

**WASHINGTON’S STEPPING STONES<sub>1</sub> RISK FACTORS ANALYSIS**

The purpose of this analysis is to provide Washington DCYF child care licensing administrative codes (WAC) with a basic risk factor analysis comparing its child care center rules to **Stepping Stones (SS)** standards. This analysis will delineate, based upon **Stepping Stones’** major content areas (chapters from **Caring for our Children (CFOC)**), where there may be gaps in their child care licensing rules.

This analysis is a summary look at the comparison between **Stepping Stones** and Washington’s child care licensing rules; it is not intended to be an in-depth crosswalk between the two sets of standards and rules. In order to do that type of analysis, **Fiene’s Stepping Stones to Validate State Rules Template** (2013) is the suggested source to use.

This comparison was completed on the major chapter headings in **Stepping Stones** and **Caring for our Children**. The following table (Table 1) provides the detail of the contents of each content area/risk factor.

**Table 1 – Major Content/Risk Factor Areas (1-8) and Specific Content for Each Area**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. STAFFING</p>                                   | <p>A. CHILD:STAFF RATIO AND GROUP SIZE<br/>                 B. RECRUITMENT AND BACKGROUND SCREENING<br/>                 C. DIRECTOR’S QUALIFICATIONS<br/>                 D. TEACHER’S QUALIFICATIONS<br/>                 E. PRE-SERVICE TRAINING<br/>                 F. ORIENTATION TRAINING<br/>                 G. FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING<br/>                 H. STAFF HEALTH</p> |
| <p>2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT</p> | <p>A. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, PRESCHOOLERS, AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN<br/>                 B. SUPERVISION AND DISCIPLINE<br/>                 C. HEALTH INFORMATION SHARING<br/>                 D. HEALTH EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN<br/>                 E. HEALTH EDUCATION FOR STAFF<br/>                 F. HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PARENTS</p>                                |

