



OSHC ratios

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General educator qualifications for out-of-school-hours-care services primarily educating and caring for children over preschool age

In South Australia there are specific educator-to-child ratios and qualifications for out-of-school-hours-care (OSHC) services primarily educating and caring for children over preschool age.

The regulations referred to in this fact sheet are the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*.

What are the ratios for children over preschool age?

This is covered in r. 123(1)(d). The educator-to-child ratio for children over preschool ages is 1:15.

General qualification requirements for educators for children over preschool age

This is covered in r. 321. The first of every two educators required to meet the educator-to-child ratio for children over preschool age must hold an approved qualification that is published by ACECQA in the list of approved qualifications for educators working with children over preschool age for South Australia. You can find this list at: <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/Working-with-children-over-preschool-age>

Please note: For certain qualifications, additional requirements are identified.

In OSHC services, the second educator required to meet the educator-to-child ratios for school-aged children is not required to hold a formal qualification. However, all educators must hold a current relevant history assessment or working-with-children check and be aware of, and understand their obligations, under the *Children's Protection Act 1993* (SA). The educator may also be required to hold an approved first-aid qualification to support the service's first-aid qualification requirements.

How do I calculate the educator-to-child ratios if I educate and care for children of pre-school age?

It is important in a school-aged care setting where preschool children attend, that the ratios for preschool age children of 1 educator to 10 children are maintained.

If your service provides education and care for both preschool age children and those over preschool age, you can calculate the educator-to-child ratios in accordance with the mixed age requirement in r. 123(2). Examples are provided over the page.

Example one:

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification requirements
Preschool-age children	1:10	2	1	A minimum of 1 educator is required with an approved qualification for working with children over preschool age.
School-age children	1:15	8	8, which can be counted in the educator-to-child ratio of 1 educator to 10 children (above)	
Totals		10	1 educator is required to meet the minimum educator to child ratios	

Example two:

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification requirements
Preschool-age children	1:10	4	1	A minimum of 3 educators are required: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 are required with an approved qualification for working with children over preschool age (first and third educators)• 1 is required that does not need a qualification.
School-age children	1:15	36	2 educators <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 children can be counted in the educator-to-child ratio of 1 educator to 10 children (above); therefore, 30 children remain at 1:15.	
Totals		40	A minimum of 3 educators are required to meet the educator-to-child ratios.	

It is important to note that adequate supervision must be maintained at all times and that the needs of each individual child must be taken into consideration. Services that provide education and care for preschool age children must also consider each child's involvement in the program and engagement in meaningful relationships with each other and educators.

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