

Educator qualifications and educator-to-child ratios for OSHC services (South Australia)

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 [Regulation 123\(1\)\(d\)](#)

The minimum educator to child ratio for children over preschool age is 1:15.

The minimum educator to child ratio for children preschool age is 1:11.

Qualification requirements for educators for children over preschool age

The first of every two educators required to meet the educator to child ratio for children over preschool age must hold a qualification that is published in the [ACECQA list of approved qualifications](#) for educators working with children over preschool age for South Australia

- The first of every two educators required to meet the educator to child ratio for children over preschool age must be a qualified educator.
- At least one of the qualified educators at the service must be a **first qualified educator**.

In an OSHC service in South Australia:

- The first qualified educator required to meet the qualified educator to child ratio in an OSHC service (**the first qualified educator**) must hold a diploma (or equivalent) or higher-level qualification from the ACECQA approved list of qualifications.
- All other educators required to meet the qualified educator to child ratio in an OSHC service (**the second and subsequent qualified educators**) must hold a certificate III (or equivalent), or certificate IV, or a higher-level qualification from the ACECQA approved list of qualifications. Successful

completion of 50% of a diploma in education, care or disability is deemed to be equivalent to a certificate III level qualification.

- Any other educators required to meet the ratio requirements do not need to hold a qualification.

The published [list of approved qualifications](#) for educators working with children over preschool age for South Australia is available on ACECQA's website.

In regulation 321:

- The **first qualified educator** means an educator who holds a qualification from the approved ACECQA list of qualifications for first qualified educators.
- A **qualified educator** means an educator who is a *first qualified educator* or holds a qualification listed in the approved ACECQA list of qualifications for **second and subsequent educators**.

In OSHC services, all educators must hold a current working with children check (WWCC) and be aware of, and understand their obligations, under the [Children and Young People \(Safety\) Act 2017 \(SA\)](#). First aid qualifications are required as stated in [Regulation 136](#).

How do I calculate educator-to-child ratios?

The [ACECQA calculator](#) may assist in determining educator to child ratios.

School age children only example:

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification Requirements
School age children	1:15	67	Minimum of 5 educators	3 educators must hold qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 first qualified educator • 2 x second qualified and subsequent qualified educators • 2 unqualified educators
Totals		67	5	

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification Requirements
School age children	1:15	94	Minimum of 7 educators	4 educators must hold qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 first qualified educator
Totals		94	7	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x second and subsequent qualified educators • 3 unqualified educators
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Mixed ratios examples:

It is important in a school-aged care setting where preschool children attend, that the ratios for preschool-age children of 1 educator to 11 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 [Regulation 123\(2\)](#).

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification Requirements
Preschool age children	1:11	2	1 educator	1 educator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must hold first qualified educator qualification
School age children	1:15	9	No second educator required as; 9 of the school aged children can be counted in the educator to child ratio of 1 educator to 11 children	
Totals		11	1 educator (maximum 11 children)	

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification Requirements
Preschool age children	1:11	4	1 educator	2 educators must hold qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 first qualified educator • 1 second and subsequent qualified educator • 1 unqualified educator
School age children	1:15	36	2 educators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 of the school aged children can be counted in the educator to child of 1 educator to 11 children • Therefore 29 children at the 1:15 ratio which requires 2 more educators 	
Totals		40	3 educators (maximum 41 children)	

Contact details

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This fact sheet provides guidance for approved providers of education and care services to help them operate in line with the National Quality Framework. We also recommend referring directly to the legislation:

- [*Education and Early Childhood Services \(Registration and Standards\) Act 2011 \(SA\), incorporating the Education and Care Services National Law \(South Australia\)*](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)
- [Education and Early Childhood Services \(Registration and Standards\) Regulations 2011 \(SA\)](#).