

Smaller Groups Help Your Child's Development



Programs accredited through Satellite Family Child Care System have fewer children per family child care educator than required by Wisconsin's [Licensing Rules for Family Child Care Centers](#). Why does this matter? Below are ways smaller group sizes help support your child's healthy development.

Smaller groups of children per adult are...

- ❖ consistently connected with higher-quality care and **positive child outcomes**, including higher social competence, communication and language skills, and cognitive development.
- ❖ associated with **more direct, warm social interactions** between adults and children and therefore more secure relationships. Decades of research in human development confirms that positive early relationships with caregivers are the foundation for lifetime health and wellbeing.
- ❖ correlated with **fewer situations that threaten children's physical safety**, including situations related to both an adult's capacity for supervision and loss of self-control.

Smaller groups of children per adult ensure that...

- ❖ children may receive the **one-on-one attention** needed to feel safe, loved, and ready to explore. When child care professionals care for a smaller number of children, they engage in more positive caregiving behavior, including engaging in physical contact, responding promptly to needs, encouraging development, talking, singing, and reading. This is most critical for infants and toddlers, who require more adult guidance to feel emotionally regulated and secure in their surroundings.
- ❖ child care professionals experience lower workplace stress, leading to fewer unplanned absences and less symptoms of burnout, such as headaches, fatigue, and loss of motivation.
- ❖ adults may provide **safety** in life-threatening situations. The National Fire Protection Association requires in the NFPA 101: Life Safety code that family child care homes serve no more than two children incapable of self-preservation.