



Why NAEYC Recommended Teacher-Child Ratios and Group Sizes?

Age	Group Size									
	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Infant										
Birth to 15 months	1:3	1:4								
Toddler/Two 12 to 36 months										
12 to 28 months	1:3	1:4	1:4	1:4						
21 to 36 months		1:4	1:5	1:6						
Preschool										
2 ½-years-old to 3-year-olds				1:6	1:7	1:8	1:9			
4-year-olds						1:8	1:9	1:10		
5-year-olds						1:8	1:9	1:10		
Kindergarten								1:10	1:11	1:12

RATIONALE FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

- Lower ratios support one-on-one interactions that build an increased knowledge of the individual needs of children
- Knowledge of individual needs encourages consistent caregiving practices
- Supportive caregiving practices encourage a child’s development (particularly language development)
- Safety and sanitation routines can be adequately conducted by staff that are not meeting excessive demands
- Low ratios are necessary for fire safety when children are non-mobile
- Quality infant programs can build and support future preschool programs

RATIONALE FOR CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Programs must be able to meet the individual needs of the children in their care. For this reason considerations of lower ratios and group sizes for children with specific needs and abilities must be considered on an individual basis in collaboration with families and other specialists.

REFERENCES

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). 2008. *Teacher-child ratios within group size*. Washington, DC: NAEYC.

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