

**Zoning** refers to municipal or local laws or regulations that govern how real property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. Each municipality/locale utilizes a **Zoning Ordinance** that provides a set of land use and development regulations, organized by zoning district. Child care is not presently permitted by right in any Rhode community and the nuances of zoning may present unique challenges. Zoning ordinances play a crucial role when building a child care facility that helps determine the safety, accessibility, and suitability of a potential location.

#### **Key things to look for in a zoning use ordinance when developing a child care facility:**

- **Definitions:** Zoning ordinances typically provide unique definitions for terms, including those related to child care centers and family day care homes. Understanding these definitions is crucial for compliance.
- **Permitted Zones:** It's important to recognize that not all zones within a city allow for the establishment of child care centers. Identifying the zones where it is permitted is essential to ensure adherence to local regulations.
- **Special Zones:** In addition to permitted zones, certain areas may grant permission for child care centers or family day care homes but require a special permit. These zones warrant specific attention and compliance with the additional permitting process.
- **Parking Requirements:** When constructing a child care facility, it is imperative to take into account parking requirements stipulated by the zoning ordinances. Ensuring the availability of the requisite parking spaces, as outlined for specific zones, is essential for compliance.
- **Special Requirements:** It is equally important to understand any specific regulations related to aspects such as playgrounds, lot sizes, or neighboring buildings in close proximity to the child care facility.

Rhode Island has 39 distinct municipalities with 39 distinct zoning ordinances. The following chart highlights each city or town in the state and where one can access zoning requirements.

**RHODE ISLAND ZONING TABLE**

City	Link to zoning ordinance	Link to zoning use table
Barrington	<a href="https://ecode360.com/7120841">https://ecode360.com/7120841</a>	Table E - Public and Semipublic uses <a href="https://ecode360.com/7121072">https://ecode360.com/7121072</a>
Bristol	Mini TOC: Chapter 28 - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Bristol, RI   Municode Library	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/bristol/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIVCO_CH28ZO_ARTIIIPEUS">https://library.municode.com/ri/bristol/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIVCO_CH28ZO_ARTIIIPEUS</a>
Burrillville	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/burrillville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIREGEOR_CH30ZO">https://library.municode.com/ri/burrillville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIREGEOR_CH30ZO</a>	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/burrillville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIREGEOR_CH30ZO_ARTIIIIZODIUSRE">https://library.municode.com/ri/burrillville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIREGEOR_CH30ZO_ARTIIIIZODIUSRE</a>
Central Falls	Appendix A - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Central Falls, RI   Municode Library	Appendix A - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Central Falls, RI   Municode Library
Charlestown	<a href="https://ecode360.com/8492633">https://ecode360.com/8492633</a>	<a href="https://ecode360.com/attachment/CH1115/CH1115-218a%20Land%20Use%20Table.pdf">https://ecode360.com/attachment/CH1115/CH1115-218a%20Land%20Use%20Table.pdf</a>
Coventry	<a href="https://ecode360.com/6648479">https://ecode360.com/6648479</a>	<a href="https://ecode360.com/attachment/CO1733/CO1733-255a%20Table%206-1.pdf">https://ecode360.com/attachment/CO1733/CO1733-255a%20Table%206-1.pdf</a>
Cranston	Mini TOC: Title 17 - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Cranston, RI   Municode Library	Chapter 17.20 - PERMITTED USES   Code of Ordinances   Cranston, RI   Municode Library
Cumberland	Town of Cumberland, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)	CU3602-Ba Table 1 Use Table.pdf (ecode360.com)
East Greenwich	Town of East Greenwich, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)	<a href="https://ecode360.com/attachment/EA2109/EA2109-260a%20Table%201%20Permitted%20Uses.pdf">https://ecode360.com/attachment/EA2109/EA2109-260a%20Table%201%20Permitted%20Uses.pdf</a>
East Providence	Mini TOC: Chapter 19 - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   East Providence, RI   Municode Library	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/east_providence/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIREOR_CH19ZO_ARTIIIDIRE">https://library.municode.com/ri/east_providence/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIREOR_CH19ZO_ARTIIIDIRE</a>
Exeter	APPENDIX A - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Exeter, RI   Municode Library	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/exeter/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=APXAZO">https://library.municode.com/ri/exeter/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=APXAZO</a>
Foster	Mini TOC: Chapter 38 - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Foster, RI   Municode Library	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/foster/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIICOOR_CH38ZO_ARTIVUS">https://library.municode.com/ri/foster/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIICOOR_CH38ZO_ARTIVUS</a>
Glocester	Town of Glocester, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)	Schedule A (ecode360.com)

