4300  
FAX: (401) 462-4305  
TTY: 711

Jennifer Griffith, Esquire  
Child Advocate

Department of Children, Youth and Families  
Veronica Davis  
Chief of Licensing and Regulation  
101 Friendship Street  
Providence, RI 02903

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.  
Staff Attorney III  
Office of the Child Advocate  
Louis Pasteur Bldg., 4th flr.  
57 Howard Avenue,  
Cranston, RI 02920  
Tel: (401) 462-4300  
Fax: (401) 462-4305

www.child-advocate.ri.gov