



**Department of
Early Education and Care**
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Large Group and School Age Child Care Licensing

POLICY STATEMENT: Multi-Age Grouping

606 CMR 7.10(4) Multi-Age Grouping. A group of children ranging in age from birth through thirteen years (or sixteen years, if such children have special needs), may be assigned on an ongoing basis to a single group.

EEC regulation 7.10(4)(c) allows programs the option to apply for multi-age grouping within large group and school age child care programs.

All programs must ensure that the developmental needs of every child in the multi-age group can be met in that setting and that the program's physical environment is sufficiently self-contained to allow the benefits of a multi-age grouping. Programs must meet the intent behind multi-age groupings and may not use multi-age groupings as a substitute for fixed age groupings.

EEC may deny or rescind approval if a multi-age group does not function in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of the children and in compliance with this regulation.

Large Group and School Age Program multi-age grouping during the entire program day

The Department must approve all large group and school age multi-age group applications prior to a program implementing this grouping. All educators must meet the qualifications required of educators in large group and school age child care programs.

The program must complete the following application process:

- The program must complete and submit to their licensor the EEC Multi-Age Grouping application. Programs must also include with their application how this grouping will meet the needs of children by submitting:
 - The daily schedule for this grouping
 - A staff schedule and staff record checklist for all staff who are assigned to this grouping, assuring that staff meet the qualifications for the ages of children being care for in this multi-age grouping
 - A description of the classroom environment which must be safe for all ages of children. This grouping must allow for the safe mobility of younger children and foster the independence of older children

- A description of the type of developmentally appropriate curriculum being implemented by the program for all ages of children

Please refer EEC's website www.mass.gov/eec for the Multi-Age Grouping technical assistance paper.

- Once you have submitted your Multi-Age Grouping application, your program will receive:
 - An EEC licensing visit to determine compliance
 - An EEC licensing report identifying that the program is in compliance with this request or identifies outstanding compliance issues relative to this Multi-Age Grouping request
 - An updated EEC license with a condition identifying this Multi-Age Grouping and the date of EEC approval

Criteria for additional Large Group and School Age Multi-Age Groups

The Department may approve additional multi-age groups within a large group and school age program if the licensee can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of EEC, that the initial multi-age group has operated successfully for at least one year. To determine whether a program has successfully operated a multi-age grouping, a program must maintain the following documentation:

- Progress reports of all children and how this grouping has enhanced their child care experience
- Documentations of all educator observations and consultations by a lead teacher, site coordinator, or higher qualified person at least every two months
- Parent surveys which allow parents an opportunity to provide feedback on this grouping and how it impacts their child's development

The following multi-age grouping ratios and group sizes may be used by programs considering this option:

- Six or fewer children with 1 Educator:
 - No more than 3 children under two years of age, including at least one toddler who is walking independently. Additional children must be older than 24 months.
- Seven or eight children with 1 Educator:
 - No more than 3 children under two years of age, including at least one toddler who is walking independently. Additional children must be older than 24 months. All children over capacity of 6 must be school age children.
- Six or fewer children with 2 Educators:
 - No more than 6 children under two years of age.
- Seven to ten children with 2 Educators:
 - No more than 6 children under two years of age, including no more than 3 infants.
- Seven to ten children with 3 Educators:
 - No more than 6 infants. Additional children must be 15 months or older.



Department of Early Education and Care

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Large Group/School Age Application for Approval of a Single Full Day Multi-Age Group

Name of Program: _____ Program # _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____ Current Licensed Capacity: _____

Licensee/Owner: _____ Administrator _____

Proposed Group Size and ages of children: (Please check one)

- Six or fewer children with 1 Educator
 - No more than 3 children under two years of age, including at least one toddler who is walking.
- Six or fewer children with 2 Educators
 - No more than 6 children under two years of age.
- Seven or eight children with 1 Educator
 - No more than 3 children under two years of age, including at least one toddler who is walking and including 2 school age children.
- Seven to ten children with 2 Educators
 - No more than 6 children under two years of age, including no more than 3 infants.
- Seven to ten children with 3 Educators
 - No more than 6 infants.

Proposed Classroom space to be used for Multi-Age Group**: _____

Names and EEC qualifications of Educators assigned to Full Day Multi-Age Group**:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that approval of a single Full Day Multi age group will be issued subject to compliance with regulations 606 CMR 7.00 and that the following conditions will be met:

- ❖ The developmental needs of every child in the Multi-Age Group will be met in this setting;
- ❖ The physical environment is sufficiently self contained to allow the benefits of this “family setting” within this center based program.

Signature of Licensee: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Administrator: _____ Date: _____

**Please submit the following attachments:

- ___ The daily schedule for this grouping.
- ___ A staff schedule for all staff assigned to this grouping.
- ___ A staff record’s checklist for all staff assigned to this grouping.
- ___ A description of the classroom environment.
- ___ A description of the developmentally appropriate curriculum.

EEC USE ONLY

In Process: Application () Renewal () Request during term of license () Licensors’s Recommendation: Grant () Deny ()

Rationale: _____

Licensors’s Signature: _____ Date _____

Supervisor’s Recommendation: Grant () Deny ()

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date _____