



**City of Atascadero
Community Development Department**

PUBLIC INFORMATION - BUILDING AND PLANNING SERVICES

Community Development Department 6500 Palma Avenue Atascadero, CA 93422 (805) 461-5035 fax (805) 461-7612

DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL FACILITIES

The City of Atascadero Zoning Ordinance and the California Building Code provide for the establishment of daycares and preschools. The purpose of this informational handout is to clarify the requirements for establishing and operating either a daycare or preschool business within the City of Atascadero.

	Small Family Daycare	Large Family Daycare	Childcare Center or Preschool
Number of children	6 and under* plus 2 school-age children**	7-12 children* plus 2 school-age children**	49 children or less
Can I live in the building?	Yes In-home facility	Yes In-home facility	No Stand-alone facility required
Zoning & Use Permits	No CUP required Allowed use in all residential zones	CUP required CUP in all residential zones	CUP required CUP in all residential zones Allowed use in CR, CP, CS, P
State License Required?	Yes - contact Community Care Licensing	Yes - contact Community Care Licensing	Yes - contact Community Care Licensing
City Business License?	Not required	Yes	Yes
Fire Dept. Clearance	Check with Fire Department	850 permit required Part of State License; to be completed after CUP approved Copy to be sent to Community Development Department	
Minimum Lot Size	None	6,000 sq. ft. minimum site area	6,000 sq. ft. minimum site area
Occupancy	R-3 occupancy***	R-3 Occupancy***	E occupancy Building permit required for any building modifications or change in occupancy
Disabled Access Compliance	No additional requirements (Standard single-family home ok)	No additional requirements (Standard single-family home ok)	Disabled access compliance required: accessible parking, paths of travel, entrance, exits, & sanitary facilities
Fire Sprinklers & Alarms	Check with Fire Department	Check with Fire Department	Check with Fire Department Fire sprinklers & alarms may be required
Municipal Code Requirements	No additional requirements	<u>Includes, but is not limited to:</u> driveway access, site distance, septic evaluation, landscaping requirements, Building Code compliance, etc.	
Fencing Requirements	No additional requirements	4 ft. solid fence required around outdoor play areas 6 ft. fence required on any property line abutting residential use	
Parking Requirements	No additional requirements (2 spaces required for residence only)	Minimum 2 dedicated drop-off parking spaces (plus 2 spaces for residence)	Parking area required; number of spaces established through CUP

* Includes children under the age of 10 who reside in the home

** School age children are defined as a minimum of 6 years of age

*** Child care facilities located within a single-family home are permitted to comply with the California Residential Code

Daycare Permitting Process



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Site

Look into different sites for your business to get an understanding of the possibilities. Depending on your specific use, you may need a commercial building or a residence.



2

Zoning and Occupancy

When you find a location for your daycare or preschool, check with the Community Development Department for zoning and occupancy requirements (461-5035).



3

State Licensing

After you and the City have determined that the building and site will work for your use, begin working with Community Care Licensing to obtain a State License.

Regional Office: (805) 562-0400



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Conditional Use Permit (if req'd)

If you plan on having seven (7) or more children in your family daycare or preschool facility and you are located in a residential zone, you will need to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with Planning Commission approval.



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Building Permit (if req'd)

You will need to obtain building permits if an occupancy change is proposed or if you are making modifications to a structure. Modifications could include the following:

ADA Compliance • Fire Sprinklers • Garage Conversion
Signage • Driveway Entrance • Parking Lot • Septic Tank • etc.



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Business License

Before you open your doors, you need to obtain a City Business License, which you can apply for at City Hall. This will involve official zoning and building clearance.

Business Permitting Online: www.atascadero.org/roadmap



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Fire Clearance

The final step is to receive Fire Department clearance. The Fire Marshal will sign off on an 850 form for the State license. This clearance is given at the end of the City process, after any required building improvements have been completed.