

Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2016

MARTHA FRIENDLY • ELISE LARSEN • LAURA FELTHAM
BETHANY GRADY • BARRY FORER • MICHELLE JONES



CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH UNIT

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**CHILDCARE RESOURCE
AND RESEARCH UNIT**

Childcare Resource and Research Unit

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Finally, we would like to acknowledge our "team" at CRRU and beyond, which included Barry Forer, master of child care data, who prepared the demographic data from Statistics Canada; Billie Carroll, the exceptional webmaster who is responsible for CRRU's extensive website; Donna Lero, Emerita Professor at the University of Guelph and an expert on parental leave who provided substantial content for the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of the report; Sonya V. Thursby, who was once again willing to fit the layout of the report into her busy life; and practica and internship students Conor Adams and Kaela Goodey, who made multiple contributions during the last stages of this project.

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Canada

■ ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Early childhood education and care in Canada 2016 is a compilation of cross-Canada data on child care, kindergarten, maternity/parental leave, and more information relevant to the early childhood education and care landscape in Canada. It has been published approximately every two years since the early 1990s (1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010¹, 2012 and 2014). Earlier publications (up until 2008) are available in print, and all editions from 1998 onwards are available for download at no charge on the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) [website](#).

The availability of these longitudinal and cross-Canada data, collected using consistent methods, have made it possible to identify trends and reflect on similarities and differences in early childhood education and care (ECEC) within Canada and over time.

The *Early childhood education and care in Canada 2016* report represents a return to the longer, more detailed resource that the CRRU had historically developed when funding from the federal government was available from the early 1990s until 2006. The 2008 and 2010 versions of this report were developed under contracts with the federal government, while the shorter 2012 and 2014 editions had no federal funding. Thus, we are pleased to acknowledge the federal funding supporting this 2016 data collection, synthesis, and publication.

The core source of data in this report are the provincial/territorial administrative information provided by provincial/territorial officials. These data are supplemented from a variety of other sources including Statistics Canada, other research and reports, and online sources of data and information about federal, provincial/territorial and Indigenous ECEC. References for the main data sources are included in the DATA SOURCES section or are identified in the text.

We have made every effort to ensure that the data and information in this report is as accurate and consistent as we can make it. Readers' comments or corrections are most welcome.

■ ABOUT THE CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) is an independent, non-partisan, policy research institute that focuses on early childhood education and care (ECEC) and social and family policy. CRRU has a mandate to work towards to a universal, high quality, publicly funded, and inclusive ECEC system. We work collaboratively with other researchers, NGOs, advocacy groups, and government policy makers across multiple levels of government and the early childhood education community on ECEC and family policy.

CRRU operates on the premise that the best possible evidence about policy and practice, drawn from multidisciplinary research and policy analysis, has a key role to play in informing, developing, and interpreting public policy.

All CRRU publications may be downloaded at no cost from the CRRU [website](#). Our publications may be freely used for personal, educational, and other public uses when fully attributed and cited. Please contact us to arrange permissions for commercial uses.

¹ Note that the 2010 version of *ECEC in Canada* was published by the federal government as *Public investments in early childhood education and care in Canada 2010*. The report was developed by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit under a contract awarded by the federal government, and used the same methodology as this report. The content is substantially the same as versions of *ECEC in Canada*.

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METHODS

Information pertaining to regulated child care and kindergarten in this report was largely provided by provincial/territorial government officials. The method used to collect and verify the data from each province/territory followed a series of steps. First, written templates were sent to various governmental officials who are responsible for ECEC within their jurisdictions province/territory. These templates included all the existing information that we could compile about ECEC in each province/territory for the officials to review, modify, edit and return.

The researchers then reviewed the data collected from the provincial/territorial officials, and clarification was sought where necessary. This process generally required several communications. A final draft was then compiled using the material provided by the government officials as well as data from other sources where applicable. The final report was sent to the provincial/territorial officials before publication. Statistics Canada sources were used for demographic data, including special data runs. Other research was also incorporated where appropriate. These sources are identified below in the DATA SOURCES section or in notes in the text.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the data provided in this publication, and to use accurate and consistent terminology and categories across provinces/territories. This was not always possible due to the use of different terminologies, categories (for example age-defined categories), and provincial/territorial data collection methods, as well as information gaps across Canada. In some instances, consistent dates or definitions were not available. Where this has occurred, the varying dates and explanations thereof have been provided in the text or in footnotes.

DATA SOURCES

Number of children 0-12 years

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2016 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Children 0-12 years with employed mothers

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2016 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2016 annual), CANSIM Table 282-0211.

Median family income by family type

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue number 98-400-X2016105.

Children 0-14 years Identifying with an Indigenous group

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016154.

Children 0-14 years by marital status of family

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016040.

Children 0-14 years by language spoken most often at home

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016070.

Parent fees

Macdonald, D. and Friendly, M. (2016). *A growing concern: Child care fees in Canada's biggest cities*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Macdonald, D. and Friendly, M. (2017). *Time out: Child care fees in Canada's biggest cities and selected rural communities*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Public spending per pupil on K-12

MacLeod, A. and Emes, K. (2017). *Education spending and public student enrolment in Canada, 2017 Edition*. Calgary: Fraser Institute. Table 3.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE IN THE LATE 2000s

HOW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE IS ORGANIZED IN CANADA

Each of Canada's 14 jurisdictions—10 provinces, three territories, and the federal government—has several different programs for child care and early childhood education, each with a variety of objectives such as “giving children the best start in life,” school readiness, early intervention, women's equality, supporting mother's labour force participation, and poverty reduction.

Each province and territory provides regulated child care that includes centre-based full day child care, regulated home (family) child care, school-aged child care, and usually, nursery school or preschool². Each of these provincial/territorial child care options includes legislated requirements and regulations for service delivery, and each has a variety of funding arrangements. While in the past, child care typically fell under the aegis of a social or community service ministry, most provinces and territories have currently designated child care as a responsibility of their respective education ministries.

None of the provinces/territories treats access to child care as an entitlement or a right.

All provincial/territorial governments provide kindergarten programs for all five-year-olds, delivered at no fee to parents by public education authorities. Ontario is the sole province with kindergarten for all four-year-olds³, although a number of other jurisdictions have some kindergarten available for some four-year-olds and, in Saskatchewan, three-year-olds (usually those children considered to be “vulnerable”). In the last decade, full day school services have come to predominate in Canadian kindergarten provision. All jurisdictions treat kindergarten for five-year-olds as an entitlement similar to elementary school even though attendance is not compulsory in most provinces/territories.

Thus kindergarten is a public responsibility but finding and paying for child care for children younger than age five (or four in several provinces/territories) and child care outside school hours for school-aged children is primarily a private, family responsibility.

In addition to these provincial/territorial programs, the federal government directly funds several ECEC-type programs for special populations—Indigenous Canadians, military personnel, and newcomers to Canada. The Child Care Expense Deduction under *The Income Tax Act*, allows eligible parents to claim some employment-related child care expenses as a deduction from taxable income. (See FEDERAL ROLES section in this report).

The federal government also contributes to maternity and parental leave by providing benefits to eligible families under the Employment Insurance (EI) program; the provisions for job-protected leave from work are determined by each province/territory. This system applies to all of Canada outside Quebec, which has its own program covering both leave provisions and benefits, the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP). (See FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section in this report).

Historically, Canada has had limited federal policy pertaining to ECEC, although there have been multiple attempts to develop a national child care program. Following a decade-long hiatus in intergovernmental engagement on ECEC, the Government of Canada re-engaged in discussion about ECEC with provinces and territories following a change of government in the 2015 federal election. This culminated in a June 2017 announcement of a [“Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework,”](#) which emphasizes

² These services are not regulated in several jurisdictions.

³ Nova Scotia has begun developing universal four-year-old kindergarten.

collaboration between the federal government and the provinces/territories. It states that governments “[agree that the further development of early learning and child care systems is one of the best investments that governments can make to strengthen the social and economic fabric of our country.](#)” There are five principles stated in this framework—high quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity.

The framework specifies provinces/territories will use federal funding under the Multilateral Framework and bilateral agreements with consideration for families more in need, defined as lower-income families; Indigenous families; lone-parent families; families in underserved communities; those working non-standard hours; and/or families with children with varying abilities. Funding commitments were outlined in the 2017 federal budget and include \$540 million in 2018-2019, and \$550 million in 2020-2021. By 2026-2027, the Government of Canada’s child care funding through this fund is envisioned to reach \$870 million annually, as committed to in the 2017 federal budget.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ECEC

Government responsibility for Canada’s early childhood education and care services have largely been defined by Canada’s status as a federation. The division of powers between federal and provincial governments was originally defined in the *Constitution Act of 1867* and has evolved over the years. It is generally agreed that child care and early childhood education—like other social, educational, and health programs—are primarily under provincial/territorial jurisdiction in the Canadian federation. However, the federal government may, and does, play a variety of funding and policy roles in some of these programs.

Canadian municipalities do not have powers assigned by constitutional arrangements, but are subordinate to the provinces which may delegate powers to them, including taxation. Outside Ontario, where they play several important mandated roles in child care, local governments generally have no role in regulated child care. There are some exceptions to this: the City of Vancouver has adopted a significant key planning and policy-setting role, and a small number of municipalities in Alberta and Saskatchewan support or deliver services. Local school boards (or school divisions) are also subordinate to provincial governments. They have primary responsibility for operation of elementary schools including kindergarten. In some jurisdictions, many schools host child care programs as landlords.

In Canada, there is no federal role in public education and no national department of education. This means that there is no Canada-wide approach to kindergarten, it is a provincial/territorial responsibility.

In addition to Canada’s status as a federation, another key political element with implications for ECEC roles and responsibilities is that Canada is considered a “liberal democracy” in the analysis of social welfare regimes developed by Danish sociologist Gøsta Esping-Andersen. This means that, consistent with Canada’s liberal-democratic orientation, Canadian child care is treated as a market commodity and is considered to be primarily a private family responsibility. Thus, parent-consumers, non-governmental organizations, and other community-based actors are a key part of Canadian ECEC.

In most parts of Canada, advocacy groups, ECEC professionals, the voluntary sector, and researchers make up what is often called “the child care community.” These groups are important providers of ECEC-related services such as professional development and in-service training and may develop and maintain child care services. In addition, advocacy for more and better child care—and now ECEC—has been a visible feature of the Canadian ECEC landscape for decades. Alliances with other groups with an interest in ECEC—the labour movement, anti-poverty activists and feminists, for example—have long been a fundamental element of Canadian advocacy for child care.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Generally, regulated child care includes centres, nursery schools, and regulated home (family) child care are governed under the same legislation within the province or territory. All jurisdictions have public kindergarten for age-eligible children. Most provinces/territories also have other related services, such as family resource/support programs, and other child and family services.

Almost all jurisdictions require some of the staff working with children in regulated child care to have some early childhood education (ECE) schooling at the post-secondary level. Canadian requirements for early childhood training are commonly recognized as less than optimal (see Table 3 in this report which summarizes provincial/territorial child care staff qualification requirements).

Regulated home child care providers in most provinces/territories are required to have some (limited) ECE-related training. Kindergarten teachers are required to meet elementary teacher certification requirements, but are not required to have early childhood-related preparation in most jurisdictions.

Most regulated Canadian child care is initiated and maintained by volunteers, voluntary organizations, by parents or by entrepreneurs. The non-profit child care sector represents about 70% of the total supply, with for-profits (ranging from one-centre operations to corporate-type chains that may have multiple locations) making up the rest; there are very few publicly-delivered services. As recently as the 1990s, Ontario had a supply of municipally-operated child care services that represented more than 10% of regulated spaces; this has diminished to less than 3% of total spaces provincially in 2016.

As child care is not a service to which children or families have an entitlement (either legislated or understood), there are generally no commitments to ensure access to child care for under-represented groups or those who may be “harder to serve.” There are no current or recent data outside Quebec that tell us who is using child care, what kind of care it is, or how much is being used. However, anecdotal and local analysis suggest that while regulated child care is in short supply and unaffordable for many families across Canada—for some families, a “space” is especially hard to access. This includes families who are living in poverty, newcomers to Canada, Indigenous Canadians, children with disabilities, minority official language populations, rural families, and those working non-standard hours.

WHO PAYS FOR CHILD CARE, AND HOW?

Generally speaking, all types of child care in Canada (except in Quebec) are primarily paid for by parents, with most provinces/territories paying some (usually limited), operating costs for regulated child care. These operating funds, sometimes called “base funding” or “grants” of various kinds, reduce reduce parent fees.

While all provinces/territories provide regulated services with some operational funding, Quebec, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island combine this with setting province-wide parent fees in some or most of their regulated child care programs. The result is that fees in these jurisdictions (especially in Quebec) are substantially lower than elsewhere. (See [Macdonald and Friendly, 2017](#), and Table 7 in this report for cross-Canada parent fees). Child care fees depend on the child’s age, the duration of care, and the amount of public operational funding provided by the specific province/territory.

All provinces/territories except Quebec⁴ subsidize individual eligible, low-income families in regulated child care by covering some or all of the fees on the parent’s behalf. Parent fee subsidies are mostly administered by provincial/territorial governments; in Ontario, local (municipal or regional) governments manage the administration of provincial child care funding, including fee subsidies.

ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY

Canada, for the most part, takes a consumerist approach to child care—substantially relying on a market model. Consequently, the supply of regulated services covers only a minority of children, as this report documents. As parent fees are the main source of revenue for child care services in most provinces/territories, affording child care is difficult for many families across Canada, and the available research suggests that services may too often not be the high-quality “early childhood education” shown to benefit young children.

The key overarching characteristic that shapes and defines Canada’s child care approach and situation is its operation as a market system. Ten characteristics of Canada’s marketized child care provision have been described by [Beach and Ferns \(2015\)](#) as:

- Inequitable access
- Hit-and-miss service development
- Consumer-model financing
- Limited public management
- Limited planning

⁴ In Quebec, most of the cost of most regulated child care is covered by operational funds paid to child care programs by the Quebec government

- Programming aimed at the market
- Staffing to the minimum, at the lowest rate of pay possible
- Limited integration of care and education
- Relying on privatized services/arrangements
- Quality taking a backseat to budgets/profit.

Provincial/territorial and Indigenous ECEC programs are covered in more detail in the following individual sections.

FEDERAL ROLES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

According to Canadian constitutional arrangements, Canadian early childhood education and care programs generally fall under provincial/territorial jurisdiction. However, the federal government currently plays a number of key roles in ECEC policy and programs. These are as follows:

- a) The federal government provides transfer payments to provinces/territories under the [Multilateral Framework Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care](#) (announced June 12, 2017) and bilateral agreements negotiated with each province/territory. Annual federal funding is specified over the next decade, with the policy framework listing principles of high quality; accessibility; affordability; flexibility; and inclusiveness⁵. A parallel framework for agreements with and funding for Indigenous communities is anticipated.
- b) Under the Canada Social Transfer (CST), the federal government also provides more general transfer payments as a block fund for social programs in each province/territory. Funds used for child care are neither ear-marked nor identified.
- c) The Child Care Expense Deduction under *The Income Tax Act*, is a tax concession that allows the lower earning parent in a couple to claim some receipted, employment-related child care expenses as a deduction from taxable income. There are no criteria for the child care arrangements for which claims are made other than that a receipt is available. For more information on this, visit the government [website](#) pertaining to child care expenses.
- d) ECEC programs for populations for whom the federal government has particular responsibility, such as Indigenous people, military families, and new immigrants and refugees, may be directly funded by the federal government. In addition to the ECEC programs intended for Indigenous Canadians described in the INDIGENOUS ECEC section of this report, these include:
 - i. The Care for Newcomer Children component of Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC). See [here](#) for more information.
 - ii. Military Family Resource Centres, which may have an unfunded child care component. See [here](#) for more information.

