ALABAMA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Alabama's ratios and maximum group sizes for licensed child care centers. Print it, pin it up by the door.

Group	Ages	Staff : children	Max group
Infants	birth to 18 months	**1 : 5**	**none**
Toddlers	18 months to 2½ years	**1 : 7**	**none**
Two-year-old group	24 to 36 months	**1 : 8**	**none**
Young preschoolers	2½ years to 4 years	**1 : 11**	**none**
Preschoolers	4 years to school age	**1 : 18**	**none**
School age	school age to 8 years	**1 : 21**	**none**
Older school age	8 years and older	**1 : 22**	**none**

- **Mixed ages:** when more than 20% of a group is in the youngest age category, that category's ratio applies to the whole group; at 20% or less, use the next older category. Children under 2½ are grouped apart from older children, except a 24-to-36-month group at 1:8.
- **Nap time:** while children nap or rest, the ratio is 1:5 under 18 months, 1:14 from 18 months to 2½ years and 1:36 from 2½ years up, with a qualified staff member in each napping room who can see every child.
- **Group size:** the rule sets no fixed maximum; group size depends on the room's capacity, the children's ages, the number of staff and the equipment.

Source: Ala. Admin. Code r. 660-5-26-.04(1)(a) (amended effective September 13, 2021), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.