MICHIGAN CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Michigan'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 and toddlers	birth to 30 months	**1 : 4**	**12**
Young preschoolers	30 months to 3 years	**1 : 8**	**24**
Three-year-olds	3 to 4 years	**1 : 10**	**30**
Four-year-olds	4 years to school age	**1 : 12**	**40**
School age	kindergarten to under 13 years	**1 : 18**	**54**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child in the room sets the ratio and group size, unless each age group is clearly separated and keeps its own ratio.
- **Moving up early:** with written parent permission, and when developmentally ready, a child of 33 months may join a 3-year-old room, 45 months a 4-year-old room, and 57 months a school-age room; that room's ratio applies.
- **Nap time:** when every child in a room is asleep, one staff member may supervise if other staff are close by; the full ratio returns when the first child wakes.
- Small capacity centers follow their own limits: 1:6, no more than 4 children under 30 months per staff member, and a group of 20.

Source: Mich. Admin. Code R 400.8222, Table 1 (effective May 7, 2025), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.