



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau



Definition of Licensed Family Child Care Homes (August 2004)

State	Small Family Child Care Homes				Large Family Child Care Homes		
	Number of Children Allowed	Maximum Number of Children to One Provider	Provider's Own Children Counted	Maximum Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed to One Provider	Number of Children Allowed	Ratio of Children to One Provider	Provider's Own Children Counted
Alabama	1-6	6	Yes, if under age 12	2 under 1-yr	7-12	6:1, with no more than 2 under 1-yr	Yes, if under age 12
Alaska*	5-8	8	Yes	3 under 30-mos, with no more than 2 non-ambulatory children	9-12	12:2	Yes
Arizona	NL (Voluntary certification)				5-10 (unrelated)	5:1	No (total not to exceed 15)
Arkansas*	NL (Voluntary registration)				6-16	10:1, if none under 3-yrs; 9:1, if none under 2-yrs, and no more than 3 between 2 and 3-yrs; 8:1, if no more than 1 under 2-yrs; 7:1, if no more than 2 under 2-yrs; 6:1, if no more than 3 under 2-yrs	Yes, if preschool-age or younger
California*	2-6 (plus 2 SAC)	8	Yes, if under age 10	See endnote	Up to 12 (plus 2 SAC)	8:1	Yes, if under age 10
Colorado*	2-6 (plus 2 SAC)	8	Yes, if under age 12	2 under 2-yrs; 3 under 2-yrs, with no more than 2 under 1-yr, with no additional SAC	7-12	7:1	NA
Connecticut	1-6 (plus 3 SAC)	9	Yes, if not in school full-time	2 under 2-yrs	7-12	4:1 for under 3-yrs; 10:1 for 3-yrs+	NA
Delaware*	1-4 (plus 2 SAC)	6	Yes, if preschool-age or younger	3 under 2-yrs, with max 2 under 1-yr	7-12 (plus 2 SAC during school closings)	6:1, with max 4 under 2-yrs and with max 2 under 1-yr	Yes, if preschool-age or younger
District of Columbia	1-5	5	Yes, if under age 6	2 under 2-yrs	NC		

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Florida	2–10	10, if no more than 5 are preschool-aged, with no more than 2 under 1-yr; 6 preschool, if none under 1-yr; 6, with 3 under 1-yr; 4, if all under 1-yr	Yes, if under age 13	4 under 1-yr	Up to 12	8:2, if all children are birth to 24-mos; 12:2, if no more than 4 are under 24-mos	Yes, if under age 13
Georgia*	3–6 (up to 12 under 13-yrs, with 6 related to provider, residents, or children for whom no compensation is received)	3 under 1-yr; 6 under 3-yrs; 8 under 5-yrs	Yes	3 under 1-yr	7–18	6:1 for under 1-yr and under 18-mos and not walking; 8:1 for 1-yr-olds who walk; 10:1 for 2-yrs; 15:1 for 3-yrs; 18:1 for 4-yrs+	NA
Hawaii	3–6	6	Yes, if under age 6	2 under 18-mos	Up to 12	8:1 for 2–3-yrs; 12:1 for 3–5-yrs+	NA
Idaho*	NL (Voluntary license)				7–12	12:1	NA
Illinois*	4–8 (plus 4 SAC)	8	Yes, if under age 12	3 under 2-yrs, if no more than 5 are under 5-yrs	4–16	8:1; 12:1, if SAC	Yes, if under age 12
Indiana	6–12 (plus 3 SAC during vacations)	12	Yes, if under age 8	6 under 24-mos, with 2 or more 16-mos+ and walking	13–16	4:1 for infants; 6:1 for birth–2-yrs, with 2 or more 16-mos+ and walking; 10:1 for birth–6-yrs, with no more than 3 under 16-mos; 12:1 for 3–yrs+	Yes, if under age 8
Iowa*	NL (Voluntary registration)				6 (plus 2 SAC)	6:1, with no more than 4 under 2-yrs, no more than 3 under 18-mos	Yes, if not enrolled in kindergarten or higher grade
Kansas*	1–6	6	Yes, if under age 12	3 under 18-mos	7–12 (plus 4 SAC)	See endnotes	Yes, if under age 11
	7–10 (6 preschool and 4 SAC)	See endnotes	Yes, if under age 11	3 under 18-mos			

