



# Planning & Economic Development

200 NE Moe Street | Poulsbo, WA 98370-7347

(360) 394-9748 | fax (360) 697-8269

www.cityofpoulsbo.com | plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com

## DAY CARE CENTERS AND HOME DAY CARE

### DAY CARE CENTER

Day care center is defined as a state licensed child care service use providing regularly scheduled care for a period of *less than 24 hours*. Day care center means any child care facility other than a family day care home and includes infant centers, preschools, and extended day care facilities.

A child day care center requires an [administrative conditional use permit](#) for the RM and RH zoning districts, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter [18.230](#). The following requirements apply to each child day care center and must be met prior to issuance of certificate of occupancy:

- An on-site vehicle turnaround and parking area, entrance and exit points, and passenger loading area must be provided.
- The child day care center use must have received all necessary permits or approvals from the [State of WA Department of Social and Health Services](#).
- The child day care center use must be inspected by the Poulsbo fire department, and the operator must implement all required corrective measures.
- The operator must have obtained a Poulsbo [business license](#).
- A solid fence at least 6' high compatible with neighborhood character must be installed along each side and rear lot line, or as otherwise approved.

A day care center located in a multi-use building or campus shall meet the following standards:

- Be considered an accessory use if it is sited on the premises of a community service use, such as a private or public school, grange, place of worship, community center, library, or similar adult gathering place and it is associated with that activity.
- Child care facilities for the use of employees of a business or public facility shall also be allowed as an accessory use of the business or facility.
- When considered an accessory use, the child care center use shall be combined with the primary use and subject to its permit and approval requirements.
- When considered an accessory use in conjunction with a permitted use, a child care center may be permitted in the RL zoning district.
- If a child day care center is proposed after the community use is permitted and established, the child day care center shall be reviewed through minor [SPR](#) process in [PMC 18.270](#).

### FAMILY DAY CARE HOME

Family day care home is defined as a state licensed day care provider as defined in [RCW 74.15.020](#) who regularly provides day care for not more than 12 children in the provider's home. Shall be *permitted in all zoning districts of the city wherein residential structures are permitted*, subject to the following conditions:

- Must meet WA State child day care licensing requirements and provide day care for 12 or fewer children.
- Comply with all building, fire safety, health code and city business licensing requirements.
- Comply with lot size, building size, setbacks and lot coverage standards of the zoning district.
- Provide a safe passenger loading and unloading area.
- No structural or decorative alteration that will alter the single-family character of an existing or proposed residential structure or be incompatible with surrounding residences is permitted (e.g., play areas located in the front yard).
- Subject to administrative review by the city through a Type I process as set forth in Title [19](#).

### OTHER DEFINITIONS

Check the [permitted use table](#) for each zoning district to determine if these uses are permitted.

- **Adult day care.** An adult care service providing regularly scheduled care for a period *less than 24 hours*. Does not include adult care service use meeting the definition of an adult family home as defined pursuant to [RCW 70.128.010\(1\)](#).
- **Adult family home.** A residential home in which a person or persons provide personal care, special care, room and board to *more than 1 but not more than 6 adults* who are not related by blood or marriage to the person providing the services.
- **Residential care home.** Any state or federally approved *dwelling* used as a residence for the care or rehabilitation of dependent children, the elderly, and the physically and/or mentally handicapped. Residential care homes shall provide care for 6 or fewer residents.
- **Residential care facility.** Any state or federally approved *facility*, other than a clinic, used as a residence for the care or rehabilitation of dependent children, the elderly, and the physically and/or mentally handicapped. Residential care centers shall provide care to 7 or more residents.

See [PMC 18.40.030](#) for definitions for the following facilities: boarding home, group home, or confidential shelter.

Disclaimer: this handout should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant/property owner is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described here. Please see the City of Poulsbo Municipal Code for complete text and requirements.

