
7. STAFF and GROUP SIZE

7.3 Age Groups from Schedules 3 and 4/Mixed Age Groupings

83. Checklist Reference

**LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCES
55(1), (2)**

- 55(1) Every operator of a day nursery shall ensure that the children enrolled in each day nursery operated by the operator are placed in groups according to age as set out in Schedule 3 or 4, as the case may be, except where a Director approves otherwise in accordance with subsection (2)
- (2) A Director may approve the placement of children in one age group with children in another age group if,
- (a) the ratio of employees to children and the group size required for the younger age group are used for mixed age groups if more than 20 per cent of the children are from the younger age group; and
 - (b) younger or older children are placed in not more than one group for each category as set out in Schedule 3 for each day nursery operated by the operator.
O. Reg. 50/91, s.2.

INTENT

- 55(1) An amendment to Schedule 3 allows operators to group children together of junior and senior kindergarten age. The amendment supports the implementation of an integrated early learning and child care system across the province by aligning *Day Nurseries Act* age groups with school age groupings.
- (2) Children are grouped by age in order that broad similarities in interest, ability and attention span may be considered in program planning, physical space and equipment. However, where no alternative age-mate groups are available for young children or where family groups are desirable, this section allows for the exercise of other options. For example, preschoolers and kindergarten children may mix with children age six and over by either moving younger children into the older group or vice versa.

INTENT
(cont'd)

At the same time, the parameters around ratios and group size will ensure that the flexibility provided by this provision is not used to the detriment of the children. When numbers of younger children in a group exceed 20 per cent of the total, their need for adult support dictates use of ratios outlined for the younger age group.

INDICATORS**Indicator Type:** Documentation

1. Children in the day nursery are grouped according to Schedule 3 or 4 age categories.

or

2. There is Director approval for the mixing of Schedule 3 and 4 age categories.

Indicator Type: Physical Inspection

1. Staff/child ratios are observed to be in accordance with Schedule 3 or, if more than 20 per cent of a group is from a younger age category, the ratios for the younger age category are applied.

SCHEDULE 3
**NUMBER OF STAFF REQUIRED FOR A DAY NURSERY
OTHER THAN A DAY NURSERY FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

| Age of Children in Group | Ratio of Employees to Children | Maximum Number of Children in a Group |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Under 18 months of age | 3 to 10 | 10 |
| 18 months of age and over up to and including 30 months of age | 1 to 5 | 15 |
| more than 30 months of age up to and including 5 years of age | 1 to 8 | 16 |
| 44 months of age or over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year | 1 to 10 | 20 |
| 56 months of age or over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year | 1 to 12 | 24 |
| 68 months of age or over as of August 31 of the year and up to and including 12 years of age | 1 to 15 | 30 |

SCHEDULE 4
**NUMBER OF STAFF REQUIRED FOR A DAY NURSERY
FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

| Age of Children in Group | Ratio of Employees to Children | Maximum Number of Children in a Group |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2 years of age and over but less than 6 years of age | 1 to 4 | 4 |
| 6 years of age and over up to and including 18 years of age | 1 to 3 | 3 |

MIXED AGE GROUPS

The following chart shows the number of children from a younger age group who may be incorporated into a mixed age group without changing the number of staff required or the group size:

| Age of Children in Group | Maximum Group Size | 20% |
|---|---------------------------|------------|
| Under 18 months of age | 10 | N/A |
| 18 months of age and over up to and including 30 months of age | 15 | 3 |
| more than 30 months of age up to and including 5 years of age | 16 | 3 |
| 44 months of age or over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year | 20 | 4 |
| 56 months of age or over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year | 24 | 4 |
| 68 months of age or over as of August 31 of the year and up to and including 12 years of age | 30 | 6 |

**SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS****Eligibility for Junior and Senior Kindergarten Groupings**

Junior (JK) and senior (SK) kindergarten groupings in day nurseries should be comprised of children who are eligible for junior or senior kindergarten school attendance. Eligibility for kindergarten starts as of the beginning of the school year in September. These groupings align with Ministry of Education school groupings and help support an integrated approach for children attending school.

To be eligible for a junior/senior kindergarten grouping, a child must have his/her fourth birthday by December 31 of the calendar year; therefore, the child must be 44 months on August 31 prior to JK entry.

Eligibility for Senior Kindergarten Grouping

To be eligible for a senior kindergarten grouping, a child must have his/her fifth birthday by December 31 of the calendar year; therefore, the child must be 56 months on August 31 prior to SK entry.

Eligibility for School Age Groupings

To be eligible for Grade 1 entry, a child must have his/her sixth birthday by December 31 of the calendar year; therefore, the child must be 68 months on August 31 prior to Grade 1 entry.