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Kentucky	4–6 (plus 4 children related to provider)	6	Yes, if under age 6	4 under 1-yr	7–12	5:1 for under 1-yr; 6:1 for 1–2-yrs; 10:1 for 2–3-yrs; 12:1 for 3–4-yrs; 14:1 for 4–5-yrs; 15:1 for 5–7-yrs	Yes, if care is provided to them
Louisiana	NL (Voluntary registration)				NC		
Maine	3–12 (up to 8 preschool and 2 SAC, unless all SAC)	4 under 30-mos; 8 over 2.5-yrs plus 2 SAC; 6, with no more than 3 under 2.5-yrs plus 2 SAC; 12 SAC	No	4 under 30-mos	NC		
Maryland	1–8	8	Yes, if under age 6	2 under 2-yrs	NC		
Massachusetts*	1–6	6	Yes, if under age 10 and present more than 3 hrs	3 under 2-yrs, if at least one is 15-mos and can walk unassisted	Up to 10	6:1, with no more than 3 under 2-yrs, no more than 2 under 15-mos	Yes, if under age 10 and present more than 3 hrs
Michigan	1–6	6	Yes, if under age 7	2 under 18-mos; 4 under 30-mos	7–12	6:1	Yes, if under age 7
Minnesota	2–6 (plus 4 SAC)	10, if 6 under kindergarten-age, with no more than 3 under 24-mos, with no more than 2 of under 1-yr	Yes, if under age 11	3 under 24-mos, with no more than 2 under 1-yr unless have a specific license	Up to 14	10:1, with 8 under kindergarten-age, no more than 3 under 24-mos, no more than 2 under 1-yr; 12:1, with 10 under kindergarten-age, no more than 2 under 24-mos, no more than 1 under 1-yr	Yes, if under age 11
Mississippi	NL (Voluntary registration)				6–12	4:1 for 0–11-mos; 8:1 for 1-yr; 12:1 for 2-yrs; 14:1 for 3-yrs; 16:1 for 4-yrs; 20:1 for 5–9-yrs; 25:1 for 10–12-yrs	No

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Missouri	5-10	10, if 2 under 2-yrs; 6, if 3 under 2-yrs; 4, if all under 2-yrs	No	4 under 2-yrs	11-20	4:1 for 0-2-yrs; 8:1 for 2-yrs; 10:1 for 3-4-yrs; 16:1 for 5+-yrs 10:1 for mixed ages over 2-yrs; 8:1, with more than 4 2-yr-olds	No
Montana*	3-6	6	Yes, if under age 6	3 under 2-yrs	7-12	6:1; 4:1 for infants	Yes, if under age 6
Nebraska*	4-8 (plus 2 SAC)	10, if 2 SAC during non-school hours	Yes, if under age 8	3 under 18-mos, with no more than 2 under 1-yr	Up to 12	10:1, if no young preschoolers; 12:1, if all SAC	Yes, if under age 8
Nevada	5-6 (plus 3 SAC)	9, if 3 SAC	No, but additional SAC includes provider's own children, if under age 10	4 under 2-yrs, with no more than 2 under 1-yr	7-12 (plus 3 SAC)	6:1, with no more than 4 under 2-yrs and no more than 2 under 1-yr	No, but additional SAC includes provider's own children, if under age 10
New Hampshire	4-6 (plus 3 SAC)	6 preschool-age and 3 SAC, with no more than 4 under 3-yrs, and no more than 2 under 24-mos; 5 preschool-age and 3 SAC, with no more than 4 under 3-yrs, and no more than 2 under 2-yrs; 4 under 3-yrs	Yes, if under age 10	4 under 3-yrs, with no more than 2 under 24-mos	7-12 (plus 5 SAC)	17:2 (includes 5 SAC), with no more than 4 under age 3	Yes, if under age 10
New Jersey	NL (Voluntary certification)				NC		
New Mexico	5-6	6	Yes, if under age 6	2 under 2-yrs	7-12	6:1, with no more than 2 under 2-yrs	Yes, if under age 6
New York*	3-6 (plus 2 SAC)	6, if none are under 2-yrs; 5, if one or more are under 2-yrs	Yes, if not yet enrolled in kindergarten or higher grade	2 under 2-yrs	7-12 (plus 2 SAC)	6:1; 2:1 under 2-yrs	Yes, if not yet enrolled in kindergarten or higher grade
North Carolina	3-5 (plus 3 SAC)	8, with no more than 5 preschool-age or younger	Yes, if preschool-age or younger	NA	NC		

