

PARISH CHILD CARE PROGRAMS
Approved by the Bishops, September 1997

*“Let the Little Children Come unto me . . .”
Matthew 19:14*

Parents and children involved in child care programs that meet or operate on church properties must be assured of their proper safety and care.

All parish day care centers and pre-school or early childhood care program (not integral to a Catholic school) must be licensed by the Department of Children & Family Services or other appropriate local licensing authority. All other parish child care programs, including pre-nursery or nursery school programs, before and after school programs (not part of an extended day program in a Catholic school), latch-key children programs, cooperative care programs, Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass nursery programs and other programs providing care of children will meet pertinent county guidelines related to health, safety and sanitation. All employees and volunteers serving in these child care programs must comply with province and diocesan policies on background checks and screening.

Each diocese will annually determine the nature and extent of programs and operations and facilitate contact with appropriate local authorities. The assigned diocesan department will be responsible for insuring that all parishes are aware of this policy and issuing annual reminders about requirements for licensure and meeting pertinent county guidelines.

This policy becomes effective May 1, 1998.