



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Engineering and Support
Center, Huntsville



ARMY STANDARD for CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

FOR CHILDREN AGES SIX WEEKS TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE

SMALL	152 CAPACITY
MEDIUM	280 CAPACITY
LARGE	408 CAPACITY

ARMY CHILD YOUTH & SCHOOL (CYS) SERVICES FACILITY DESIGN

CATEGORY CODE: 74017

Prepared by:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center

300 SECURED GATEWAY
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HUNTSVILLE, AL 35808Y

MAY 2024



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-9
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

DAIN-ZA (420-1nn1)

1 May 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Standards for Child Development Centers 6 weeks – 5 years (Facility Category Code 74017)

1. References. AR 420-1, 24 August 2012, Army Facilities Management.
2. The enclosed Army Standard for design and construction of Child Development Centers are hereby approved for implementation. The standard applies to all Army Child Development Centers for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age. This standard supersedes the Army CDC Standard dated 12 MAR 2008. The AFSC must approve any planned deviation from the Army Standards. Only the HQDA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 has authority to approve exceptions to this standard. Waivers from the Army Standard must be approved in accordance with AR 420-1.
3. The standard is mandatory for all Child Development Center Military Construction, Army (MCA) projects for FY25 and beyond. The new Army Standards provide criteria and guidance for the planning, programming, design, and construction of a Youth Center. These standards combined with the Standard Room-by-Room Design Criteria and the Standard Drawings provide the functional relationships needed to design the Child Development Center and the associated outdoor activity area.
4. The co-chairs for the Facility Design Team (FDT) for CDCs for early childhood children are Ms. Kristy Trahan, DAIN-PRY, kristy.b.trahan.civ@army.mil; and Ms. Dawn Thompson, DAIN-PRY, dawn.c.thompson.civ@army.mil. The FDT POC at HQ USACE is Ms. Susan Nachtigall, CEHQ, susan.d.nachtigall@usace.army.mil. The USACE Center of Standardization POC is Ms. Michael Johnson, CEHNC-EDC, 256-895-1409, michael.r.johnson2@usace.army.mil.

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KEVIN VEREEN
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9

DAIN-ZA

SUBJECT: Army Standards for Child Development Centers (Facility Category Code 74017)

DISTRIBUTION:

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THE ARMY STANDARD FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FOR CHILDREN 6 WEEKS - 5 YEARS OF AGE)

Description:

Child Development Centers are required by the Army to support readiness of families by reducing the conflict between military mission workforce requirements and parental responsibilities. There are several Military unique factors which impact on the need for child development centers to include: younger families with children away from extended families; large infant and toddler populations; variety of short and long program options needed; services required 10-12 hours a day and evenings and weekends as needed. Availability of facilities, predictability of facility layout and design, and the consistency of facility standards across the Army and the Department of Defense have contributed to the Military child development programs being the model for the nation. The Army Standards define the mandatory components, functional capabilities, and relationships, and features and characteristics of the facility. The Army Standards for Child Development Centers for children 6 weeks — 5 years of age are based on Army Baseline Standards, DOD requirements for certification and national requirements for accreditation.

Applicability:

- The Army Standard applies to Army facilities worldwide.
- All geographic districts shall incorporate the mandatory design criteria described herein in close coordination with the USACE designated Center of Standardization (COS) for Child, Youth and School (CYS) Services.
- Army Standard Criteria or building blocks contained herein must be used to the maximum extent (including renovation or modernization projects) to maximize the benefits of the Army Facilities Standardization Program and preclude the need to develop separate Army standards and criteria.
- Child Development Center projects should be reviewed by the COS and Army Materiel Command (AMC) to ensure conformance with the Army Standard.
- The primary source for determining authorized allowances is the Real Property Planning and Analysis System (RPLANS).

