

**Teacher<sup>a</sup>-Child Ratios within Group Size  
(Assessed in Criterion 10.B.12)**

Age Category	Group Size									
	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
<i>Infant</i>										
Birth to 15 months <sup>b</sup>	1:3	1:4								
<i>Toddler/Two (12-36 months)<sup>b</sup></i>										
12 to 28 months	1:3	1:4	1:4 <sup>c</sup>	1:4						
21 to 36 months		1:4	1:5	1:6						
<i>Preschool<sup>b</sup></i>										
2 ½-year-olds to 3-year-olds (30-48 months)				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		
<i>Kindergarten<sup>d</sup></i>								1:10	1:11	1:12

*Notes:* In a mixed-age preschool group of 21/2-year-olds to 5-year-olds, no more than four children between the ages of 30 months and 36 months may be enrolled. The ratios within group size for the predominant age category apply. If infants or toddlers are in a mixed-age group, then the ratio for the youngest child applies.

Ratios are to be lowered when one or more children in the group need additional adult assistance to fully participate in the program (1) because of ability, language fluency, developmental age or stage, or other factors or (2) to meet other requirements of NAEYC Accreditation.

A group refers to the number of children who are assigned for most of the day to a teacher or a team of teaching staff and who occupy an individual classroom or well-defined space that prevents intermingling of children from different groups within a larger room or area.

Group sizes as stated are ceilings, regardless of the number of staff.

Ratios and group sizes are always assessed during site visits for NAEYC Accreditation in criterion 10.B.12, which is not a required criterion.

However, experience suggests that programs that exceed the recommended number of children for each teaching staff member and total group sizes will find it more difficult to meet each standard and achieve NAEYC Accreditation. The more these numbers are exceeded, the more difficult it will be to meet each standard.

<sup>a</sup> Includes teachers, assistant teachers–teacher aides, some exceptions may apply; see *Determining Teacher-Child Ratios Within Group Size*.

<sup>b</sup> These age ranges purposefully overlap. If a group includes children whose ages range beyond the overlapping portion of two age categories, then the group is a mixed-age group. For mixed-age groups, universal criteria and criteria relevant to the age categories for that group apply.

<sup>c</sup> Group sizes of 10 for this age category would require an additional adult.

<sup>d</sup> Kindergarten refers to children enrolled in a public or private kindergarten program.

<b>Determining Teacher-Child Ratios within Group Size</b>	
<p>Individuals should be classified as teaching staff members based on the role they fill in the program, following the definitions in <i>Definitions Related to Teaching Staff Members</i>. With some exceptions (as noted below), only teaching staff members (teachers and assistant teachers–teacher aides) are considered when determining whether a program is meeting teacher-child ratios within group size, which is assessed in criterion 10.B.12.</p> <p>Criterion 10.B.12 states, “Written procedures address the maintenance of developmentally appropriate teaching staff-child ratios within group size to facilitate adult-child interaction and constructive activity among children. Teaching staff-child ratios within group size are maintained during all hours of operation, including indoor time, outdoor time, and during transportation and field trips (when transporting children, the teaching staff-child ratio is used to guide the adult-child ratio).” This criterion is always assessed for determining NAEYC Accreditation but it is not a Required Criterion.</p>	
<b>Exceptions When Determining Teacher-Child Ratios within Group Size</b>	
<i>Exception</i>	<i>Description</i>
Program Administrator	A program administrator fulfilling the responsibilities of a teaching staff member may be counted.
Substitute	An adult substituting for a teaching staff member may be counted.
Special Subject Teachers or Other Ancillary Professionals	When an ancillary professional (such as a music teacher, art teacher, or librarian) is providing a planned activity for one hour or less, that person may be counted toward the teaching staff ratio but does not need to be included in other reporting requirements for teaching staff.
Nap Time	When two or more adults must be present during naptime, at least one of the adults present must be a teacher or assistant teacher–teacher aide (for example, a group of 5–8 infants would require at least two people, one of which is a teacher or assistant teacher–teacher aide, to be present to meet the ratio). Additional adults may be staff members or other adults who function in a different role.
Brief Absences of Teaching Staff	Ratios are considered to remain in compliance when a staff member leaves the group without a substitute for no more than 5 minutes (e.g., to get craft supplies, talk in the hall to a parent, go to the bathroom, etc.). If a teaching staff member is absent for more than 5 minutes but less than 20 minutes (e.g., to take children to the bathroom, to administer first aid, to take a personal break), the ratio is considered to remain in compliance when another adult who is not part of the teaching staff substitutes for the staff member.