NORTH DAKOTA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

North Dakota'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 18 months	**1 : 4**	**10**
Toddlers	18 to 36 months	**1 : 5**	**15**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 7**	**20**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 10**	**25**
Five-year-olds	5 years	**1 : 12**	**30**
School age	6 to 12 years	**1 : 20**	**40**

- **Mixed ages:** multiply the children in each age band by its decimal (0.25, 0.20, 0.14, 0.10, 0.08, 0.05), add the results and round a fraction of 0.35 or more up to one more staff member; the group size follows the age of most of the children or the youngest age group, and is never more than 10 when children under 18 months are present.
- **School age:** programs that serve only school-age children are licensed under a separate chapter, N.D. Admin. Code 75-03-11.1.
- **Who counts:** cooks and housekeeping staff do not count toward the ratio while they are cooking or cleaning.

Source: N.D. Admin. Code 75-03-10-08 (amended effective April 1, 2024), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.