Waivers:

- Only the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 (ODCS, G-9) Installations has the authority to approve exceptions to the Army Standard.
- Approval for exceptions and waivers from Army Standards is initiated by the installation and must be requested in accordance with the AR 420-1, Appendix G, latest edition.
- Deviations based on gaps or shortfalls in addressing either doctrinal, functional, operational, or readiness requirements shall be forwarded through the Army chain of command to the Army Staff, HQDA (ARSTAF) Functional Proponent ODCS, G-9 prior to submission as an Army Standard waiver request to expedite the review process.
- All waiver request to the Army Standard requires CDC, Center of Standardization (COS) conflict resolution prior to submission by the Garrison Commander.
- As the proponent, the ODCS, G-9 must validate and approve the request.
- Garrison Army Standard waiver request submissions must be received in sufficient time to allow the CDC Facility Design Team (FDT) to complete review and develop recommendations or courses of action for the Army Facilities Standardization Committee (AFSC) to consider prior to implementation into project design.
- All G-9 approved waivers must be documented in installation master plans thereby serving as the installation's modified standards.

The Guidance Section, following the Mandatory Criteria table, provides instructions and definitions necessary for the application of the mandatory requirements contained in the tabular section of the Army Standard. As such, use the guidance in conjunction with the Army Standard Mandatory Criteria to ensure the intent and embedded functionality contained herein will meet the Army's mandatory requirements set forth by this standard.

Planning Criteria

Army Standards are not intended to provide broader design criteria such as space allocation, functional layouts, or basic layouts more appropriately contained in the supporting and conforming Standard Design/Criteria. Nor are they intended to rigidly define collective facility authorizations more appropriately adjudicated by the Army Requirements Group.

This Army Standard, associated Standard Designs, and approved Army space design criteria are applied together in an iterative and co-dependent way to provide a standardized but adaptable approach to facility standardization. Each serves a different purpose to ensure mandatory functions and operability are provided uniformly and at the right size. The primary source for determining authorized allowances, in every instance, is the RPLANS which incorporates current criteria approved by the Army Requirements Group.

THE ARMY STANDARD FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (FOR CHILDREN 6 WEEKS - 5 YEARS OF AGE)

Item	Mandatory Criteria
Central Counter/Reception Desk	Must have central counter for clerk to view/observe the flow of children, parents, and visitors. The configuration and functional relationship between the main entry and the reception counter/desk must be maintained for access control. Reception counter to be two tiered with no sharp edges and meet ABA. Provide communication and data connectivity to include access control, duress alarm and central intercom system.
Isolation Area	Must have a small space designated behind the reception desk to serve as a rest area for sick children. Area to be sized to accommodate a cot or crib and storage of first aid supplies and medications. Space is immediately adjacent to the reception area. Receptionist must be in the direct line of site of this area. Immediate access to bathroom facility must be provided for sick children. Locate an ABA compliant, single occupant toilet room immediately adjacent to the isolation area. Provide grab bars as required. Provide a floor drain to prevent sewer gases from filtering into the space.
Patron/Visitor Waiting Area (Lobby)	Must have a waiting area for parents and visitors adjacent to the central counter/reception desk. The configuration and functional relationships between the main entry, reception counter and public toilet shall be maintained since visual control of these areas is required.
Car Seat/Stroller Storage Area	Must provide an area for patrons to leave car seats and strollers. Area is accessible from the corridor and waiting area. Space includes shelving for car seats and an open space to park strollers.