In addition, under Employment Insurance, the federal government provides maternity/parental leave benefits to eligible new parents outside Quebec. (See the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this report).

⁵ See Employment and Social Development, Government of Canada. (2017). Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/early-learning-child-care/reports/2017-multilateral-framework.html>.

FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS

Canada has two family leave and benefit regimes, one specific to Quebec and the second for the remaining 12 provinces/territories. Maternity and parental leave benefits and leave provisions for all provinces/territories except Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments; benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction’s employment standards legislation.

BENEFITS: CANADA OUTSIDE QUEBEC

Employment Insurance is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parents including adoptive parents. This has now been amended⁶ by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks, including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and a longer Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks).

These benefits are indexed annually. In 2017, maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit have been paid at 55% of wages up to \$543 a week, and the Extended Parental Benefit was to be paid at 33% of wages up to \$326 a week. Benefits can begin as long as 12 weeks before the actual birth.

Although the federal benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot take job-protected leave until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have been amended to be consistent with the federal EI benefit changes.

In addition, in the 2018 federal budget, the Government of Canada announced that it would introduce earmarked “second parent” or “non-birthing parent” (paternity) leave but it has not yet been implemented.

See the provincial/territorial tables in this section for further details.

BENEFITS AND LEAVE: QUEBEC

The Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) is also a contributory insurance program. It includes both benefit provisions and provisions for job-protected leave from work. QPIP includes two options: a Basic Plan that covers 18 weeks of maternity leave, 32 weeks of parental leave and five weeks of paternity leave (a total of 55 weeks) and a shorter Special Plan totalling 43 weeks to cover 15 weeks of maternity leave, 25 weeks of parental leave and three weeks of paternity leave at higher benefit rates. In 2017, the Basic Plan began at a maximum of \$975.96/week for maternity leave, dropping to a maximum of \$766.82/week for the parental leave portion. The Special Plan benefit was paid at \$1,045.67/week, or 75% of income, for all leave portions in 2017. These dollar amounts for the QPIP are indexed to inflation annually, as are the benefit payments under EI.

In 2018, Quebec added another option to its parental leaves: a longer or more flexible leave period. New parents are now permitted to spread parental leave over two years with their employer’s agreement, with no additional funding. The leave can be used to allow a part time return to work.

See the tables in this section for further details.

⁶ Note the information in this document about provincial/territorial job protected leave and benefit levels was up-to-date as of December 31 2017.

TABLE I

Characteristics of Canadian and Quebec family leave benefits (after December 3 2017).

	Canada—Employment Insurance (EI) benefits	Benefits under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan ¹ (QPIP)
<i>Maternity benefit</i> Birth mother only	15 wks	18 wks—Basic Plan 15 wks—Special Plan
<i>Parental benefit</i> Either parent	35 wks—Standard Parental Benefit 61 wks—Extended Parental Benefit	32 wks—Basic Plan 25 wks—Special Plan
<i>Paternity benefit</i> Father only—not transferable	None ²	5 wks—Basic Plan 3 wks—Special Plan
Maternity + parental + paternity benefit TOTAL	50 wks—Standard Parental Benefit 76 wks—Extended Parental Benefit	55 wks—Basic Plan 43 wks—Special Plan
<i>Adoption benefit</i>	See parental benefits	37 wks—Basic Plan 28 wks—Special Plan
Benefit/payment = % of average earnings/week	<i>Maternity benefit</i> : 55%	<i>Maternity leave</i> Basic Plan: 70% Special Plan: 75%
	<i>Parental benefit</i> Standard Parental Benefit: 55% Extended Parental Benefit: 55%	<i>Parental leave</i> Basic Plan: 7 wks 70% + 25 wks 55% Special Plan: 25 wks 75%
	<i>Paternity benefit</i> ² None	<i>Paternity leave</i> Basic Plan: 5 wks 70% Special Plan: 3 wks 75%
	<i>Adoption benefit</i> Standard Parental Benefit: 55% Extended Parental Benefit: 33%	<i>Adoption leave</i> Basic Plan: 12 wks 70% + 25 wks 55% Special Plan: 28 wks 75%
Max insurable earnings (2017) (indexed)	\$51,300 (indexed)	\$72,500 (indexed)
Payment ceiling/cap (2017) (indexed)	\$543/week (indexed)	Basic Plan: Maternity, 7 weeks parental, paternity: 975.96/wk + 25 wks of parental: \$766.82 (indexed) Special Plan: \$1,045.67/wk all portions (indexed)
Eligibility	600 hrs continuous employment in previous year Self-employed workers are required to opt in at least one year prior to claiming EI benefits and have earned a minimum in self employment earnings in the previous taxation year of \$6,888 (2016 for claims in 2017) and meet other requirements.	\$2000 earnings/contributions in previous year Self-employed eligible if registered one year previously (compulsory to register)
EI Family Supplement	Up to 80% of earnings	Up to 80% of earnings
Waiting period	1 week	None

1 The Quebec government announced in January 2018 that a longer, more spread-out parental leave option would be made available under the QPIP. Details are not yet available.

2 In the 2018 federal budget, the Government of Canada stated that it would begin providing EI parental sharing benefit. Details are not yet available.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL LEAVE PROVISIONS

TABLE II Length and timing of maternity leave. Provinces/territories (2017).

NL	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Leave cannot start earlier than 17 weeks before the expected birth date.
PE	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Leave can start up to 11 weeks before expected date of delivery and include six weeks after the delivery date.
NS	Length: 17 weeks Timing: May start up to 16 weeks before expected due date. At least one week must be taken after the delivery.
NB	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Beginning no earlier than 11 weeks before probable delivery date.
QB	Length: 15 weeks (Special Plan), 18 weeks (Basic Plan).
ON	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Starting up to 17 weeks before the due date.
MB	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Starting up to 17 weeks before expected due date.
SK	Length: 18 weeks Timing: Starting any time in the 12 weeks prior to estimated due date; 14 weeks if no written notice or failure to provide a medical certificate to begin any time in the eight weeks prior to estimated date of birth.
AB	Length: 15 weeks Timing: Starting any time in the 12 weeks before the expected due date. Maternity leave must include a minimum of six weeks after birth unless agreed to as per a medical certificate.
BC	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Starting no earlier than 11 weeks before expected birth date and ending no earlier than six weeks after the birth date unless the employee requests a shorter period.
NT	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Commencing at any time during the 17 weeks immediately preceding estimated date of delivery.
NU	Length: 17 weeks Timing: Commencing any time during the 17 week period immediately preceding the estimated date of delivery.
YK	Length: 17 weeks Timing: An employer can require that the employee take maternity leave within the six weeks prior to her estimated due date (sooner if she cannot reasonably perform her duties due to the pregnancy). An employer may not require an employee to return earlier than six weeks after the birth or termination of a pregnancy.

TABLE III**Maternity leave extensions and special circumstances. Provinces/territories (2017).**

NL	In the event of miscarriage or stillbirth, the mother is entitled to 17 weeks after the pregnancy leave began or six weeks after the stillbirth or miscarriage, whichever is later.
PE	Maternity/parental/adoption leave can be extended by an additional five weeks if a child has a physical, psychological or emotional condition requiring additional care. An employer can require that the employee take unpaid leave up to three months if her pregnancy interferes with her work.
NS	If a newly arrived child must go to hospital for more than one week, the employee can return to work and use the rest of parental leave after the child comes out of the hospital.
NB	An employer may impose leave if an employee can no longer reasonably perform her duties. Such leave would be in addition to maternity leave.
ON	Exceptions are made in cases of a delayed or premature birth, or a miscarriage or stillbirth.
MB	Can be extended by the number of days between the expected date and actual birth date.
SK	Can be extended for a late birth so employee receives six weeks after the date of birth.
NT	An extension of up to six weeks may be granted if the delivery is later than expected up to the date of delivery.
NU	An extension of up to six weeks may be granted if the delivery is later than expected.
YK	No provisions for extensions to maternity leave.
CA	Maternity-related reassignment /job modification may be requested by a pregnant or nursing mother with certificate from medical practitioner. If not reasonably practical, an employee may take unpaid leave from the beginning of pregnancy until the end of the 24 th week after birth with medical documentation of inability to work.

TABLE IV

Length and timing of parental /adoption leave. Provinces/territories (2017).

NL	<p>Length: 35 weeks</p> <p>Timing: Parental leave must begin within 35 weeks of the birth or when the child comes into the care and custody of the parent for the first time.</p> <p>Up to 17 weeks of adoption leave is available in addition to the period of parental leave.</p>
PE	<p>Length: 35 weeks of parental leave</p> <p>Timing: Total leave maternity and parental leave can not exceed 52 weeks.</p> <p>52 weeks maximum adoption leave can be taken by one parent or shared.</p> <p>Adoption leave must be taken within 12 months of the child’s arrival in the home.</p>
NS	<p>Length: 52 weeks; 35 weeks for birth mothers immediately following pregnancy leave; other parents can take up to 52 weeks leave.</p> <p>Timing: Parental leave must be completed within 52 weeks after the birth or child arrives in the home.</p>
NB	<p>Length: 37 weeks of “child care leave” can be taken by either parent or shared.</p> <p>Timing: It can begin no sooner than the day a newborn or adopted child comes into the care of the employee.</p>
QC	<p><i>Parental leave</i></p> <p>Length: Basic Plan: 32 weeks; Special Plan: 25 weeks</p> <p>Timing: 25 of the weeks may be shared between parents.</p> <p><i>Adoption leave</i></p> <p>Length: Basic Plan: 37 weeks; Special Plan: 28 weeks</p> <p>Timing: Both parental leave and adoption leave may be taken by one parent or shared as they see fit and may be taken simultaneously or in succession.</p> <p><i>Paternity leave (exclusively for fathers)</i></p> <p>Length: Basic Plan: five weeks; Special Plan: three weeks</p>
ON	<p>Length: 37 weeks for new parents other than birth mothers taking pregnancy leave (who may take 35 weeks).</p> <p>Timing: Parental leave must begin no later than 52 weeks after the birth date or date an adopted child first comes into care.</p> <p>BOTH new parents have the right to take parental leave following a birth or adoption</p>
MB	<p>Length: 37 weeks following birth or adoption.</p> <p>Timing: Must be taken in one continuous period. Parental leave can begin up to one year after the birth or adoption. The length of leave can be shortened if less than four weeks notice is given.</p>
SK	<p>Length: 34 weeks parental leave for the birth parent or primary caregiver in an adoption; 37 weeks parental leave for the parent who did not take maternity or adoption leave; 18 weeks adoption leave.</p> <p>Timing: Parental leave may be taken consecutively after maternity or adoption leave.</p> <p>A non-birth or non-adoptive parent’s leave can begin within 12 weeks preceding the estimated date of birth/ adoption and must end within 52 weeks after the actual date of birth or adoption.</p>
AB	<p>Length: For mothers on maternity leave, not more than 37 weeks following the last day of maternity leave.</p> <p>Parental leave for other parents, including adopting parents: max of 37 weeks within 52 weeks of the birth or placement.</p>

continued

TABLE IV *continued*. Length and timing of parental /adoption leave. Provinces/territories (2017).

BC	<p>Length: 35 weeks for birth mothers who take pregnancy leave; 37 weeks for a birth mother who does not take pregnancy leave as well as for fathers and for adopting parents. Timing: Parental leave can begin anytime within 52 weeks after the birth or placement of the child.</p>
NT	<p>Length: 37 weeks parental leave Timing: Must begin the day a child is born or arrives in the home for adoption.</p>
NU	<p>Length: 37 weeks parental leave for natural or adopting parents. Timing: Commencing on the day of birth or the day a child arrives at the employee’s home, and ending one year after that date.</p>
YK	<p>Length: 37 weeks of parental leave for birth or adoption Timing: Leave must be completed no later than 52 weeks after the birth or child comes into care. Parental leave can be taken by one spouse or shared, but the cumulative total leave period cannot exceed 37 weeks. Parental leave may not be taken by both parents at the same time unless one parent is unable to care for the child due to illness or other hardship for the family.</p>

TABLE V**Unique provisions of maternity/parental leave. Provinces/territories (2017).**

NL	Parents may take both parental leave and adoption leave.
PE	Adoption leave may be shared by parents but cannot exceed a total of 52 weeks.
QB	Paternity leave is in addition to maternity and parental leave. Self employed Quebecers are required to register and are eligible for paid family leave.
ON	Both parents can take parental leave as long as they meet the eligibility requirement and do not exceed the 35 or 37 weeks cumulatively, between them.
SK	Adoption leave is a unique leave; it is not synonymous with parental leave but—like maternity leave—must be taken by one parent—the primary caregiver.
AB	Parental leave may be taken wholly by one of the employees or shared. When both parents work for the same employer, the employer is not required to grant parental leave to more than one employee at a time.
BC	If pregnancy leave is not requested until after the birth or termination of the pregnancy, the employee is entitled to up to six weeks of leave beginning on the date of birth or termination date.

TABLE VI Other restrictions of maternity/parental leave. Provinces/territories (2017).

PEI	Parental leave, if taken by the birth mother must immediately follow mat leave.
NB	Parental leave, if taken must immediately follow maternity leave.
QB	Parental leave, if taken by birth mothers must immediately follow pregnancy leave.
ON	Parental leave, if taken must immediately follow maternity leave unless the child is hospitalized.
MB	Parental leave, if taken must immediately follow maternity leave unless the employer agrees to a different arrangement.
SK	Parental leave, if taken by the birth mother must immediately follow maternity leave.
NT	Unless the employer and employee agree otherwise, parental leave must immediately follow maternity leave.
NU	Parental leave, if taken must immediately follow maternity leave.
YK	Unless the employer and employee agree otherwise, parental leave must immediately follow maternity leave.
CA	If female employees take both maternity and parental leave, they must do so consecutively in one block.

Note: Provincial/territorial tables were developed from information provided by Donna S. Lero, Ph.D. Professor Emerita, Centre for Families, Work and Well-Being, University of Guelph.

INDIGENOUS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

CONTEXT

In 2016, there were 1,673,785 self-identified Indigenous people living in Canada, up almost 30% from the last long-form census in 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2017a). Accounting for 4.9% of the Canadian population, the Indigenous (or Aboriginal) population includes First Nations and Métis (living on- and off-reserve), and Inuit persons.

Many Indigenous Canadians live in remote and/or northern areas, and some First Nations people live in communities “on-reserve”. There are also large southern and urban Indigenous populations. According to data from the 2016 Census, “867,415 Indigenous people lived in a metropolitan area of at least 30,000 people, accounting for over half (51.8%) of the total Indigenous population” (Statistics Canada, 2017b).

CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Maintenance of their cultures is a major concern for Indigenous peoples. Culturally sensitive early childhood education and the implications of this for staff training and service delivery are of special concern. Indigenous organizations point out that general standards for child care centres are sometimes too rigid or otherwise inappropriate for northern and/or remote communities, and that they may not reflect traditional cultural norms and practices. Thus, there is a strong interest among Indigenous groups in developing ECEC programs that are operated and controlled by Indigenous communities themselves.

The health and well-being of Indigenous peoples is rooted in a unique relationship between the people, the land, and the cultures and languages that connect us to the land. For Indigenous children in particular, their understanding of who they are and their connections with Indigenous ways of knowing and being in the world is integrally interconnected with their early life experiences. Developing an understanding of one’s self, individually and as part of a collective, is a learning process that begins at birth. (First Nations Information Governance Centre, 2016).

