OHIO CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Ohio'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
Young infants	birth to 12 months	**1 : 5 or 2 : 12**	**12**
Older infants	12 to 18 months	**1 : 6**	**12**
Young toddlers	18 months to 2½ years	**1 : 7**	**14**
Older toddlers	2½ to 3 years	**1 : 8**	**16**
Young preschoolers	3 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Older preschoolers	4 years, not yet in kindergarten	**1 : 14**	**28**
Young schoolagers	kindergarten to 11 years	**1 : 18**	**36**
Older schoolagers	11 to 15 years	**1 : 20**	**40**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child present sets the ratio. A center with 12 or fewer children may combine all ages.
- **Group size** doesn't apply during nap, meals and snacks, outdoor play, field trips or special occasions, but the ratio still applies at all times.
- **A second adult** must be in the building whenever seven or more children are present.

Source: Ohio Adm. Code 5180:2-12-18, Appendix A (rule effective October 29, 2021; renumbered from 5101:2-12-18 on January 2, 2025), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.