

Top States for Child Care Standards

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The only thing worse than training staff and having them leave is not training and having them stay.

Henry Ford

Last week the National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), an *Exchange Strategic Partner*, unveiled its latest publication, **We Can Do Better: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Center Standards and Oversight**. This insightful publication rated the licensing standards and enforcement efforts of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and centers operated by the Department of Defense, and then ranked them. While some states clearly fared better than others, Linda Smith, NACCRRA Executive Director, in introducing the report observed that as a whole, our state standards are far below what they need to be to truly provide appropriate environments for children. Coming in for strongest criticism is the failure of nearly all states to adequately monitor programs with regular in person inspections. The ten jurisdictions ranking the highest were:

1. Department of Defense
2. New York
3. Illinois
4. Washington
5. Maryland
6. Oklahoma
7. Tennessee
8. Michigan
9. North Dakota
10. Vermont (tie)
11. Minnesota (tie)

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