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

In 1996, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended that federal, provincial, and territorial governments cooperate to support an integrated early childhood funding strategy that a) extends early childhood education to all Aboriginal children regardless of residence; b) encourages programs that foster the physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual development of children, in order to reduce distinctions between child care, prevention, and education; c) maximizes Aboriginal control over service design and administration; d) offers one-stop accessible funding; and e) promotes parental involvement and choice in early childhood education options.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) sent out a broad call for action. The TRC sought action in multiple areas, citing Canada’s history of appropriation of Indigenous lands, the separation of children from their families and cultures through residential schools and child welfare, cultural assimilation, and genocide, to support their recommendations. The call to action specified the need for “federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to work together to develop culturally-appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous families”. Recommendations included that the “federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments [develop] culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families” (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Executive Summary, 2015).

After the TRC report was released and the October 2015 federal election led to a change of government, cross-Canada consultations among Indigenous groups yielded the development of a national Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework (IELCCF). It is expected that the IELCCF will be finalized between the federal government and Indigenous groups in 2018.

CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICY

Generally, funding for social programs for Indigenous communities on-reserve is the responsibility of the Government of Canada, while social programs for Indigenous people living off-reserve may be either a federal or a provincial responsibility.

Although some provincial governments carry out regulation of on-reserve Indigenous child care, others do not (this information can be found in each provincial/territorial section in this report). In some provinces, First Nations communities do not recognize provincial jurisdiction in Indigenous communities on reserve land. Generally, First Nations and Inuit organizations have responsibility for the administration of funds and development of services.

While programs for which the federal government takes responsibility includes Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (off-reserve), generally speaking, regulated child care for Indigenous people living off-reserve has no special status with the federal government.

FEDERAL INDIGENOUS ECEC PROGRAMS

At one time, federal funding for child care was limited to First Nations in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Ontario and Alberta where the then-Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) covered some costs in accordance with provincial funding policies. In Quebec, child care programs for First Nations children received Quebec funding through the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Until 1995, when the first Aboriginal Head Start program was announced, there was relatively little spending earmarked for Indigenous ECEC in much of Canada. Since that time, several different federal programs have funded Indigenous ECEC across Canada directly in addition to those arrangements available to specific provinces.

ABORIGINAL HEAD START IN URBAN AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES (AHSUNC) (PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA)

In 1995, the Government of Canada established this Aboriginal Head Start program to fulfill an election commitment to establish early intervention programs for Indigenous children.

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) is a national early intervention initiative with a goal to support the healthy development of Indigenous children living off-reserve. The Public Health Agency of Canada provides funding to local Indigenous organizations to develop and deliver culturally appropriate programming. AHSUNC is typically part day, and is centred on six components: education, health promotion, culture and language, nutrition, social support, and parental/family involvement.

AHSUNC is described by the federal government as having, “113 sites that reach 4600-4800 children annually through a majority of part day preschool programs” (Public Health Service of Canada, 2017).

A 2017 report, [Evaluation of the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities Program 2011-2012 to 2015-2016](#) is available online.

ABORIGINAL HEAD START ON-RESERVE (AHSOR) (HEALTH CANADA)

Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve (AHSOR) was initiated in 1998, building on the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities program. AHSOR funds early intervention strategies organized and delivered by First Nation communities to support the learning and development of Indigenous children living on-reserve.

Like AHSUNC, AHSOR is centred on six components: education, health promotion, culture and language, nutrition, social support, and parental/family involvement. The Government of Canada reported that over 14,000 First Nations children on reserve (not including BC) participated in AHSOR in 2015-2016, and that \$47.37 million is provided annually for the program (Health Canada, 2017).

FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT CHILD CARE INITIATIVE (FNICCI) (EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA)

The First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) was established in 1995 through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) to provide First Nations children living on-reserve and in Inuit communities with similar access to affordable, quality child care as non-Indigenous children (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2017).

Originally funded through one of then-HRSDC's labour market development programs, FNICCI was developed, at least in part, to support parental employment. Since 2011, FNICCI has been funded under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) as part of the mandate of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The intention of the program is to provide "access to quality child care services for First Nations and Inuit children whose parents are starting a new job or participating in a training program." According to the Government of Canada, FNICCI is a "\$50-million program that has supported over 8,500 child care spaces in 486 First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada" (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2017).

A report of a research project by Inuit Tapirit Katami, [Assessing the Impact of the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative across Inuit Nunanga](#), was published in 2014.

FEDERAL PROVINCE-SPECIFIC INDIGENOUS ECEC PROGRAMS

In addition to the three Canada-wide Indigenous ECEC programs mentioned above, there have also been several province-specific programs in place for some years.

Regulated child care centres and home day care in Ontario First Nations communities (reserves) have had federal funding since the 1960s under the 1965 "Indian Welfare Agreement." These are delivered by First Nations under contracts with the Ontario government (Ministry of Education) and are regulated under Ontario's provincial child care legislation and regulations.

The federal government reimburses the province for most of the program costs (reportedly to be approximately 93%). The Ontario government reports funding 77 First Nations and three transfer payment agencies in order to support on-reserve child care (see the ONTARIO section of this report).

For further information about ECEC in Ontario First Nations communities, see [Ontario First Nations Early Learning Asset Mapping Project: Addendum to Final Report](#).

The federal government has also funded Indigenous ECEC programs identified as First Nations Child & Family Service Head Start (New Brunswick), and the Child/Day Care Program (Alberta).

INDIGENOUS POLICY FRAMEWORK

When the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework was released in summer 2017, the federal government also proposed the development of a parallel Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. The Indigenous framework was to be co-developed with "Indigenous organizations and parents to determine the best approach to delivering high quality early learning and child care on reserve" (Government of Canada, 2016).

According to the federal government, this document is to be "separate and parallel" to the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework to "reflect the unique cultures and needs of First Nations, Inuit and Metis children across the country" (Government of Canada, 2017). The community feedback process closed at the beginning of August 2017. The release date of the framework document has not yet been announced.

REFERENCES FOR THIS SECTION

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Newfoundland and Labrador



OVERVIEW

Newfoundland and Labrador made significant changes to early childhood education and care in Fall 2014, beginning with creating a new Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that includes kindergarten, regulated child care, and family resource programs. The new department's Family and Child Development division has the responsibility for child care and family resource programs.

Since September 2016, kindergarten has been provided on a full school-day basis for all five-year-olds. Attendance is not compulsory.

Centre-based child care is mostly operated on a for-profit basis, with some non-profit centres and several publicly-operated programs. Both agency and individually licensed family child care models of regulation are used.

The province has a ten-year strategy (2012-2022) [Caring for our future: Provincial strategy for quality, sufficient and affordable child care in Newfoundland and Labrador](#) that builds on three key pillars: quality, sufficiency and affordability. As part of this plan, the province committed to a new legislative framework with an emphasis on inclusion and play-based programming, and to increasing staff qualifications with the intention of improving quality.

A new [Child care regulation document](#) was enacted on July 31, 2017, replacing the old regulations under the *Child Care Services Act*. There are new requirements for facilities and staff qualifications. The cap on centre sizes was removed and the provincial government committed to a five-year legislative review process with public consultation.

The Premier's Task Force on the Improvement of Educational Outcomes, released its report [Now is the time](#) in July 2017. The report includes a chapter on the early years, with a list of recommendations for early learning and child care.

Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada signed an [Early learning and child care agreement](#) in December 2017. The federal government will allocate just over \$22 million to Newfoundland and Labrador over the course of three years. The money will go towards implementing the existing 10 year strategy for early leaning and child care, focusing primarily on increasing accessibility and affordability for low and middle income families while enhancing the quality of early childhood education and care in the province.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	3,500
1	4,000
2	4,700
3	4,300
4	5,400
5	4,300
6	6,100
7	5,100
8	5,000
9	5,200
10	5,500
11	4,500
12	5,800
Total	63,500

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	12,200
3-5	14,000
6-12	37,200
Total	63,500

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	2,000
1	2,100
2	2,900
3	2,500
4	3,300
5	3,000
6	3,600
7	3,000
8	3,000
9	3,200
10	3,200
11	2,900
12	3,600
Total	38,100

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	7,000
3-5	8,800
6-12	22,500
Total	38,100

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	1580	435	430	65	115
5-9	2110	570	535	25	155
10-14	2140	565	450	70	215
Total	5,825	1,565	1,415	160	485

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	8,000	68.4
3-5	7,400	78.7
6-15	22,500	82.7

Languages spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	21,555	75	535	185
5-9	25,230	75	495	230
10-14	25,315	65	420	190
Total	72,100	210	1,450	595

Living arrangements by age of child by age by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	17,205	4,740	4,160	575
5-9	19,270	6,170	5,175	1000
10-14	19,090	6,350	5,185	1,170

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
92,542	27,674	32,469	27,544

FAMILY LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Thirty-five weeks available to both parents.

Adoption leave

Seventeen weeks of adoption leave to which 35 weeks of parental leave can be added.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the [Employment Insurance program](#) (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit. The new option allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Although the federal parental benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot be paid for the Extended option until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have already changed.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Division of Program Development

P.O. Box 8700

St John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709) 729-1840

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Newfoundland and Labrador. House of Assembly. *Schools Act. 1997.* (Amended 1999, 2000, 2001). S.N.L 1997 c. S-12.2.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old by December 31.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

4,899 students (2015/2016)

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Newfoundland and Labrador.

A legislated right of access mandates provision of kindergarten in every school.

HOURS

As of September 1, 2016, all schools across the province began offering full day kindergarten to all five-year-olds, offering five hours of instructional time per day.

CLASS SIZE

There is a provincial class size limit of 20 students in kindergarten.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification requirements: B.Ed. or a B.A. plus one year of post-degree study in education.

There is no requirement for training in early childhood education.

CURRICULUM

[Completely kindergarten: Kindergarten curriculum guide—Interim edition](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available

K–12 per pupil spending (2014–2015) \$13,174

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Early Learning and Child Development

3rd Floor, West Block Confederation Building,

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709) 729-5960

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Newfoundland and Labrador. House of Assembly. [Child Care Act](#). — SNL 2017,

Newfoundland and Labrador. House of Assembly. [Child Care Regulation](#) 39/17, amended by 66/17, 70/17.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

The maximum number of children permitted in unregulated family child care is four children, including the provider's own children under 13-years-old. If all are under 24 months, the maximum number of children permitted is three.

Unregulated group programs

Programs for no more than six children for no more than nine hours a week, or for an unspecified number of children for no more than six hours a day for fewer than eight weeks in a 12 week period, are not regulated.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centres

Centre-based care for more than six children under 13-years-old is permitted between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. As of July 31 2017, care can be offered outside these hours with Ministerial approval.

Centres may operate on a full day or part day basis.

School-age child care centres

Centre-based care outside school hours for school-aged children under 13 years of age.

Family child care

Care in the home of the provider for up to seven children, including the provider's own children not attending school on a full time basis. Maximums are placed on the number of infants and toddlers a caregiver can provide for in a group, depending on the total number of children being cared for (see Family child care section below).

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Early Childhood Learning Framework](#) (pilot)

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Newfoundland and Labrador operates an inclusive child care program. It provides assistance for regulated child care services to include children with additional needs so they may participate to their fullest potential in regulated programs. Child care providers are required to include children with special needs in regular programming in centres or home child care.

Inclusion supports include funding for consultation, training, ratios, and more, available to centres and family child care providers who request them after a regional consultant of the department has confirmed the need.

Each of the province's four regions has a Child Care Services Inclusion Consultant to advise and support licensees and providers on how to include children with special needs. Funding may also be available to employ a child-specific support staff above the minimum staff-child ratio if recommended by the Inclusion Consultant, or to reduce the number of children in the room or family child care home. Parents do not pay for these additional supports for a child with special needs in regulated child care.

There are no special training requirements for staff working with children with special needs. Inclusion Consultants offer training/workshops to child care practitioners on an as-needed basis.

One regulated centre, Daybreak Parent/Child Centre, is funded operationally by the province to work exclusively with 48 at-risk children and their families.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

There is one licensed on-reserve centre in Miawpukek First Nation at Conne River and a number of additional centres funded by the federal First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) funding. These largely serve Innu and Inuit communities in coastal Labrador, including Sheshatshui, Hopedale, and Nain. First Nations and Inuit licensed child care centres receive the same provincial funding as other centres in the province, and parents are eligible for fee subsidies.

The federal government's [Aboriginal Head Start](#) in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) funds programs in Hopedale, Sheshatshui, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. These programs do not provide child care and are not subject to licensing requirements. While each service is unique to the region and community it serves, Aboriginal Head Start offers programming for both parents and children (health and nutrition education, family resources, and social supports of various kinds), while programming for children is culturally guided and has a school readiness focus.

On December 1, 2005, the Nunatsiavut Government on the northwest coast of Labrador was established pursuant to the self government provisions of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. The provincial government continues to license Nunatsiavut child care centres, which have the same rights and responsibilities as other child care centres in the province. The Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development operates four centres— in Hopedale, Makkovik, Rigolet and Nain.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 2016)

Centre-based

Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Birth-school age	5,965	390	6,355
After school (Stand alone)		942	942
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>			7,297
<i>Family child care spaces</i>			862
Total number of regulated spaces			8,159

Note: Newfoundland and Labrador is in the process of introducing a new information management system; no further age break-downs are available at this time.

Children with special needs in regulated child care

(est. 2016) 136

Statistics are not kept on the total number of children with special needs attending typical child care facilities, but approximately 88 children with special needs received inclusion support under the Inclusion Supports Program in 2015-2016.

As well, there are 48 children with special needs at Daybreak Parent/Child Centre, which receives core funding.

Children receiving fee subsidies (March 2016)	1,809
Number of child care programs	
<i>Centres</i>	
Full day	155
Part day nursery school	19
Stand-alone after school	31
<i>Total centre-based</i>	205
<i>Family child care</i>	
Family child care agencies (operates in two locations)	1
Family child care homes (agency-based and individually licensed)	155
Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces (March 2016)	
<i>Full time spaces</i>	
Non-profit	1,257
For-profit	4,708
Total full time spaces	5,965
<i>Part time and school-age spaces</i>	
Part time non-profit	136
Part time for-profit	254
Total part time spaces	390
After school non-profit	685
After school for-profit	257
Total after school	942
Non-profit	821
For-profit	511
Total part time and school-age spaces	1,332
Parent fees	
There is no set parent fee with the exception of child care centres choosing to participate in the Operating Grant Program. These centres are required to set parent fees to approved fee subsidy rates and may not surcharge for services (see section on the Operating Grant Program).	
Fee information is not available from provincial sources.	
In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included St. John's:	
Median monthly infant fee	\$1,085
Median monthly toddler fee	\$868
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$890
<i>Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.</i>	

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: As of July 31, 2017, there is no longer a cap on the number of children permitted in a given child care centre. An administrator meeting certification and experience requirements under legislation must be employed for every five homerooms under a licence.

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes (2017)

Age	Staff: child ratio	Max. group size
<i>Infants</i>		
0–24 months	1:3	6
<i>Infant and toddler</i>		
0–36 months	1:5	10
<i>Conditions:</i> No children are one year or younger. Not more than three children are two years or younger.		
<i>Toddler</i>		
18–36 months	1:5	10
<i>Toddler and preschool</i>		
18 months–five years and nine months (and not attending school)	1:7	14
<i>Conditions:</i> No children are two years or younger. Not more than four children are three years or younger.		
<i>Preschool</i>		
Two years and nine months–five years and nine months (not attending school)	1:8	16
<i>Preschool and younger school-age</i>		
Two years and nine months–seven years	1:8	16
<i>Conditions:</i> No children are three years or younger. Not more than four children are five years and nine months.		
<i>Younger school age</i>		
Four years and nine months–7 years	1:12	24
<i>Younger and older school-age</i>		
Four years and nine months–13 years	1:15	30
<i>Conditions:</i> Not more than 12 children are seven years or younger.		

Older school-age

Six years and nine months–13 years

1:15

30

Centre staff qualification requirements

In accordance with the new *Child Care Act* enacted July 31, 2017, a caregiver in a regulated setting (centre or home) must have Trainee Certification at minimum, and is required to upgrade to a higher level within five years.

