

Ecclesiastical’s Guidelines re Ratios – Leaders/Participants; Children, Youth, Vulnerable Adults – Teachers/Leaders

IV. Leader and Participant Ratios:

The activity and age of children / youth affects the ratio of children / youth to staff. The management of the program as well as concern for safety, care, and social interaction are some of the factors to take into account when establishing adequate ratios. If there are not enough leader and adult volunteers, consider whether the program or activity should be held. (Volunteer helpers who work under the supervision of a screened, trained volunteer are welcome additions.)

V. Ratios of Children / Youth / Vulnerable Adults to Teachers / Leaders:

While the rule of having two adults at all times in a group is encouraged, there are occasional times when only one leader is present. In such a situation, the leader should know what to do if he / she is alone with a child. The orientation session held at the beginning of the year should make clear that provision must be made for such an occurrence. Where possible, the two adults should be unrelated.

Here are suggested child / youth / vulnerable adult ratios to leaders in a regular program, but additional adults can be helpful if one adult needs to leave the program temporarily.

0 –18 months	2 adults to 6 children
18 months – 2 years	2 adults to 10 children
2 –5 years	2 adults to 12 children
Ages 5 – 14	2 adults to 15 children
Ages 15 – 18	2 adults to 15 children
Vulnerable adults	2 adults to 10 vulnerable adults

VI. Day Excursions and Overnight Outings:

Here are the recommended participants’ ratios to teacher / leader / volunteers on day excursions and overnight outings:

Age	Day excursions	Overnight excursions/activities
5 or under	2 adults per group of 10	Overnight excursions not recommended
Ages 6 –8	2 adults per group of 12	Not recommended for age 6; 4 adults for 20 children for ages 7 & 8
Ages 9 –10	2 adults for every 15 children	2 adults for every 10 children
Ages 10 – 14	2 adults for every 15 children	2 adults for every 10 children
Ages 15-18	2 adults for every 15 youth	2 adults for every 10 youth
Vulnerable adults	2 adults per 10 vulnerable adults	2 adults per 10 vulnerable adults