

## Terms and Definitions

**Annual** means the calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Center early learning program** is a facility providing regularly scheduled care for a group of children birth through twelve years of age for periods of less than twenty-four hours a day, pursuant to RCW [43.216.010](#) (1)(a) (child day care center).

**Chromated copper arsenate** or **CCA** is a wood preservative and insecticide that contains roughly twenty-two percent arsenic, a known carcinogen. The United States restricted the use of CCA on residential lumber in 2003, but it can still be found on older decks and playground equipment. Information about the health hazards of arsenic can be found on the department of health's web site.

**DCYF or the department** refers to the Washington State department of children, youth, and families.

**Early learning program** refers to regularly scheduled care for a group of children birth through twelve years of age for periods of less than twenty-four hours, licensed by the department.

**Early learning provider** refers to an early learning licensee or designee who works in an early learning program during hours when children are or maybe present. Designees include center directors, assistant director, program supervisors, lead teachers, assistants, instructional aides, aides, and volunteers.

**Electronic Record** means a record generated, communicated, received or stored by electronic means for use in an information system or for transmission from one information system to another.

**Electronic signature** means a signature in electronic form attached to or logically associated with an electronic record including, but not limited to, a digital signature. An electronic signature is a paperless way to sign a document using an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a record, and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

**Expel** or **expulsion** means to end a child's enrollment in an early learning program. An early learning provider will end a child's enrollment if the provider is unable to meet a child's needs due to the child's challenging behavior.

**Family home early learning program** means an early learning program licensed by the department where a family home licensee provides child care or education services for twelve or fewer children in the family living quarters where the licensee resides as provided in RCW [43.216.010](#) (1)(c) (family day care provider).

**Foundational quality standards** refer to the administrative and regulatory requirements contained within this chapter. These standards are designed to promote the development, health, and safety of children enrolled in center and family home early learning programs. The department uses these standards to equitably serve children, families, and early learning providers throughout Washington state.

**Pesticide** refers to chemicals used to kill pests.

**Physical restraint** means holding a child as gently as possible for the minimum amount of time necessary to control a situation where that child's safety or the safety of others is threatened.

**RCW** means the Revised Code of Washington.

**Strengthening families program self-assessment** refers to a research informed approach to increase family strengths, enhanced child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs, and communities in building five protective factors:

Parental resilience;

Social connections;

Knowledge of parenting and child development;

Concrete support in times of need; and

Social and emotional competence of children.

**Variance** is an official approval by the department to allow an early learning program to achieve the outcome of a rule or rules in this chapter in an alternative way than described due to the needs of a unique or specific program approach or methodology. The department must grant a request for variance if the proposed alternative provides clear and convincing evidence that the health, welfare, and safety of all enrolled children is not jeopardized. An early learning provider does not have the right to appeal the department's disapproval of request for variance under chapter 110-03 WAC. The provider may challenge a variance disapproval on a department form.

**WAC** means the Washington Administrative Code.

**Waiver** is an official approval by the department allowing an early learning provider not to meet or satisfy a rule in this chapter due to specific needs of the program or an enrolled child. The department must grant a request for waiver if the proposed waiver provides clear and convincing evidence that the health, welfare, and safety of all enrolled children is not jeopardized. An early learning provider does not have the right to appeal the department's disapproval of a waiver request under chapter 110-03 WAC. The provider may challenge a waiver disapproval on a department form.