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## NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

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# Tennessee ranks third for child care

Nashville Business Journal

Tennessee's child care oversight was ranked third nationally on a report card from the **National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**.

Tennessee tied with Oklahoma for third, but those scores are "of dubious merit," according to the Arlington, Va.-base organization.

More than "11 million children under age 5 spend an average of 36 hours a week in non-parental care," the report states. "Research shows that 90 percent of a child's brain develops by the age of 5, and the quality of care received during these years can have a lifelong effect. Our 2009 update reveals disturbing findings in terms of the development and school readiness of children."

Tennessee ranked behind the Department of Defense and the District of Columbia in the study that reviews child care standards, safety, school readiness and health promotion of young children.

The study reviews all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the Department of Defense. The report also looks at regulatory and quality areas including criminal background checks, staff training, group size and parental involvement.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services overhauled its child care licensing program after the deaths of two infants in a sweltering child care van in Memphis 10 years ago.

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