

December 16, 2012

Chairwoman Landwehr and Health Policy Oversight Committee Members,

I am a parent with a four year-old daughter who is enrolled currently in an in-home preschool located in Overland Park, KS. My daughter has been attending this preschool for just over one year. The decision to determine which preschool would be the best for my child and help her be optimally prepared for elementary school can be difficult. There are a plethora of options available and it is challenging to wade through programs, assess their quality, and determine the best match for our daughter and family.

When seeking out preschool options for my daughter, I wanted the quality of an accredited preschool in a small, family-oriented setting. The recently updated child care regulations that resulted from Kansas' Lexie's Law, however, helped to put my mind at ease. I learned that the in-home preschool setting that I chose would have to adhere to these more stringent but basic guidelines that help to support the health, welfare and development of my daughter. I am comforted that my preschool provider is required to be CPR-certified and have first aid medical training. I am grateful for the regulations surrounding supervision and knowing that my provider is required to be directing the activities of my child in an active manner, better ensuring that she is safe.

The online child care portal also has been of extreme help to me. I have used it to check the compliance history of the preschools that made my top five list and continue to check it periodically for updates to the preschool my daughter attends to ensure that the quality standards set out by Lexie's Law and the updated licensing regulations are being followed by my preschool provider. I would, however, be even more comforted if additional compliance visits could be incorporated beyond the annual licensing visit. This would provide a bit more oversight and support for smaller-scale preschool and child care homes, such as ours that accepts only six children.

Thank you for your time and attention and for your support of Lexie's Law and child care oversight in our State.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gulin
Roeland Park, KS