

TRANSPORTATION

All licensed child care programs must follow Maryland Laws and Regulations for transportation set forth COMAR.

State Laws and Regulations can be found here:

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DBS/Pupil-Transportation/SLR.aspx>

A vehicle used to transport a child in care must comply with all applicable State and federal safety requirements.

Considerations when transporting children should include:

- Selection of drivers
- Emptying and locking of vehicles
- Drop-off and pick-up of children
- Child: staff ratios during transport
- The number of people being transported to include adults
- Child passenger safety
- Field trip procedures
- Wheelchair transport
- Prohibited activities in vehicles such as the use of sound making devices
- Seat restraints and car seats used
- Planning the route of trip
- Oversight of transportation policies

Prior to transporting children, you must have a signed "permission to transport" form completed by the child's parent or guardian. In the event of an emergency signed permission forms are not required when children need to be transported for their safety.

Maryland child care regulations require that when child transportation is conducted to or from the program by the program operator, there must be at least one adult other than the driver present in the vehicle. This applies if there are more than eight preschoolers being transported as a group; or at least one child is being transported and the driver of the vehicle is not center employee; or the parent of a child in care who is authorized by the operator to assist in transporting children in care.

If children are being transported to an off-site activity by an independent contractor or a local school district and at least one child in care is being transported, the program operator must ensure that there is at least one adult other than the driver present in the vehicle.

Unless being transported in a licensed school bus or contract motor coach, each child who is transported in a vehicle while in care must be separately secured in a child car seat or seat belt appropriate for the child's age and weight, as specified by Maryland law.

All staff should be trained on the proper use of safety seats. The back seat is the safest place for all children under the age of 13. The needs of all passengers to include all children riding in the car, those children in booster seats and car seats must be taken into consideration for the safest ride for all children. A properly fitting 5-point harness provides the best protection in case of a crash. Car seats and booster seats must properly fit the size of the child for them to be effective.