

Group Size and Staffing
Child Care Centers and Large Family Child Care Homes

A. Assignment of Staff. One or more child care teachers shall be assigned to each group of children as needed to meet the requirements for group size and staffing set forth in the following charts.

B. Age of a Child. For purposes of determining group size and staff required, the age of a child is determined solely according to the date of the child's most recent birthday.

C. Same-Age Groups. In a group of children of the same age, the following staff/child ratio and maximum group size requirements apply:

Child Ages	*Staff/Child Ratio	**Maximum Group Size
Infants (6 weeks old to 18 months old)	1 to 3	6
Toddlers (18 months old to 2 years old)	1 to 3	9
Infants and toddlers, with 1 to 2 infants in the group	1 to 3	9
Infants and toddlers, with 3 or more infants in the group	1 to 3	6
2 years old	1 to 6	12
3 or 4 years old	1 to 10	20
5 years old and older	1 to 15	30

**The staff/child Ratio in Large Family Child Care Homes may never exceed 1 staff person to 12 children.*

***The maximum group size in Large Family Child Care Homes may never exceed 12 children.*

D. Mixed-Age Groups.

(1) In a mixed-age group with infants or toddlers, the following minimum staffing levels apply:

Group Composition	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Staffing Level
Group includes 1 or 2 infants	9	2 staff members
Group includes 3 or more infants	6	2 staff members
Group includes 1 or 2 toddlers	12	2 staff members
Group includes 3 toddlers	9	2 staff members
Group includes 4 or more toddlers	9	3 staff members

Group includes no infants, 1 or 2 toddlers, and 6 or more 2 year olds	12	3 staff members
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(2) In a mixed-age group with preschool children:

- (a) In child care centers, the group size may not exceed 20 children;
- (b) In Large Family Child Care Homes, the group size may not exceed 12 children;
- (b) If the group contains preschool children 3 years old or older, the staff to child ratio is 1 to 10;
- (c) If the group size is 13 to 20 children, the group may not contain more than six 2-year-olds; and
- (d) If the group contains children who are 2 years old and the group size varies, the following minimum staffing levels apply:

Group Composition	*Group Size	Minimum Staffing Level
Group includes one to three 2 year old children	7 to 10	1 staff member
Group includes four or more 2 year old children	7 to 10	2 staff members
Group includes one to three 2 year old children	13 to 20	2 staff members
Group includes four to six 2 year old children	13 to 20	3 staff members

**The group size in Large Family Child Care Homes may never exceed 12 children.*

(3) School-age Groups. In a group where 3 year old and 4 year old children, enrolled in a public or nonpublic school, are mixed with school-age children, the following minimum staffing levels and maximum group size requirements apply:

Group Composition	*Maximum Group Size	Minimum Staffing Level
Group includes up to five children aged 3 or 4	30	1 school age teacher and 1 assistant or aide
Group includes 6 to 9 children aged 3 or 4	30	1 school age teacher and 2 assistants or 1 school age teacher, 1 assistant and 1 aide
Group includes 6 to 9 children aged 3 or 4	25	1 school age teacher and 1 assistant or aide
Group includes 10 or more children aged 3 or 4	20	1 preschool teacher and 1 assistant or aide

**The maximum group size in Large Family Child Care Homes may never exceed 12 children.*

E. Group Size and Staffing in Approved Educational Programs.

- (1) During a school day approved by the Department, a teacher shall be assigned to each class and the following requirements apply:

Child Ages	*Staff/Child Ratio	**Maximum Group Size
2 years old	1 to 6	12
3 or 4 year old	1 to 12	24
5 years old and older	1 to 15	30

**The staff/child Ratio in Large Family Child Care Homes may never exceed 1 staff person to 12 children.*

***The maximum group size in Large Family Child Care Homes may never exceed 12 children.*

- (2) A nursery school may not exceed a staff/child ratio or group size requirement set forth at §G(1) of this regulation, except that a Montessori school that has been approved by the Department may exceed a staff/child ratio or group size requirement by no more than 1/3.

- (3) When children who are 2 years old, 3 years old, 4 years old, and 5 years old are grouped together, the average age of all the children in the group as of September 1 of that school year is used to determine the group's maximum size and staff/child ratio.

Staff Availability

If the only children in attendance at the center are:

- (a) younger than 2 years old and only one staff member is needed to meet staff/child ratio requirements, the operator shall ensure that an additional staff member or another adult, who has successfully passed a federal and State criminal background check and a review of child and adult abuse and neglect records, is available in the center; or
- (b) 2 years old or older and only one staff member is needed to meet staff-child ratio requirements, the operator shall have a written, signed, and dated agreement from an adult who has successfully passed a federal and State criminal background check and a review of child and adult abuse and neglect records and is willing and able to be at the center within 15 minutes of notification. (See enclosed **"On-Call Agreement"** on next page.)