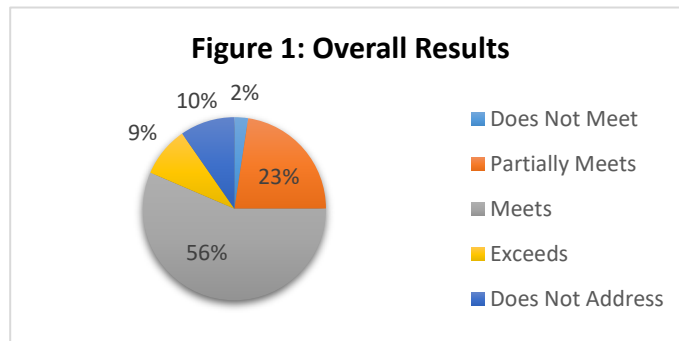
|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>3. HEALTH PROMOTION AND PROTECTION</p>                           | <p>A. DAILY HEALTH CHECK<br/>                 B. ROUTINE HEALTH SUPERVISION<br/>                 C. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND LIMITING SCREEN TIME<br/>                 D. SAFE SLEEP<br/>                 E. ORAL HEALTH<br/>                 F. DIAPERING AND CHANGING SOILED CLOTHING<br/>                 G. HAND HYGIENE<br/>                 H. EXPOSURE TO BODY FLUIDS<br/>                 I. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES<br/>                 J. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT<br/>                 K. INCLUSION/EXCLUSION DUE TO ILLNESS<br/>                 L. CARING FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ILL<br/>                 M. MEDICATIONS</p>   |
| <p>4. NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICE</p>                                | <p>A. MEAL SERVICE, SEATING, SUPERVISION<br/>                 B. FOOD BROUGHT FROM HOME<br/>                 C. KITCHEN AND EQUIPMENT<br/>                 D. FOOD SAFETY<br/>                 E. MEALS FROM OUTSIDE VENDORS OR CENTRAL KITCHEN<br/>                 F. NUTRITION LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN<br/>                 G. NUTRITION EDUCATION FOR PARENTS</p>   |
| <p>5. FACILITIES, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</p> | <p>A. GENERAL LOCATION, LAYOUT, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY<br/>                 B. SPACE PER CHILD<br/>                 C. EXITS<br/>                 D. STEPS AND STAIRS<br/>                 E. EXTERIOR AREAS<br/>                 F. VENTILATION, HEATING, COOLING, AND HOT WATER<br/>                 G. LIGHTING<br/>                 H. NOISE<br/>                 I. ELECTRICAL FIXTURES AND OUTLETS<br/>                 J. FIRE WARNING SYSTEMS<br/>                 K. WATER SUPPLY AND PLUMBING<br/>                 L. SEWAGE AND GARBAGE<br/>                 M. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT<br/>                 N. PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES<br/>                 O. TOILET AND HANDWASHING AREAS<br/>                 P. DIAPER CHANGING AREAS<br/>                 Q. SLEEP AND REST AREAS</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>6. PLAY AREAS/PLAYGROUNDS AND TRANSPORTATION</p> | <p>A. PLAYGROUND SIZE AND LOCATION<br/>                 B. USE ZONES AND CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS<br/>                 C. PLAY AREA AND PLAYGROUND SURFACING<br/>                 D. INSPECTION OF PLAY AREAS AND EQUIPMENT.<br/>                 E. ACCESS TO AND SAFETY AROUND BODIES OF WATER<br/>                 F. POOL EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE<br/>                 G. WATER QUALITY OF POOLS<br/>                 H. TRANSPORTATION SAFETY</p> |
| <p>7. INFECTIOUS DISEASES</p>                       | <p>A. HOW INFECTIONS SPREAD<br/>                 B. IMMUNIZATIONS<br/>                 C. RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS<br/>                 D. ENTERIC (DIARRHEAL) INFECTIONS AND HEPATITIS A VIRUS (HAV)<br/>                 E. SKIN AND MUCOUS MEMBRANE INFECTIONS<br/>                 F. BLOODBORNE INFECTIONS<br/>                 G. HERPES VIRUSES<br/>                 H. INTERACTION WITH STATE OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS</p>              |
| <p>8. POLICIES</p>                                  | <p>A. HEALTH POLICIES<br/>                 B. EMERGENCY/SECURITY POLICIES AND PLANS<br/>                 C. TRANSPORTATION POLICIES<br/>                 D. PLAY AREA POLICIES<br/>                 E. FACILITY RECORDS/REPORTS<br/>                 F. CHILD RECORDS<br/>                 G. STAFF RECORDS</p>  |

Table 2 and Figure 1 provides the overall comparison between **Stepping Stones** and the Washington’s Child Care licensing rules in which a search of the rules was done to determine if the licensing rule did not meet, partially meet, meet, or exceeded the specific **SS** standard.

**Table 2 – Overall Results**

| Agreement Category      | #  |
|-------------------------|----|
| <b>Does Not Meet</b>    | 3  |
| <b>Partially Meets</b>  | 28 |
| <b>Meets</b>            | 70 |
| <b>Exceeds</b>          | 11 |
| <b>Does Not Address</b> | 12 |



Overall, 65% of WAC meet or exceeded the **Stepping Stones** standards. Combining the 23% of partially meet and the 10% of did not meet, 33% of the regulations were not considered equivalent to the **SS** standards. Finally, 12 **SS** standards were not addressed at all within the Washington rules making-up 9% of the total comparison.

Table 2 provides the general comparisons between **Stepping Stones** and the Washington’s Child Care licensing rules in which a search of the rules was done to determine if the specific **SS** standard in each category was meet or not. Every time the search contained a match, it was recorded as a “1”. A match included all regulations that *meet* or *exceed* the **SS** standard. When there was no match, it was recorded as a “0” and included regulations that *partially meet* or did not meet the **SS** standard. Those that were not addressed in WAC were also considered a non-match.

