NEW HAMPSHIRE CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

New Hampshire'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 12 months	**1 : 4**	**12**
Toddlers	12 months to 24 months	**1 : 5**	**15**
Two-year-olds	24 months to 36 months	**1 : 6**	**18**
Three-year-olds	36 months to 47 months	**1 : 8**	**24**
Four-year-olds	48 months to 59 months	**1 : 12**	**24**
Five and older	60 months and older	**1 : 15**	**30**

- **Mixed ages:** the ratio and group size follow the average age of the children in the group; if the average is under 36 months, the infant and toddler rules apply.
- **School-age programs:** a program licensed as school-age keeps 1:15 with a maximum group of 45; when 8 or fewer school-age children are present they may be combined with children 4 and older.
- **Nap time:** for children 24 months through 5 years, a classroom may have one fewer staff if awake children stay within half the ratio, all required staff are on the premises, and the center has a two-way communication system, a safety plan and written notice to parents. Children under 24 months keep full ratio during rest.
- New Hampshire licenses group child care centers (age 3 and older) and infant and toddler programs separately; a center serving all ages holds a combination license and follows each table for its groups.

Source: N.H. Admin. Rules He-C 4002.35, 4002.36 (readopted effective September 22, 2025), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.