RHODE ISLAND CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Rhode Island'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
Younger infants	6 weeks to 12 months	1 : 4	8
Older infants	12 to 18 months	1 : 4	8
Toddlers	18 to 36 months	1 : 6	12
Three-year-olds	3 years	1 : 9	18
Four-year-olds	4 years	1 : 10	20
Five- and six-year-olds	5 to 6 years, not in kindergarten	1 : 12	24
Kindergarten	at least 5 years and in kindergarten	1 : 13	26
School age	grade 1 and up, under age 16	1 : 13	26

- **Mixed ages:** children may be grouped only within the rule's six allowed age combinations, and the youngest child's ratio applies. Toddler, preschool and kindergarten groups may also combine for the first and last hour of the day.
- **Field trips and swimming:** stricter ratios apply, such as 1:2 for infants on field trips and 1:1 in the water; preschoolers are 1:7 or 1:8 on trips and 1:4 in the water.
- **Rest time:** one staff member may stay with each napping toddler or preschool group, but infants have no ratio exceptions, and staff counted in ratio must be awake.

Source: 218-RICR-70-00-1.11(B) (amended effective July 7, 2026), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.