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North Dakota*	4-7 (plus 2 SAC 2 hrs before and after school, and school vacation)	9, if 2 are limited SAC; 4, if all under 2-yrs	Yes, if under age 12	3 under 2-yrs, if exceeds 4 children	8-18	4:1 for under 2-yrs; 5:1 for 2-3-yrs; 7:1 for 3-4-yrs; 10:1 for 4-5-yrs; 12:1 for 5-6-yrs; 18:1 for 6-12-yrs	NA
Ohio	NL				7-12; or 4-12, if 4 or more are under 2-yrs	6:1	Yes, if under age 6
Oklahoma*	1-7	7 (see endnote)	Yes, if under age 5	See endnote	8-12	5:1 for any age; 6:1, with no more than 3 under 2-yrs; 7:1, with no more than 2 under 2-yrs; 7:1, if all 2-yrs+; 8:1, if all 3-yrs+; 10:1, if all 4-yrs+; 12:1, if all 5-yrs+	Yes, if under age 5
Oregon	4-6 (plus 4 SAC)	10	Yes, if under age 13	2 under 2-yrs	7-10; or up to 12, if all are 5-yrs+	8:1, with 1 under 24-mos; 7:1, with 2 under 24-mos; 6:1, with 3 under 24-mos; 4:1, with all under 24-mos	Yes, if under age 13
Pennsylvania*	4-6	6	Yes, if infant/toddler	5 toddlers, if no infants; 4 toddlers, if 1 infant; 3 toddlers, if 2 infants	7-12 (plus 3 SAC)	See endnotes	Yes
Rhode Island	4-8	6 under 6-yrs, with no child under 18-mos; 4 under 6-yrs, with no more than 2 under 18-mos	Yes, if under 6-yrs or, if more than 2 are under 12-yrs & present more than 3 hrs	2 under 18-mos	9-12	4:1 for under 2-yrs; 6:1 for 2+-yrs	Yes, if under 6-yrs or, if more than 2 are under 12-yrs & present more than 3 hrs
South Carolina	2-6	6	Yes, if under age 12	NA	7-12	8:1, with no more than 3 under 2-yrs	Yes, if under age 10

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South Dakota	NL (Voluntary registration)				13–20 (plus 3 SAC)	5:1 for 0–3-yrs; 10:1 for 3–6-yrs; 15:1 for 6-yrs+	Yes, if preschool-age
Tennessee	5–7 (plus 5 children related to the provider)	7	Yes, if under age 9	4 under 2-yrs	8–12 (plus 3 SAC)	12:1 for 3+-yrs; 15:1 for 3+-yrs, with at least 3 SAC	Yes, if under age 9
Texas*	4–6 (plus 6 SAC)	12	Yes, if under age 14	4 under 17-mos	Up to 12	See endnotes	Yes, if under age 14
Utah*	5–8	8, with no more than 2 under 2-yrs; 6, with no more than 3 under 2-yrs	Yes, if under age 4	3 under 2-yrs	9–16	8:1, with no more than 4 under age 2; 12:1 for SAC	Yes, if under age 12
Vermont*	3–6 (plus 4 SAC)	10, with 4 SAC	Yes, if under age 2	3 under 2-yrs	3–12	3:1 for under 3-yrs; 6:1, with no more than 2 under 2-yrs	Yes, if preschool-age or younger or, if homebound
Virginia*	NL (Voluntary registration)				6–12	See endnotes	Yes, if under age 8
Washington*	1–12	See endnotes	Yes, if under age 12	4 under 2-yrs	NC		
West Virginia	4–6	6	Yes, if under age 6	2 under 2-yrs	7–12	6:1, with no more than 2 infants	Yes, if under age 6
Wisconsin*	4–8	8 (including SAC)	Yes, if under age 7	4 under 2-yrs	NC		
Wyoming	3–10	10	Yes, if preschool-age or younger	2 under 2-yrs	Up to 15	2:1 for birth–1 yr; 8:1 for 2-yrs+	Yes, if preschool-age or younger

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***Endnotes:**

States includes the District of Columbia for a total of 51 entities.

For the purposes of this document, a **licensed** program is required to have permission from the State to operate and must meet specified family child care standards. Several States have county or city licensing regulations which may supercede State requirements; this table does not include such regulations.

California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, South Carolina, and Wyoming exclude child care that is provided for the children of only one family. **Vermont** exempts family child care that is provided for the children of one or two families, unless it receives public funds.

Alaska: A large family child care home (“child care group home”) requires only one provider if the provider has completed one year of licensed home child care or the equivalent or meets the college credit or CDA requirements and there are no more than a total of 10 children, with no children under the age of 30 months; or no more than a total of 12 children who are all school-age. Family child care regulations governing group size and ratio differ slightly between the State and the city of Anchorage.

Arkansas: A licensed home may care for two school-age children for not more than three hours per day before and/or after a school day; these two children are not required to be counted in the caregiver to child ratio.

