

**75-03-17-15. Staff to child ratio.**

1. The ratio of staff to children must meet the standards of the facility's accrediting body and be included in the facility's policies and procedures. The facility shall follow the staff to child ratio set by its accrediting body, or the ratios set forth in this subsection, if the ratios set forth in this subsection require a greater number of staff to children than the ratios set by the accrediting body. The staff to child ratio on the premises during waking hours Monday through Friday is dependent on the needs of the children and the requirements of the individualized individual person-centered treatment plans, but may not be less than two staff members. At:
  - a. Two staff present who are qualified to provide direct care for one to six residents.
  - b. Three staff present who are qualified to provide direct care for seven to nine residents.
  - c. Four staff present who are qualified to provide direct care for ten to twelve residents
  - d. Five staff present who are qualified to provide direct care for thirteen to sixteen residents.
2. On evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays, during non-programming hours, the ratio of staff to children is dependent on the needs of the children and the requirements of the individual person-centered treatment plans. Additionally, the ratio of staff to children must meet the minimum standards of the accrediting body but may not be less than two staff on premises qualified to provide direct care. The facility shall implement a policy that if there is an emergency, and additional staff are not available to respond to the facility within fifteen minutes, the facility will call for law enforcement or emergency medical assistance.
3. All night, night staff must be awake and within hearing distance of children and other staff must be available to be summoned in an emergency.
2. The ratio of professional staff to children is dependent on the needs of the children. Staff shall perform bedroom checks at a minimum of every fifteen minutes to assure that each sleeping child is in his or her assigned room and is safe.

**History:** Effective December 1, 1989; amended effective September 1, 1998; April 1, 2008; July 1, 2014.

**General Authority:** NDCC 25-03.2-10

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 25-03.2-03, 25-03.2-07