

# Daycare Safety

When taking children to a daycare, it is important to see if the facility is safe and the staff is prepared. Daycare inspections should be left to the professionals due to the amount of detail involved, however, here are a few topics parents can talk to their providers about concerning fire and building safety. Parents and primary caregivers can:

- Make sure daycare facilities are licensed. Indiana Department of Homeland Security daycare licenses will include information such as the name of the facility, the IDHS logo, and date range the license is valid.
- Make sure all exits are clearly labeled. Exit signs should be lit and always have working bulbs.
- Ensure that exits are unobstructed. Furniture or other objects should never block any door or exit.
- Ask if fire extinguishers have been inspected and are in working order.
- Ask if staff members are trained on how to safely and properly use fire extinguishers.
- Ask to see documentation about fire and other drills. Daycares should frequently practice plans and drills for situations such as tornadoes and fires.
- Talk to staff about the steps taken to ensure preparedness. Parents should discuss how drills have gone, where improvements can be made, and how they can help at home.

If parents have concerns about the safety of their daycare facility concerning fire and building safety, they can contact IDHS Fire and Building Services, led by the State Fire Marshal, at 317-232-2222.

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