

Iowa Department of Human Services' Child Care Ratios
Number of Children Allowed in Care
 (These numbers include the providers' infant, preschool, and home schooled children.)

	Maximum capacity	Under 24 Months	Under School Age, including under 24 months	School-Aged (kindergarten or a higher grade)	Additional part time	Maximum for inclement weather and emergency school closings
Non-Registered Child Care Home	5 No age guidelines	No age guidelines			0	5
Category A	8	4 at a time- Only 3 may be under the age of 18 months	6	2 for less than 2 hours at a time	0	8
Category B	12	4 at a time- Only 3 may be under the age of 18 months	6	4 Can be full time in child care when no school. Assistant required if more than 8 are present for more than 2 hours at a time.	2 at any one time	12 If more than 8 children are present, must have a 14 year-old assistant.
Category C	16 If more than 8 children are present, both providers must be present.	4 at a time Both providers must be present when 4 children under the age of 18 months are in care.	12 If more than 8 are present, both providers must be present.	2 for less than 2 hours at a time	2 at any one time	16 If more than 8 are present, must have 18 year-old assistant.

Iowa Department of Human Services' Maximum Allowable Child/Adult Ratios

	Infant (0-23 Months)	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years and older
Child Care Centers	4 to 1	6 to 1	8 to 1	12 to 1	15 to 1
Preschools	n/a	6 to 1	8 to 1	12 to 1	15 to 1
School-Age Programs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15 to 1

Child Care Requirements in Iowa

	Non-Registered Home	Child Development Home A	Child Development Home B	Child Development Home C	Licensed Center	Licensed Preschool	Department of Education Program
State regulated		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maximum capacity	5*	8*	12*	16*	*Varies by licensing	*Varies by licensing	School determined
Facility & Records Inspection		Randomly selected	Randomly selected	Randomly selected	Every 2 years	Every 2 years	Food service & Fire Marshall inspection every 2 years
Minimum age of caregiver	18 yrs	18 yrs	20 yrs	21 yrs	Lead teacher 18 yrs	Director 21 yrs	
Iowa child abuse registry check	✓	Household members 14+	Household members 14+	Household members 14+	✓	✓	✓
Iowa criminal records check		Household members 14+	Household members 14+	Household members 14+	✓	✓	✓
Experience required			2 years or 1 year with child related degree	5 years or 4 years with a child related degree	A combination of experience and education	A combination of experience and education	
Minimum education required			High school or GED	High school or GED	Lead teacher High school or GED	High school or GED	Iowa Teacher Certificate Bachelors or higher
Non-smoking environment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fire Extinguisher & smoke detectors		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 direct exits			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Space requirements			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quiet area for sick children			✓	✓	✓	✓	