MASSACHUSETTS CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Massachusetts'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 15 months	**1 : 3**	**7**
Toddlers	15 to 33 months	**1 : 4**	**9**
Preschoolers, full day	33 months to school age	**1 : 10**	**20**
Preschoolers, half day	33 months to school age	**1 : 12**	**24**
Kindergarten	attending first grade the following year	**1 : 15**	**30**
School age	school age, under 14	**1 : 13**	**26**

- **Mixed ages:** a center may use mixed-age groups: infant/toddler 1:3 (up to 9, no more than 3 infants), toddler/preschool 1:5 (up to 9), preschool/school age 1:10 (up to 20, oldest child 8), and kindergarten/school age 1:13 (up to 26).
- **First and last two hours:** a center open more than seven hours a day may use the multi-age grouping ratios in 606 CMR 7.10(4) for the first and last two hours.
- **A second adult** trained in the program's health and emergency procedures must always be immediately available.
- These are the large group figures, for programs with more than 10 children. Small group programs (10 or fewer) use the multi-age table in 606 CMR 7.10(4).

Source: 606 CMR 7.10(9)(b) (amended effective September 1, 2021), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.