MARYLAND CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Maryland'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 : 3**	**6**
Toddlers	18 months to 2 years	**1 : 3**	**9**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 6**	**12**
Three- and four-year-olds	3 or 4 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
Five and older	5 years and older	**1 : 15**	**30**

- **Mixed ages:** a group mixing infants or toddlers with older children follows the rule's staffing table, with at least 2 staff and a group of 6 to 12. A mixed preschool group has at most 20 children, is 1:10 once it includes a child of 3 or older, and has no more than six 2-year-olds in a group of 13 to 20.
- **Approved school-day programs:** during a school day approved by the Department, 3- and 4-year-olds may be 1:12 in a group of 24, and a group of 2- to 5-year-olds uses the average age on September 1.
- **Age** for ratios is the child's age at the most recent birthday.
- A proposed amendment, up for final action by the State Board on December 8, 2026, would allow a school-age group (5 and older) of up to 45 children with at least a teacher, an assistant teacher and an aide.

Source: COMAR 13A.16.08.03 (amended effective January 13, 2020), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.