

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PROGRAMS YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM?

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Listed below are brief descriptions of common types of child care programs in New York State. Each program is regulated by the state Office of Children and Family Services. Staff to child ratios and maximum group sizes are defined in the New York State Office of Children and Family Services regulations.

**Day Care Centers** - provide care for more than six children at a time, not in a personal residence. Day Care Centers are licensed through the Office of Children and Family Services: (518) 402-3038.

Age of Children	Staff/Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
6 weeks to 18 months	1:4	8
18 months to 36 months	1:5	12
3 years	1:7	18
4 years	1:8	21
5 years	1:9	24
School age children through 9 years	1:10	20
School age children 10 to 12 years	1:15	30

**Small Day Care Centers** - provide care for up to six children, not in a personal residence. Small Day Care Centers are licensed through the Office of Children and Family Services: (518) 402-3038.

*Maximum capacity means the maximum number of children authorized to be present at any one time as specified on the small day care center registration.*

- A small day care center may provide care for children six weeks through 12 years of age.
- No more than two children under the age of two may be cared for at any one time.
- When any child who is less than two years of age is present, the maximum capacity is six.
- When all children present are at least two years of age, maximum capacity is six.

**Family Day Care Homes** - provide care for three to six children at a time in a residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care. In Otsego County, Catholic Charities is the local registrar for Family Day Care Homes: (607) 432-0061.

- *Maximum capacity means the maximum number of children authorized to be present at any one time as specified on the family day care registration.*
  - A family day care home may provide care for children six weeks through 12 years of age.
  - There must be one caregiver for every two children under the age of two years in attendance.
  - The maximum capacity for children aged 6 weeks to school-age is six.
  - An additional two children who are of school-age may be provided care if: the additional school-age children attend kindergarten or a school grade level higher than kindergarten.

**Group Family Day Care Homes** - provide care for seven to twelve children at a time in a residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care. A provider must use an assistant when more than six children are present. Group Family Day Care Homes are licensed through the Office of Children and Family Services: (518) 402-3038.

- *Maximum capacity means the maximum number of children authorized to be present at any one time as specified on the family day care registration.*
  - A group family day care home may provide care for children six weeks through 12 years of age.
  - There must be one caregiver for every two children under the age of two years in attendance.
  - The maximum capacity for children aged 6 weeks to school-age is 12.
  - An additional four children who are of school-age may be provided care if: the additional school-age children attend kindergarten or a school grade level higher than kindergarten.

**School-Age Child Care Programs** - provide care for more than six children from kindergarten through age twelve. Care for children during non-school hours; also may provide care during school vacation periods and holidays. In Otsego County, Catholic Charities is the local registrar for School-Age Child Care Programs: (607) 432-0061.

Age of Children	Staff/Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
School age children through 9 years	1:10	20
School age children 10 to 12 years	1:15	30

**Other forms of legal child care include:**

- **Nursery Schools** - provide care for three hours a day or less.
- **Pre-Kindergartens** - usually located in public schools, but can also be found in private schools or day care centers; supervised by the SED.
- **Head Start Centers** - targeted for preschool-age children from low income families; federally funded and usually licensed as Day Care Centers.
- **Legally Exempt Care (Informal)** - provide care for one to two children at a time in addition to the provider's children, usually in the provider's home; are not required to register.

More information on the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Day Care regulations can be found at: [http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/becs/daycare\\_regs.asp](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/becs/daycare_regs.asp) or by contacting the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Early Childhood Services at (518) 402-3038.

***or by contacting your local Child Care Resource and Referral:***

CHILD CARE SUPPORT SERVICES  
A program of  
Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties  
176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Phone: (607) 432-0061 / Fax: (607) 431-9303  
Toll Free in Otsego County: (866) 814-1117  
E-mail: [childcare@charitiesccdo.org](mailto:childcare@charitiesccdo.org)