TENNESSEE CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Tennessee'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	6 weeks to 15 months	**1 : 4**	**8**
Toddlers	12 to 30 months	**1 : 6**	**12**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 7**	**14**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 9**	**18**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 13**	**24**
Five-year-olds	5 years	**1 : 16**	**24**
School age	registered and attending school	**1 : 20**	**none**

- **Mixed ages** follow the rule's combined-age chart for the group's age span (for example 3–5 years, 1:13, group of 24), not the youngest child. Infants are never grouped with children over 30 months.
- **Field trips** need twice the usual number of staff. **Nap time:** once children settle, ratios for children 31 months and older may be halved, with an adult awake in each room. Children under 31 months keep full ratios.
- **Before and after school:** preschool and school-age children may be combined for up to 1½ hours at each end of the day, on the rule's Chart 3.

Source: Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1240-04-01-.22(1)(c), Chart 1, .11 (amended effective November 20, 2025), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.