

Staff-to-Child Ratio and Class Size

The following staff-to-child ratios are suggested best practice. Assessors will rate staff-to-child ratios according to the highest observed ratio and class size for each age category (Infant, Toddler/Two, Preschool, and Kindergarten).

Age Category	Ratio	Maximum Class Size*
Infant (Birth–15 months)	1:4	8
Toddler/Two (12–36 months)	1:6	12
Preschool (30 months–5 years)	1:10	20
Kindergarten (Enrolled in any public or private kindergarten)	1:12	24

*If your program is above the maximum class size then you will receive a no rating for that item.

Rationales

- › For mixed-age classes, the assessor will rate according to the youngest age category present within the class.
- › Class sizes above are the highest recommended size based on best practices.
- › Ratios are assessed:
 - During all hours of operation.
 - In classrooms and other indoor settings.
 - In outdoor settings. Maximum group sizes are not rated during outdoor times.

Examples of written procedures that address how to maintain staff-to-child ratios and class size: Child supervision records, transition logs, head counts, attendance records, sign-in and sign-out sheets.

Definitions

Staff-to-child ratio: The number of children compared to the number of teaching staff.

Definition of class: For the purposes of NAEYC Accreditation, a class is defined as the children assigned for most of the day to a specific teacher or a team of teaching staff members who occupy an individual classroom or well-defined space that prevents children from different classes interacting within a larger room or area. Each class must have at least one designated teacher.