

Washoe County Human Services Agency

Regulations for Child Care Facilities

Staff-To-Child Ratio

SECTION 24 STAFF-TO-CHILD RATIO

24.1 Individual attention and supervision. A facility must have a staff which is sufficient in number to provide physical care, supervision and individual attention to each child and allow time for interaction between the staff and the children to promote the children's social competence, emotional well-being, and intellectual development. A member of the staff who is supervising a child, and counting as a caregiver in the staff to child ratio, must:

- A. Be physically present in the room where the child being supervised is present;
- B. Observe, oversee and guide the child;
- C. Be aware of the needs of the child and accountable for the care of the child; and
- D. Maintain a proximity to the child that allows the member of the staff to be capable of intervening if his assistance or direction is needed by the child.

24.2 Director as part of staff. Only those staff members working directly with the children shall be counted in the staff-to-child ratio. The facility Director may be counted in the ratio when present at the facility.

24.3 Additional staff (cook). Except in family child care and group child care homes, provisions shall be made for additional staff for cooking and maintenance.

*24.4 Staff-to-child ratio. Except as otherwise provided in Subsection 29.5 of these Regulations, licensee shall adhere to the following minimum standards for staff-to-child ratio:

A. Family child care home

- 1. One caregiver shall be on duty at all times with provisions for an alternate on call in case of an emergency.
- 2. Two caregivers shall be on duty when four or more of the children in the facility are children with special needs.

*3. Maximum number of children is six with the following limitations:

Children's Age	Maximum Number of Children Per Age Category
Less than 1 year of age	2
1 year of age or older but less than 3 years of age	4
3 years of age or older	6

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4. Any children who reside in the facility, or children of the licensee or other persons who reside in the facility who are less than three years of age will be counted for the purpose of the ratios set forth in this Section.

*B. Group child care home A licensee of a group home shall abide by the following limits on the number of children in the group home and staffing levels. Any children who reside in the facility or children of the licensee or other persons who reside in the facility who are less than three years of age will be counted for the purpose of the ratios set forth in this Section.

Children's Age	Required Staff to Child Ratio	Maximum Number of Children Per Age Category
Less than 1 year of age	1 caregiver for every 2 children	4
1 year of age or older but less than 3 years of age	1 caregiver for every 4 children	8
3 years of age or older	2 caregivers for every 6 children	12

*C. Child care centers

1. A licensee of a child care center, child care institution, accommodation facility, facility for special events, nursery for infants and toddlers or special needs facility shall, between the hours of 6:30a.m. and 9:00p.m., abide by the following staffing levels in each classroom:

Individual Classroom Ratio and group size from 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.		
Children's Age	Staff to Child Ratio	Group Size
Birth - 9 months	1 staff - 4 children	8 children
9 months – 24 months	1 staff - 6 children	12 children
2 years	1 staff - 9 children	18 children
3 years	1 staff – 12 children	24 children
4 years	1 staff - 13 children	26 children
5 years and up	1 staff – 18 children	36 children

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2. A licensee of a child care center, child care institution, accommodation facility, facility for special events, nursery for infants and toddlers or special needs facility shall, between the hours of 9:00p.m. and 6:30a.m. shall abide by the following staffing levels in each classroom:

Individual Classroom Ratio and group size from 9:00p.m. -6:30a.m.		
Children's Age	Required Staff to Child Ratio	Maximum Number of Children
Less than 3 years of age	1 caregiver for every 6 children	12
3 years of age or older	1 caregiver for every 10 children	20

- a. Every member of the staff of a child care center who is on duty at night must remain awake during duty hours.

*D. Care of ill children facility A licensee of a facility that provides care for ill children shall abide by the following limits on the number of children in the facility and staffing levels:

Children's Age	Required Staff to Child Ratio	Maximum Number of Children Per Age Category
Less than 2 years of age	1 caregiver for every 3 children	6
2 years of age or older but less than 3 years of age	1 caregiver for every 4 children	8
3 years of age or older but less than 6 years of age	1 caregiver for every 5 children	10
6 or more years of age	1 caregiver for every 7 children	12

- *1. If the Director provides care for ill children, he may be included in calculating the ratio of staff to children.
- *2. If a facility that provides care for ill children contains children from more than one of these age groups, the required number of staff is determined by computing the average of the ages of all children attending the facility and using the average age to determine the applicable ratio of staff to children.
- *3. Only staff providing direct care to the children will be counted in the ratio of staff to children.

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- *E. Mixed age groups: Facilities who utilize mixed ages, with the exception of care of ill children facilities, must use the youngest age of child with a group size as the basis for ratio; however, per above charts, multiple group sizes can be in one classroom while maintaining room capacity.
 - *F. Square Footage: Facilities are allowed the use of all useable and measurable square footage within a classroom if ratios and group size are maintained per the above charts within these classrooms.
- 24.5 Field trips. In addition to the number of caregivers required to satisfy the applicable ratio of caregivers to children set forth in Subsection 24.4, one additional caregiver per group of children must be present on all field trips away from the child care facility to assist in providing direct supervision to the children and to increase the safety of the children. The provisions of this Section do not apply:
- A. If the purpose for leaving the child care facility is to transport the children from the child care facility to another location and, upon reaching that location, the responsibility for caring for the children is assumed by another adult; or
 - B. To a group of children that is composed entirely of school age, including children who are attending kindergarten.