MINNESOTA CHILD CARE CENTERS

# Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Minnesota'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 16 months | 1 : 4 | 8 |
| Toddlers | 16 months to 33 months | 1 : 7 | 14 |
| Preschoolers | 33 months until the first day of kindergarten | 1 : 10 | 20 |
| School age | kindergarten (or within 4 months of being eligible) to 12 years | 1 : 15 | 30 |

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child's ratio and group size apply, infants may not be mixed with other ages, and a group may span no more than 36 months unless all are school age. During arrival and departure (up to 25% of the day) ages may be combined on the youngest child's ratio.
- **School-age programs:** a program licensed only as school-age child care is exempt from this table and must keep at least 1:15, with at least two staff on site whenever it operates (Minn. Stat. 142B.41, subd. 6).
- **Group size:** the maximum group size does not apply during meals, outdoor activities, field trips, naps and rest, or special activities, but the ratio still does.
- On July 1, 2027, Minnesota Statutes chapter 142H replaces this rule for child care centers. The ratios and group sizes stay the same, but the new law lets groups without infants double the ratio for up to two hours at nap time.

Source: Minn. R. 9503.0040, subp. 1 (last amended at 18 SR 2748 (State Register)), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.