Zoning for Child Care Facilities

City	Link to zoning ordinance	Link to zoning use table
Hopkinton	<a href="https://library.municode.com/ri/hopkinton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXAZO">https://library.municode.com/ri/hopkinton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXAZO</a>	Section 5. - District use regulations.   Code of Ordinances   Hopkinton, RI   Municode Library
Jamestown	Mini TOC: Chapter 82 - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Jamestown, RI   Municode Library	ARTICLE 3. - APPLICATION OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS   Code of Ordinances   Jamestown, RI   Municode Library
Johnston	<a href="https://ecode360.com/28282232">https://ecode360.com/28282232</a>	Schedule A (ecode360.com)
Lincoln	Town of Lincoln, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)	Schedule A (ecode360.com)
Little Compton	<a href="https://ecode360.com/35244527">https://ecode360.com/35244527</a>	Town of Little Compton, RI ZoningSearch: § 14-2.6 Land Nonconforming by Use. (ecode360.com)
Middletown	APPENDIX A: ZONING CODE (amlegal.com)	§ 400 DEFINITIONS. (amlegal.com)
Narragansett	Mini TOC: APPENDIX A - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Narragansett, RI   Municode Library	SECTION 6. - ZONE REGULATIONS   Code of Ordinances   Narragansett, RI   Municode Library
Newport	Mini TOC: Title 17. - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Newport, RI   Municode Library	No single table
New Shoreham	<a href="#">New Shoreham, RI - ClerkBase (clerk-shq.com)</a>	<a href="#">Appendix B</a>
North Kingstown	Mini TOC: Chapter 21 - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   North Kingstown, RI   Municode Library	ARTICLE III. - LAND USE TABLE   Code of Ordinances   North Kingstown, RI   Municode Library
North Providence	North_Providence_Zoning_Ordinance_amended.pdf (northprovidenceri.gov)	North_Providence_Zoning_Ordinance_amended.pdf (northprovidenceri.gov)
North Smithfield	<a href="https://www.nsmithfieldri.org/town-charter-ordinances">https://www.nsmithfieldri.org/town-charter-ordinances</a>	<a href="#">section_5_2.pdf (nsmithfieldri.org)</a>
Pawtucket	City of Pawtucket, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)	Schedule A (ecode360.com)
Portsmouth	<a href="https://ecode360.com/32075192">https://ecode360.com/32075192</a>	Town of Portsmouth, RI Use Regulations (ecode360.com)
Providence	23.10.05-Zoning-Ordinance-1.pdf (providenceri.gov)	<a href="https://www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/23.10.05-Zoning-Ordinance-1.pdf">https://www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/23.10.05-Zoning-Ordinance-1.pdf</a>
Richmond	<a href="#">Richmond RI - ClerkBase (clerk-shq.com)</a>	<a href="#">Chapter 18.16</a>
Scituate	APPENDIX A - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Scituate, RI   Municode Library	ARTICLE II. - DISTRICT USE REGULATIONS   Code of Ordinances   Scituate, RI   Municode Library

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City	Link to zoning ordinance	Link to zoning use table
Smithfield	<a href="http://smithfieldri.gov">Zoning Ordinance (smithfieldri.gov)</a>	Page 35 & 36
South Kingstown	<a href="#">Mini TOC: APPENDIX A - ZONING ORDINANCE   Code of Ordinances   South Kingstown, RI   Municode Library</a>	<a href="#">ARTICLE 3. - USE REGULATIONS   Code of Ordinances   South Kingstown, RI   Municode Library</a>
Tiverton	<a href="#">Mini TOC: APPENDIX A - ZONING   Code of Ordinances   Tiverton, RI   Municode Library</a>	<a href="#">ARTICLE IV. - DISTRICT USE REGULATIONS   Code of Ordinances   Tiverton, RI   Municode Library</a>
Warren	<a href="#">Mini TOC: Chapter 32 - ZONING   Zoning Ordinance   Warren, RI   Municode Library</a>	<a href="#">ARTICLE VIII. - ZONING DISTRICT USE REGULATIONS   Zoning Ordinance   Warren, RI   Municode Library</a>
Warwick	<a href="http://warwickri.gov">Zoning Ordinances   Warwick, Rhode Island (warwickri.gov)</a>	<a href="#">Section 302 - Overlay Districts</a>
Westerly	<a href="http://ecode360.com">Town of Westerly, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)</a>	<a href="#">WE1997-260k Zoning Dis Use Tables.pdf (ecode360.com)</a>
West Greenwich	<a href="http://ecode360.com">Town of West Greenwich, RI Zoning (ecode360.com)</a>	<a href="#">WE3645-400a Zoning Use Categories.pdf (ecode360.com)</a>
West Warwick	<a href="#">Appendix A - ZONING ORDINANCE   Code of Ordinances   West Warwick, RI   Municode Library</a>	Section 5
Woonsocket	<a href="#">zoning_ordinance_november_2019_version__0.pdf (woonsocketri.org)</a>	Page 18