California: For a small family child care home, the maximum number of children for whom care shall be provided, including children under age 10 who live in the licensee’s home, are: four infants; or six children, no more than three of whom may be infants; or eight children, if at least two of the children are at least 6 years of age, no more than two infants are cared for during any time when more than six children are cared for, and the licensee notifies each parent that there may be up to seven or eight children in the home at one time. Large family child care homes may care for up to 14 children when at least two are at least 6 years of age, no more than three infants are in care, and the licensee notifies each parent that there may be up to 13 or 14 children in the home at one time.

Colorado: Separate rules apply to Infant/Toddler and Experienced Provider homes.

Delaware: There are two levels of small family child care homes. A Level II provider has more extensive qualifications, as demonstrated by education, credentials, or experience specified in the rules, and is permitted to enroll more children. In Level I homes, the provider must meet the qualifications for initial licensure. The following table is an example of the differences that are permitted when the provider is more qualified:

	Lic. Number	Number under 2	Number under 1	Additional SAC	Total
Level I	4	3	2	2	4+2=6
Level II	6	4	2	2	6+2=8

Type 1 large family child care homes may care for 7–12 children. A Type 2 large family child care home is also called an “infant/toddler” home. We report data for Level I small family child care homes and Type 1 large family child care homes.

Georgia: In large (“group”) homes, mixed-age ratios are determined by the age of youngest child under 3; ratios in groups with children over 3 years of age determined by age of majority of children.

Idaho: State certification is required for large family child care homes.

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Illinois: One provider may care for a group consisting of: up to eight children under age 12, of which up to five children may be under age 5, of which up to three children may be under age 2; or up to eight children under age 12, of which up to six may be under age 5, of which up to two may be under 30 months of age. In a group child care home, the provider and assistant may care for 16 children: no more than 12 can be under age 6 and no more than six can be under 30 months of age, of which no more than four can be under 15 months of age.

Iowa: Homes caring for more than five children are required to register. Iowa registers three types of family child care homes; categories A, B, and C. The data reported in the table is for category A homes. Category B and C homes may care for more children, but must meet additional standards.

Kansas: Kansas regulates two types of small homes. Homes with one to six children must be registered and can be licensed voluntarily. Homes with seven to 10 children must be licensed.

In a licensed small family child care home (7–10 children), one provider may care for:

Maximum Number under 18-mos	Maximum Number 18-mos to Kindergarten-age	Kindergarten-age to 11-yrs	Total Maximum
0	7	3	10
1	5	4	10
2	4	3	9
3	3	2	8

In a licensed large family child care home (7–12 children), the maximum number of children is as follows:

License Capacity, One Adult		License Capacity, Two Adults						
Age of Children Enrolled	License Capacity	Max Under 18-mos	Max 18-mos to Kindergarten-age	Kindergarten-age to Age 11	License Capacity	Max Under 18-mos	Max 18-mos to 2.5-yrs	License Capacity
2 ½-yrs to 11 yrs	9	0	7	3	10	0	5	12
3-yrs to 11-yrs	10	1	5	4	10			
Kindergarten-age to 11-yrs	12	2	4	3	9			
		3	3	2	8			

Massachusetts: A third category of family child care homes, Family Child Care Plus Home, is regulated by the licensing office. A provider in a Family Child Care Plus Home may care for up to eight children provided that at least two of the eight children are school-age.

Montana: Small family child care homes providing care to infants only may enroll up to four infants. Large family child care homes providing care to infants only may enroll up to eight infants.

Nebraska: The number of providers required and the maximum size of the group depends on the ages of children enrolled. The following table summarizes the requirements.

Ages and Number of Children	Family Child Care Homes I: Number Of Providers	Family Child Care Homes II: Number Of Providers
<i>Infants Only</i>	4	1
	5–8	2
	9–12	N/A

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<i>Mixed Ages</i>	8	1	1
	9–10	1	1
	9–12	N/A	2
<i>School-Age</i>	9–10	1	1
	11–12	N/A	1

New York: A maximum of 10 children are allowed in large family child care homes if any child is under 2-years-old.

North Dakota: A small family child care home must be licensed if it cares for four or more children ages 24-months and under, or six or more children at any time.

Oklahoma:

One provider alone can care for seven children only in the following combinations of ages:

One Provider	Number of Children Under 2-yrs	Number of Children 2-yrs and Older
	0	7
	1	6
	2	5
	3	3
	4	1
	5	0

When seven children are enrolled, and more than two of them are younger than 2 years of age, a second provider who is 18 years old or older is required. Two providers can care for seven children only in the following combinations of ages:

Two Providers	Number of Children Under 2-yrs	Number of Children 2-yrs and Older
	3	4
	4	3
	5	2
	6	1
	7	0

Pennsylvania: The following table details the large (group) family child care home ratio and group sizes allowed by the State.