Public Toilets	ABA compliant public toilet(s) for parents and visitors shall be located within view of the reception area. For medium and large facilities, a minimum of two (2) separate public toilets are required. For small facilities, one (1) public toilet is required. Provide grab bars as required.
Nursing Mother's Room	Provide an ABA compliant individual private space for a parent to care for their child. Shall be directly accessible from the corridor.
Administrative Offices/Workstations	At a minimum, must provide a private office for the Director and Assistant Director(s). All other administrative staff to be provided with workstations. The Director's office to be adjacent to the reception counter/patron waiting area and accessible to parents and visitors. Provide communication and data connectivity.
Staff Lounge	Must be provided in all child development centers. Allow adequate space for comfortable seating along with adult sized table/chairs for 25% of the staff. Provide a solid surface countertop, backsplash, and single compartment sink with faucet. Provide GFCI electrical outlets above the counter for microwave and other appliances. Provide space for refrigerator(s) and vending machine(s) along with electrical outlets and water line to support ice making capability in freezer. Must provide space for staff to secure belongings (e.g., individual lockers secured to the wall). Provide communication and data connectivity.
Training Room	Must provide a training room to include a minimum of two workstation(s) for the Training and Curriculum Specialist. Provide electrical outlets, data ports and phone lines for these workstations. Provide communication and data connectivity.
Staff Toilets	Must provide ABA compliant staff toilets separate from the public toilets. One water closet for every 15 employees scheduled to be in the facility at any one time. Locate staff toilets near the children's activity rooms. Provide grab bars as required.
Central Storage and Interior Storage Closets	Must provide a central storage room near the administrative office and interior storage closets for storage of program materials.

Infant/Pre-Toddler/Toddler Activity Room	<p>Must provide infant/pre-toddler/toddler activity rooms to accommodate up to 14 children at 35 sq ft of useable space per child. Space dual functions for eating and sleeping.</p> <p>A sign-in desk to be located immediately inside the entrance to the room. Provide communication and data connectivity and intercom phone connection. Storage for direct care staff coats and lockable storage for personal items (e.g., handbags) at the sign-in desk is required.</p> <p>Built in diaper changing station with sink and a 5-6" lip to prevent child from rolling off the table. Goose neck faucet and wrist blade handles required at sink. Provide a local exhaust vent located directly above each diaper changing station.</p> <p>Must provide a solid surface food preparation/art counter with upper and lower cabinets with 2 separate sinks. Provide space and electrical outlet for under-the-counter refrigerator.</p> <p>Each activity room will have a direct exit to the outdoor for play and emergency exit. Door to open at least 110 degrees in the direction of exit travel to ease evacuation.</p> <p>All doors shall be provided with finger-guards at the hinges on the activity room side, up to a minimum of 48".</p> <p>Two (2) pediatric toilets with floor drain. Toilets are to be separated with a toilet partition. Toilets shall be floor mounted. Do not provide automatic flush valves. Provide a local exhaust vent located in the toilet area.</p> <p>Two (2) wall hung child size sinks for hand washing must be provided. Faucets will be single push-front control that meets ABA. Wall hung tempered safety glass mirror to be placed above each sink.</p> <p>One (1) separate drinking fountain with guarded stream drinking head to be provided in each activity room.</p> <p>Fourteen (14) cubbies to be provided for storage of children's belongings.</p>
Infant Buggy Storage Area(s)	<p>Must provide open area(s) designed for a place to store buggies for infants. Storage area(s) to be within proximity of the infant room(s).</p>

Preschool/Prekindergarten/Kindergarten Activity Rooms	<p>The preschool/pre-kindergarten/kindergarten room has space provided to accommodate up to 24 children. This activity room provides 35 square feet of useable program space per child. Activity space dual functions for eating and sleeping.</p> <p>A sign-in desk to be located immediately inside the entrance to the room. Provide communication and data connectivity and intercom phone connection. Storage for direct care staff coats and lockable storage for personal items (e.g., handbags) at the sign-in desk is required.</p> <p>Built in diaper changing station with sink and a 5-6" lip to prevent child from rolling off the table. Goose neck faucet and wrist blade handles required at sink. Provide a local exhaust vent located directly above at each diaper changing station.</p> <p>Must provide a solid surface food preparation/art counter with upper and lower cabinets with 2 separate sinks. Provide space and electrical outlet for under-the-counter refrigerator.</p> <p>Each activity room will have a direct exit to the outdoors for play and emergency exit. Door to open at least 110 degrees in the direction of exit travel to ease evacuation.</p> <p>All doors shall be provided with finger-guards at the hinges at the activity room side, up to a minimum of 48".</p> <p>One (1) pediatric toilet and one pediatric (1) ABA toilet with floor drain. Toilets are to be separated with a toilet partition. Toilets shall be floor mounted. Do not provide automatic flush valves. Provide a local exhaust vent located in the toilet area. Provide grab bars as required.</p> <p>Two (2) wall hung child size sinks for hand washing must be provided. Faucets will be single push-front control that meets ABA. Wall hung tempered safety glass mirror to be placed above each sink.</p> <p>One (1) separate pediatric drinking fountain with guarded stream drinking head to be provided in each activity room.</p> <p>Twenty-four (24) cubbies to be provided for storage of children's belongings.</p>
Active Playroom	<p>An indoor play area for children to utilize during inclement weather/temperature extremes. Space is sized for up to 24 children at a minimum of 45 sq. ft. per child. Provide for a seamless, flexible, shock absorbing flooring that can withstand trikes, skates, ball play, etc. Cased opening with area for one (1) pediatric ABA toilet with toilet partition and sink off the active playroom. Provide grab bars as required. Direct access to storage for supplies and equipment needed in this space. Provide communication and data connectivity and intercom phone connection.</p>

