
3. BUILDING and ACCOMMODATION

3.3. Rooms Requirements by Age Groups

35-36. Checklist Reference

**LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE 8**

8. Every operator of a day nursery shall ensure that each day nursery operated by the operator has,
- (a) where the day nursery is licensed to enrol children under eighteen months of age,
 - (i) a separate play activity room for each ten children or less based on the licensed capacity, and
 - (ii) a separate sleeping area that is separated from any play activity space for each ten children or less based on the licensed capacity;
 - (b) where a day nursery is licensed to care for children eighteen months of age or over up to and including thirty months of age, a separate play activity room for each fifteen children or less based on the licensed capacity;
 - (c) where the day nursery is licensed to care for children thirty-one months of age or over up to and including five years of age, a separate play activity room for each twenty-four children or less based on the licensed capacity; and
 - (d) where the day nursery is licensed to care for children 44 months of age or over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year, a separate play activity room for each 20 children or less based on the licensed capacity;
 - (e) where the day nursery is licensed to care for children 56 months of age or over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year, a separate play area for each 24 children or less based on the licensed capacity; and

**LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE 8
(cont'd)**

- (f) where the day nursery is licensed to care for children 68 months of age or over as of August 31 of the year up to and including 12 years of age, a separate play area for each 30 children or less based on the licensed capacity, unless otherwise approved by a Director.

INTENT

The intent is to prevent the negative effects of crowding observed among children and adults in the play environment. In addition, this provision allows the staff to supervise children more effectively.

As younger children sleep more often and for a greater length of time than older children, section 8(a)(ii) ensures that safe and private sleeping accommodation is provided for younger children.

Section 8(d) and (e) provides for junior and senior kindergarten age groupings. The intent is for these groupings to align with the Ministry of Education school groupings and help to support an integrated approach for children attending school.

Section 8(d) provides for a separate program room for a junior and senior kindergarten group, with a maximum group size of 20.

Section 8(e) provides for a separate program room for a senior kindergarten group, with a maximum group size of 24.

Section 8(f) provides for a separate program room for a school-age group, unless otherwise approved by a Director, with a maximum group size of 30.

Refer to the Day Nurseries Manual (section 7.3.83.) re: Age Groups from Schedule 3 and 4/Mixed Age grouping to obtain details on kindergarten eligibility.

INTENT
(cont'd)**Director Approval – School-Age Programs:**

It is strongly recommended that programs for school-age children, which often operate before and after school, have exclusive room space as a home base.

When the operator of a school-age program proposes to use auxiliary and/or shared space as the licensed play space, Director approval is required. Additional space such as gymnasiums, libraries, resource centres etc. that are available to the child care school-age program on a regular, specified basis can be considered when determining licensed capacity.

Written confirmation of the rooms, times and days of access should be identified in documentation from the facility (e.g. school or resource centre) and included with the request for Director's approval. For example, the school gymnasium may be available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Classroom A is available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.; thus each day sufficient auxiliary space is available to meet the square footage required by the *Day Nurseries Act*.

INDICATORS**Indicator Type:** Documentation

1. The building plans of the day nursery include items listed in section 8(a) to (f) above, if applicable.
2. Where applicable, Director approval on file as per section 8(f).

Indicator Type: Physical Inspection

1. The day nursery is seen to provide rooms or areas as outlined in section 8(a) to (f) above.