



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

KELLY KIMPLE • Acting Director, Public Health

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2025

TO: Environmental Health Directors, Supervisors, and Specialists

FROM: Ed Norman, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) increased the allowable number of children in a licensed child care center located in a residence.

North Carolina Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 09 .0713 was amended effective November 1, 2024, regarding staff/child ratios for centers. The rule provides two capacity options for centers located in a residence. Rule .0713(b) has increased the licensed capacity up to 15 children for child care centers located in a residence. Rule .0713(c) provides an option for them to continue operating with a capacity of twelve.

The staff/child ratio also changes for a center located in a residence with a licensed capacity change of 13 to 15 children as follows:

Age of Children	Ratio Staff/Children	Maximum Group Size
0 to 12 Months	1/5	10
12 to 24 Months	1/6	12
2 to 13 Years	1/10	15
3 to 13 Years	1/15	15

Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers 15A NCAC 18A .2800 allow for certain exemptions for child care centers licensed for fewer than 13 children and located in a residence, which were based on the classification requirements established by DCDEE. Based on this DCDEE rule amendment, these exemptions in the Child Care Sanitation .2800 rules should be granted for child care centers licensed for fewer than **16 children** and located in a residence. The Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers 15A NCAC 18A .2800 will be revised to reflect this DCDEE rule amendment during the next rules re-adoption cycle.

Please contact your CEH Regional Specialist if you have questions regarding this guidance.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 5605 Six Forks Road, Building 3, Raleigh, NC 27609

MAILING ADDRESS: 1931 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1931

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5000 • FAX: 919-870-4829

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