

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions CHILD CARE CENTRE

Types of Child Care in Abbotsford

ZONE	USE	STRUCTURE TYPE	CHILDREN
Residential	Home Child Care, Minor	Single Detached Dwelling	8 or less
	Home Child Care, Major	Single Detached Dwelling	16 or less
		Amenity room/building in an Apartment or Townhouse complex	25 or less
	Child Care Centre <small>Corner Store Policy</small>	Single Detached Dwelling or Duplex	Site specific
Commercial	Child Care Centre	Commercial, Institutional or mixed use Building	Site specific

Q: What is a Child Care Centre?

A: A Child Care Centre is a facility licenced under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* for the provision of day care for children. It includes group day care, preschool care, out-of-school care, child minding, specialized day care and emergency child care.

Q: Where is a Child Care Centre permitted?

A: Child Care Centres are permitted primarily in commercial, institutional or mixed-use zones. In accordance with the City of Abbotsford Official Community Plan (Part II-2-15), the Corner Store policy permits a Child Care Centre as an accessory commercial use in residential areas designated Urban 3 - Infill or Urban 4 - Detached (subject to certain location criteria as outlined below).

Q: What are the regulations associated with a Child Care Centre?

A: The regulations associated with a Child Care Centre depend on where it is located.

In a Commercial, Institutional or Mixed-Use Zone

- The Child Care Centre must comply with all provincial requirements
- It must also meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Zoning Bylaw

In a Residential Area (Corner Store Policy)

- The Child Care Centre must comply with all provincial requirements
- It must also meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Zoning Bylaw and the Official Community Plan (see Corner Store policy - Part II-2-15)
 - It must be located on a single Lot, zoned RCS and be designated Urban 3 - Infill or Urban 4 - Detached
 - The Child Care Centre must be located in the same Building as the Single Detached Dwelling or Duplex
 - It must be a minimum of 400 m from the nearest Neighbourhood Centre or existing Corner Store
 - It is limited to a maximum size of 400 m²
 - If located on a Local road, it is limited to 200 m² in size and it must be located on the corner of the Lot

DISCLAIMER: This FAQ is not a legal document. Any contradiction, dispute or difference between the contents of this FAQ and applicable City bylaws, plans, policies or guidelines will be resolved by reference to the bylaws or other official documents.

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Q: What are the parking requirements?

A: For a Child Care Centre, 1 off-street parking space per 30 m² of Gross Floor Area (GFA) is required or 4 spaces, whichever is greater. Of the parking spaces provided, 2 must be designated for drop-off/pick-up.

For a Child Care Centre that meets the Corner Store Policy the parking requirement is 1 Parking Space per 10 children in care.

Example Parking Calculation



Q: I would like to pursue the Child Care Centre use. Where do I start?

A: A Child Care Centre must comply with all applicable City of Abbotsford bylaws, BC Building Code, Fraser Health Authority regulations and Fire Department requirements. Prior to signing a lease agreement with the landlord, it is strongly recommended that the applicant consult with an Architect to advise them of any requirements of the current BC Building Code and City of Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw. If you would like to pursue the Child Care Centre use, you will need to:

Ensure zoning compliance.

The first step is to make sure that you comply with the requirements of the City of Abbotsford [Zoning Bylaw](#). If you are unsure if you meet the zoning requirements, email planning-info@abbotsford.ca

Contact Fraser Health & Apply for a Licence.

Fraser Health Authority approval is required through its Community Care Facilities Licensing Office. For outdoor play area requirements, see the [Child Care Licensing Regulation](#) in the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*.

It is recommended to start the Fraser Health licensing process prior to submitting a building permit application with the City of Abbotsford because revisions to the permit submission drawings may be required. See the Fraser Health Authority [website](#) to apply for a Child Care Licence.

Apply for a Building Permit.

A building permit application is required for any new Building, or the conversion of an existing space to a Child Care Centre. If a building permit is required, it is recommended to first contact the Planning Department to ensure compliance and obtain approval from Fraser Health Authority. Along with the building permit application package, staff will require Architectural Drawings approved by the Fraser Health Authority and a letter from the operator confirming the ages of the children.

Apply for a Business Licence.

You can apply for a business licence online at www.abbotsford.ca under "My City Online", or in person at City Hall.

Any upgrades required to meet the BC Building Code or Fire Code will be identified by the Building Department/ Fire Department through the business licence or building permit application process.

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