COLORADO CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Colorado'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	6 weeks to 18 months	**1 : 5**	**10**
Toddlers	12 to 36 months	**1 : 5**	**10**
Older toddlers	24 to 36 months	**1 : 7**	**14**
Older twos	2½ to 3 years	**1 : 8**	**16**
Three-year-olds	3 to 4 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
Four-year-olds	4 to 5 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Five and older	5 years and older	**1 : 15**	**30**

- **Mixed ages:** a mixed group of 2½- to 6-year-olds is 1:10 with a maximum of 20. In other preschool mixes, the youngest child's ratio and group size apply if more than 20% of the group is younger; toddler groups always follow the youngest child.
- **Kindergarten:** formal kindergarten class sessions may run at 1:25; at other times of the day the ratio is 1:15.
- **Nap time:** in preschool rooms the ratio may double for children 2½ and older once at least half are asleep, if another staff member is on site and immediately available and group size and room capacity are not exceeded.
- Programs that serve only school-age children are licensed under Colorado's separate school-age child care center rules (rule 2.500 of the same chapter).

Source: 8 CCR 1402-1, rule 2.217(A)(14)–(15) (re-adopted from 12 CCR 2509-8 effective December 15, 2023; rule 2.217 last amended effective February 14, 2026), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.