



**START EARLY
START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING**

CHILD CARE CENTERS: ADULT-TO-CHILD RATIOS

The number of adults who teach and care for your child and other children in a group is known as the adult-to-child ratio. Ratios ensure your child gets enough one-on-one attention from an adult, which is important to your child's social-emotional development, physical well-being and overall learning. This guide shows the adult-to-child ratios required in Colorado for child care centers and child care homes.

AGES OF CHILDREN	COLORADO REQUIREMENTS
6 weeks to 18 months (infants)	1 staff member to 5 infants
1 years to 3 years (toddlers)	1 staff member to 5 toddlers
2 years to 3 years	1 staff member to 7 children
2½ years to 3 years	1 staff member to 8 children
3 years to 4 years	1 staff member to 10 children
4 years to 5 years	1 staff member to 12 children
5 years and older	1 staff member to 15 children
Mixed age group (2½ years to 6 years)	1 staff member to 10 children

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES: GROUP SIZES

LICENSE TYPE	EXTRA SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN	MAX. # OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 2	MAX. # OF CHILDREN
Standard/6 + 2 License	2	2	8
3 Under 2 License	0	3 (2 under 1)	6
Infant/Toddler License	0	2 under 1	4
Large Family Home License	–	2	12 (when 9 or more children are in care, 2 qualified providers must be present)
EXPERIENCED FAMILY PROVIDER	Many options are included in this license. All will be listed on the providers license.		





**COLORADO
SHINES**

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STANDARD (6 + 2) FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

- Six children from birth through 18 years (can have 2 additional before/after-school children, during non-school hours or when school is not in session).
- Only 2 children under 2 years of age at any one time (8 children total).

3 UNDER 2 FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

- Six children from birth through 18 years.
- No more than 3 children under 2 years of age with no more than 2 of the 3 children being under 12 months old.

INFANT TODDLER FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

- An infant/toddler license is a type of family child care home that provides care only for children who are between birth and age 3.
- They are only allowed 4 children in this age range and only 2 of the children may be under the age of 1.

LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

- Twelve children ages birth through 18 years.
- Only 2 children under 2 years of age at any one time.
- Two people must be providing care with 9 or more children present (12 children total).

EXPERIENCED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

- Ratios for experienced providers will vary.
- All providers are required to have their ratio information posted next to their license, which includes different capacity options if eligible.

If you have questions about licensing or need to file a complaint, call the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Early Care and Learning at 303.866.5958 or 1.800.779.5876.

Licensing history can also be accessed online at [ColoradoShines.com/search](https://coloradoshines.com/search)

