



Types of Child Care
Including Group Size, Child to Adult Ratios and Average Cost of Care

Quality child care is very important for your child. This guide will help you look for indicators of quality in child care. Use this guide to interview and visit at least two or three child care givers before you choose where to take your child.

Types of Care

Below are the types of child care in New York State. Some of the programs must be licensed or registered by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Day Care Centers*

- Day Care Centers care for more than 6 children at a time, not in a residence
- They are licensed by OCFS
- The maximum **child-to-care giver ratios** permitted by New York State in a licensed Center are as follows:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio (# of children per care giver)
0-6 Weeks	6	3
6 Weeks-18 Months	8	4
18 Months-36 Months	12	5
3 Years	18	7
4 Years	21	8
5 Years	24	9
6-9 Years	20	10
10-12 Years	30	15

- The **average cost of care** for a Center in Steuben County is as follows:

Child's Age Group	Average Cost for Full-Time Care
Under 1½	162.42
1½ - 3	149.51
3 - 6	130.29
6 - 13	122.03

Family Day Care Homes (FDC)*

- Family Day Care homes care for 3 to 6 children at a time in a residence; may add 1 or 2 school age children.
- The maximum allowable number of children will depend on how many infants are in care
- They are registered by OCFS
- The maximum **child-to-care giver ratios** permitted by New York State in a licensed FDC are as follows:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio (# of children per care giver)
0-2 Years	2	2
2-5 Years	6	6
5-12 Years	2	2

- The **average cost of care** for a Family Day Care in Steuben County is as follows:

Child's Age Group	Average Cost for Full-Time Care
Under 1½	126.90
1½ - 3	120.63
3 - 6	116.91
6 - 13	111.23

Group Family Day Care Homes (GFDC)*

- Group Family Day Care homes care for 7 to 12 children at a time in a residence; may add 1 or 2 school age children
- The maximum allowable number of children will depend on how many infants are in care
- A care giver must have an assistant when more than 6 children are present
- They are licensed by OCFS
- The maximum **child-to-care giver ratios** permitted by New York State in a licensed GFDC are as follows:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio (# of children per care giver)
0-2 Years	4	2
2-5 Years	12	6
5-12 Years	2	1

- The **average cost of care** for a Group Family Day Care in Steuben County is as follows:

Child's Age Group	Average Cost for Full-Time Care
Under 1½	136.25
1½ - 3	128.52
3 - 6	127.71
6 - 13	126.30

**Each of the programs listed above can serve children ages 6 weeks through 12 years and operate for more than 3 hours a day. All staff members are required to be fingerprinted for a clearance check and take a minimum of 30 hours of appropriate training every 2 years. All of these programs are inspected by a state representative regularly.*

School Age Child Care Programs (SACC)

- School Age Child Care programs care for more than 6 children from kindergarten through age 12 during non-school hours
- Also may provide care during school vacations and holidays
- They are registered by OCFS if they are open for more than 3 hours per day
- The maximum **child-to-care giver ratios** permitted by New York State in licensed SACC programs are as follows:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio (# of children per care giver)
Kindergarten-9 Years	20	10
10-12 Years	30	15

- The **average cost of care** for a School Age Day Care in Steuben County is as follows:

Child's Age Group	Average Cost for Child in Full-Time Care
Enrolled in school (under 13)	110.21

Listed below are types of child care in New York State that are **not regulated** by the New York State OCFS.

Legally Exempt Family Day Care Homes

- Legally Exempt Family Day Care homes care for up to 2 non-related children and/or 6 relatives
- Care setting is outside the child's home
- Care giver is hired by the child's parents
- Also known as "Informal" or "Babysitter"

In-Home Child Care Providers

- In-Home Child Care Providers care for a child in the child's home
- There is not a limit on how many children can be cared for as long as all children in care reside in the home where care is provided
- Care giver is hired by the child's parents
- Also known as "Nanny" or "Au Pair"

Nursery School / Preschool Programs

- Nursery Schools and Preschools serve children ages 2-5 years old in a variety of settings.
- Class may meet anywhere from 1-5 days per week for less than 3 hours per class and follow the school year calendar
- They may volunteer to be licensed by OCFS

What Are the New York Child Care Regulations?

Licensing and registration through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is required for Family Day Care, Group Family Day Care, Centers, and most School Age Child Care programs. This means that all of these types of care are regulated, monitored and inspected by OCFS. These programs must meet minimum standards for health and safety, staff education, group size, etc. However, having a license or registration does not guarantee quality. In the same sense, a listing with SCCP does not assure quality care with any care giver. It is your responsibility to interview care givers and choose a program that is best for your child and family. For more about NYS Day Care Regulations, visit http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/daycare_regs.asp, or contact the Regional Office of OCFS by phone at (585) 238-8531.