NEW MEXICO CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

New Mexico'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 : 6**	**12**
Toddlers	12 to 24 months	**1 : 6**	**12**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 10**	**20**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Five-year-olds	5 years	**1 : 15**	**30**
Six and older	6 years and older	**1 : 15**	**30**

- **Mixed ages:** ratios and group sizes follow the age of the majority of the group, and centers that combine ages use a separate chart (for example, 1:12 with a group of 24 for ages two through four, or 1:14 with 28 for ages three through five).
- **Out-of-school time:** programs for school-age children (5 and older) need one adult for every 15 children, with a group of no more than 30.
- **Infant and toddler groups:** the group of 12 binds new centers and any center changing its infant or toddler capacity; a center whose groups were larger before the rule took effect may keep them as long as ratios are met.

Source: 8.9.4.23(C) NMAC (amended effective September 9, 2026), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.