MISSISSIPPI CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Mississippi'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 1 year	**1 : 5**	**10**
One-year-olds	1 year	**1 : 9**	**18**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 14**	**28**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 16**	**32**
School age	5 through 9 years	**1 : 20**	**40**
Older school age	10 through 12 years	**1 : 25**	**50**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child in the group sets the ratio, and preschool children may not be grouped with school-age children in a classroom, on the playground or in water activities.
- **Rest time:** for children 2 and older, half the required staff may be in the room while children rest, as long as the full ratio is on the premises. Children under 2 keep the full ratio.
- **At all times:** ratios apply during opening and closing, field trips and swimming or water activities, on site or off. Group sizes may be exceeded only at normal arrival and departure times and special events.
- The Mississippi State Department of Health has told its Child Care Advisory Council that it plans a full rewrite of these regulations, with no timeline yet.

Source: 15 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 11, Subpt. 55, R. 1.8.2, 1.8.3 (amended; final filing January 27, 2026, effective 30 days later), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.