TEXAS CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Texas'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	0 to 11 months	**1 : 4**	**10**
Young toddlers	12 to 17 months	**1 : 5**	**13**
Toddlers	18 to 23 months	**1 : 9**	**18**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 11**	**22**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 15**	**30**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 18**	**35**
Five-year-olds	5 years	**1 : 22**	**35**
School age	6 to 8 years	**1 : 26**	**35**
Older school age	9 to 13 years	**1 : 26**	**35**

- **Mixed ages:** use the group's "specified age": list the children youngest to oldest and take the age of the child in the middle, not the youngest; infants may join children 18 months and older only if the oldest is no more than 18 months older than the youngest.
- **Small centers and school-age programs:** these charts apply when 13 or more children are in care; centers with 12 or fewer use a different division of the rule, and programs serving only school-age children are licensed under Chapter 744.
- **Nap time:** for children 18 months and older the ratio may be cut by half at naptime, but only when the groups nap together in one central sleeping area and the required extra staff are in the building.

Source: 26 TAC §746.1601, §746.1609 (HHSC Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers, December 2024 (revised December 2025); both sections dated September 2003), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.