

Findings from...

The 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

The 2005 Child Care Licensing Study was produced by the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) and the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NCCIC).

**Table N:
Center Child-Staff Ratio Requirements in 2005**

State	Age of Children							
	6 weeks	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years
Alabama	4:1	4:1	6:1	7:1	10:1	16:1	16:1	20:1
Alaska	5:1	5:1	5:1	6:1	10:1	10:1	14:1	18:1
Arizona	5:1 or 11:2	5:1 or 11:2	6:1 or 13:2	8:1	13:1	15:1	20:1	20:1
Arkansas	6:1	6:1	9:1	9:1	12:1	15:1	18:1	20:1
California	4:1	4:1	6:1	6:1	12:1	12:1	14:1	14:1
Colorado	5:1	5:1	5:1	7:1	10:1	12:1	15:1	15:1
Connecticut	4:1	4:1	4:1	4:1	10:1	10:1	10:1	10:1
Delaware	4:1	4:1	7:1	10:1	12:1	15:1	25:1	25:1
District of Columbia	4:1	4:1	4:1	4:1	8:1	10:1	15:1	15:1
Florida	4:1	4:1	6:1	11:1	15:1	20:1	25:1	25:1
Georgia	6:1	6:1	8:1	10:1	15:1	18:1	20:1	25:1
Hawaii*	4:1	4:1	6:1	8:1	12:1	16:1	20:1	20:1
Idaho	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL
Illinois*	4:1	4:1	5:1	8:1	10:1	10:1	20:1	20:1
Indiana	4:1	4:1	5:1	5:1	10:1	12:1	15:1	15:1
Iowa	4:1	4:1	4:1	6:1	8:1	12:1	15:1	20:1

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State	Age of Children							
	6 weeks	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years
Kansas	3:1	3:1	5:1	7:1	12:1	12:1	14:1	16:1
Kentucky*	5:1	5:1	6:1	10:1	12:1	14:1	15:1	20:1
Louisiana	6:1	6:1	8:1	12:1	14:1	16:1	20:1	25:1
Maine	4:1	4:1	5:1	8:1	10:1	10:1	13:1	13:1
Maryland	3:1	3:1	3:1	6:1	10:1	10:1	15:1	15:1
Massachusetts*	3:1 or 7:2	3:1 or 7:2	4:1 or 9:2	4:1 or 9:2	10:1	10:1	15:1	15:1
Michigan*	4:1	4:1	4:1	4:1	10:1	12:1	12:1	20:1
Minnesota	4:1	4:1	7:1	7:1	10:1	10:1	10:1	15:1
Mississippi	5:1	5:1	9:1	12:1	14:1	16:1	20:1	25:1
Missouri	4:1	4:1	4:1	8:1	10:1	10:1	16:1	16:1
Montana	4:1	4:1	4:1	8:1	8:1	10:1	10:1	14:1
Nebraska	4:1	4:1	6:1	6:1	10:1	12:1	12:1	15:1
Nevada*	4:1	6:1	8:1	10:1	13:1	13:1	13:1	13:1
New Hampshire	4:1	4:1	5:1	6:1	8:1	12:1	15:1	15:1
New Jersey	4:1	4:1	6:1	10:1	10:1	12:1	15:1	15:1
New Mexico	6:1	6:1	6:1	10:1	12:1	12:1	15:1	15:1
New York	4:1	4:1	5:1	5:1	7:1	8:1	9:1	15:1
North Carolina*	5:1	5:1	6:1	10:1	15:1	20:1	25:1	25:1
North Dakota	4:1	4:1	4:1	5:1	7:1	10:1	12:1	18:1
Ohio*	5:1 or 12:2	5:1 or 12:2	7:1	7:1	12:1	14:1	14:1	18:1
Oklahoma	4:1	4:1	6:1	8:1	12:1	15:1	15:1	20:1
Oregon	4:1	4:1	4:1	5:1	10:1	10:1	15:1	15:1
Pennsylvania*	4:1	4:1	5:1	6:1	10:1	10:1	10:1	15:1
Rhode Island	4:1	4:1	6:1	6:1	9:1	10:1	12:1	13:1

