

# Proporción de niños y educadores de la primera infancia



## La clave de la calidad

¿Por qué se reduce la proporción de niños por educador de la primera infancia?

Las bajas proporciones de niños por educador de la primera infancia son...

- ❖ Se conectó consistentemente con una atención de mayor calidad y **resultados positivos en los niños**, incluida una mayor competencia social, habilidades de comunicación y lenguaje, y desarrollo cognitivo.
- ❖ se asocia con **interacciones sociales más directas y cálidas** entre adultos y niños y, por lo tanto, relaciones más seguras. Décadas de investigación en desarrollo humano confirman que las relaciones tempranas positivas con los cuidadores son la base para la salud y el bienestar a lo largo de la vida.
- ❖ se correlacionó con **menos situaciones que amenazan la seguridad física de los niños**, incluidas las situaciones relacionadas tanto con la capacidad de supervisión de un adulto como con la pérdida de autocontrol.

La baja proporción de niños por educador de la primera infancia garantiza que...

- ❖ Los niños pueden recibir la **atención personalizada** necesaria para sentirse seguros, amados y listos para explorar. Cuando los profesionales de cuidado infantil cuidan a un número menor de niños, se involucran en un comportamiento de cuidado más positivo, que incluye participar en contacto físico, responder rápidamente a las necesidades, fomentar el desarrollo, hablar, cantar y leer. Esto es más importante para los bebés y niños pequeños, que requieren más orientación adulta para sentirse emocionalmente regulados y seguros en su entorno.
- ❖ Los adultos pueden proporcionar **seguridad** en situaciones que ponen en peligro la vida. La Asociación Nacional de Protección contra Incendios requiere en el NFPA 101: Código de Seguridad de la Vida que los hogares de cuidado infantil familiar no atiendan a más de dos niños incapaces de autopreservarse.

iQuiero saber más!

# Caring for Our Children

National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs

FOURTH EDITION

American Academy of Pediatrics  
APHA PRESS  
National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education



## Wisconsin Child Care Ratios

While it may seem like a good idea to simply add more children to a childcare facility, especially if the state-mandated ratios have changed, careful consideration should be given to this potential solution. If children are ultimately less safe and teachers are burning out faster, increasing ratios won't help the childcare crisis at all! <sup>1</sup> [Visit about insurance](#)

### Potential Impacts of High Staff/Child Ratios in Child Care:

- Increased stress level of caregivers resulting in loss of the caregiver's self-control<sup>2</sup>
- Ability to provide safety in life-threatening situations such as a fire (e.g., The National Fire Protection Association requires in the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code that small family child care homes serve no more than two clients incapable of self-protection<sup>3</sup>)
- Increased levels of illness
- Why are low staff/child ratios important?
  - Are associated with fewer situations that threaten children's safety
  - Help ensure children receive adequate care and supervision
  - Set the stage for high-quality interactions between caregivers and children that can promote children's well-being<sup>4</sup>

Federal law requires states to establish standards for staff-to-child staff/child ratios for each age group of children receiving care. Standards for staff/child ratios and group size are a way to ensure the safety, well-being, and development of children; provide better supervision and care; and provide children with more opportunities to develop social skills by allowing them to interact with a smaller group of children and staff.

### Ratios: Comparison by age and care

Age	Illinois	Massachusetts	Minnesota	Mississippi	Montana	Nebraska	North Carolina	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Infants (0-2)	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4
Toddlers (2-3)	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4
Preschool (3-5)	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10

## Infant-Toddler Child Care

An Essential Support for Babies and Families

Research shows that quality child care is not only vital for a child's cognitive and social development, but also for their physical health. Quality child care provides a safe and stimulating environment where children can learn and grow. It also provides parents with a respite from their daily responsibilities, allowing them to work and manage their households more effectively. Quality child care is essential for the well-being of both children and their families.

**QUICK FACTS**

1. Infants, toddlers and young children are not in the majority of child care programs.
2. High-quality child care programs are more expensive than other types of child care.
3. In 2018, only 10% of children under the age of 5 were in high-quality care.
4. Only 25% of families with low and moderate income have access to high-quality care.
5. Only 10% of children in high-quality care are in non-parental care.
6. Only 10% of children in high-quality care are in non-parental care.
7. Only 10% of children in high-quality care are in non-parental care.

As we build toward the future, Congress and the Administration must commit to creating a robust child care system that supports the development of all children. Doing so will not only support our economic recovery, but will ensure our future workforce – today's babies and toddlers – arrive at school ready to learn and prepared for future success.

**Policy Recommendations:**

- As the child care system rebuilds following the COVID-19 crisis, we need robust public funding for a system of high-quality programs and providers that are accessible to all families. Any public solution must be built on principles that will ensure it serves the needs of the current and future workforce:
  - Quality: All children receive high-quality child care.
  - Affordability: Families get the financial support they need to afford high-quality child care.
  - Access: Families can access the high-quality child care setting that best meets their needs.
  - Workforce: Early childhood professionals in all settings can receive the support, resources, and compensation they need to provide high-quality care and support their own families.

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## Family Child Care Safe Environments Ratios and Supervision in Family Child Care

One of the most critical ways you will ensure safety in the daily care of children is by maintaining appropriate ratios and practicing strong supervision. Although these are important aspects of safety, keeping ratios and using good supervision practices also help foster the development of each child. Maintaining required ratios and supervision practices means you have enough time to offer the engaged attention that helps them bond with you and the other children and learn about the world around them.

### Objectives

- List safe ratios for family child care settings and reasons why maintaining ratio is important.
- Define active supervision and provide examples of what active supervision looks like.
- Brainstorm ways to safely handle supervision challenges in family child care settings.

Learn

Know

### Ratios for Family Child Care

To determine the number of children to safely enroll in your family child care program, it is important to consider some factors that could affect your ability to provide care. If you will be working alone, this presents unique challenges in dividing your attention while caring for children and completing tasks like cooking and preparing meals. If you will also be providing care for your own children, you may have to manage their expectations, especially regarding what they believe to be their "space" in the house. Finally, if you will be working with children with disabilities, you will have to consider how to safely provide appropriate care.

It is also critical that you check with the licensing standards in your state and with your family child care administrator to know exactly how many children and of what ages you can safely care for at one time.

PLEASE NOTE: This information was current at the time the document was published in 2020. The information is being updated and may no longer be accurate. It is provided for historical purposes only.

## THE NICHD STUDY OF EARLY CHILD CARE AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



### Findings for Children up to Age 4 1/2 Years

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institute of Health  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

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