Certification levels

Trainee Certification: Child Care Services certification requires completion of an orientation course of 30–60 hours, depending on the age group with which the staff will be working.

Level One: Certification requires a minimum of a one year certificate in Early Childhood Education from a postsecondary institution. Staff are certified to work with particular age groups.

Level Two: Certification requires a minimum of a two year diploma in Early Childhood Education. Staff are certified to work with particular age groups.

Level Three: Certification requires Level Two certification plus an ECE-specific or an ECE-related post-diploma specialization.

Level Four: Certification requires an ECE-specific university degree or a university degree plus an ECE diploma.

Applicants from out-of-province are required to have their course work and practicum requirements compared to the Post-Secondary Program Standards for a determination of equivalency. If applicants are certified/registered in another province or territory they may apply under the Agreement on Internal Trade and not submit coursework/practicum information.

A minimum of 30 hours of professional development every three years, is required to keep any certification level valid with the exception of Trainee.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development contracts with the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador (AECENL) to certify staff and to deliver orientation courses at no cost to the individual. AECENL also provides professional development opportunities through face-to-face workshops and conferences, online workshops, a resource library, and webinars.

For more information see the provincial [Certification Levels](#) document.

Staff training requirements by child age group

Age range* **Minimum caregiver certification required**

Infant No Trainee Level Certification is permitted for caregivers working with this age range; Level I in the Infant classification is the minimum requirement.

Infant and toddler

Where one or more children in the homeroom are two years old or younger, one caregiver must hold Level I: Infant Classification in addition to Level I: Preschool Classification.

Where the group size exceeds three, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: Preschool Classification.

Toddler

Where one or more children in the homeroom are two years old or younger, one caregiver must hold Level I: Infant Classification in addition to Level I: Preschool Classification. Where more than three children are two years or younger, the second caregiver must hold a Level I certification.

The second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: Preschool where the group size exceeds five, and no more than three children are two years or younger.

Toddler and preschool

Where the group size exceeds seven, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: Preschool Classification.

Preschool

Where the group size exceeds eight, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: Preschool Classification.

Preschool and younger school-age

Where the group size exceeds eight, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: Preschool and School-Age Classification.

Younger school-age

Where the group size exceeds 12, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: School-Age Classification.

Age range*	Minimum caregiver certification required
<i>Younger and older school-age</i>	Where the group size exceeds 15, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: School-Age Classification
<i>Older school-age</i>	Where the group size exceeds 15, the second caregiver may hold Trainee Level: School-Age Classification.

* *Note: Specific age groupings, ratio, and group size conditions associated with these can be seen in the previous table “Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes”.*

One staff person with each group of children is required to have Level One certification (a one year certificate in ECE) for the age group in which the staff is assigned, and a minimum of one year’s experience in that classification.

All other staff who are included in the staff/child ratio must have Trainee Level certification (a 30–60-hour orientation course), with the exception of infant programs, where the minimum qualification is Level One.

Centre operators must have Level Two certification in the age groups for which the centre is licensed, and two or more years experience working with children in those age groups, or its equivalent from another jurisdiction.

The educational or experience qualification requirements may be waived if a Regional Manager is satisfied that persons who meet the qualifications cannot be reasonably obtained by the child care service in the area in which the service is operated and if the licensee meets conditions set out in the Regulations. In this case, the staff person is required to be actively upgrading to the minimum Level of certification for the position.

ECE instructors and program consultants are required to have Level Four certification. Program consultants are required to have a minimum three years experience in a child care setting. For more details, see the province’s [Age range, caregiver to child ratio, group size and caregiver certification](#) document.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Newfoundland and Labrador uses two family child care models: a) individually licensed providers and b) licensed non-profit agencies that approve providers under their licence. Legislated requirements are the same for both types of homes. Providers may choose which model they operate under, but are likely to be influenced by where the agencies operate. Individually licensed providers tend to be in the more rural areas of the province.

Maximum capacity

A family child care provider can care for up to three children in the infant age range. The provider may add up to two of their own children, so long as they are in the younger or older school-age range.

When caring for a group of children ranging from infant to older school-age, the maximum number of children permitted is five, in which case no more than two can be infants and no more than three can be toddlers. In the same age range, the maximum increases to six children if there are no more than two infants and two toddlers, or in a final configuration, the maximum can be seven children if there are no infants or toddlers. In all of these variations, the provider’s own children in the infant, toddler, and preschool range count toward the number of children participating in the child care service.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

In agency-based family child care, home visitors make both announced and unannounced visits at least once a month to monitor the home and provide support to the provider. Home visitors also conduct annual inspection visits at least once a year, at which time a written evaluation of the child care service and related requirements is completed.

In addition, annual fire/life safety and health inspections are conducted by Government Services Centre inspectors. Home visitors are required to have at least Level II certification in family child care and two years’ experience in a family child care setting. Agencies and a percentage of approved homes under the licence are inspected annually by staff in the region.

Individually licensed homes are monitored and supported through monthly visits (where possible), and receive annual inspections from regional staff. In addition, annual fire/life safety and health inspections are conducted by Government Services Centre inspectors.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

As of July 31, 2017, providers in regulated family child care who work under the supervision of an agency or who are individually licensed are required to have Trainee level certification in Family Child Care. Trainees (who have completed an orientation course and proof that they are enrolled in a post secondary institution) are permitted to provide care so long as they are engaged in an upgrading process. A minimum of 30 hours of professional development every three years is required to keep the certification valid.

Providers must be at least 18-years-old, have Criminal and Child Protection Records Checks, and hold a valid first aid certificate.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

All types of services are eligible for all types of funding except Capacity Initiative funding which is limited to not-for-profit or municipal child care programs where need is demonstrated.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Any licensed, full time, centre-based or family child care, non-profit or for-profit child care service is eligible to enrol children receiving subsidies.

Subsidies are available to all eligible families. Families on income support who have previously been needs tested do not require further testing while other families are income tested. To be eligible, parents must be employed or in school, or the child may be referred to child care for developmental reasons; developmental reasons are considered in the eligibility criteria for subsidy whether or not the parent is in the paid labour force or training.

The maximum subsidy rates may not cover the full cost of child care. There is no minimum user fee, with the exception of child care centres choosing to participate in the Operating Grant Program (see below). Otherwise programs may surcharge subsidized parents above the maximum subsidy rates.

The Child Care Subsidy Program helps eligible parents or guardians pay for child care in a licensed child care centre or a regulated family child care home. Some or all of the fees may be covered, depending on family income, the child care fee, and the maximum subsidy rate. The subsidy is paid directly to the child care service provider on behalf of the family. A parental contribution is determined for eligible families based on an income test.

Maximum subsidy rates (daily)

Infant	\$44
Toddler	\$33
Preschooler	\$30
School-age	\$14

One-time funding

Equipment Grants

Available to child care centres and regulated family child care homes annually for equipment and materials.

Also see Capacity Initiative below.

Recurring funding

Newfoundland and Labrador has a number of kinds of recurring child care funding.

Early Learning Supplement Initiative

Provides a financial supplement to eligible (certified Level I or higher) child care staff working in regulated environments—this includes staff in child care centres, regulated family child care providers, and family child care agency monitors. The intent of the initiative is to attract a greater number of qualified individuals to work in regulated child care settings. The funding is sent directly to each staff person.

Effective April 1, 2017, the annual supplement for an Early Childhood Educator working in a centre or family child care home with:

Level I certification	\$9,500
Level II certification	\$11,000
Level III certification	\$11,500
Level IV certification	\$12,000

The annual supplement for Administrators (previously referred to as Operators) and Family Child Care Home Visitors effective April 1, 2017 is:

Level II certification	\$12,500
Level III certification	\$13,000
Level IV certification	\$13,500

ELCC Capacity Initiative

This initiative aims to increase and fund child care in rural, remote, and underserved communities. Regional capacity consultants work with community groups to establish non-profit programs. Funding is available on an as-needed basis for start up and developmental costs. Operational funds are provided through the Operating Grant Program.

Operating Grant Program

This program was launched in December 2014 as part of Caring for our Future, the provincial government's ten-year plan for child care. The program is voluntary, available to providers regardless of auspice, and requires that participating centres lower their fees to match those of the province's current subsidy rates (\$44/day for infants, \$33/day for toddlers, \$30/day for 3–12 year olds in full day care, and \$14/day for afterschool programs up to 12 years of age). The provincial government in turn provides compensation for lost revenue, based on average market rates for parent fees.

Inclusion Supports Program

Provides supports to child care centres and family child care homes for children with special needs.

Infant Stimulus Grants

The Infant Stimulus Grant of \$200/month/infant space is available to regulated family child care providers who care exclusively for children under the age of two and agree to cap fees at current subsidy rates.

Supports to Infant Centres in High Schools

Provides core operational funding to three infant centres in high schools.

Other funding

Bursaries

The [Early Childhood Education Trainee Bursary](#) provides funding to Trainee Level child care practitioners who are taking courses to upgrade their certification level to Level I. To qualify for this bursary, eligible candidates must hold a valid Trainee Level Child Care Services certification, be working in regulated child care services (centre or family-based), and have completed at least one post-secondary course in early childhood education from a recognized post-secondary institution.

The [ECE Graduate Bursary Program](#) (up to \$7,500) is available to ECEs who have obtained a diploma through full time studies in early childhood education through a recognized post-secondary institution in Newfoundland and Labrador, who also agree to work for three years in a licensed child care centre or family child care home within Newfoundland and Labrador upon graduation.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies	\$17,325,831
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One-time funding

Equipment grants

Note: This funding is now paid out of the Operating Grant budget, though child care services do not have to be receiving the Operating Grant to be eligible for the Equipment Grant.

Recurring funding

ELCC supplement	\$6,500,874
Inclusion	\$1,986,894
Capacity Initiative	\$1,815,300
Family Child Care Initiative	\$1,000,000
Operating Grant Program	\$10,684,298
Total recurring funding	\$21,987,366

Total regulated child care	\$39,313,197
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Other funding

ECE bursaries	\$224,000
Other grants and funding (e.g. Certification and Professional Development; Family Child Care Agencies; Daybreak)	\$4,695,160



Prince Edward Island



OVERVIEW

Regulated child care—now under the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture—has been under an education ministry since 2007. Kindergarten was, until 2010, delivered by child care centres under child care legislation but has been moved into the public education system, becoming a compulsory full school day program for five-year-olds.

Child care centres are predominantly delivered by for-profit operators with some non-profits. Since 2010, these have included Early Years Centres, which are governed by additional provincial policies including provincially-set parent fees, formula-based unit funding and a provincial salary scale. Early Years Centres are also required to have spaces for infants and toddlers, include children with special needs, have parent advisory committees and use a mandated early learning curriculum framework and have revised certification and training requirements.

Following the introduction of the new policy in 2010, existing centres were given the option to apply for designation as an Early Years Centre (EYC), remain a regulated private/non-EYC centre or retire their license. The provincial government determines the number of Early Years Centres based on demonstrated community need. The Early Learning and Child Care Board reviews all applications for licensed child care programs and issues or denies licenses based on whether there is a need for spaces in the geographic area. Note that the Board determines licenses and the government determines designation.

These developments followed a review of PEI's ECEC provision outlined in [Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative](#).

The Early Child Development Division is responsible for Early Years Centres and other regulated child care programs while kindergarten is part of the Department's K-12 programs.

In August 2017, Prince Edward Island entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada to receive funds of almost \$11 million over the next three fiscal years, to be spent under the terms set out in the [Canada-Prince Edward Island Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care](#).

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	1,500
1	1,200
2	1,400
3	1,500
4	1,400
5	1,400
6	1,600
7	1,700
8	2,000
9	1,400
10	1,600
11	1,700
12	1,600
Total	20,000

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	4,100
3-5	4,300
6-12	11,600
Total	20,000

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	1,000
1	700
2	1,000
3	900
4	900
5	900
6	1,200
7	1,200
8	1,400
9	900
10	1,100
11	1,300
12	1,200
Total	13,700

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	2,700
3-5	2,700
6-12	8,300
Total	13,700

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	2,800	75.7
3-5	1,900	76
6-15	6,500	84.4

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	95	50	10	0	15
5-9	65	70	10	0	0
10-14	80	40	15	0	0
Total	530	170	25	0	15

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	5,580	1,345	1,155	190
5-9	6,050	1,750	1,420	335
10-14	5,735	1,900	1,480	425

Language most often spoken in the home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	6,535	110	250	105
5-9	7,335	120	300	150
10-14	7,210	115	315	135
Total	21,075	350	865	380

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
71,190	28,507	31,680	27,942

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Thirty-five weeks. The total parental leave for both parents cannot exceed 35 weeks.

Adoption leave

Fifty-two weeks. The combined total leave for both parents cannot exceed 52 weeks.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents. As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week (2017); the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Learning and Culture

250 Water St., Holman Centre

Summerside, PE, C1N 1B6

Phone: (902) 438-4883

[Website](#)

Kindergarten is part of the public school system. The Department is responsible for teacher/staff certification, supports for children with special needs, policy development, funding, curriculum development, program support and in-service training.

LEGISLATION

[The Education Act](#), 2016. R.S.P.E.I. Cap. E-02

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old by December 31 of the school year.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is a compulsory grade level for all eligible children and is a full school day program. Children who are four-years-old can start kindergarten as long as they turn five years of age by December 31st of that year.

HOURS

Five hours of instructional time per day.

ENROLLMENT

1453 children in kindergarten

(1429 in public schools and 24 in private schools).

CLASS SIZE

Class sizes are based on 15 children. In the case that there are 18 or more children in a class, an additional teacher is required.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

All kindergarten teachers are required to have a Bachelor of Education degree with specialization in Early Years. This requirement was phased in over a period of time during which a special Bachelor of Education-Kindergarten program was offered at the University of PEI.

CURRICULUM

[Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

\$15.5 million (2015-16)

K-12 per pupil spending \$12,610 (2014-2015)

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDCARE

Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture
Early Child Development Division
250 Water St., Holman Centre
Summerside, PE, C1N 1B6
Telephone: (902) 438-4883

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Early Learning and Child Care Act*. 2017.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. 2017.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Social Assistance Act*. 2015 (Department of Family and Human Services)

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Provides care to the following groupings of children that include the operator's own children: no more than two

infants, no more than four preschool-age children; no more than six school-age children; no more than five children in mixed-aged groupings where only one child can be under 22 months and only three children can be preschool-age children.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Early Childhood Centres

Early learning and child care programs that are authorized to provide services to infants, preschool-aged and school-aged children for full days. Private centres and early childhood centres with Early Years Centre (EYC) Designation fall under this category. EYCs operate less than 24 hrs/day.

Early Years Centres

Early Years Centres are licensed under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and would have been in good standing with the Early Learning and Child Care Board for a minimum of one calendar year.

Early Years Centres receive funding to help bridge the difference between regulated parent fees and operating costs. In return for this investment, centres with Early Years Centre designation are governed by additional provincial policies including provincially-set parent fees and formula-based unit funding. Early Years Centres are also required to have spaces for infants and toddlers, include children with special needs, have parent advisory committees, set staff wages and benefits according to a provincial salary scale (See "Hourly wage grid", under the FUNDING section of this report), use a mandated early learning curriculum framework, as well as revised certification and training requirements.

Preschool centres

Early learning and child care services for less than four consecutive hours per day for children who are three-years of age or over but not yet attending school.

School-age centres

Child care provided to children currently attending school on weekdays during one or more of the following time periods: before or after school, school lunch period or during regular school hours when schools are closed (e.g. PD days or summer break). The children are usually aged five to 12 years.

