ILLINOIS CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Illinois'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 through 14 months	**1 : 4**	**12**
Toddlers	15 through 23 months	**1 : 5**	**15**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 8**	**16**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
Five-year-olds	5 years (preschool)	**1 : 20**	**20**
School age	school age, kindergartners present	**1 : 20**	**30**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child's ratio and group size apply to the whole group. Ages may be combined only as infants to two-year-olds, two- to five-year-olds, four- to six-year-olds, or all ages in the first and last hour of programs open 10 or more hours a day.
- **Five and older:** an early childhood teacher aided by an early childhood assistant may supervise a group of up to 30 children if all of them are at least five years old.
- **Nap time:** except for infants and toddlers, napping children may be directly supervised in the room by 50% of the required staff, if the full ratio is kept on the premises.
- Illinois moved its day care center rules from the Department of Children and Family Services (89 Ill. Adm. Code 407) to the new Department of Early Childhood (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2008) in 2026. The ratio table did not change in the move, but the new department may revise the standards.

Source: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2008.190 (amended effective October 30, 2023; recodified as 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2008 in 2026), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.