

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1572

An act relating to child care personnel training; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring child care personnel to be trained in recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome, preventing sudden infant death syndrome, and understanding early childhood brain development; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

(2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:

(d) Minimum training requirements for child care personnel.

1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care, which course covers at least the following topic areas:

- a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child care.
- b. Health, safety, and nutrition.
- c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- d. Child development, including typical and atypical language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills development.
- e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.
- f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for professional and classroom use and early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care facility.

Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination. Successful completion of the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of the required training shall be granted to child care personnel based upon educational credentials or passage of competency examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early

childhood development or child growth and development, or a child development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved child development associate credential, or a child development associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training requirements in subparagraphs b., d., and e.

2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children.

3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and prevention of shaken baby syndrome, prevention of sudden infant death syndrome, and early childhood brain development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

4.3. On an annual basis in order to further their child care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing education unit of approved inservice training, or 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department.

5.4. Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 4 3.

6.5. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified child care professionals to provide training of child care personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be contracted by the department to coordinate such training when possible. Other district educational resources, such as community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist or are determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination requirements set forth by the department.

7.6. Training requirements shall not apply to certain occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

8.7. The department shall evaluate or contract for an evaluation for the general purpose of determining the status of and means to improve staff training requirements and testing procedures. The evaluation shall be conducted every 2 years. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, determining the availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff training; determining the need for specialty training; and determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of current and proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology shall include a reliable and valid survey of child care personnel.

9.8. The child care operator shall be required to take basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years after employment, either

as a part of the introductory training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 12, 2004.