Outreach/Transition Care Room	Accommodates children on a short-term occasional basis such as for Soldier and Family Readiness Groups (SFRG) program, Deployment Support, Reunion Care, Respite Care, in-processing of soldiers, etc. Room size/mandatory features are the same in the Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten activity room. Diaper changing station to be installed in this room. Provide pediatric toilets at two different heights to the rim with floor drain, and two pediatric sinks to accommodate the varying ages of children Infants – Kindergarten. Provide grabs as required.
Commercial Grade Kitchen	Must provide a commercial grade kitchen. The stainless-steel kitchen equipment must meet the National Sanitation Foundation standards of practice. All equipment must comply with TB Med 530, Food Service Sanitation. Locate the kitchen on an exterior wall adjacent to the service area with a direct service entrance. Kitchen door to swing out into the corridor for easy exit with food. Door to be provided with locking mechanism. Exterior door from the kitchen leading to the service entrance shall be equipped with an air curtain. Kitchen must include a dry storage area with shelving. Provide a workstation for Kitchen staff. Provide communication system to include data connectivity, intercom, and phone connection.
Janitorial Closet	A janitorial closet is required and equipped with a low floor sink (mop basin), a place to store janitor's equipment and cleaning supplies, and a rack to promote hanging/air drying of mops. Door must have a locking mechanism.
Laundry Room	Must provide proper outlets for the number of washers and dryers specified for facility size. Space accommodates heavy duty commercial laundry equipment - washer(s) and dryer(s). Provide plumbing for laundry tub, sink and washers. Provide a floor drain to prevent sewer gases from filtering into the facility. Provide counter for folding clothes with upper and lower cabinets for storage of laundry materials. Laundry room to be secured with locking mechanism.
Vision Panels	All doors, except adult toilets and nursing mother's room, must have a vision panel. Vision panels in doors to be a minimum of half-height glass. Additionally, activity room doors, administrative office doors and corridor doors leading to the outside shall be provided with a 12" wide sidelite. Vision panels are interior windows where the actual glass is to extend from no more than 51" (AFF) to the height of the top of the door. Tempered safety glass shall be utilized.

