

Some Helpful Safety Tips from The Deacon's Bench

A publication called The Deacon's Bench has provided us with good, basic guidelines, especially for teacher to child ratios.

The Deacon's Bench recommends:

Child/Caregiver Ratios

Infants (*0-6 months*) **Two children to one adult**

Crawlers (*6-12 months*) **Three children to one adult**

Toddlers (*12-18 months*) **Four children to one adult**

Walkers (*18-24 months*) **Five-six children to one adult**

Other Recommendations

- At bare minimum, least two adults should be present at all time, regardless of the number of children.
- Allow teenagers to only work alongside at least two, properly screened and trained adults, not as a replacement for one.
- Make use of hall monitors who help visitors find their child's classroom and can stand in for short intervals if one teacher must leave the class, preserving the two-teacher- with-children policy.
- Visibility at all time: Make sure every classroom has an interior window, an open door, or some other way for others passing by to see what is going on.
- Supervise restrooms. Do not allow a single teacher to accompany a single child inside a bathroom.
- Ban hot drinks from the care-giving areas.
- Wipe down all surfaces with a disinfectant.
- Avoid stuffed animals and soft dolls.
- Sanitize all toys.
- Require hand washing.
- Use receiving blankets in infant swings and activity saucers over the fabric seats and replace with a fresh one with each child.

Source: The Deacon's Bench Volume 16, Issue 3 www.brotherhoodmutual.com