

Appendix J: Recommended Staff: Child Ratio and Group Size: Child Care Center

Staff: child ratio and group size requirements vary by state and type of program. Check your state's or territory's staff: child ratio and group size requirements for licensed childcare programs by [selecting your state or territory](#) and reviewing the "Understanding and Finding Child Care Resources" page.

The chart below provides some general recommendations from early childhood experts for safe staff: child ratios and group sizes.*

Ages	Staff: Child Ratio	Group Size
Infants: Younger than 12 months old	1 adult should care for no more than 3 infants	No more than 6 infants in a group or class
Toddlers: 13–35 months old	1 adult should care for no more than 4 toddlers	No more than 8 toddlers in a group or class
Preschoolers: 3 years old	1 adult should care for no more than 7 preschoolers	No more than 14 preschoolers in a group or class
Preschoolers: 4 years old	1 adult should care for no more than 8 preschoolers	No more than 16 preschoolers in a group or class
Preschoolers: 5 years old	1 adult should care for no more than 8 preschoolers	No more than 16 preschoolers in a group or class
School-age children: 6–8 years old	1 adult should care for no more than 10 school-age children	No more than 20 school-age children in a group or class
School-age children: 9–12 years old	1 adult should care for no more than 12 school-age children	No more than 25 school-age children in a group or class

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, & National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. (2019).