

# How to work out the maximum number of children

The government's Directions for re-opening ECD Programmes during Coronavirus, include rules on the maximum number of children that programmes can have. Follow the steps below to calculate how many children you are allowed to have at your programme.

START HERE →

Follow these steps:

Fill in these numbers:

## ADULT-CHILD RATIO

**1 ANSWER THIS QUESTION: What is the maximum number of children, based on the adult-child ratio?**

- A** The government has said only a certain number of children can attend ECD programmes, depending on how many staff there are:
- For children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years there must be 1 practitioner for every 12 children.
  - For children between the ages of 3 and 4 years there must be 1 practitioner for every 20 children.
  - For children between the ages of 5 and 6 years there must be 1 practitioner for every 30 children.
- B** Check the ages of your children. Then, based on the number of practitioners at your programme, work out the maximum number of children you are allowed to have.
- C** The government says that day mothers and childminders can look after no more than 6 children.

MAX NUMBER OF CHILDREN:

(based on adult-child ratio)

## FREE FLOOR SPACE

**2 ANSWER THIS QUESTION: What is the maximum number of children, based on the unobstructed floor space?**

- A** The government says every child must have at least 1.5 square metres of free floor space each to play in.  
Calculate the total square metres of free floor space using this method:
- B** Once the space is laid out for your programme, measure it with a tape measure.
- Measure the length of the free floor space in metres.
  - Then measure the width of the free floor space in metres.
  - Multiply these two numbers together. This gives you the total square metres of free floor space.
- C** Now divide this number by 1.5: this gives you the total number of children allowed in the space.

MAX NUMBER OF CHILDREN:

(based on total square metres of free floor space)

**3** Look at the two numbers in the green boxes on the right. Choose the **SMALLEST NUMBER**. This is the maximum number of children for your programme.

MAX NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR MY PROGRAMME: