



Two-Thousand Days to Make a Difference

# Ratios in Licensed Child Care

When exploring licensed child care options, it's important to be aware of the adult to child ratio requirements that must be maintained. Since younger infants and toddlers require more individualized care, there are lower ratios for these age groups. As children get older, the ratio may increase to allow for more children per adult. Below are the child to adult ratios for different licensed child care settings.

## Family Child Care Programs

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 at one time. The exact number of children depends on the ages of the children being cared for and the number of adults providing child care.

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

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

## Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Center

A group child care home (small center) is a child care program that may be at a separate facility or in a separate area from the child care educator'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 child care educator's own living quarters. This type of program cares for more than 20 children, with the maximum number depending on the amount of space, materials, and the director's education and experience.

The chart below describes the ratios allowed for various age groups in both group home and center-based child care.

Age group	Number of children per adult
Birth through 2 years	4
Two-years-old	8
Three- to Four-years-old	10
Five years old and more	16
Mixed age groups (two years and older)	10 (with a maximum of 4 two-year-olds)

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