Family home centre

Full day child care in a private residence where the operator can provide care for up to six infants, preschool-aged children or school-aged children as long as the staff member to child ratios are met. The ratios are as follows: one staff person for three infants (under 22 months); one staff for every five toddlers (22 months to three years of age); one staff for every ten pre-schoolers (three to five years old); and one staff person for every fifteen school-aged children.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Early Years Centres are required to use the [PEI Early learning framework 2011: Relationships, environments, experiences](#) (ELF).

All other licensed programs are permitted to use alternative approaches to the PEI Early learning framework, so long as they meet the requirements set out by regulation.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. Centres may apply for a special needs grant on behalf of a child that may cover staff to support the child plus mandatory employment-related costs. The role of these grants is to lower ratios to allow for successful inclusion in early childhood settings.

Early Years Centres are not permitted to turn away a child with special needs for service.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Prince Edward Island currently has two licensed early childhood centres in Indigenous communities on-reserve. One of the two licensed programs holds an Early Years Centre designation and is funded by the province. As well, the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre operates a federally-funded Aboriginal Head Start (AHSUNC) program in Charlottetown for children aged three to five-years-old and is regulated under the Early Learning and Child Care legislation. There are no First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) programs in Prince Edward Island.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 31, 2016)

<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infants (0-24 months)	297	-	297
Preschool (2-4 years)	2,777	239	3,016
School-age (5-12 years)	-	1,322	1,322
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>	3074	1,561	4,635
<i>Total family child care spaces</i>	-	-	7

Total number of regulated spaces 4,642

Note: Kindergarten was previously part of child care centres but is now part of the public education system. Thus, numbers of spaces that include that age group in editions of ECEC in Canada before 2010 are not directly comparable.

Early Years Centre spaces (March 31, 2016)

Age group	Full day
Infants (0-24 months)	255
Preschool (2-4 years)	< 220
School-age (5-12 years)	1,523

Total number of regulated spaces in EYCs 1,998

Note: The number of spaces in EYCs is included in the total number of regulated spaces.

Note: The number of preschool spaces is flexible but each Early Years Centre must have a minimum of five toddler spaces. There are 44 EYCs, therefore this number is 220+.

Children with special needs in regulated child care (March 31, 2016) 146

Children receiving fee subsidies (March 31, 2016) 1,468

Number of child care programs

<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day (EYCs)	44
Full day (Other centres)	21
Part day nursery schools	9
Stand-alone school-age	45
Total centre-based programs	119

School-based child care centres (Included in centre-based programs.)

For preschool-age children	6
For school-age children	12
<i>Family child care (Individual)</i>	1

Sponsorship of full and part day regulated centre-based spaces (March 2016)

	Non-profit	For-profit
<i>Full day</i> (EYCs, other licensed centres)	859	1,855
<i>Part day</i> (preschools, school-age)	1,049	851
Total centre spaces	1,908	2,706

Parent fees

Early Years Centres (provincially-set daily parent fees) (2016)

0–up to 22 months	\$34/day
22 months–3 years	\$28/day
3 years–up to school entry	\$27/day
School-age	fee not regulated

Other regulated centres (daily mean fee)

Infants-full day	\$36/day
2-year-olds	\$29/day
3 years-school entry	\$28/day
School-age	\$11/day for before/ after school care; \$18/day for full day

Note: These averages are calculated based on data collected from non-EYC programs.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada’s large cities included Charlottetown:

Median monthly infant fee	\$738
Median monthly toddler fee	\$608
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$586

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: 50 spaces

Maximum room size: not specified

Staff/child ratios and group sizes (2017)

Age	Staff: child ratios	Max. group sizes
0–under 22 months	1:3	6
22 months–three years	1:5	*NS
Three years–school entry	1:10	NS
School-age (1st day of school until the end of elementary)	1:15	NS
<i>*Not specified</i>		

Centre staff qualification requirements (2017)

Early childhood centres and preschool centres

Early childhood supervisor/early childhood director and at least one full time staff member in each licensed centre must have at least a one year certificate from an approved early childhood care and education program or a two year diploma or degree from an approved early childhood care and education program.

School-age child care centres

At least one staff person has, at minimum, successfully completed a 30-hour course related to the care and education of school-age children which has been approved by the Early Learning and Child Care Board. If more than one staff person is required, at least one more staff must meet the minimum certification requirements.

Programs with an Early Years Centre designation

Must meet the requirements of an early childhood centre. In addition, all program staff are required to be certified at minimum as an early childhood educator Level I (successful completion of 30 hour courses in each of the following areas: growth and development; child guidance; early childhood pedagogy).

Certification of early childhood staff (January 2017)

The Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture designates a person employed in the public service of the province in the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture as the Registrar and Resource to the Early Learning and Child Care Board (called “the Board” below). The Board delegates to the Registrar its responsibilities to review applications for certificates and renewal of certificates.

Forty-five hours of approved on-going training every three years is required for all certified staff.

ECE Level I

An applicant for an Early Childhood Educator Level I certificate shall have successfully completed a 30 hour course, approved by the Board, in each of the following subject areas: (a) child growth and development; (b) child guidance; (c) early childhood pedagogy.

ECE Level II

An applicant for an Early Childhood Educator Level II certificate shall have successfully completed a one year certificate program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board.

ECE Level III

An applicant for an Early Childhood Educator Level III certificate shall have successfully completed a two year diploma program, or a degree program, in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board.

Early Childhood Supervisor

An applicant for an Early Childhood Supervisor certificate shall: (a) have successfully completed either (i) a two year diploma program or a degree program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board, or (ii) a degree program in child and family studies, which includes credit for a two year diploma program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board; and (b) obtained at least 3,900 hours of experience providing services to children while holding a certificate or an equivalent authorization issued in the jurisdiction where the services were provided.

Early Childhood Director (not yet required in Early Years Centres)

An applicant for an Early Childhood Director certificate shall: (a) have successfully completed (i) a degree program in early childhood care and education approved by the Board, (ii) a degree program in child and family studies, which includes credit for a two year diploma program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board, or (iii) a one year certificate program in early childhood care and education approved by the Board, and a degree program that, in the opinion of the Board, is related to early childhood care and education; and (b) obtained at least 9,750 hours of experience providing services to children at an early childhood centre or preschool centre, a Type I facility under the former *Act* or an equivalent type of centre licensed under the laws of another jurisdiction, while holding a certificate or an

equivalent authorization issued in the jurisdiction where the services were provided.

Inclusion Support Assistant

An applicant for an Inclusion Support Assistant certificate shall have successfully completed a one year certificate program or two year diploma program in early years studies, early childhood care and education, or human services, approved by the Board.

Family Home Child Care Provider

An applicant for a Family Home Child Care Provider certificate shall have successfully completed a 30 hour course related to the care and education of infants and preschoolers approved by the Board.

School-Age Child Care Provider

An applicant for a School-Age Child Care Provider Certificate shall have successfully completed a 30 hour course related to the care and education of school-age children, approved by the Board.

Once certified, 45 hours of ongoing training every three years is required to maintain certification.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Providers are individually licensed and operate independently of any other licensed program.

Maximum capacity

Up to six children; not more than a total of six infants, preschool children and school-age children, including the provider's own children, while maintaining ratios set out in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act and Regulations* (see above).

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Annual inspections are made by staff of the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, who observe the administration and programming in the home, by an inspector for the Fire Marshall's office and by an environmental health officer.

Family child care provider requirements

Providers must be at least 18 years of age, provide results of a criminal record check and vulnerable sector search, have completed a 30 hour course related to the care and education of infants and preschoolers. They must also provide written confirmation that the applicant is entitled to work in Canada and a current emergency first aid certificate.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Early childhood centres that have received Early Years Centre designation and are operationally funded and receive quarterly payments. The funding payment is calculated based on staff wages, benefits and base operating costs minus 90% of parent fees (including child care subsidy) to provide centres with base funding. The province determines the salary grid for all Early Years Centres and regulates the parent fees.

Otherwise, all licensed child care centres are eligible for all other funding programs including child care subsidy, special needs funding and IBI funding.

Hourly wage grid (Updated April 1, 2017)

Position/ Education	Experience after certification				
	1 yr <	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs +
Director: Post diploma/degree	\$21.42				
ECE Level III: 2 year diploma	\$15.30	\$15.76	\$16.23	\$16.71	\$17.22
ECE Level II: 1 year certificate	\$13.77	\$14.19	\$14.62	\$15.05	\$15.47
ECE Level I: 3 X 30 hours EC courses	\$12.24	\$12.61	\$12.98	\$13.37	\$13.77
Uncertified	\$11.25				
Support staff	\$11.25				

Note: Staff must have completed the education level required and have become certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board in order to start the associated pay band.

Note: Uncertified Staff and Support Staff are funded at the minimum wage rate and the rate is subject to change.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Parent fee subsidies are managed by the Department of Family and Human Services.

The Child Care Subsidy Program assists low to moderate income families with the cost of child care. There are five categories of eligibility: parents who are employed/working; parents in a training or education program; parents with medical needs; children with special needs; and children in need of child protection.

The amount of subsidy available to parents is based on a sliding scale that considers family net income and the number of individuals in the family.

All licensed early learning and child care centres are eligible to enroll children receiving child care subsidies. This includes both early childhood centres and those with Early Years Centre designation, preschool centres, family home centres, school-age centres and those that are for-profit or not-for-profit.

The province regulates parent fees in Early Years Centres based on the age of the child. The child care subsidies maximum per diem rates match the fees charged by Early Years Centres. Therefore, eligible families in Early Years Centres may be subsidized to cover the full fee.

In non-Early Years Centres where fees are not regulated, the subsidy may not fully cover the parent fee. Therefore, the family would be responsible for paying a share of the fee.

Maximum daily subsidy rates for licensed child care

Infants	\$34
Two-year-olds	\$28
Five-year-olds	\$27
School-age: full day	\$18
School-age: before- and after-school	\$11

One-time funding

Not available

Recurring funding

Early Years Centre funding

Early Years Centres receive funding on a quarterly basis. EYCs submit invoices to the Department of Education and Early Learning and Culture detailing enrolment and staffing. The funding formula is based in part on staff wages determined by the province-wide salary scale and operational costs to determine the amount of funding per EYC.

Quality Enhancement Grant

Provides licensed early learning and child care centres with additional financial support in order to enhance the quality of their programs. The Quality Enhancement Grant is provided to centres that were receiving the grant as of March 31, 2013 which continue to apply and provide accountability documentation.

Special Needs Grant

Provides licensed early learning and child care centres with extra financial support to include children with diagnosed special needs up to the age of 12 years in their program.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)

Fee subsidies	\$2,871,500
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One-time funding	Not available
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Recurring funding

Operating grants	\$295,000
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Special needs funding	\$1,200,000
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Early Years Centres	\$7,455,000
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Total Recurring funding	\$8,950,000
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Total regulated child care	\$11,821,500
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Other funding

Home visiting program	\$1,221,100
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Early Childhood Development Association	\$160,000
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Nova Scotia



OVERVIEW

Responsibility for regulated child care was transferred to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Early Years Branch) in 2013.

Child care is delivered in non-profit and for-profit child care centres. There is no publicly operated child care. Family care homes provide care for children from birth to school-age in homes that are monitored by regulated Family Home Day Care Agencies.

Nova Scotia has had full school-day kindergarten (termed Grade Primary) for all five-year-olds for a number of years. A minimum of four hours/day is required for Grade Primary to Grade 2, which is considered to be full time. Attendance in Grade Primary is compulsory.

In 2017, Nova Scotia began introducing Pre-Primary, a play-based early learning program for all four-year-olds at no charge to parents as part of the education system, with a four year phase in. The programs are provided in classes of up to 24 children with three early childhood educators. In September 2017, 52 Pre-Primary programs were available in 45 public schools.

A review of the regulated child care sector, which was begun in 2015, led to the June 2016 release of a child care plan and a commitment to 27 actions designed to strengthen child care. The report, [Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow](#), included actions focused on five key priority areas: affordability, quality, support/development of the workforce, accessibility, and structure/governance of the system.

In March 2017, amendments were made to the child care regulations. These changes include an additional qualification option of a competency-based assessment process to recognize staff with relevant post-secondary training to work in regulated child care, an increase to family day care ratios, and new regulations regarding supervision of children. As well, daily per diem subsidy rates were increased and a minimum wage floor for child care staff based on level of training was implemented.

In January 2018, Nova Scotia entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada to receive funds in the amount of \$35 million over a period of three years, to be spent under the terms set out in the [Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#).

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	7,800
1	7,900
2	8,000
3	8,000
4	8,700
5	9,000
6	9,000
7	8,900
8	9,800
9	8,700
10	9,000
11	8,300
12	9,800
Total	112,800

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	23,700
3-5	25,700
6-12	63,500
Total	112,800

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	4,500
1	5,000
2	5,000
3	5,500
4	5,600
5	6,100
6	6,600
7	6,300
8	6,800
9	6,000
10	6,400
11	5,800
12	7,100
Total	76,700

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	14,500
3-5	17,200
6-12	45,000
Total	76,700

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	2,155	1,365	55	45	35
5-9	2,435	1,475	75	70	15
10-14	2,195	1,435	85	60	35
Total	6,785	4,275	210	170	85

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	15,000	72.8
3-5	12,700	83.6
6-15	34,800	84.7

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	31,685	9,745	8,545	1,200
5-9	32,830	12,290	10,345	1,940
10-14	32,235	12,650	10,435	2,220

Language spoken most often at home (2016)

Age of child	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	39,155	535	1,490	790
5-9	43,245	645	1,305	765
10-14	43,465	580	1,075	655
Total	125,855	1,770	3,875	3,215

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
75,731	27,477	30,464	27,236

FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Parents are entitled to a total of 52 weeks which must be taken within 12 months of the child's birth or adoption. Thirty-five weeks are available for birth mothers who have taken pregnancy/maternity leave.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit. The new option allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Although the federal parental benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot be paid for the Extended option until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have already changed.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRADE PRIMARY

Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Brunswick Place
2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578
Halifax, NS, B3J 2S9
Telephone: (902) 424-5168

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act and Regulation*, 1995-96, c. 1, s. 1. (Amended 2015).

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Pre-Primary Education Act* 2005, c. 44, s. 1. Proclaimed March 24, 2006.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old on or before December 31.

COMPULSORY

Grade Primary (kindergarten) is delivered in public and private schools and is compulsory. However, parents of children turning five on or before December 31 can delay their child's participation by one year.

The new Pre-Primary program is not compulsory.

HOURS

A minimum of four hours/day is required for Grade Primary to Grade 2; this is considered to be full time.

Pre-Primary is also a full school-day program.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Full day every day Primary enrolment (2016/17) 8,555

CLASS SIZE

Classes for Grades Primary to 2 are capped at 20 students, with flexibility. Creating combined classes or multi-age groupings are appropriate to meet this cap.

Flexibility is defined as not more than two additional students per class.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Public school teachers who teach Grade Primary must have a valid teaching certificate. An Initial Teacher's Certificate requires an undergraduate education, three years of approved undergraduate content studies, two years of an approved program of professional studies including a practicum, and receipt of an approved bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

Early childhood education training is not required for Grade Primary teachers.

Pre-Primary teachers are not required to have a teaching certificate; they are required to be early childhood educators.

CURRICULUM

[Learning outcomes framework Grades Primary – 6](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (GRADE PRIMARY)

Not available

K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015) \$13,179

OTHER EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

Pre-Primary

Beginning in September 2017, 52 Pre-Primary programs were available in 45 public schools, the first in a four-year province-wide roll out of Pre-Primary for all four-year-olds. The Pre-Primary Program is a child-centered, play-based program for children the year before they start school; it is staffed by early childhood educators. This opportunity will help them transition into the school system and provide experiences that give children the best start to succeed in school and life.

Attendance in the Pre-Primary program is not compulsory. It is a full school-day program and does not operate on school holidays or other days on which school does not operate.

