



IPPA, the Early Childhood
Organisation
Revised Child Care (Pre-School
Services) Regulations 2006



Introduction

This is a brief summary of the main additions to the new Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations, 2006.

The commencement date was **3rd September 2007.**

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Inspection Reports

The Inspection Reports are now standardised nationally. Inspection Reports will acknowledge areas of compliance and non-compliance.

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Garda Vetting

Garda vetting is now a legal requirement for all staff, students and volunteers who have access to a child.

(Article 8.2 (c))

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New Definitions of Pre-School Services

Part-Time Day Care service:

A pre-school service offering a structured day care service for pre-school children for a total of more than 3.5 hours and less than 5 hours per day.

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New Definitions of Pre-School Services

An Overnight Pre-School Service:

Where children are in the care of a service, for more than 2 hours between the hours of 7pm and 6am.

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Health, Welfare & Development of the Child

"A person carrying on a pre-school service shall ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the service, through the provision of appropriate opportunities, experiences, activities, interaction, materials and equipment, and having regard to the age and stage of development of the child and the child's cultural context."

(Article 5), see Expl. Guide 14.(1) (f) and 25 (a) at (iv).

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Health, Welfare & Development of the Child

The Explanatory Guide (p.36) to these Regulations makes detailed references to helpful National Documents in this area, e.g.

- Siolta the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education 2006 (CECDE).
- Model Framework for Education, Training and Professional Development in the Early Childhood Care & Education Sector (Dept. JELR)
- Appendix B (p.68 of Expl. Guide)

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Space Requirements

Type of service	Age of child	Floor Area
Full and Part-time	0-1 years	3.50 sq Metres
	1-2 years	2.80 sq Metres
	2-3 years	2.35 sq Metres
	3-6 years	2.30 sq Metres
Sessional & Drop-in	0-6 years	2 sq metres

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Sessional Services – Ratios

Age Range	Adult/Child ratio		
0 - 1 year	1:3	1-3 children	one adult
		4-6 children	two adults
		7-9 children	three adults
1 - 2.5 years	1:5	1-5 children	one adult
		6-10 children	two adults
2.5 - 6 years	1:10	1-10 children	one adult
		10-20 children	two adults

Max. in room 20

These ratios also apply to sessional care within a Full Daycare Centre

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Full Day & Part-time Day Care - Ratio

Age Range	Adult /Child Ratio		
0-1 year	1:3	1-3 children	one adult
		4-6 children	two adults
		7-9 children	three adults
1-2 years	1:5	1-5 children	one adult
		6-10 children	two adults
2-3 years	1:6	1-6 children	one adult
		7-12 children	two adults
3-6 years	1:8	1-8 Children	one adult
		9-16 Children	two adults
		17-24 Children	three adults

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Childminding Ratio

A Childminder (*a person who provides childminding service in her own home*) should look after:

- Not more than *5 pre-school children including her own pre-school children.
- Not more than 2 children should be less than 15 months.

*No requirement to reduce the number of children to 5 until such time as first child from the group begins school or leaves voluntarily.

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Adult/child Ratio in Overnight Services (crèche/childminder)

Age	Adult/Child Ratio
0-1 year	1:3
1-6 years	1:5

- Crèche - At least one adult should be awake and actively supervising and checking on children
- Childminder – may use electronic baby monitor for supervision

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Food and Drink

In the Explanatory Guide under the Food and Nutrition for Children there are specific guidelines set out regarding the number of meals and snacks that are to be offered in the various categories of Services.

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Food and Nutrition

Type of service	Requirements (Offer)
Full Day Care & Childminder	Two meals (1 hot) Two snacks
Part-time day care	Two meals (balanced) One snack
Sessional	One meal One snack

Potable (mains supply) drinking water should be available at all times

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These Regulations may be downloaded at Dept of Health & Children website at ~

www.dohc.ie/legislation/statutory_instruments

They will be available in printed form from ~ Government Publications, Postal Trade Section, 51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Tel 01-6476834/35/36/37

Personal callers may purchase a copy at ~ Government Publications Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Ref: Statutory Instrument No. 505 of 2006.

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