

Questions:

An important indicator of high quality child care is that the number of children per adult provider is small enough so that each child receives sufficient attention and care.

Ask yourself:

- Can my child's needs be met in a timely manner?

When visiting a potential child care provider, it is a good idea to ask them about their license.

- Is the license displayed for parents to see?
- Ask the provider how they ensure that they are following guidelines set for their license classification?
- Do they adjust the number of children that they enroll based on the children's needs?

This brochure is a general tool for understanding the total number of children allowed in child care settings. The information in this brochure may not include rules that could be in place due to special licensing provisions and restrictions.

For complete information on child care rules and regulations, contact your local county child care licenser. Licenser contact information can be obtained through CCR&R.

NORTH DAKOTA
CCR&R
CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

Child Care Resource & Referral Offices

Western ND (701) 838-7800 1-800-450-7801
Eastern ND (218) 299-7026 1-800-941-7003

www.ndchildcare.org

Revised 09/09

How many children?



Licensed child care programs must follow regulations related to the number of children allowed in their care at one time. Caregivers must be licensed if caring for more than three infants (0-2 yrs.) or more than five children (0-12 yrs.)

This brochure is a tool to help parents understand those regulations and how the age groups are defined.

North Dakota

Age Groups:

Infant	Birth – 2 years
Toddler	2 years – 3 years
Preschool	3 years – 5 years
Kindergarten	5 years – 6 years
School Age	6 years – 12 years

The Point System: (for group and center licenses)

Age	Points
0-2 years	.25
2 years	.20
3 years	.14
4 years	.10
5 years	.08
6-12 years	.05

Ratio and Group Size Between Adults and Children in a Center Classroom

Ages	Adult to Child Ratio	Max. Group Size (same age classroom*)
0-2 years (infants)	1:4	8
2-3 years (toddlers)	1:5	10
3-4 years (preschool)	1:7	14
4-5 years (preschool)	1:10	20
5-6 years (kindergarten)	1:12	24
6-12 years	1:18	36

*If mixed ages are grouped in the same classroom, group size must be consistent with the age of the majority of the children. Exception: If infants or toddlers are part of a mixed age grouping, the group size for infants and toddlers must be maintained.

License Categories

Family Child Care

A provider with a “family” license may care for a maximum of 7 children, plus 2 school age children before and after school only. Of the 7 children, no more than 3 may be infants under the age of 2 years. A family child care provider may care for 4 children under the age of 2, if they care for no other children.

Providers must include their own children, under 12 years of age, when present, in the total number of children in their care.

In North Dakota, family child care must be licensed if the provider is caring for more than 5 children of any ages, or more than 3 children under the age of 2 years.

Group Child Care

Providers with a “group” license can care for 8-18 children, depending on space and caregiver qualifications, or local ordinances. The provider must count their own children, under 12 years of age, in the total number of children in care.

The number of children present at any time determines whether or not a second caregiver is needed.

Those providers with a group license have to count each child in their care, based on a point system. One adult can care for children totaling 1.34 points. The points assigned to each age group are listed on the previous page. Additional caregivers are needed for points valued over 1.34. (If all children in care are less than 2 years, one caregiver may care for four children.)

Center Child Care

A licensed child care center is a facility that provides care to 19 or more children, depending on space. Children are typically separated into classrooms, based on their age. The minimum ratio of caregivers to children and maximum group sizes are noted on the opposite page.