Pre-Primary is administered by the Early Years Branch in the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Early Years Centres

Early Years Centres (EYCs) are situated within public schools and function as access points to existing children's services. Each EYC must offer, at a minimum, three core components: family supports, which may include health services and early identification/intervention; regulated child care; and an early learning program for four-year-olds. The centres are based on partnerships between the school system and the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation, which provided start-up and evaluation support. The EYCs are intended to support an integrated model of programs and services at both the community and government levels.

With the introduction of universal Pre-Primary, these early learning programs for four-year-olds transitioned into Pre-Primary programs as of September 2017.

SchoolsPlus

This program operates in all eight school boards and offers integrated family resource and child care programming, as well as youth health centres. A total of 213 schools across the province participate.

Other school-based early learning programs

Currently, there are a number of school-based early learning programs for four-year-olds across the province provided by school boards or in partnership with community and advisory boards. The majority of these programs are in schools that are part of the Le Conseil scolaire Acadien provincial (CSAP) school board that offer a full day play-based program focused on language and culture acquisition. There are also several Afrocentric-focused early learning programs.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood
Development
Early Years Branch
Brunswick Place, 2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578
Halifax, NS, B3J 2S9
Phone: (902) 424-5168
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Day Care Act R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 120 O.I.C. 2010-456
(December 20, 2010, effective April 1, 2011)
Day Care Regulations made under Section 15 of the *Day Care Act*.
N.S. Reg. 193/2010 as amended to O.I.C. 2017-57 (March 14, 2017), N.S. Reg. 36/2017

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

As of March 2017, regulations stipulate that an unlicensed provider can care for six or fewer children of mixed ages including the provider's own children. In the case that the children in care are school-age (five years old as of December 31 and attending school), a care provider can have up to nine children, including her own.

Before and after school programs

School board-operated before-and-after school programs are not required to be licensed. These programs are offered for children in Grade Primary through Grade 6.

Family resource programs

Family Resource Programs provide community-based programs and services intended to support the healthy development and well-being of children and youth by strengthening and empowering families and communities. Programs and services delivered to children and their families focus on parent education and learning, family support, youth development and early learning and literacy.

There are 31 Family Resource Centres in the province, 23 of which are funded by the Department of Community Services.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centres

Care in a group setting for less than 24 hours/day for seven or more children from 0 –12 years of age. This includes full day and part day child care centres and programs for school-age children.

Family home day care

Licensed agencies approve, manage and monitor private child care homes.

As of March 2017, an approved child care provider can care for up to seven children of mixed ages including the provider's own children; or nine school-age children including the provider's own school-age children; or three infants, including the provider's own children. If care is provided for four to seven children, no more than three may be under three years of age, and of those three children no more than two children may be infants.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The *Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework* has been developed and piloted in 41 regulated child care centres and two Early Years Centres across Nova Scotia, with a focus on children from birth to eight-years-old. The document is intended to inform educators' expectations of children, describe the contexts in which learning and development occur, while engaging educators in critical thinking and reflective practice.

Note: As of December 31 2017, the Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework had not yet been released.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Supported Child Care Grant (SCCG) provides funding to licensed, full day, part day and school-age child care facilities to create and/or sustain inclusive child care programs for all children.

The SCCG funding model is calculated as a percentage of the licensed capacity. The funding provided by this grant is to be used for wages for additional staff, approved professional development and approved education or resource materials directly related to the delivery of an inclusive program.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

In Nova Scotia, each Indigenous community on-reserve operates individually, outside the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development mandate. The Nova Scotia Tripartite Education Working Committee (Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia and Canada) is undertaking research in 2017 to analyze the range of models in place across Nova Scotia to identify and address the gaps and overlaps in early childhood education in Indigenous communities in an effort to find a way to move to an integrated early years system that is part of the education system.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces

Centre-based

Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infants (0-17 months)	863	-	863
Toddler (18-35 months)	3,913	-	3,913
Preschool (36 months-5 years)	6,560	1,867	8,427
School-age (6-12 years)	-	4,297	4,297
Total centre-based spaces	11,336	6,164	17,500
Total family child care spaces			1,645
Total number of regulated spaces			19,145

Children with special needs in regulated child care

Number of centres receiving the Supported Child Care Grant (SCCG)	226
Number of children with special needs (as reported by centres in receipt of SCCG)	883

Children receiving fee subsidies

(monthly average as of March 31, 2016)	5,000
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Number of child care programs

Centre-based

Full day 0-school-age	296
Part day 0-school-age	67

School-based child care centres

(Included in centre-based)

For preschool-age children (full and part day)	40
For school-age children	20
With both preschool and school-aged children	9

Family child care

Family child care agencies	15
Family child care homes	235

Sponsorship of regulated full and part day centre-based spaces

Non-profit	7,816
For-profit	9,684

Parent fees

Nova Scotia does not set parent fees.

Median fees for child care in Nova Scotia (daily)

	Centres full day fees	Family child care
Infant	\$40.00	\$21.00-\$40.00
Toddler	\$34.68	
Preschool	\$34.00	
School-age (5-12 years)	\$15.00	\$10.00-\$25.00

Note: Median fees are based on data collected through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's internal Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) information system.

Note: Children are cared for in mixed age groupings in family home child care. Fees do not vary by age, with the exception of school-age.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included Halifax:

Median monthly infant fee	\$902
Median monthly toddler fee	\$820
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$803

Note: These represent media fees in centre-based and home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATION

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum facility size:	not specified
Maximum room size:	not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes:

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group size
0-17 months	1:4	10
18-35 months	1:6	18
36 months-5 years (full day)	1:8	24
30 months-5 years (part day)	1:12	24
5-12 years (and attending school)	1:15	30

Centre staff qualification requirements

There are five levels of classification for child care staff, under the *Day Care Act and Regulations*. Every facility must ensure that at least 2/3 of the staff required to meet ratio are classified as Level 1 or higher, as set out in the *Day Care Act and Regulations* 37(7), while 1/3 can be untrained or Entry Level.

Classification Levels

Entry Level: Completion of orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities.

Level 1: Completion of orientation for child care staff as well as completion of post-secondary course work in the following three subject areas: child development, behaviour guidance and curriculum and programming for young children. These staff must also complete two guided workplace experiences, consisting of work experience in a licensed child care facility, advised by a supervisor from a training institute, and supported by an early childhood contact staff in the workplace.

Level 2: Completion of an approved college program in early childhood education.

Level 3: Completion of a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or completion of Level 2 requirements and a bachelor's degree.

School-age approval: Completion of orientation training and a post-secondary credential that qualifies a person to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate programming for school-age children.

A facility Director or Acting Director of a child care program licensed for all ages must hold a Level 2 or 3 classification. The Director or Acting Director licensed for school-age children must hold a Level 2 or 3 classification, or school-age approval.

Entry Level staff who do not hold a Level 1, 2 or 3 classification working directly with children must have completed the orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities or post-secondary courses comparable to the orientation training.

The orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities is a series of informational modules and activities. The delivery of the orientation is administered by Nova Scotia Community College. Online sessions are available in both French and English.

As of March 2017, an additional qualification option of a competency-based assessment process has been introduced to recognize professionals with relevant post-secondary training to work in regulated child care. The Competency-Based Assessment Program is a self-directed assessment process designed for eligible child care centre employees with a related credential and experience to demonstrate and document knowledge and competencies leading to a Level 2 classification.

In a licensed child care program for school-age children, at least 2/3 of staff must have the above requirements or school-age training approval (completion of orientation training and a post-secondary credential that qualifies a person to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate programming for school-age children).

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Approved family child care in the provider's home is managed and monitored by a licensed Family Home Day Care Agency (FHDC).

Maximum capacity

As of March 2017, individuals who provide approved family home day care may care for a maximum of seven children up to the age of 12, including their own children. Furthermore, they must not have any other children in their care, subject to the following restrictions: If a care provider is caring for four to seven children of mixed ages, no more than three children may be under three years of age and of those three children no more than two children may be infants.

Persons who provide approved home day care for school-age children may only care only for a maximum of nine school-age children at a time including their own children and must not have any other children in their care.

Persons who provide approved family home day care for infants may only care for a maximum of three infants at a time, including their own infant(s), and must not have any other children in their care.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family home day care agencies are licensed under the authority of the *Day Care Act and Regulations* to approve, manage and monitor care providers in their homes.

A family home day care agency must hire a family home day care consultant to provide services and support to family home day care providers. The consultant must have a two year diploma in early childhood education from a recognised training program approved by the director; at least two years experience working in an early learning and child care program; and current first aid and infant cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training from a recognised program approved by the director. The FHDC agencies and the care providers must follow the *Day Care Act* and Regulations. The homes are visited by the agency at least every 30 days.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

The care provider is required to have Family Home Day Care Training - Level 1 of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF) Family Home Day Care Training. Providers must be at least 18 years old, be screened through the Child Abuse Register, complete vulnerable sector check by the RCMP or local police and have completed a first aid course including infant CPR.

Any person who is 13 years old or older who lives in a family day care home and has contact with children or the records of children must complete a Child Abuse Register Check. Any person who is 18 years old or older who lives in a family day care home and who has, or will have, contact with children or the records of children must complete a vulnerable sector check.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Subsidies are available for eligible families through the Child Care Subsidy Program. Funding may be granted via the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all licensed centres, both full day and part day and regulated family child care agencies. Both non-profit and for-profit facilities can apply for grants and/or funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Nova Scotia's Child Care Subsidy Program is intended to assist eligible families with the cost of licensed child care facilities or regulated family day care. Subsidies are provided directly to the child care facility or family home day care agency on behalf of the parent. The subsidy is portable and moves with the child.

Subsidies are available for all families that meet the required income, financial and social criteria. Subsidy per diem rates (table below) do not cover full fees. A family eligible for a subsidy is required to pay any centre fees that are above the approved government subsidy per diem rate.

Fee subsidy rates (per diem) (2015-16)

Age group	Per diem rate
Infants	\$22.00
Toddlers	\$20.00
Preschool	\$19.00
School-age	\$17.70

Subsidy per diem rates were last revised and put into effect July 1, 2016.

Fee subsidy rates (per diem) (2016-17)

Age group	Per diem rate
Infants	\$29.00
Toddlers	\$24.00
Preschool	\$23.00
School-age	\$17.70

One-time funding

Family Home Day Care Start Up Grant

If a new agency is approved for funding, they will receive a Family Home Day Care Start up Grant to offset expenses directly related to the start-up costs for the agency.

The Start Up Grant will provide a one-time fixed amount to be used by the agency to pay for advertising, equipment, and legal fees incurred to set up the agency.

Recurring funding

Early Childhood Enhancement Grants (ECEG)

The ECEG is intended to enhance the salary and benefits of early childhood staff working directly with children in licensed child care centre facilities, offer opportunities for professional development for early childhood educators and support general operating costs. All licensed child care facilities (full time/part time, for-profit/non-profit) are eligible to apply for the ECEG.

The ECEG Terms and Conditions require that:

- A minimum of 80% must be allocated for wages and benefits to early childhood staff working directly with children
- A maximum of 15% can be spent on operational costs, with supporting documentation
- A minimum of 5% must be spent on professional growth for educators

Wage Support Funding for ECEs (WSF)

As of October 1, 2016, child care centres that receive the Early Childhood Enhancement Grant (ECEG) are required to pay ECEs based on a wage floor that rises with their level of training. The floor is: \$15/hr for Level 1 classification; \$17/hr for Level 2 classification & School-age approval; and \$19/hr for Level 3 Classification.

To assist centres in meeting the wage floor, the province has provided wage support funding to fill the gap between the actual hourly wage provided by centres and the wage floor required by government.

Supported Child Care Grant (SCCG)

The SCCG is not attached to a specific child but provides funding to licensed, full, part day and school-age child care facilities to create or sustain inclusive child care programs. Funding provided through the Supported Child Care Grant can be used for wages for additional staff, approved professional development and training directly related to the delivery of an inclusive program, and approved educational and resource materials directly related to the delivery of an inclusive program.

Family Home Day Care Operating Grant

The Family Home Day Care Operating Grant is an annual grant intended to support the agency in meeting the costs of salary and benefits to agency staff, transportation, education, program material, and fixed costs. Fixed costs include rent and utilities, insurance, phone, equipment, advertising and administration costs.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)

Fee subsidies	\$16,941,101
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One-time funding	None
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Recurring funding

Early Childhood Enhancement Grant (ECEG)	\$19,022,119
Child Development Centre Grant	\$260,000
Family home day care	\$1,409,939
Supported Child Care	\$5,258,742
Total recurring funding	\$25,950,801

Total regulated child care	\$42,891,901
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Other funding

Early Childhood Education Training Initiative	\$807,714
Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)	\$264,207
Continuing Education	\$234,297
Early Years Centres	\$949,876
Nova Scotia Child Care Association	\$39,237

New Brunswick



OVERVIEW

Responsibility for kindergarten, regulated child care and other early childhood development programs is under the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

New Brunswick is officially a bilingual province with parallel English and French public education sectors. French and English kindergartens are delivered as part of those two sectors.

Kindergarten is a compulsory full school-day program for five-year-olds, with full school-day up to Grade 3 defined as 4-4.5 hours per day.

Regulated child care centres are predominantly for-profit, representing more than 60% of centres. There is no publicly-delivered child care.

Regulated family child care is individually licensed. Its spaces are termed “approved spaces” while regulated family child care homes are termed “community child care homes”. Parental leave is termed “child care leave”.

In August 2017, New Brunswick entered into a [three year bilateral agreement](#) with the Government of Canada. New Brunswick will receive almost \$30 million dollars from federal funds and will contribute an additional \$41 million in provincial funds on initiatives to improve early learning and child care. An [Action Plan](#) released January 9, 2018 provides further details.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	6,200
1	7,500
2	7,700
3	5,600
4	7,200
5	7,600
6	8,000
7	6,900
8	7,000
9	8,000
10	6,400
11	6,800
12	7,100
Total	92,000

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	21,400
3-5	20,400
6-12	50,200
Total	92,000

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	3,700
1	4,500
2	5,400
3	3,600
4	4,900
5	5,500
6	5,600
7	4,800
8	5,100
9	5,800
10	4,500
11	4,800
12	5,100
Total	63,300

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	13,600
3-5	14,000
6-12	35,700
Total	63,300

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	1665	550	35	20	50
5-9	1675	500	30	35	50
10-14	1510	575	30	20	40
Total	4,855	1,620	95	80	135

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	13,700	70.3
3-5	10,200	84.3
6-15	31,600	85.9

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	26,735	7,230	6,330	900
5-9	28,020	9,660	8,045	1,610
10-14	27,360	9,880	8,020	1,865

Language spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	24,190	8,500	885	770
5-9	26,760	9,825	890	765
10-14	26,680	9,535	885	720
Total	77,635	27,860	2,655	2,240

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
73,479	27,890	32,560	27,324

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave (Child Care Leave)

37 weeks may be shared between the parents. The combined total of maternity leave and Child Care Leave taken by one or both parents cannot exceed 52 weeks.

Family-related leave

Three days per year.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the [Employment Insurance program](#) (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit, that allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Although the federal parental benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot be paid for the Extended option until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have already changed.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Educational Services Division

Place 2000

250 King Street

Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1

Telephone: (506) 453-3678

[Website](#)

Ministère de l'Éducation et Développement de la petite enfance

Division des Services Éducatifs francophones

Place 2000

250 rue King

Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, 1997. c.E-1.12

Sections of the *Education Act* specific to kindergarten are: Section 8 (school privileges), Section 15 (compulsory attendance), and Section 16 (exceptions).

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years of age by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools and is compulsory.

HOURS

The number of instructional hours must be a minimum of four hours and a maximum of 4.5 hours per day. School districts report that kindergarten programs operate at the maximum hours of instruction. There are approximately 832 instructional hours per year (based on 185 days of instruction).

