VIRGINIA CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Virginia'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 16 months	**1 : 4**	**12**
Toddlers	16 to 24 months	**1 : 5**	**15**
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 8**	**24**
Preschool	3 years to school age	**1 : 10**	**30**
School age	school age to 9 years	**1 : 18**	**none**
Older school age	9 through 12 years	**1 : 20**	**none**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child's ratio and group size apply to the whole group.
- **Rest time:** ratios ease to 1:10 (16–24 months), 1:16 (two-year-olds) and 1:20 (preschool), with staff in sight and sound and another staff member on site. Normal ratios return once half the children are up.
- **Swimming:** normal ratios still apply, never fewer than two staff, and a lifeguard doesn't count toward the ratio (8VAC20-780-460).
- A new chapter, 8VAC20-781, has been proposed to replace this one. Check the current rule before relying on these figures.

Source: 8VAC20-780-350, Tables 1, 2 (effective October 13, 2021), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.