

# Chaperone/Participant Ratios: Tips and Resources

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## Catechist/Chaperone to Participant Ratio Recommendations

Ratios for the number of adults needed to supervise participants in a classroom or fieldtrip setting may vary depending on a number of factors. Carefully evaluate each situation to be sure that adequate and competent adult supervision is provided.

- No adult should be alone with a child or group of children
- Safety is always your first consideration when establishing ratios consider the following:
  - Age of participant
  - Experience, temperament and comfort level of catechist or chaperone
  - Room size
  - Activity level or type of activity
  - Medical, learning or behavioral issues of other participants
- The following chart provides a good rule of thumb but ratios should be adjusted downward if any of the factors above are of concern

<u>Age of Children</u>	<u>Staff/Child Ratio</u>	<u>Maximum Group Size</u>
18 months to 36 months	2:12	12 children
3 years- 4 years	2:12	12 children
5 years through 10 years	2:16	16 children *
Junior High School	2:16	*
High School	2:20	*

\*For youth ministry events, maximum group size will likely be larger. A size of 16 to 20 youth in a classroom situation is recommended. Larger groups will be necessary for VBS, Youth Ministry and other large parish events. Always consider safety and the factors above when determining safe limits for group size.