**Table 3 – Comparison of *Stepping Stones* (SS) Standards and WAC per SS Content Area**

|   | Total # of SS | RULES | PERCENT |
|---|---------------|-------|---------|
| Staffing  | 14            | 10    | 71.4    |
| Program activities for Healthy Development/monitoring | 10            | 7     | 70      |
| Health promotion/protection                           | 25            | 10    | 40      |
| Nutrition & food service                              | 13            | 10    | 76.9    |
| Facilities, supplies, equipment, environmental health | 20            | 16    | 80      |
| Play areas/playground & transportation                | 22            | 14    | 63.6    |
| Infectious disease                                    | 10            | 9     | 90      |
| Policies  | 10            | 5     | 50      |

**Legend for Table 3:** Nominal scaling to determine if the Washington WAC have any reference to the specific SS3 Standard.

It is scored 1/0 where 1 = Present and 0 = Absent. Percent is the total number of “1”. Higher the percent the better.

SS CONTENT = RISK FACTOR/SS/CFOC Chapter

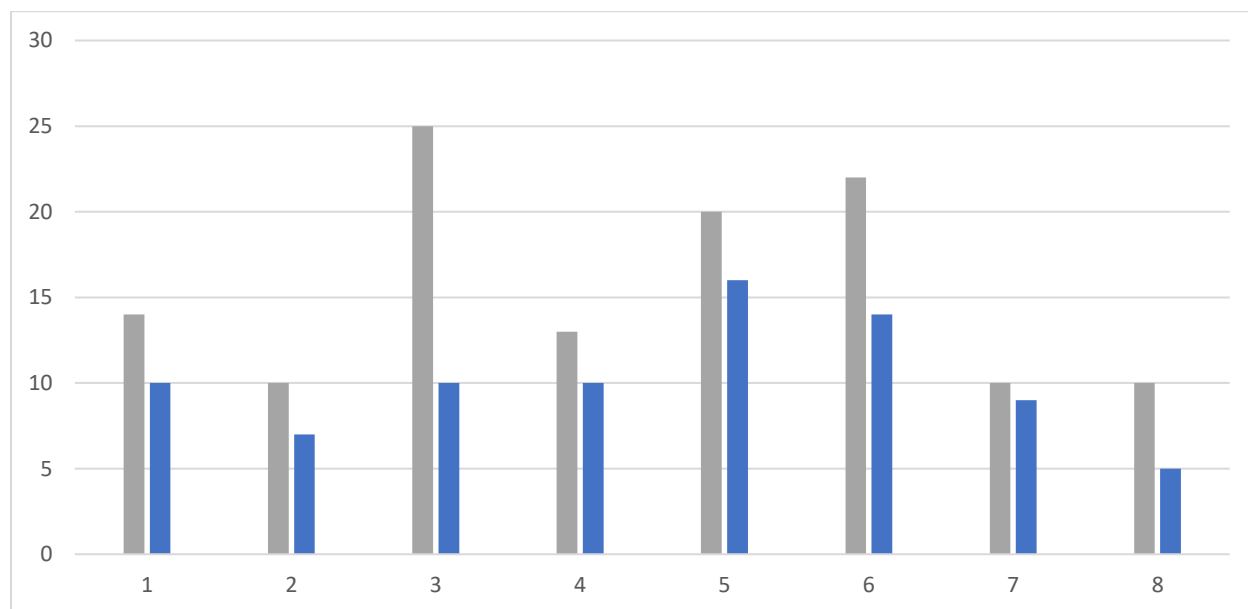
RULES = Washington Child Care Administrative Rules

PERCENT = RULES/SS

Table 3 provides you with the specific content as it relates to the risk factors. Figures 2 and 3 as well as Table 3 will provide the comparison between **SS** standards and Washington's child care licensing rules by these content areas/risk factors.

Figure 2 does this comparison by listing for each content area/risk factor the frequency count where there is a match between rules and standards.

