

## The Child Care and Early Years Act: Phase Two Regulations

On May 9, 2016, the Ministry of Education filed new and revised regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* with the Ontario registrar. The new rules will take effect at varying effective dates, starting July 1, 2016.

Ontario regulations made under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)*:

- O. Reg. 137/15: General
- O. Reg. 138/15: Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance

Regulations amended under the *Education Act*:

Ontario Regulation 221/11 – Extended Day and Third-Party Programs

Find out more about changes to:

- Age Groupings, Ratios, Group size and Staff Qualifications
- Family Age Groupings
- Recreation programs
- Day Camps
- Serious Occurrences
- Enforcement

## What is changing under the phase two regulations?

Phase two regulations focus on a number of key areas:

- **Ratios and Groupings**
  - Introducing a new optional approach to ratios and age groupings to support increased access for parents seeking child care for infants and better support transitions, particularly as children enter school.
  - Under the new approach, licensees will have the option of operating under the current requirements for age groupings, ratios, and qualifications **or** applying to adopt the new, pilot approach.
  - The new option would include the following age groupings:
    1. Infant/toddler group: A combined infant/toddler group to accommodate children from the age of 0-24 months with a staff to child ratio of 1 to 3 (0-12 months) and 1 to 4 (12-24 months) with a maximum group size of 12 children.
    2. Preschool group: 24 months – younger than 5 years with a staff to child ratio of 1 to 8 and a maximum group size of 24.
  - A weighted formula to determine staffing would be based on ages and numbers of children enrolled.
  - The ministry will work with the sector to fully develop and roll out this approach and the impact of the new approach will be evaluated, contributing to research on different age groupings and ratio models.
  - All licenses will also have the option to apply adopt a family age grouping which would permit the placement of children from different ages together in the same play activity room.
- **Before and After School Programs:** Changes to the existing regulation on extended day and third party programs. This will support the delivery of before-and after-school programs for 4-12 year olds; including authorized recreational and skill building programs for 6-12 years olds, provided they meet specific programming requirements and standards.
- **Authorized Recreation:** Allow authorized recreation providers to offer up to 3 hours of programming once a day on week days if they meet prescribed criteria.
- **Enforcement:** Applying administrative penalties to additional contraventions of the Act; and focusing specific administrative penalties and enforcement on contraventions which pose the highest risk to children.
- **Licensing:** Increasing the maximum term of a child care licence from one to two years.
- **Licensing Fees:** Changing child care licensing fee schedules for new licences, renewals, and revisions.
- **Licensing standards:**
  - Removing the caseload cap for home visitors employed by a licensed child care agency with the ministry maintaining an oversight/regulatory role.
  - Improving key health and safety standards including sleep monitoring, playground safety and serious occurrence reporting.
- **Service System Management and Funding:** Clarifying the powers and duties of service system managers; and providing adequate transition times for service system managers to develop service plans.
- **Other Changes:**
  - Implementing a new requirement for after school programs to provide a minimum of 30 minutes of outdoor time, and for authorized recreation programs to offer 60 minutes of active play.

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