

Exemption Categories

Listed below are categories of child care programs that may not require a license. If you believe your program meets the criteria in one of these categories, or, if your program is completely free to the families you serve, you may submit a completed Exemption Request Form and supporting documentation for review. Exemptions apply only to child care programs that would otherwise be subject to licensure as a Child Care Learning Center or Group Day Care Home and not to Family Day Care Homes.

1. Specialized day care centers that are qualified to furnish care and training to mentally handicapped individuals and have been granted a certificate of approval by the department as provided for in O.C.G.A. §37-6-6.
2. Programs for children five (5) years and older which operate solely for educational purpose with an established curriculum during the school term for the customary seven (7) hour school day.
3. A facility operated by a local school on school board property for children five (5) years and older before and after the customary seven (7) hour day during the regular school term.
(This applies to public schools only.)
4. Nursery school, playschools, kindergartens or other educational programs for children two (2) years through six (6) years of age which operate for no more than four (4) consecutive hours per day.
5. Mother's Morning Out or similar programs which operate for no more than four (4) consecutive hours per day for no more than two (2) days per week or which limit attendance to no more than eight (8) hours per week per child.
6. Any short-term baby-sitting service provided by an establishment, e.g., church, health club, bowling lanes, etc., in its premises to children for the convenience of their parents who are participating in activities being provided by the establishment. No child shall be permitted to remain in the establishment's baby sitting facility for more than four (4) hours per day and eight (8) hours per week. This exemption does not apply to programs operated by an organization for its employees or registered students.
7. Drop-in recreation programs where the children are free to come and go from the premises without being escorted by a parent or responsible person and short-term education programs or classes for children in which the supervision and care of the children are incidental to their participating in the activity or training in specific subject(s) such as music, dance, religion, etc. and the program provider is not assuming responsibility for the provision of daily child care outside the scheduled program.
8. Day camping programs for children five (5) years and older which have as the primary emphasis outdoor education and recreation and are operated between school terms for no more than seven (7) hours per day or which are accredited by the American Camping Association or other national standard-setting agency or church camp accreditation programs which must provide standards equivalent to the American Camping Association standards.
9. Child welfare agencies and other facilities and institutions wherein children and youths are detained which are operated by any department, or agency of state, county, or municipal government.
(Applies to government-owned and operated programs other than those that meet the criteria in #3)
10. Religion/faith-based exemption text is listed on a separate page and is available upon request.
11. OCGA Section 20-1A-2(4). A private school which provides kindergarten through grade 12 education, meets the requirements of O.C.G.A. §20-2-690, and is accredited by one or more of the entities listed in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (6) of O.C.G.A. §20-3-519 and which provides care before, after, or both before and after the customary school day to its students as an auxiliary service to such students during the regular school year only. (See page 2 for a list of acceptable accrediting organizations.)
12. A program that does not charge a fee, but is free and asks the families for no monetary or in-kind contributions or donations, whether voluntary or mandatory (no pay).

Exemption Categories

Acceptable accrediting organizations listed in O.C.G.A. §20-3-519 (2007)

(applies to # 11 only, listed on page 1)

1. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
2. The Georgia Accrediting Commission
3. The Georgia Association of Christian Schools
4. The Association of Christian Schools International
5. The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council
6. The Accrediting Commission for Independent Study
7. The Southern Association of Independent Schools

A letter or certificate verifying current accreditation must be submitted with the exemption request form for #11. Documentation that the school has applied for such accreditation or of membership in the accrediting organization will not be accepted as proof of accreditation.