

## HISTORY OF BASIC CHILD CARE

For more than 20 years, North Dakota has required a basic training for newly licensed child care providers. Over the years, the training has changed to keep pace with state and federal requirements, but some things remain the same. For example, Basic Child Care has always been delivered at the direction of the ND Department of Human Services (DHS) and has been required for DHS licensing compliance. DHS has contract Child Care Aware ND to develop and deliver the training since 1999. Today, just as in 1999, the training remains the starting point for licensing and early childhood workforce preparation in North Dakota.

1999

The North Dakota Department of Human Services began requiring a six-hour basic child care course for newly licensed family child care providers. It was comprised of approximately two hours on health and safety topics, two hours on business practices, working with families and professionalism, and two hours on child development including guidance.

- Child Care Aware delivered the training face-to-face on a rotational basis
- Training attendees were given paper certificates to verify completion of the training for licensers.

2008/09

The North Dakota Department of Human Services changes the content of the basic child care training to consist of 1.5 hours of Healthy Practices, 1.5 hours of Safe Practices, 1.5 hours of Illness Prevention and Management, and 1.5 hours of Food and Nutrition.

- Child Care Aware offered this training in four separate online courses, to be available whenever a family child care provider needed access.
- Completion of all four courses satisfied the basic child care training requirement.
- Training attendees could print a record of their Child Care Aware training to verify completion of the training for licensers.

2011

The North Dakota Department of Human Services began requiring **all newly licensed and/or hired child care practitioners to complete basic child care**. The **content expanded to 12-hours** to include Healthy Practices, Safe Practices, Illness Prevention and Management and Food and Nutrition plus Getting in Tune (2.0 hrs), Elements of an Effective Environment (2.0 hrs) and Mandated Reporting (2.0 hrs). **Self-Declared** providers now required to complete **four hours** of basic child care.

- Child Care Aware delivered the training online in seven separate courses. Completion of all seven courses satisfied the basic child care training requirement.

2012

The Growing Futures Registry launched and began to provide a permanent, verified record of workforce training completed from 2008 on. A portal for licensers let them login to view the Growing Futures record for licensing compliance.

2014/15

Congress reauthorized the Child Development Block Grant Fund and established minimum training requirements. As a result, the North Dakota Department of Human Services added two additional content areas to the basic child care training requirement, expanding it to 15 hours. Beginning July 1, 2015, all self-declared and licensed child care program staff are required to complete: Healthy Practices, Safe Practices, Illness Prevention and Management, Food and Nutrition, Getting in Tune, Elements of an Effective Environment, Mandated Reporting, Abusive Head Trauma (1 hr) and Emergency Preparedness (2 hrs) to satisfy the basic child care requirement.

- Child Care Aware delivered the training online in nine separate courses. Completion of all nine courses satisfied the basic child care training requirement.
- DHS allowed 12 months to complete the required courses for compliance.
- Versions of the basic child care training offered in and prior to 2009 are no longer recognized by the state to satisfy any requirement. These courses are designated as “retired.”

2016/17

On July 1, 2016, the North Dakota Department of Human Services shifted from the nine separate basic child care courses to **one 15-hour course** that fully satisfies the basic child care requirements. Child Care Aware developed the training, called **Getting Started**. The nine separate courses were discontinued. Self-declared and staff at licensed child care programs now search and register for only one training. Getting Started is delivered **online**. **Individuals who had not completed all nine basic child care courses prior to July 1, 2016 must complete the Getting Started course to satisfy the basic child care requirement.** No exceptions are allowed and no “grandfathered” approval is accepted. The CD-ROM version of basic child care no longer meets federal requirements and is retired. **The Growing Futures Learning Record displays a basic child care training list and completion date**, so licensers can easily identify if someone has satisfied the requirement. **If the completion date is missing the training listed does not satisfy the requirement.**

In July 2017, ND DHS added a requirement for SIDS training. This is in addition to Getting Started. SIDS courses must meet the DHS criteria to be approved for licensing through Growing Futures.

*Our thanks to Kay Larson of Child Care Aware of North Dakota for her hard work in compiling this history of Basic Child Care in North Dakota. 8/1/2018*