Educator to child ratios

The National Quality Framework (NQF) sets out the minimum child ratio requirements for children's education and care services.

The National Quality Framework (NQF) sets out the minimum qualification (https://www.acecqa.gov.au/educators-and-providers1/qualifications) and educator to child ratio requirements for children's education and care services.

On this page you will find educator to child ratio requirements for family day care and centre-based education and care settings. A calculator at the bottom of this page may assist in determining educator to child ratios in centre-based services, as well as any Early Childhood Teacher requirements.

Educators must be working directly with children to be counted in the educator to child ratios. Working directly with children means being physically present with the children and directly involved in providing education and care to those children.

Family day care ratio requirements

- 1:7 educator to child ratio
- Maximum of four children preschool age or under.
- Ratio includes the educator's own children younger than 13 years of age if there is no other adult to care for them.

Centre-based ratio requirements

- Ratios are calculated across the whole service (not by individual rooms). This gives providers the flexibility to respond to ensure educators are allocated appropriately based on the age and needs of children in the service. In a mixed age group of children, maintaining the ratio for each age range of children does not mean the educator to child ratio for the youngest age range must be applied to all children in an older age range. An educator who is caring for one age range of children can also be counted against another age range of children, as long as the ratio for each age range is maintained and adequate supervision is maintained at all times. Educators must be working directly with children to be counted in the educator to child ratios.

Age of children	Educator to child ratio	Applies
Birth to 24 months	1:4	All states and territories
Over 24 months and less than 36 months	1:5	All states and territories excluding VIC
	1:4	VIC
36 months up to and including preschool age	1:11	ACT, NT, QLD, SA, VIC
	1:10	NSW

Age of children	Educator to child ratio	Applies
	1:10 2:25 for children attending a preschool program	TAS
	1:10	WA
Over preschool age	1:15	NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, NSW
	1:11	ACT
	If no Kindergarten children present 1:10 for first **12** children then 1:13 (eg. If 11 or 12 children present, 2 staff members still required) **Refer to table in Reg 369 for full breakdown**	WA

Educator to child ratio calculator for centre-based services

Please ensure that you read the full Disclaimer text below, notably that the calculator is a **guide only**, that **educators must be directly involved in the education and care of children to be counted in ratios**, and that **adequate supervision of children must be maintained at all times**.

EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIO CALCULATOR

Service location

ACT NSW NT Qld SA Tas Vic WA

Is the main purpose of your service to provide education and care to children over preschool age?

Yes No

Age Groups

Birth to 24 months

0

Over 24 months to less than 36 months

0

36 months or over (not including children over preschool age)

0

Over preschool age

0

Total number of children

0

Minimum required number of educators

0

Disclaimer

This calculator has been made available as a guide only. Results are based on the accuracy of the information entered and do not take into consideration some specific circumstances, such as a service having a staffing waiver in force.

If you are unsure of the required educator-to-child ratio, you should seek guidance from your state and territory regulatory authority.

To be counted in the required educator-to-child ratio, educators must be directly involved in the education and care of children and, where required, hold or be actively working towards an approved qualification.

In addition to meeting the required educator-to-child ratio, adequate supervision of children must be maintained at all times.

More information

See the Guide to the National Quality Framework (/nqf/about/guide) for more information on educator to child ratios and adequate supervision.

See the Guide to the National Quality Framework outline of mixed age ratios in centre-based services (/media/26866).

NQF