
7. STAFF and GROUP SIZE

7.6 Ratios During Times of Arrival, Departure and Rest Periods

86. Checklist Reference

**LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE 55(6)**

55(6) Despite subsection (1), except where the children enrolled are under 18 months of age, during the periods of arrival and departure of children and during the rest period the ratio of employees to children may be reduced to less than that set out in Schedule 3 or 4, as the case may be, if the observed ratio is not less than two-thirds of the required ratio.

INTENT

Schedules 3 and 4 designate adult/child ratios and the size of children's groups. The operator is responsible for maintaining ratios over the length of the program and for determining that the program staff responsible for each group of children includes at least one member who is fully qualified under section 59(1).

Children generally arrive and depart at random. This section allows for flexibility of staff required at these times when the number of children in attendance fluctuates. As children are not active during rest period, a reduced adult/child ratio can be scheduled, ensuring that staff have a lunch break while children are adequately supervised. In the case of children under 18 months, physical safety considerations in evacuating infants preclude any reduction in adult/child ratios.

INDICATORS

Indicator Type: Physical Inspection

1. Ratios are observed to be those required in section 55(3) (see 7.3.83) for all times when children over 18 months are present, except during period of arrival, departure and rest.
2. During periods of arrival, departure and rest, the observed ratio for children over 18 months is not less than 2/3 of the required number as determined by section 55(3).
3. Ratios for infants are observed to be those required in section 55(3).

**SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS**

1. For purposes of staffing, the period of arrival is not to exceed two hours after the opening of the day nursery, or in the case of before and after school programs or nursery schools, 30 minutes.
2. For purposes of staffing, the period of departure is not to exceed two hours before the day nursery closes, or in the case of before and after school programs or nursery schools, 30 minutes.
3. Rest period - up to two hours.
4. Staff ratios must not be reduced during playground activities.

REDUCED RATIOS AT ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE AND REST

Age of Children in Group	Number of Children in activity room	Number of Staff Required
18 months of age and over up to and including 30 months of age	1-7 8-15	1 2
More than 30 months of age up to and including 5 years of age	1-11 12-24	1 2
44 months of age and over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year	1-13 14-20	1 2
56 months of age and over and up to and including 67 months of age as of August 31 of the year	1-16 17-24	1 2
68 months of age and over as of August 31 of the year and up to and including 12 years of age	1-20 21-30	1 2

Utilizing ratio reductions during rest period may provide some staff with an opportunity to leave the premises during the operating hours of the centre, and still leave the required number of staff to meet reduced ratio requirements.

NOTE: Section 55(8), (requirement for second adult on the premises) must also be met.