

PROVISION OF CARE - EDUCATOR:CHILD RATIOS

POLICY

One of the most important determinants of quality care in Family Day Care is the number of children cared for by an individual Educator working alone. This affects the quality of the interactions between the Educator and the children and the interactions between the children.

PROCEDURE

1. The number of children referred to an Educator at any one time, will be at the discretion of the Family Day Care Co-ordinating staff. This will be based on the space available in the Educator's home, the number and ages of children already in care, the experience and skills of the Educator, and the particular needs of the children in care.
2. An Educator may care for no more than four (4) pre-school aged children at one time. The maximum number of children in care at any one time, including the Educator's own children, is seven (7) aged 12 years or under.
3. An Educator's child is counted in the preschool ratios until the commencement of the year in which s/he will begin school attendance, and in the total child ratio until s/he commences secondary school.
4. In exceptional circumstances a carer may care for more than the above ratios, for instance due to a parent being delayed in pick up, or in the case of emergency where no-one else is available to care for a child. Any overlap should be recorded and if the duration is more than 30 minutes, the coordination Unit should be informed. Carers can not book in children where this would produce a regular predictable overlap.