View Windows	<p>View windows are required to provide children the opportunity to look out of or into the activity room. View windows are interior windows where the actual glass is to extend from 18"-24" (AFF) to the height of the top of the door. Tempered safety glass shall be utilized.</p> <p>All doors into activity room shall be provided with a 12" wide sidelite (safety glass). Sidelites shall extend the height of the door.</p>
Exterior Windows	<p>Exterior windows shall meet the UFC 4-010-01 requirements for ATPF. The windows that are operable shall be open from top only. Individual windows shall be single or double hung with only the top portion operable. All windows to be screened. Windows to be low enough to enable children to look outside (18"-20" AFF). Windowsills to be flush with the walls and/or radiused so there are no sharp edges.</p>
Intercom System	<p>Must have a two-way intercom system capable of allowing program staff to communicate with the main reception desk and other areas of the building. Main reception desk to have capability to contact all rooms except for the mechanical, communication, electrical, storage, and camera equipment room. System to enable front desk staff to contact rooms individually or all rooms simultaneously. Provide each playground with a weather-proof intercom unit.</p>
Intrusion/Exit Notification Alarm	<p>An audible warning device shall be provided at each exterior door leading to an unfenced area except for the main entry and kitchen. The audible device shall have a different sound from the fire alarm system. Alarm is capable of being heard at the reception desk.</p>
Video Monitoring Security System / Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	<p>Must have video monitoring system to deter and reduce the risk of child abuse and protect staff from unwarranted allegations of abuse. Conduits, power, and cabling are to be installed as indicated on the standard design.</p>
Commercial Enterprise Network (CEN)/Internet	<p>External Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity to the CEN will be provided by a commercial carrier.</p> <p>At minimum a pair of single mode fiber optic cable between the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) and the facility is required. This requirement is in addition to any fiber optic cable that will be used for the NIPRNet.</p> <p>For external building connectivity to the NEC, fiber will be made available by the Government to the CEN service provider.</p>
Camera Equipment Room	<p>Separate room or area will be provided to store the equipment racks for the video monitoring security system. Special consideration for heat buildup is required.</p>

Playground/Outdoor Play Areas	<p>Using the most current publications of Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Handbook for Public Playground Safety, the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) F-1487, and/or F-2373 (as applicable) and meet ABA requirements as adopted by DoD. Specific play areas shall be defined by several elements. Elements include circulation paths, open play areas/natural turf, age-appropriate equipment, play structures, attenuation material for use zones, and fencing. Shade in the outdoor play areas is a requirement for certification.</p> <p>A playground safety surface shall be provided throughout all use zones and under all play equipment.</p> <p>Trike paths must be a minimum of 5' wide and shall be of concrete. Trike paths dual function as an evacuation route, and a play element.</p> <p>Outdoor Play Area must be fenced. Fencing will have gates between the play areas. Exit gate to be provided with adult controlled securing device to allow access for emergency and maintenance vehicles as well as egress from building to a safe, open area.</p> <p>Hose bibs, 18" above finished grade, are required in each age group play space and must be of the frost/freeze protective type with removable cut off handles with integral vacuum breakers.</p> <p>Poisonous plants, plants with thorns, and fruit bearing plants are not permitted in the outdoor play areas. Reference: Peterson Field Guide - to Venomous Animals and Poisonous Plants.</p> <p>Provide communication system to include electrical outlets and intercom.</p>
Exterior Storage Rooms	<p>Must provide secured storage rooms to support the outdoor activity areas. Exterior storage rooms must be an integral part of the facility vs. non-permanent structures around the playground.</p>
Parking	<p>Parking for patrons and staff is required. Parking allocation are ABA compliant: 1 parking space per each full-time staff; 1 per every 4 patrons. Must provide a sidewalk that leads from the car directly to the front entry without crossing traffic lanes. Crosswalks are allowed but must be limited in their use. School buses to deliver and pick up children curbside on sidewalk that leads directly into the facility. For OCONUS locations parking will be determined by need/demand in concert with stakeholders.</p>
Vehicular Circulation/Service Road/Drives	<p>Must provide site entrances, exits, service drives and special circulation areas sized to accommodate the largest vehicle that uses the area. Strive to locate service roads and entrances to be out of view when looking at the main entry point of the building and one</p>

