SOUTH DAKOTA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

South 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 and toddlers	birth to 3 years	**1 : 5**	**none**
Three- and four-year-olds	3 through 4 years	**1 : 10**	**none**
Five and older	5 years and over	**1 : 15**	**none**

- **Mixed ages:** a program with 20 or fewer children in a routine mixed-age group may use 1:10, with no more than 4 children under 2 (2 under 1) per provider. With more than 20, the group is 1:5 if it has 3 or more children under 3; otherwise the age of most of the children sets the ratio.
- **Group size:** the rule sets no fixed maximum; it follows each room's approved capacity, and up to 3 extra children may be added when room capacity and ratios don't line up, as long as ratios are kept.
- **Staff's own children:** children of program employees count toward both group size and the ratio.

Source: S.D. Admin. R. 67:42:17:21 (effective July 3, 2023 (49 SDR 124)), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.