MAINE CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Maine'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 1 year	**1 : 4**	**8**
Toddlers (option 1)	1 year to 2½ years	**1 : 4**	**12**
Toddlers (option 2)	1 year to 2½ years	**1 : 5**	**10**
Young preschoolers	2½ to 3½ years	**1 : 7**	**21**
Preschoolers (option 1)	3 years to under 5 years	**1 : 8**	**24**
Preschoolers (option 2)	3 years to under 5 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
School age	5 years (school age) to 12 years	**1 : 13**	**none**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child sets the group size and the number of staff. Older children may fill younger children's spaces, but not the other way round.
- **First and last hour:** one staff member may care for six or fewer children of any age in one classroom. At least two staff must be in the building whenever seven or more children are present.
- **Nap time:** awake staff must directly supervise sleeping children and keep the ratio.
- These are the figures for facilities with 13 or more children. Small facilities (3 to 12 children) and nursery schools (1:12, group of 30) follow other tables in the same section.

Source: 10-148 C.M.R. ch. 32, § 7(C)(2)(b), (C)(3) (effective September 27, 2021), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.