Same-age Groupings			Mixed Ages		
Age	Max group size	Child:staff ratio	Age	Max group size	Child:staff ratio
Birth–12-mos	12	4:1	Birth–36-mos	12	4:1
13–24-mos	12	5:1	13–36-mos	12	5:1
25–36-mos	12	6:1	25-mos–6-yrs	12	6:1
37-mos–6-yrs	12	10:1	37-mos–8-yrs	12	10:1
6–8-yrs	12	12:1	6–15-yrs	12	12:1
9–15-yrs	15	15:1			

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Texas: Texas requires family child care homes that care for 1–3 children to be listed with the State. No inspections are conducted and there are no standards to meet. Small family child care homes are required to be registered and meet State requirements; large family child care homes are required to be licensed. Regulations for registered and licensed homes are combined, with specific stipulations included for each type of home. The following tables detail the ratios and maximum group sizes allowed by the State.

Small (Registered) Family Child Care Combinations			
0–17-mos	18-mos+	SAC 5-yrs+	Max
0	6	6	12
0	5	7	12
0	4	8	12
0	3	9	12
0	2	10	12
0	1	11	12
0	0	12	12
1	5	4	10
1	4	5	10
1	3	6	10
1	2	7	10
1	1	8	10
1	0	9	10
2	4	2	8
2	3	3	8
2	2	4	8
2	1	5	8
2	0	6	8
3	3	1	7
3	2	2	7
3	1	3	7
3	0	4	7
4	2	0	6
4	1	1	6
4	0	2	6

Large (Licensed) Family Child Care Combinations with One Provider			
0–17-mos	18-mos–3-yrs	4-yrs+	Max
0	8	4	12
0	7	5	12
0	6	6	12
0	5	7	12
0	4	8	12
0	3	9	12
0	2	10	12
0	1	11	12
0	0	12	12
1	6	4	11
1	5	5	11
1	4	6	11
1	3	7	11
1	2	8	11
1	1	9	11
1	0	10	11
2	5	3	10
2	4	4	10
2	3	5	10
2	2	6	10
2	1	7	10
2	0	8	10
3	2	1	6
3	1	2	6
4	0	0	4

Large (Licensed) Family Child Care Combinations with Two Providers		
0–17-mos	18-mos+	Max
0	12	12
1	11	12
2	10	12
3	9	12
4	8	12
5	7	12
6	6	12
7	5	12
8	4	12
9	3	12
10	0	10

A large (Licensed) family child care home with three providers may care for up to 12 children of any age birth through age 13.

Utah: Small family child care homes that care for up to four children may voluntarily become registered.

Vermont: A small (registered) family child care home may care for up to 12 children during the summer if two caregivers are on duty. In a large (licensed) family child care home, when only children under age 3 are enrolled, two staff are required for four to seven children, and three staff are required when eight or more children are in care.

Compiled by Sarah LeMoine from licensing regulations posted on the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care's Web site: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>, August 5, 2004.

Original methodology developed by Gwen Morgan and Sheri L. Azer, adapted by Sarah LeMoine.

For more information please contact NCCIC, 243 Church St., NW, 2nd Floor, Vienna, VA 22180

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Definition of Licensed Family Child Care Homes (August 2004)

Virginia:

In determining the need for an assistant, the following ratios are required, including the provider's own and resident children under 8 years of age:

Age of child	Ratio
Birth–15-mos	4:1
16–23-mos	5:1
2–4 yrs	8:1
5–9 yrs	16:1
10-yrs and up	not counted

For mixed-age groups, the State providers must generally limit enrollment to 16 points, based on the following:

Age of child	Points
Birth–15-mos	4
16–23-mos	3
2–4 yrs	2
5–9 yrs	1
10-yrs and up	0

Washington:

Number of Providers Required	Age Range in years	Max Number of Children Under 2 years	Max Number of Children
A. Licensee	Birth–11	2	6
B. Licensee with one year experience	2–11	None	8
C. Licensee with one year experience	5–11	None	10
D. Licensee with one year experience plus assistant	Birth–11	4	9
E. Licensee with two years experience and one early childhood education (ECE) class	3–11	None	10
F. Licensee with two years experience and one ECE class plus assistant	Birth–11	4	12

Wisconsin: The maximum number of children per provider allowed by the State is outlined in the following chart.

Maximum Number of Children per Provider			
Under 2 years	2 years and older	Max Number of Additional Children in First Grade or Above, in Care for Fewer than 3 Hours a day	Max Number Per Provider
0	8	0	8
1	7	0	8
2	5	1	8
3	2	3	8
4	0	2	6

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