CLASS SIZE

Provincial class size limits are specified in the agreement between Treasury Board and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The 2016–2021 agreement stipulates a maximum kindergarten class size of 21 pupils. A kindergarten class combined with any other grade shall not exceed 16 pupils.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's undergraduate degree, a one year bachelor of education and a New Brunswick Teacher's Certificate are required for elementary teachers. There are no specific requirements for kindergarten teachers, beyond those for elementary teachers. According to provincial officials, school districts are likely to give preference when hiring to a teacher who has taken some early childhood courses.

CURRICULUM

[K-12 Anglophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum](#) (2008)

[K-12 Francophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum](#) (2009)

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Anglophone	2,254
Francophone	4,868
Total	7,122

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available	
K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015)	\$13,855

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Early Childhood Development Division
Place 2000, P.O. Box 6000, 250 King Street
Fredericton, NB, E3B 1H1
Telephone: (506) 453-2950
Websites in [English](#) and [French](#)

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Early Childhood Services Act*. Not yet proclaimed.

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act*. 1980.

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. Family Services Act and Day Care Regulations, 83–85, as amended.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Care provided in a home, for a maximum of five children (including the caregiver's own children less than 12 years) of mixed ages, 0-12 years.

Maximum number if all are two–five years: Four.

Maximum if all are school-age: Eight.

Alternative child care program

This program provides funding to eligible parents who are working or training and do not have access to regulated child care due to where they live or their hours of work. The maximum daily subsidy for this is \$18.50 for infants, \$16.50 for children two years and older, and \$9.25 for after school care. Parent financial and social needs are assessed for eligibility. Control point and income thresholds are \$22,000 and \$40,000 respectively. Funding is provided directly to the caregiver as a co-payment with the parent/guardian.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Part time or full time care for less than 24 hours/day for four or more infants, six or more preschoolers, 10 or more children aged 6-12 years, or seven or more children from birth to 12-years-old.

Nursery schools

Part day programs for preschool-age children.

School-age child care centres

Centre-based care outside school hours, for school-age children up to and including 12-years-old.

Community day care homes

Family child care in a private home for no more than six children of a combination of ages from birth to 12-years-old, including the caregiver's own children under 12-years-old.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework, 2008](#)

[Le Curriculum éducatif Services de gardes francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick, 2008](#)

Note: These are two distinct curriculum frameworks, not translations.

The early learning and child care curricula are learning and development frameworks for parents and caregivers of all children aged 0 to 5 years. They promote an experiential-based approach to learning and were developed by New Brunswick child care experts to assist parents and caregivers in helping children grow to their greatest potential. They recognize the individual learning abilities and unique cultural and linguistic identities of all children. Children are encouraged to be active participants in their own learning and to follow their interests. The curricula aim to develop children's dignity, a sense of self-worth, and a zest for living and learning.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with disabilities and additional needs may receive services in regulated child care under both the Enhanced Support Worker Program (ESWP) and Developmental Child Care.

A child's eligibility for support under ESWP is determined through an annual application process. Under the ESWP, Education and Early Childhood Development funds early learning and child care facilities to pay the salary costs of support worker hours for preschool-aged and school-aged children with disabilities and additional needs. The intent of the ESWP is to lower the child: staff ratio when children with disabilities and additional needs are in attendance.

The ESWP is intended to support the labour force activities of families with children with disabilities and additional needs; parents must be working or studying. The ESWP pays for the salary of a support worker for a maximum of 35 support worker hours per preschool-aged child/wk. School-aged children can be funded for up to 20 hours/wk while school is in session and 35 hours for one week in December, March Break and summer vacation.

Eligibility for the Developmental Child Care (DCC) program is determined through a referral from a Family and Early Childhood Agency, formerly Early Intervention Programs. DCC may be provided for up to 12 hours/wk for preschool-aged children only. Parents do not need to be in the labour force. Funding may be provided to support the cost of care at the part time subsidy rate under the Day Care Assistance Program, the salary of a support staff, and transportation, if required. Families of children enrolled in DCC may also be clients of the Family and Early Childhood Agency, where the child's participation in an early learning and child care setting is part of an overall case plan to support the family.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

New Brunswick approves child care centres for Indigenous communities on-reserve upon request from a First Nations community. Ongoing monitoring and renewal functions are undertaken by the province. On-reserve centres are not eligible for provincial funding and parents are not eligible for provincial fee subsidy.

There are two off-reserve Indigenous child care programs that are approved by the Department and receive provincial government funding.

Additionally, seven centres on-reserve are currently approved by the Department. There are 195 approved spaces on reserve; 181 preschool-age and 14 school-age.

New Brunswick Head Start programs receive funding through an agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick and Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada. As well, Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) programs are funded by Health Canada. None of these programs are licensed by the provincial government.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 2016)

Centre-based

Infants (0-2 years)	1,826
Preschool (2-4 years)	10,259
School-age (5-12 years)	13,623
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>	25,708
<i>Total family child care spaces</i>	(est.) 1,143
Total number of regulated child care spaces	26,851

Note: These figures are estimates made by provincial officials. New Brunswick approves child care centres for a total enrolment based on usable space and does not allocate spaces according to specific age groups. The number of spaces the facility operates per age category is collected through the Quality Improvement Funding Support Program's (QIFS) application process.

Children with special needs in regulated care (March 31 2016)

Enhanced Support Worker Program	226
Developmental Child Care Program	489

Note: These figures are the number of children with disabilities and additional needs accessing programming as of March 31st, 2016. The breakdown of Enhanced Support Worker Program recipients includes 102 preschool-aged and 124 school-aged kids. The Developmental Child Care Program is a preschool-only program serving ages two to five.

Children receiving fee subsidies (March 31 2016)

Age group

0-4 years	2,616
5-14 years	3,386
15 + years	5

Total number of subsidies 6,007

Note: Note that New Brunswick reports only annual cumulative totals. This figure may not be comparable to numbers reported for other provinces/territories in ECEC in Canada.

Number of child care programs

Centre-based

Full day	333
Part day nursery schools/preschools	37
Stand-alone after school programs	221
Combined nursery/school-age programs	137

Note: The part day nursery school/preschools and combined/nursery school figures are estimates as the data cannot identify part time. For this reason, the total number of centre-based programs may not equal the sum of child care programs by type.

Total centre-based programs 627

Number of school-based child care centres

Preschool-age children	34
School-age children only (included in centre-based)	69

Number of francophone child care centres

(included in centre-based) 242

Number of family child care providers (individual) 188

Sponsorship of part and full time regulated centre-based spaces (2016)

Non-profit	9,746 (est.)
For-profit	15,962 (est.)

Parent fees

There are no set parent fees.

The Child Day Care Services Annual Statistical Report 2015-2016 estimates the daily fee of full time care as follows:

Age group	Estimated daily fee
Infant	\$33.35
Toddler	NA
Preschool	\$28.11

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included Saint John:

Median monthly infant fee	\$864
Median monthly toddler fee	\$738
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$681

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size	60 spaces	
Maximum room size	not specified	
Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
Under 2 years	1:3	9
2-3 years	1:5	10
3-4 years	1:7	14
4-5 years	1:10	20
5-6 years	1:12	24
6-12 years	1:15	30

Centre staff qualification requirements

The centre director or his/her designate or one in four staff is required to have a one year community college ECE certificate or equivalent. New applicants for child care centres must meet this training requirement prior to approval.

Staff must be at least 16 years old; 16-19-year-olds are required to be supervised by a primary staff member who must be at least 19. All staff must have first-aid training and Prior Contact/Criminal Record Checks.

Individuals with out-of-province early childhood credentials that are accepted by other provinces in Atlantic Canada, or with a certificate level or higher from a community college that is a member of the Association of Community Colleges of Canada, are recognized as having equivalent qualifications.

New Brunswick also accepts a Bachelor of Education (either Primary or Elementary) as a training credential in child care from New Brunswick universities.

There are no qualification requirements for staff working in stand-alone school-age programs.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Infants: Three

Two to five years of age: Five

Six years of age and over: Nine

Combination of ages: Six

The capacity maximums include the provider's own children who are under 12 years of age.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Twenty-one regional Early Childhood Services Coordinators located in the province's seven school districts (four Anglophone and three francophone) are responsible for monitoring compliance with the regulations.

The *Family Services Act* provides the Minister with the authority to investigate, recommend changes, suspend the operation or terminate the approval of a child care facility.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

No early childhood education training or experience is required.

Providers must be at least 19 years old and have first aid training. Training requirements implemented in April 1, 2003 do not apply to operators of community day care homes.

Providers are required to have a Prior Record Check and Criminal Record Check as set out in the Day Care Regulation 83-85.

FUNDING

All services are eligible for all funding streams.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Family eligibility for Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) is determined through a needs and income test, which is administered by the Department of Social Development. Parents must be working, attending school or undergoing medical treatment to be subsidized.

Child care subsidies are also available to support social assistance clients who are recently unemployed or who have recently completed training and are actively seeking employment.

The control (eligibility) point for a full subsidy is \$30,000 net family income and the threshold is \$55,000.

Daily fee subsidy rates

Infants (0 to 24 months)	\$28.50
Preschool (2-5 years)	\$24.25
School-age (5-12 years)	\$12.75

One-time funding

Funding through the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund is to support training for ECEs, creation of new spaces for rural locations, infant spaces, extended hours facilities; and the creation of new spaces offered in the minority language of a given community. The Early Learning and Child Care Project Review Board Inc. is the beneficiary of the fund and administers the current initiatives. The Board is comprised of four members and employs one part time Project Review Coordinator.

New expansion spaces

For new infant child care spaces in day care centres and community day care homes: A minimum of three spaces must be created.

For new spaces in rural New Brunswick local service districts and villages: In day care centres, a minimum of five spaces must be created (\$5,000/space). In community day care homes, a minimum of three spaces must be created.

For new extended hours spaces for shift workers: In day care centres, a minimum of eight spaces must be created. In community day care homes, a minimum of five spaces must be created.

Training assistance

For individuals currently employed in approved child care facilities who have completed courses as part of the one year ECE Certificate from a recognised training institute on or after January 2007, or who completed the one year ECE Certificate on or after January 2007 and are currently employed in an approved child care facility in New Brunswick.

Minority language communities

Funding is available for new day care facilities that will operate in one of the official languages (English or French) in a community where that language is the minority. The facility must offer full day services for 0-5-year-olds and remain open for a minimum of two years after receiving the funding.

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Funding Support Program (QIFS)

QIFS makes funding available to increase the wages of child care workers. All facilities with a valid facility identification number that apply for and are approved before the annual deadline receive funding. There are no waiting lists for eligible applicants. Funding is disbursed quarterly following receipt of the quarterly hours report indicating number of hours worked each quarter by each eligible employee.

Special needs funding

Funding is provided under the Enhanced Support Worker Program (EWSP) for families in the labour force whose children have relatively high support needs. Funding is provided under the Developmental Child Care (DCC) Program for families referred through Family and Early Childhood Agencies, where the child's participation in an early learning and child care facility is part of the case plan.

Note: See the Action Plan referenced in the OVERVIEW section regarding new funding arrangements for new initiatives.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED
CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies

Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) \$15,544,000

One-time funding

See Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund above and below under “Other”

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Funding (QIF) \$23,591,900

Special Needs Funding

Enhanced Support Worker Program \$2,376,700

Developmental Child Care \$700,000

Total recurring funding \$26,668,600

Total regulated child care \$42,212,600

Other funding—Early Learning and Child Care Trust

Fund

Training assistance for child care staff \$2,419,536

Trust Fund—New child care spaces \$6,617,500

Minority language funding \$650,400

Early Childhood Care and Education NB
(wage reimbursement program) \$1,230,000

Professional development \$2,567,576

Braiding Our Resources \$25,070

Curriculum materials grant \$407,094

**Total Early Learning and
Child Care Trust Fund** \$13,917,176

Note: These figures represent disbursements under this fund cumulatively to March 2016.



OVERVIEW

Provision of early childhood education and child care in Quebec is under two ministries, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) and the Ministère de la Famille.

Quebec provides full day kindergarten (maternelle) for all five-year-olds and some part and full day kindergarten (maternelle quatre ans demi-temps and maternelle quatre ans temps-plein) for some four-year-olds under MEES.

The Ministère de la Famille is responsible for regulated child care for children aged 0-4. Regulated child care includes centres (called facilities or installations) that are either centres de la petite enfance (CPEs) or garderies. Garderies are almost always for-profit. CPEs usually operate as small non-profit networks of several centres and often include regulated home child care services as well.

Regulated family child care providers are supervised by Family Child Care Coordinating Offices (Bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial), most of which are part of CPEs. Quebec permits regulated family child care providers to deliver child care to a higher number of children if they are assisted by another adult.

There is no publicly delivered child care for children aged 0-4. School-age child care, which includes kindergarten-age children, is operated by school authorities under MEES. School boards are required to provide school-age child care when there is sufficient demand. The flat fee for school-age is \$8.15/day (2017) when school is in session.

At one time, Quebec did not regulate part day child care programs (jardins d'enfants) but non-grand parented jardins d'enfants (nursery schools) opened after October 25th, 2005 must now have a license (permis).

CPEs and garderies may accommodate the parents if they request part day or part time services.

Quebec has not used fee subsidies for individual eligible parents for some years. Instead, Quebec funds the majority of services operationally using a provincial formula. Any child aged 0-4 who has a space in a publicly-funded (subsidized) program may attend, paying only the provincially-determined fee regardless of parents' employment status or income. CPEs, regulated home child care and a majority of garderies are publicly funded in this way. Spaces in these programs are termed "reduced contribution spaces", or "subsidized".

When Quebec's publicly funded child care program began in 1997, all parents paid a flat fee of \$5.00/day. This later increased to \$7.00/day before being replaced by a geared-to-income fee scale in 2014. In 2017, parents paid fees per child ranging from \$7.75 per day (the basic fee applicable for an annual family income of up to \$50,920) to \$21.20 per day for families with an annual income above \$161,800).

The geared-to-income portion of the fee (above the \$7.75/day basic fee) is paid through a parental tax contribution. Thus, in addition to the basic fee, higher income parents now pay an additional geared-to-income amount at the time of tax filing; the amount is indexed annually. The additional contribution is reduced by 50% for the second child, with no additional contribution for the third and following children.

Since 2009, there are two types of for-profit centres: a) funded (“reduced contribution”) centres—publicly-funded programs for which parents pay geared-to-income fees as described above, and, b) unfunded centres for which parents receive a rebate through a tax credit that reimburses up to 90% of their child care cost, depending on their income. This tax credit reimbursement may also apply to some unregulated child care. To be eligible, the unregulated child care service provider must be registered as a corporation and provide receipts to parents.

Quebec has its own program of family-related leave and benefits distinct from that of other provinces/territories. Under the Quebec Parental Insurance Program (QPIP), parents may choose from two parental leave options¹: the Basic Plan—offering 32 weeks of parental leave at an income replacement rate at 70% of earnings (up to a maximum) for seven weeks and 25 weeks at 55%, and the Special Plan—offering 25 weeks of parental leave, paid at a rate of 75% of earnings (up to a maximum). Quebec maternity leave benefits are paid at an income replacement rate of 70% or 75% depending on the plan. As well, eligibility rules in Quebec allow wider range of new parents to access benefits compared to the rest of Canada. There is also a paid paternity leave period available to new fathers exclusively as well as provision for leave for self-employed parents.

In 2017, a report ([FR EN](#)) by the Commission sur l'éducation à la petite enfance (Institut du Nouveau Monde) carried out extensive consultations and made recommendations for Quebec child care.

