

**Area** - Early Childhood/Parenting

**Scenario** - Adult to Child Ratios in Child Care Centers

**Standards**

SD FCS Standard(s)

FCS 5.3.5

Evaluate criteria for selecting care for children.

SD Mathematics Standard(s)

Math 9-12.N.2.1

Add, subtract, multiply, and divide real numbers including integral exponents.

**Scenario**

You are looking for substitute care for your children. You are comparing various child care centers. You have narrowed your choices to three sites. The last criteria you need to consider is adult-to-child ratios.

**What will you do?**

Go to your state's Department of Social Services web site to get the requirements for adult-to-child ratios. Determine the adult to child ratios, using the given formula, for the three sites. Then, based on your state's criteria for adult-to-child ratios for licensed childcare centers, choose the best site. Formula: (State's requirement) # of adults/# of children (specific age or age group) = y adults/# of children (specific age or age group comparing) at site. The product of the cross term must be equal for the ratio to be correct. (Example: 1 adult/3 infants = y adults/10 infants.  $1 \times 10 = 3 \times y$ .  $10 = 3y$ .  $10/3 = y$ .  $y = 3 \frac{1}{3}$ . You would round up fractions. In this case, 4 adults would be needed for 10 children with a requirement of 1 adult to every 3 infants.)

Note: If you want to make this more involved, consider the following. The ratio could be turned into a graph. You could then add another South Dakota math standard, 9-12.A.4.1: Use graphs, tables, and equations to represent linear functions.

**What will you need?**

Calculator

Computer with Internet Access

Adult to Child Ratios for Substitute Care Worksheet

**How will you be evaluated?**

Worksheet completed accurately

**Supplemental Materials**

Adult to Child Ratios for Substitute Care Worksheet

**Resources**

<http://www.state.sd.us/social/search.htm> (This is the South Dakota Department of Social Services Website. Each state may have different criteria for adult to child ratios for Child Care Centers.)