MISSOURI CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Missouri'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 36 months (any group with a child under 2)	**1 : 4**	**8**
Two-year-olds	24 to 36 months, in a group of only two-year-olds	**1 : 8**	**16**
Preschoolers	3 and 4 years, in a group of only 3- and 4-year-olds	**1 : 10**	**20**
Five and older	5 years and older, in a group of only children 5 and up	**1 : 16**	**32**

- **Mixed ages:** a group of 2-year-olds and older with no more than four 2-year-olds (and at least one child over 36 months) uses 1:10, max 20; with more than four 2-year-olds it uses 1:8, max 16.
- **Nap time:** for groups age 2 and older, the ratio does not have to be met inside the napping area, but it must be met on the premises and group size limits still apply.
- **Outdoor play:** outdoor ratios may be 1½ times the indoor ratio only when no child age 2 or younger is in the outdoor play space; the indoor ratio must still be met on the premises.
- Missouri's Office of Childhood is rewriting its child care licensing rules under Executive Order 25-15. No proposed text had been published in the Missouri Register when we checked, so these figures could change.

Source: 5 CSR 25-500.112(1) (amended effective January 30, 2024), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.