PENNSYLVANIA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Pennsylvania'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	birth to 1 year	**1 : 4**	**8**
Young toddlers	1 to 2 years	**1 : 5**	**10**
Older toddlers	2 to 3 years	**1 : 6**	**12**
Preschool	3 years until the child starts kindergarten	**1 : 10**	**20**
Young school age	kindergarten until the child starts 4th grade	**1 : 12**	**24**
Older school age	4th grade through 15 years	**1 : 15**	**30**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child in the group sets the ratio and the maximum group size.
- **School age:** a facility or space that serves only school-age children follows § 3270.241, which applies this table (§ 3270.51) but not the mixed-age section (§ 3270.52).
- **Nap time:** while toddlers and preschoolers nap, the ratio may be 1:10 for young toddlers, 1:12 for older toddlers and 1:20 for preschoolers; the nap ratios do not cover infants.

Source: 55 Pa. Code § 3270.51, § 3270.4 (adopted effective April 4, 1992; age levels in § 3270.4 amended effective December 19, 2020), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.