



Ratios in Licensed Child Care

When exploring licensed child care options, it's important to be aware of the adult to children ratio requirements that must be maintained. Since younger infants and toddlers require more individualized care, there are lower ratios given for these age groups. As children get older, the ratio may increase to allow for more children per each adult. Please read on to learn what the exact ratios can be – both in a licensed in-home family child care program and in smaller and larger child care centers.

Family Child Care Ratios

A family child care program is a child care program that is run out of the child care educator's own home. In this setting, up to 10 children can be cared for. The exact number of children depends of the ages of children being cared for and the number of child care providers.

The chart below explains the different group combinations that are allowed.

Number of child care providers	Total number of children allowed	Number of children under the age of 2 allowed
With one child care provider	6	3
	10	2
	4	4
With two child care providers	10	4
	8	8

Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Center Ratios

A group child care home (or small center) is a child care program that may be at a separate facility or in a separate area from the provider's own living quarters. In this setting, 11 to 20 children can be cared for.

A child care center is a child care program that is also run at a separate facility or in an area separate from the provider's own living quarters. This type of program cares for more than 20 children, with the maximum number depending on the amount of space and materials and the director's qualifications.

The chart below describes the ratios allowed for various age groups for both group child care and child care centers.

Age group	Number of children per 1 child care provider
Birth through 2	4
Two-year-olds	8
Three- to Four-year-olds	10
Five and Up	16
Mixed age groups (two and older)	10 (with a maximum of 4 two-year-olds)