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State	Age of Children							
	6 weeks	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years
South Carolina	6:1	6:1	6:1	10:1	13:1	18:1	21:1	23:1
South Dakota	5:1	5:1	5:1	5:1	10:1	10:1	10:1	15:1
Tennessee	4:1	4:1	6:1	7:1	9:1	13:1	16:1	20:1
Texas	4:1	4:1	9:1	11:1	15:1	18:1	22:1	26:1
Utah	4:1	4:1	4:1	7:1	12:1	15:1	20:1	20:1
Vermont	4:1	4:1	4:1	5:1	10:1	10:1	10:1	13:1
Virginia*	4:1	4:1	5:1	10:1	10:1	12:1	12:1	20:1
Washington*	4:1	4:1	7:1	7:1	10:1	10:1	15:1	15:1
West Virginia	4:1	4:1	4:1	8:1	10:1	12:1	12:1	16:1
Wisconsin	4:1	4:1	4:1	6:1	10:1	13:1	17:1	18:1
Wyoming*	4:1	4:1	5:1	8:1	10:1	12:1	12:1	18:1

Key:

NL=Facility not licensed

***Notes:**

Hawaii: Children younger than 2 years old are prohibited from mixed centers. Hawaii has a separate set of regulations for infant and toddler programs. Ratio and group size requirements for 6-week-olds and 9- and 18-month-olds shown in the table are the maximum allowed in infant and toddler programs. The state allows the following as well:

Age	Maximum Group Size			
	6	8	10	12
6 weeks to 12 months	3:1	4:1		
12 months to 24 months	3:1	4:1	5:1	4:1
18 months to 36 months			5:1	6:1

Illinois: The following exception is permitted: an early childhood teacher aided by an early childhood assistant may supervise a group of up to 30 children if all of the children are at least 5 years old.

Kentucky: In part-day programs for school-age children, the ratio for children 7 years of age and older is 25:1.

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Massachusetts: A ratio of 10:1 and group size of 20 applies to 3- and 4-year-old children attending full-day programs; a ratio of 12:1 and group size of 24 applies to 3- and 4-year-old children attending part-day programs. For children in kindergarten in preschools, the ratio is 15:1 with a maximum group size of 30; for school-age children in school-age programs, the ratio is 13:1 and the group size is not limited.

Michigan: The ratio of caregivers to children between the ages of 2½ and 3 years of age present at any one time in the center and during outdoor activities and field trips shall be at least 1 caregiver for 8 children or each fraction of 8, including the children who are related to the staff and the licensee.

Nevada: Ratios shown in the table were calculated based on the maximum number of children allowed to 1 caregiver. Center classrooms with children older than 2 years of age but younger than 3 years of age are required to have a child-staff ratio of 10:1. Requirements for children age 2 and older are based on the total number of children in care as follows:

Number of Children in Care	Number of Caregivers Required
1–6	1
7–20	2
21–35	3
36–50	4
51–65	5
66–80	6
81–93	7

For every additional 13 children greater than 93, 1 more caregiver is required.

North Carolina: Ratios and group sizes shown in the table are for medium and large centers with 30 or more children. Small centers, which care for up to 29 children, are required to meet a child-staff ratio of 15:1 for children 3 to 5 years.

Age	Ratio
Birth to 12 months	5:1
12 to 24 months	6:1
2 to 3 years	10:1
3 to 5 years	15:1
5 years and older	25:1

Ohio: The child-staff ratio for children 5 to 10 years old in school/kindergarten is 18:1.

Pennsylvania: The center ratio for children in preschool (37 months and older) until entry into 1st grade is 10:1; 1st grade through 3rd grade is 12:1; 4th grade to 15 years is 15:1.

Virginia: Child-staff ratios for 16 to 24 months is 5:1; 24 months to 4 years is 10:1. The 5-year-old ratio is based on school eligibility; if a child is 5 years old by September 1st, then the 20:1 ratio applies, if the child turns 5 after September 1st, then the 12:1 ratio applies.

Washington: A ratio of 3:1 is allowed with a maximum group size of 9 children.

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Wyoming: Ratios are also regulated for 2 or 3 staff members as follows:

Age	Two Staff Members	Three Staff Members
Birth to 12 months	8:2	10:3
12 to 24 months	10:2	12:3
24 to 36 months	16:2	18:3
3 years	20:2	24:3
4 and 5 years	24:2	30:3
6 to 12 yrs	32:2	40:3