

Types of Child Care

New Hampshire

Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Child Care
Licensing, Concord, NH: (800) 852-3345 x 4624 or (603) 271-4624

• Exempt Family Child Care Home

A private home in which any number of the provider's own children, whether related biologically or through adoption, and up to 3 additional children are cared for regularly for any part of the day, but less than 24 hours. Legally operating, exempt from licensing.

• Licensed Family Child Care Home

An occupied residence, licensed by the state of NH, in which the provider may care for up to 6 preschool children (of the 6 children, no more than 4 can be under 36 months of age; and of the 4 children under 36 months, no more than 2 can be under 24 months of age*) and up to 3 school-age children who attend a full day (i.e., typically 1st grade and above) school program. The provider's own children, foster children and resident children who are under 10 years of age are included in the licensing capacity when present during child care hours. *If a family child care worker, assistant or aide (whether paid or volunteer) is employed, it is permissible for all the 4 children under 36 months of age to be under 24 months.

• Licensed Family Group Child Care Home

An occupied residence, licensed by the state of NH, where the provider works with a family child care worker (must be at least 18 years of age) or an aide (must be at least 16 years old). Together, they may care for up to 12 preschool children (of the 12 children, no more than 4 can be under 36 months of age) and up to 5 school-age children who attend a full day (i.e., typically 1st grade and above) school program. The providers' own children, foster children and resident children under 10 years of age are included in the licensing capacity when present during child care hours.

• Licensed Child Care Center

An agency that provides care for 5 or more children age 6 weeks to 35 month is called a **Day Care Nursery**; an agency that provides full day care for children 36 months and older is called a **Group Child Care Center**; and an agency providing care and a structured program for children 3 years and older (who do not attend a full day program) *for not more than 5 hours per day* is called a **Preschool**. A **School-Age Program** provides care up to 5 hours a day before or after regular school hours (and perhaps all day during school holidays) for 6 or more children who are 4 years, 8 months of age or older. Minimum staff to child ratios are as follows:

Age range of children	Min. staff to child ratio	Max. # children allowed per room
6 weeks- 12 months	1 : 4	12
13 months- 24 months	1 : 5	15
25 months- 35 months	1 : 6	18
36 months- 47 months	1 : 8	24
48 months- 59 months	1 : 12	24
60 months and older	1 : 15	30

When there are mixed groups of children, the staff to child ratio is based on the average age of the children. There may never be less than 2 child care personnel on the premise when 11 or more children are present.

**All information about individual families
is confidential to our records.**

**Complaint Policy: VT residents with concerns about
Child Care Project services can contact VT's Child Care
Consumer Concern Line at (800) 540-7942.**

Vermont

Department for Children & Families, Child Development Division,
Child Care Licensing: (800) 649-2642 or (802) 241-2158

• Legally-Exempt Child Care

When a person cares for the child(ren) from only 1 or 2 families in addition to his/her own, regardless of the child(ren)'s age(s) and/or schedule(s). Care may take place in the private home of the provider or of the child(ren) being cared for. Legally operating, exempt from registration.

• Registered Family Day Care Home

The Registrant's occupied residence in which s/he may care for up to 6 preschool children (including up to 2 children under the age of 2 years, per caregiver*) and up to 4 school-age children who do not exceed 4 hours per day each (except that these school-age children may be in care on a full day basis on snow days, emergency school closings, and vacations which occur *during the school year*). Children who reside in the home are not counted in the limits above, unless they are under age 2. *There are also infant-only options: a Registrant may care for 3 children under age 2 as long as no other children are cared for except the school-age children residing in the home; or a Registrant and another caregiver, together may care for 6 children under age 2 as long as no other children are cared for except the resident's school-age children.

• Licensed Early Childhood Prog./Day Care Ctr.

A licensed facility (any place, operated as a business or service on a regular or continuous basis whether for compensation or not, which provides child care) whose services are designed to ensure that children are provided with wholesome growth and educational experiences. Minimum staff to child ratios for centers are as follows*:

Age range of children	Min. staff to child ratio	Max. # children allowed per room
6 weeks- 16 months	1 : 4	8
17 months- 23 months	1 : 4	8
24 months- 35 months	1 : 5	10
3 years- kindergarten	1 : 10	20
1 st grade- 15 years	1 : 13	no maximum

*For centers licensed for 12 or fewer children, the following ratios and numbers apply: no more than 2 children under 24 months of age per caregiver; a second caregiver must be present when the number of children exceeds 6; and the licensee's and staff's own preschool or homebound children count in the total number of children in care.