CALIFORNIA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

California'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 2 years	**1 : 4**	**none**
Preschool	2 years to school age	**1 : 12 or 2 : 15**	**none**
School age	first grade and up, or kindergarten and up in a school-age-only program	**1 : 14 or 2 : 28**	**none**

- **Mixed ages:** in a school-age center, staffing for a mixed-age group follows the youngest child in the group.
- **Aides:** the second adult in 2:15 and 2:28 is a teacher's aide, and a fully qualified teacher with a qualified aide may have 18 preschoolers. With infants, an aide may care for a group of four if a fully qualified teacher directly supervises no more than 12 infants.
- **Nap time:** one teacher (or a qualified aide 18 or older) may watch 24 napping children, or 12 sleeping infants, if the rest of the staff needed for the awake ratio are immediately available at the center.
- Centers funded by the California Department of Education under Title 5 follow Title 5 ratios instead. Optional toddler programs (18 to 36 months) were set at 1:6 with groups of up to 12 by a statute that expired on January 1, 2024; check with Community Care Licensing for the current toddler rule.

Source: Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22, §§ 101216.3, 101416.5, 101516.5 (infant rule last amended effective October 1, 2023; the others operative November 1, 1998), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.