ARKANSAS CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Arkansas'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**	**10**
Toddlers	18 to 36 months	**1 : 8**	**16**
Older twos and threes	2½ to 3 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 15**	**30**
Five-year-olds	5 years to kindergarten	**1 : 18**	**36**
School age	kindergarten and up	**1 : 18**	**36**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child's ratio applies to the whole group; children 30 to 36 months may join whichever group suits their development. With eight or fewer children on site, ages may be mixed at 1:6 (no more than 3 under age 2), 1:7 (no more than 2) or 1:8 (no more than 1).
- **Group size:** a group may be no larger than twice the one-staff ratio, except for occasional special group activities; buildings licensed before November 1, 2002 are exempt unless expanded or newly licensed.
- **Nap time:** for children 2½ and older, at least half the staff must stay with the napping children and three quarters must stay in the building.
- Programs that serve only school-age children are licensed under a separate rule, 20 CAR pt. 1027 (out-of-school time facilities).

Source: 20 CAR § 1025-401 (codified January 1, 2025 (text unchanged from the December 1, 2020 revision)), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.