



City of Grand Prairie Fire Department Fire Code Regulations

Child Day Care

Day care facilities may be operated out of a single-family residential dwelling or duplex, without significant modification, if caring for a maximum of five (5) children, not including one's own who live there. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are required to be installed in homes where children are cared for.

Day care facilities in commercial buildings must be protected by a fire alarm system providing smoke detection throughout. Household "single-station" smoke alarms cannot be used to meet this requirement, unless the day care is operating within a home.

Day care facilities must be equipped with carbon monoxide (CO) detection if fuel-burning furnaces or enclosed garages are present, as required by Section 915.2.3 of the 2021 *International Fire Code* (IFC), the City of Grand Prairie's adopted Fire Code.

A certificate of occupancy (CO) is issued with the condition that the facility obtain and maintain all required state licenses. In-home day cares do not require a CO.

All buildings housing a day care facility must have two exits or exit accesses from every room or area. Homes must have secondary egress, such as operable windows, from each room in accordance with the *International Residential Code* (IRC).

Commercial buildings containing a day care center must be protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system under the following conditions:

1. Square footage of the building is 12,000 square feet or larger or a ***design occupant load*** of 300 or more UNLESS the areas are separated by 2-hour-rated fire barrier walls.
2. Children 2½ years-old or younger are cared for UNLESS each room has a door leading directly outside and is on the ground floor.