MONTANA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Montana'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	newborn through 11 months	**1 : 4**	**12**
Toddlers	12 months through 23 months	**1 : 6**	**12**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 8**	**16**
Preschoolers	3 years through 5 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
School age	6 years and older	**1 : 20**	**40**

- **Mixed ages:** the ratio and group size for the youngest child in the group apply.
- **School-age programs:** a licensed school-age care provider may keep 1:20 for children 5 and older, with a maximum group of 40, and may exceed the group size during transportation.
- **Nap time:** for children 2 and older the ratio may be doubled only if at least half are asleep, another staff member is on site and immediately available, group size and room capacity are not exceeded, and the staff member supervising is not a trainee.

Source: ARM 37.96.106(2) (new rule effective May 1, 2025), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.