

Home Child Care and Unlicensed Child Care: How Many Children Are Allowed?*

HOME CHILD CARE (LICENSED)



MAXIMUM OF 6
children under 13 years old,
including the provider's **own**
children under 6 years old

BUT



NO MORE THAN 2
children under 2 years old

FOR EXAMPLE:



OR



OR



To promote the safety and well-being of children, licensed home care agencies also consider the following before placing a child:

- the ages of the other children in the group;
- the child's ability to evacuate independently in an emergency;
- ◆ the experience and qualifications of the child care provider;
- ▲ the physical environment of the home; and
- any special needs.

UNLICENSED CHILD CARE



MAXIMUM OF 5
children under 13 years old,
including the provider's **own**
children under 6 years old

BUT



NO MORE THAN 2
children under 2 years old

FOR EXAMPLE:



OR



OR



Unlicensed child care providers are also now required to:

- Provide receipts for payment of services upon request and free of charge.
- Inform parents/guardians in writing that they are an unlicensed provider. This notification should say: "This child care program is not licensed by the Government of Ontario." Providers must keep a copy on file for two years.
- ◆ Allow the parent/guardian access to the premises and their child (with specific exceptions).

FOR BOTH HOME CHILD CARE (LICENSED) AND UNLICENSED CHILD CARE

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

CHILDREN AGES 4 AND 5

Providers must include all of their **own children** under the age of 6 who are on the premises in the total number of children in their care. However, during the school year,** between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays, providers can exclude their own 4- and 5-year old children from the total number allowed **ONLY IF**:

- Those children are attending full-day kindergarten in a publicly-funded school.
- The provider cares for no more than one child under the age of 2.
- ◆ The provider has no record of convictions under the *Day Nurseries Act* or the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

CHILDREN AGES 10, 11 OR 12

Providers must begin counting children with **birthdays on or after September 1, 2007**, in their maximum group size starting September 1, 2017.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT ontario.ca/childcareproviders

OR CALL 1-800-387-5514 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095)

* Number of children permitted under Ontario law (*Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and Ontario Regulation 137/15)

**Including PA days, winter break and March break.