Capacity Charts for Outdoor Nature-Based Programs

For licensed Outdoor Nature-Based providers, the following two tables are guides to help you meet the required capacities, staff-to-child ratios, and group sizes.



No Mixed-Age Groups - WAC 110-302-0356 (https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-302-0356)

| Age Group | Maximum Group Size | Maximum Ratio | Limitations |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Preschoolers (30 months – 6 years) | 16 | 1:6 | Two staff are required when 12 or fewer children are present Three staff are required when 13-16 children are present |
| School-Age (5-13 years) | 20 | 1:8 | Two staff are required when 16 or fewer children are present Three staff are required when 17-20 children are present |
| School-Age (9-13 years) | 20 | 1:10 | At least two staff must be present |

Mixed-Age Groups - WAC 110-302-0357 (https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-302-0357)

| Age Group | Maximum Group Size | Maximum Ratio | Limitations |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| 30 months – 13 years | 16 | 1:6 | Two staff are required when 12 or fewer children are present Three staff are required when 13-16 children are present One staff must be a lead teacher |
| 4.5 – 9 years | 18 | 1:7 | At least three staff must be presentOne staff must be a lead teacher |
| 4.5 – 13 years | 20 | 1:8 | At least three staff must be present One staff must be a lead teacher |

If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email communications@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF PUBLICATION LIC_0165 (06-2025)

