



Day Care Inspections Focus of Kansas Bill

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(WICHITA, Kan.)

By six in the evening, the playroom at Tiny Toes Day Care is quiet. That's the way it used to be less than a year ago when the day care didn't even exist.

"I wasn't really working full time and I was pregnant and I was looking for a good place to put my son when he was born and we just couldn't find anything that we were quite happy with. I decided to stay home with him and open up a day care."

Shawndra Janne knew she wanted to keep things small and just work out of her home. That meant registering with the state, not licensing.

"I just kind of looked at my space that I had and thought, number wise, what would be a good number to have here and I knew I didn't want anymore than six anyway. So, we just went with registered, there really wasn't any other reason than that."

But a bill the Kansas House will take up as early as this week would make it so ALL day cares would be subject to state inspections. Something only licensed day cares currently go through.

Teresa Rupp, Executive Director at Child Start, tells Eyewitness News, "Thirty children over the last three years died in child care in Kansas. That's pretty horrifying."

Child Start services has supported the bill from the start, even though it's received some opposition since it would cost more for registered providers to become licensed.

"I have to say that if it's a choice between the safety of children, and a little more of a burden to the care giver ,we're gonna come down on the side of the kids."

A thought echoed in the playroom at Tiny Toes.

"I would be 100-percent. I would go licensed and KDHE can pop in whenever they want, they could pop in now and I would be fine with it. It wouldn't be a problem at all."



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