	that minimizes or eliminates the need for children to traverse roads to get into the building. All vehicular pathways must be kept away from children and pedestrian pathways and outdoor play areas.
Controlled Entry Access	A buzzer security system, with manual override, must be installed to facilitate entry into the facility in accordance with AR 525-13.
Communication Room	Provide separate room for communication equipment/switches, sized to meet the minimum NEC requirement for electrical boxes and connections.
CATV (Cable Television)	Provide CATV outlets in the staff lounge and training room at a minimum.
HVAC	HVAC units will provide heating and air conditioning for the entire facility, including the mechanical and electrical rooms. Each child activity room will have a separate HVAC zone with a wall mounted tamperproof space thermostat, and a second temperature sensor installed 12" AFF with night and weekend set-back to accommodate variations in temperatures.
Mechanical/Electrical Room	Mechanical room to open directly to the exterior of the building with no access to the interior space or direct access to the playground. Mechanical yard must be located away from the playground area for safety, noise, and environmental considerations.
DoD Building Code, UFC 1-200-01	Child Development Centers shall be designed in compliance with UFC 1-200-02, High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements.
Sustainability	Child Development Centers shall be designed to meet current sustainable development and design policy requirements as established by the Department of the Army.

GUIDANCE

Utilities — All utilities, except storm water, will be routed from the new structure underground to the existing source.

Landscaping — Irrigation of turf and significant landscaping may be required in geographical areas which are arid. Landscaping is an important tool in the implementation of Force Protection measures. Landscaped earth berms may be used to provide an attractive natural barrier. Shrubs, bushes, trees, flowers, etc. used around the CDC and outdoor activity area shall be evaluated for potential hazard or toxicity. No toxic chemicals or herbicides shall be used to clear the site of unwanted irrigation. Reference Assistant Secretary of the Defense memorandum dated March 2017, Subject: Water Use for Landscape Architecture on Department of Defense Installation/Sites.

Interior Color Scheme — Standardized interior color schemes have been developed for the Garrison to select from.

Life Safety - Army Fire Safety Program requirements exceed National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code requirements. The Army decision to employ more rigorous facility fire protection requirements in some areas was made to offset more stringent staff/child ratios established by NFPA 101 and the Army Regulation 608-10 Child Development Services (Section V Compliance Area: Child

Development Center Fire Prevention C-66. Compliance. The building fire protection systems shall be designed in accordance with the applicable standards contained in the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 3-600-01, Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities, and NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code). A complete automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in accordance with UFC 3-600-01 and NFPA 13. Fire Extinguishers shall be placed in the structures in accordance with NFPA 101 and NFPA 10. The fire alarm system shall be designed in accordance with NFPA 72, which will provide pull stations at each exterior exit door, textual (voice) audible and visual (strobes) notification devices and smoke detectors located throughout the child development center. Placement of the Local Enunciator Panel (LOC) shall be placed at the entrance of the facility. The main Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) shall be placed in the Mechanical Room of the facility, with keys to access the rooms and reset panels to be placed in the required Knox Box at the main entrance of the facility. Where possible the Mass Notification System (UFC 4-021-01) shall be integrated with the fire alarm system.

Video Monitoring Security System/Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) - AR 420-1, Section VII, Information Systems Support is the source of Army policy for funding of video monitoring equipment. MILCON/MCA dollars are to be used for cabling and fittings, connectors, terminal strips, and similar devices needed to install the cable up to the outlet device plate. Operating Maintenance Army (OMA) dollars are used to purchase and install monitors, cameras, parent viewing monitors, operating consoles, etc. for the video surveillance system. The equipment, external to the outlets, is considered personal property.

Signage - The facility shall be identified as a "Child Development Center". The installation/garrison or community name or geographic location of the facility may be used for public identification purposes. The facility signage is to be in accordance with AR 608-10 and the Installation Design Guide.

Design – Design requirements may be modified as needed to comply with Host Nation (OCONUS) laws, codes, and generally accepted construction standards where practices are functionally equivalent and equal to or more stringent than US criteria (i.e., wall assembly types, fixtures mounting, finishes, etc.).

Standard Design Criteria Child Development Centers for Children Ages 6 Weeks – 5 Years - Use the latest version of the Army Standard Design Criteria Room by Room Descriptions, which includes the Finish Schedule, material specifications and design details. This information is available at <https://mrsi.erdc.dren.mil/cos/hnc>, the USACE Huntsville Center of Standardization website.