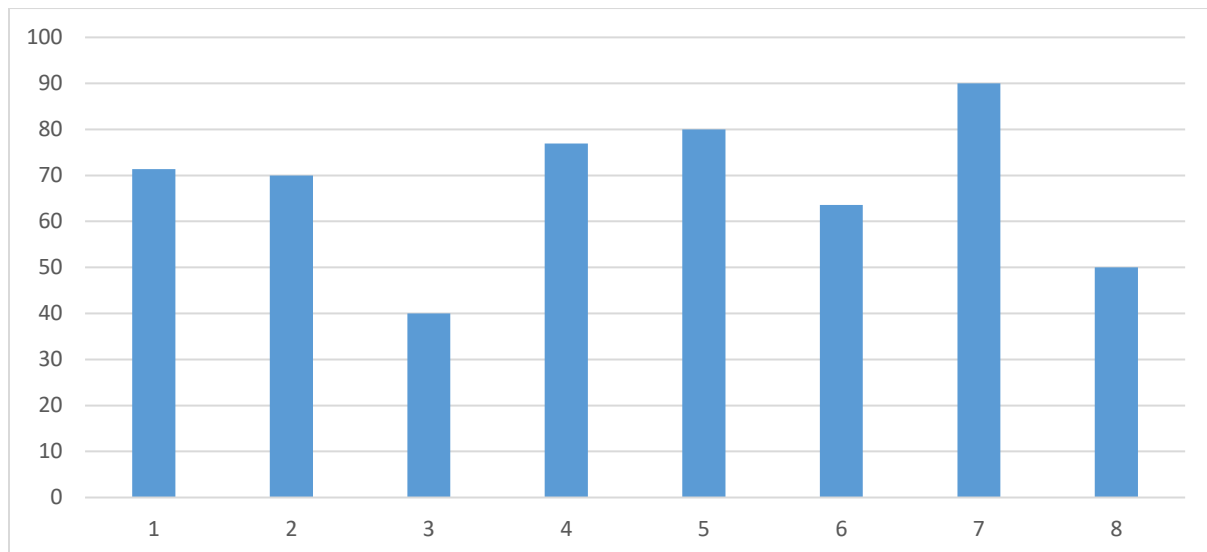
**Figure 2 – Comparing *Stepping Stones (SS)* Standards and Washington's Child Care Licensing Rules**



**Legend for Figure 2:**

- 1 = STAFFING
- 2 = PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT
- 3 = HEALTH PROMOTION/PROTECTION
- 4 = NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICE
- 5 = FACILITIES, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, ENVIRON HEALTH
- 6 = PLAY AREAS/PLAYGROUNDS AND TRANSPORTATION
- 7 = INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- 8 = POLICIES

Figure 3 takes the data from Table 3 and Figure 2 and expresses the content areas/risk factors in the form of percent's in which the percent's represent the number of times the Washington's child care licensing rules and the ***Stepping Stones*** standards match.

**Figure 3 – Percent of *Stepping Stones* Standards in Washington's Child Care Licensing Rules****Legend for Figure 3:**

- 1 = STAFFING
- 2 = PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT
- 3 = HEALTH PROMOTION/PROTECTION
- 4 = NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICE
- 5 = FACILITIES, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, ENVIRON HEALTH
- 6 = PLAY AREAS/PLAYGROUNDS AND TRANSPORTATION
- 7 = INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- 8 = POLICIES

It is evident from Table 3 and Figures 2 and 3 that the two areas where the greatest gap between the *Stepping Stones* standards and Washington's child care licensing rules is in the Health Promotion/Protections and Policies content areas/risk factors with a match rate of 40% and 50% respectively. The highest match rates are with the Infectious Diseases (79%) and Facilities, Supplies, Equipment, Environmental Health Nutrition & Food Service (80%).

Based upon the above results there are some recommendations to be made where Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families staff may want to focus their attention for future rule formulation in the Health Promotions/Protections (40%) and Policies (50%). It can also be noted that these two content areas also had the highest partially met agreement rates at 50% (exactly half of the overall regulations in both sections were rated as being partially met). It is recommended that in order to increase the agreement level in these two areas DCYF may focus specific attention for future rulemaking to include the missing components in these specific sections.

**Notes:**

1 The reason for using *Stepping Stones* rather than *Caring for our Children* is that *Stepping Stones* are the selected standards from *CFOC* that place children at greatest risk of mortality and morbidity if the standards are not complied with.