DELAWARE CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Delaware'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	under 12 months	1 : 4	8
Toddlers	12 through 23 months	1 : 6	12
Two-year-olds	24 through 35 months	1 : 8	16
Three-year-olds	36 through 47 months	1 : 10	20
Four-year-olds	48 months or older, not yet in kindergarten	1 : 12	24
School age	kindergarten or higher	1 : 15	30

- **Mixed ages:** the ratio and group size for the youngest child present apply to the whole group. Group size may be exceeded, with ratios kept, when 12 or fewer children are in the center.
- **School age:** a center may ask OCCL for a variance to 1:20 when a currently certified Delaware teacher teaches school-age children in the teacher's area of certification. No variance from the group size of 30 is granted.
- **Nap time:** while children one year and older sleep, at least half of the required staff must be present and directly watching them, and group size may not be exceeded. Infant ratios apply at all times.

Source: 14 DE Admin. Code 933, section 27.0 (amended by 25 DE Reg. 1115 (June 1, 2022)), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.