

# CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE

A checklist to help you identify a safe, high-quality child care and learning environment for your child

SCAN ME



## LEGALLY OPERATING

- The facility is licensed through Montana DPHHS, or legally operating under MT State law.
- Contact Butte 4-C's with questions.

## LEARNING

- Toys and books are age-appropriate and easily accessible.
- The program has daily structured and unstructured playtime.
- Children are read and sang to during the day.
- Screens are turned off during the day.\*

## PROGRAM ENRICHMENT

- The program is enrolled in Montana's Best Beginnings STARS to Quality.\*
- The program is accredited by a national organization.\*
- The program participates in the Federal food program (Child and Adult Care Food Program).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teachers have credentials or an early childhood-related degree.
- Teacher(s) have continued training on children's development and experience caring for children
- The director and teachers receive early childhood-related training or education.

## COMMUNICATION

- Parents are always welcome and given a copy of the program's policies.
- There is regular communication with parents.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- Teachers follow standards for health and safety, including proper handwashing, diapering, and toileting.
- Staff is up to date on pediatric (infant/child) CPR and pediatric first aid training.
- There is an emergency plan in place.
- Children go outside every day unless unsafe.
- The playground is safe.
- The child care program supports breastfeeding.
- Infants are held by adults during feeding.
- The child care program serves meals.

## SUPERVISION

- Children are supervised at all times.
- Teachers are warm, welcoming, and engaging with each child.
- Safety rules are clear and simple.
- Guidance from teachers is positive, clear, consistent, and fair.
- There are enough staff members to supervise all children.



## CONTACT US

101 N Main St, Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 723-4019 | (800) 794-4061  
butte4cs@gmail.com | butte4cs.org

\*National guidelines recommend children less than 2 years old have no screen time. For children 2 years and over the total screen time is less than thirty minutes each week, for educational or physical activity use only. This includes home and child care settings.

\*The Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Program is a voluntary quality rating improvement system that aligns quality indicators with support and incentives for early childhood programs and early childhood professionals.

\*Accreditation indicates the program has been recognized by a leading national organization for providing excellent care.



# CHILD CARE RATIOS

SCAN ME



BELOW ARE THE NUMBER OF CAREGIVERS TO CHILDREN REQUIRED IN LICENSED CHILD CARE IN MONTANA.

*Note: drop-in, preschool, and before and after-school programs are not required by the State to be licensed.*

**BUTTE 4-C's**

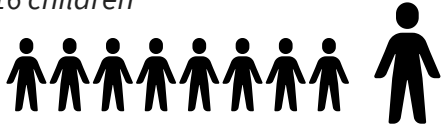
## Child Care Centers

Care for 16 or more children with the following caregiver-to-child ratios:

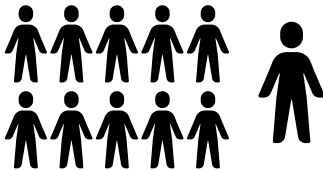
**Children 0-23 months:** 4 children per caregiver (**4:1**) for up to 12 children



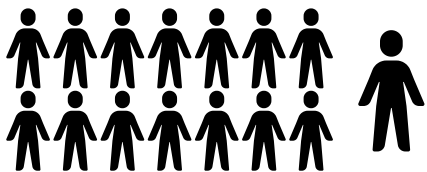
**Children 2-3 years:** 8 children per caregiver (**8:1**) for up to 16 children



**Children 4-5 years:** 10 children per caregiver (**10:1**) for up to 16 children

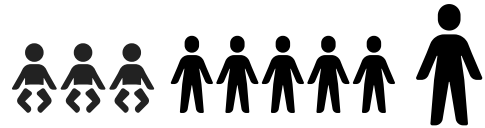


**Children 6 years + :** 14 children per caregiver (**14:1**) for up to 16 children



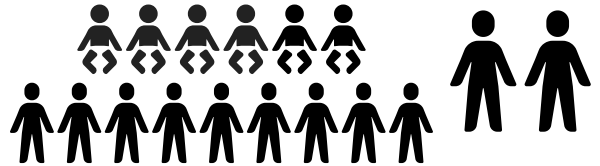
## Family Child Care

Care is offered in a home setting for up to eight children, only three of whom can be under the age of two (**8:1**)



## Group Child Care

Two caregivers offer care for 9 to 15 children, only 6 of whom can be under the age of 2 years (**15:2**)



## Family, Friend & Neighbor (FFN)

In this informal type of care, parents and legal guardians select an individual, often a family member, friend, or neighbor to care for all children in one family or up to 2 unrelated children.



For more information on or to become a licensed child care provider, visit: [dphhs.mt.gov](http://dphhs.mt.gov)

## LOOK FOR THESE ADDITIONAL QUALITY INDICATORS