¹ A third option was added to the QPIP in 2018. A parent may choose to spread parent leave out to two years (including the maternity leave 15 weeks) at no additional payment.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	77,300
1	86,000
2	84,900
3	81,500
4	84,500
5	89,300
6	94,900
7	95,700
8	90,500
9	90,600
10	88,500
11	80,600
12	77,400
Total	1121,500

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	248,200
3-5	255,300
6-12	618,200
Total	1121,700

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	55,800
1	63,400
2	63,900
3	56,900
4	60,900
5	66,300
6	67,600
7	65,600
8	67,300
9	64,000
10	68,100
11	69,000
12	59,900
Total	820,700

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	183,100
3-5	184,100
6-12	453,400
Total	820,700

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	7,185	4,130	1,750	145	245
5-9	7,715	4,045	1,605	200	240
10-14	7,300	3,615	1,455	130	255
Total	22,205	11,790	4,815	475	740

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	183,300	79.9
3-5	127,400	81.2
6-15	331,500	86.7

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	384,615	57,065	47,135	9,925
5-9	367,420	96,960	73,470	23,490
10-14	305,960	106,970	79,890	27,075

Language spoken most often in home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	36,885	343,315	40,000	24,530
5-9	41,700	367,145	34,095	25,930
10-14	42,670	325,190	28,300	22,205
Total	121,255	1,035,650	102,295	72,655

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
78,787	35,580	38,684	34,863

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

In 2006, the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) replaced the benefits previously available to Quebec parents under the federal Employment Insurance (EI) plan. In Canada outside Quebec, paid benefits are determined by the federal government; provisions for leave are determined by each province/territory. The Quebec government determines both benefits and leave provisions.

QPIP stipulates that financial benefits are paid to all eligible workers—salaried or self employed—who take maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, or adoption leave.

In 2017, parents could choose between two options: a longer Basic Plan (paid at an income replacement rate of 55-70%, up to a maximum) or a shorter Special Plan (paid at an income replacement rate of 75%, up to a maximum). In so choosing, they decide both the duration and their income replacement rate. The choice of plan is determined by the first parent in the family to receive benefits, and cannot be modified.

Note: In 2018, Quebec added a third, longer option to give a couple two years of leave with no additional benefits.

Both QPIP and EI are contributory programs. Income replacement rates and the maximum rate allowed under QPIP are substantially higher than those in the rest of Canada under the EI program. As well, eligibility criteria for benefits are also much less stringent than in the rest of Canada, there is a period of paid paternity leave and it is mandatory for self-employed individuals to participate and to receive leave and benefits. QPIP also differs from the rest of Canada insofar as the period of leave does not have to be uninterrupted, so long as the employer agrees.

Maternity leave

Natural (birth) mother only; cannot be shared between the two parents.

Basic Plan: 18 weeks paid benefits at the rate of 70% of wages.

Special Plan: 15 weeks paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Paternity leave

Father only; cannot be shared between the two parents.

Basic Plan: Five weeks paid benefits at the rate of 70% of wages.

Special Plan: Three weeks paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Parental benefits

The total number of weeks of parental benefits can be taken by either parent or shared. Parents may take these weeks simultaneously or consecutively.

Basic Plan: 32 weeks of paid benefits, with the first seven weeks at an income replacement rate of 70%, and the following 25 weeks at the rate of 55% of wages.

Special Plan: 25 weeks of paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Adoption leave (no maternity leave available)

Basic Plan: 37 weeks of paid benefits, with the first 12 weeks at the rate of 70%, and the following 25 weeks at the rate of 55% of wages.

Special Plan: 28 weeks of paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Family-related leave (other)

Ten days per year (unpaid).

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur
Direction de la formation générale des jeunes
Responsable du programme d'éducation préscolaire et des services de garde en milieu scolaire
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 17^e étage
1035, rue De La Chevrotière
Québec, QC, G1R 5A5
Telephone: (418) 644-5240 poste 2517

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Quebec. National Assembly. *Education Act*. R.S.Q., c.I-13.3

Quebec. National Assembly. *An Act to amend the Education Act concerning the Conceil scolaire de l'île de Montréal*. Bill 41 (2001, c. 30).

Quebec. National Assembly. *An Act to amend the Education Act*, Bill 35. (2001, c. 46).

Quebec. National Assembly. *Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons*. R.S.Q., c. I-14.

Québec. National Assembly. *Act Respecting Private Schools*, Chapter E 9.1

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT (2016)

Full day: Five-year-olds	89, 319
Part day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	4, 273
Full day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	2,255
Passe-Partout program: Four-year-olds	11,545

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Five-year-old kindergarten (maternelle)

Kindergarten for five-year-olds is delivered on a full school-day basis in English and French public and publicly funded private schools.

Kindergarten is provided for 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours a year.

Part day four-year-old kindergarten (maternelle quatre ans demi-temps or pré-maternelle)

This program varies from 9.15 hours/week for 36 weeks (or 332 hours) to 11.45 hours/week for 36 weeks (or 412 hours). It may be four part days or five part days. Some programs include parent participation. In September 2013, four-year-old kindergarten was originally developed for low-income children but now serves additional populations.

Full day four-year-old kindergarten (maternelle quatre ans temps-plein or pré-maternelle)

In September 2013, the law was modified to allow full time four-year-old kindergarten for low income children in targeted neighbourhoods. The goal of this program is to provide services for children who do not have access to other publicly funded early childhood education programs.

The program contains a parent component involving 10 sessions per year.

Passe-partout

Passe-Partout is a program developed for low income four-year-olds and their parents (mostly living in rural Quebec) to support the transition from home to school. Passe-Partout is designed to provide targeted parents with the tools they need to help them enable their children to develop, grow and succeed at school.

Passe-Partout consists of a minimum of 16 sessions a year with the children, and eight with children and parents.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-year-old kindergarten: Five-years-old by September 30th of the relevant school year.

Four-year-old kindergarten: Four-years-old by September 30th of the relevant school year.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is not compulsory. Entitlement is legislated.

HOURS

Five-year-old kindergarten (maternelle): 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours/year.

Four-year-old kindergarten part day (pré-maternelle): program varies from 9.15 hours/week for 36 weeks or 329 hours/year to 11.45 hours/week for 36 weeks or 412 hours/year.

Four-year-old kindergarten full day (pré-maternelle): 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours/year.

CLASS SIZE

Kindergarten class size limits are defined in the collective agreements.

Five-year-olds: Maximum 19, average 17

Four-year-olds: Maximum 17, average 14

Multi-age groups: Maximum 14 children per group

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Four year degree: Baccalauréat en Éducation préscolaire et enseignement au primaire.

CURRICULUM

[Maternelle curriculum FR](#) and [Éducation préscolaire 4 ans, FR](#)

[Kindergarten curriculum EN](#) and [Preschool Education Program for four-year-olds, EN](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Full day kindergarten: Five-year-olds	\$411,434,316
Part day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	\$13,263,129
Full day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	\$10,028,868
Passe-Partout: Four-year-olds	\$14,030,344
K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015)	\$11,049

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministère de la Famille
Direction de l'accessibilité et de la qualité des services de garde
600, rue Fullum 6e étage
Montréal Québec G1R 4Z1
Tél: 1 855 336-8568
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Ministère de la Famille:

Educational Childcare Act (R.S.Q., chapter S-4.1.1).
Educational Childcare Regulation chapter S-4.1.1, r. 2
Reduced contribution Regulation (R.S.Q., c. [S-4.1.1., r.1])

Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur:

Règlement sur les services de garde en milieu scolaire.
L.R.Q., c.I-13.3., a. 454.1; 1997, c.58, a.51; 1997, c.96, a.132.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Maximum number of children permitted: Six, not including the caregiver's own children.

Jardins d'enfants (nursery schools)

Nursery schools are programs for a minimum of seven children aged two to five-years-old, on a regular basis for up to four hours/day. These may be unregulated only if they were operating before October 25th, 2005 and continue to operate to the present day. Thus, a day care permit is compulsory to operate a nursery school opened after October 25, 2005.

Haltes-garderies (stop-over centres)

There are two categories:

- (1) Occasional organized child care services in a health or social institution; or in a commercial establishment such as a fair or social exhibition; or during a special event for children whose parents are on-site and can be reached if needed.
- (2) Temporary child care offered by public bodies or community organizations as part of their mandate to support and assist families, or as part of a specific activity involving parents or children.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Centre de la petite enfance (CPE) (Child care centre)

A CPE provides educational child care primarily for children 0-4-years-old. Children may be cared for in a centre-based program for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours.

A CPE may have up to five facilities (centres), each of which may have up to 80 children, and no more than two may be housed in one building.

CPEs must be non-profit or a cooperative whose board of directors corresponds to Section 7 of the *Educational Child Care Act*. CPE boards must have at least seven members.

Garderie (day care centre)

An organization that provides child care in a facility of no more than 80 children, where children receive care regularly for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours. No more than two facilities may be housed in one building.

Garderies are for-profit operations or operated by a non-profit group that does not have a majority of parents on the board of directors (e.g. church-run centres).

Most garderies are for-profit.

There are two types of garderies: a) those operationally funded to provide a reduced fee for parents (publicly-funded or subsidized) child care, and b) those not receiving government operating funds, in which case parents pay full fees and may claim a tax credit up to 90% of their costs.

Service de garde en milieu familial (home or family child care services)

Regulated home child care providers are overseen by 162 family Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCO) (Bureaux coordinateurs de la garde en milieu familial). These are authorized by the Ministère de la Famille for a renewable period of three years. Child Care Coordinating Offices are responsible for monitoring application of the regulations and give assistance to providers. Most CCCOs are part of CPEs, although they may be free-standing non-profit organizations.

Home child care services are provided in a private residence by an individual for up to six children, who may be up to nine-years-old, including the provider's own children. No more than two children may be under 18 months.

If another adult assists the provider, nine children up to the age of nine are permitted, with no more than four children less than 18 months, including their own children.

Services de garde en milieu scolaire (school-age child care)

School boards or private schools provide these programs for children attending pré-maternelle (four-year-old kindergarten), maternelle (kindergarten) and elementary grades. They are under the jurisdiction of the MEES.

School boards are obliged to provide school-age child care when there is a demonstrated need.

Jardins d'enfants (nursery schools)

Nursery schools are programs for a minimum of seven children aged two to five-years-old on a regular basis for up to four hours/day. These may be unregulated only if they were operating before October 25, 2005 and are still continuing to operate as of today. Thus, a day care permit (licence) is compulsory to operate a nursery school opened after October 25, 2005.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Quebec provides a non-compulsory curriculum framework [Accueillir la petite enfance](#) for all CPEs and garderies. It was introduced in 1997 and updated in 2007.

All CPEs and garderies must apply an educational program with activities aimed at fostering children's overall development and helping children gradually adapt to life in society and integrate into a group.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Quebec's objectives regarding children with special needs in child care programs strongly favor inclusion. However, admission for a child with special needs to a regular child care program is at the discretion of the CPE, subsidized garderie or the home child care provider.

For a child who meets the ministry definition of a "disabled" child, a one-time grant of \$2,200 and \$39.80/day/child in addition to the regular operating grant is available. In addition to the supplementary allowance allocated to child care establishments receiving children with a disability, an assistance measure (one-to-one assistance accompanying a child during activities for a maximum of three hours a day) has been put in place for the integration of children with significant special needs into child care services.

Additions to the regular operating funding to support children with disabilities (2015-2016)

<i>Type of program</i>	<i>Additional funding</i>
CPE	\$39.80
Garderie (publicly-funded)	\$38.20
Family child care (publicly-funded)	\$34.85

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Quebec regulates child care in Indigenous communities on-reserve and has federally funded Aboriginal Head Start programs both on-reserve (AHSOR) and off-reserve (AHSUNC).

In 2016, there were 68 facilities (centres) and three Family Child Care Coordinating Offices in Indigenous communities on-reserve. All are non-profit organizations and receive funding from Ministère de la Famille.

There are also five urban Indigenous child care centres (six facilities) and an urban Indigenous Family Child Care Coordinating Office. The centres are located in

Montreal, Quebec, Val d'Or, Trois-Rivières and La Tuque.

The Quebec government has reached agreements with four Indigenous organizations to delegate some legal authority for child care under the law.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of centre-based spaces for 0-4 year-olds: CPEs and garderies (2016)

<i>Centre based spaces</i>	
Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs)	92,398
Garderies	101,313
<i>Total centre-based spaces for 0-4 year-olds</i>	193,711

Source: Rapport annuel de gestion 2015-2016

Number of school-age spaces (Under the aegis of Ministère de l'éducation) (2016)

330,002

Number of children in regulated family child care (March 2016)

Less than 12 months	14,159
1-2 years-old	21,672
2-4 years-olds	55,232
5- year-olds and up	3,088
<i>Total enrolled in family child care</i>	94,151

Total number of spaces regulated by the Ministère de la Famille under the aegis of Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) (2016)

617,864

Number of spaces in reduced contribution and non reduced contribution child care (2016)

Subsidized (reduced contribution or publicly funded) spaces in CPEs and garderies 0-4 years and family child care	230,058
Non-subsidized (without reduced parent contribution or publicly funded) spaces in garderies 0-4 years	55,256

Number of centre-based spaces for 0-4 year-year-olds by age: CPEs and garderies (2014)

	<i>CPEs (child care centres)</i>	<i>Publicly funded garderies</i>	<i>Non-publicly funded garderies</i>	<i>Total centre- based</i>
Less than 12 months (one year old)	4,874	1,809	2,312	8,995
1-2 years old	14,874	7,558	8,552	30,984
2-4 years old	66,063	32,858	24,255	123,176
5 years and up	2,954	1,600	2,566	7,120

Note: This is the most recent year for which data broken down by age group is available. For more up-to-date data, please use the previous tables.

Note that as the above tables may come from different sources and reflect different dates, they may not be entirely consistent.

Children with special needs in regulated child care (March 2016)

8,163

Children receiving fee subsidies

not applicable

Number of child care programs (2016)

Number of CPEs	977
Number of centres (facilities) that are part of CPEs	1,525
Number of garderies (day care centers)	1,724
With reduced contribution spaces	706
Without reduced contribution spaces	1,018
Number of school-age centres	N/A
Number of Child Care Coordinating Offices (2017)	161
Number of family child care providers	14,687

Sponsorship of regulated part and full day centre-based spaces (2016)

<i>Centre-based spaces</i>	
Non-profit (CPEs)	92,398
Garderies (for-profit)	101,313
Garderies—reduced contribution/publicly funded (subsidized) space	46,057
Garderies—non reduced contribution spaces/without publicly funded (subsidized) spaces	55,256
School-age spaces (school-board operated, i.e. public or not-for-profit)	305,743

Source: Rapport annuel de gestion 2015-2016

Parent fees

Quebec sets province-wide parent fees for all reduced contribution (subsidized/funded) child care services.

In 2015, Quebec moved from a flat fee of \$7/day for each child in all publicly funded (reduced contribution) child care centres (CPEs), funded garderies, regulated family child care and school-aged child care in schools to a partial, geared-to-income, sliding fee scale. Fees now range from \$7.75 per day for low/middle income earners (up to \$50,920 annual family income) and up to a maximum of \$21.20 per day for higher income earners (above \$161,800 annual family income).

If a fee in addition to the basic \$7.75/day is required, it is collected from families through the tax process.

The additional contribution is now reduced by 50% for the second child and there is no additional fee/contribution for the third and following children.

Fees for school-aged programs operated by school boards are set at \$8.15/day while school is in session.

Unfunded for-profit centres (non-reduced contribution garderies) are not required to charge a provincially set parent fee. A rebate of up to 90% of these fees (a tax credit from the Quebec government) is paid to parents using these centres.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's largest cities included the following Quebec cities:

City	Median monthly fee/preschool-age
Gatineau	\$179
Laval	\$179
Montreal	\$164
Longueuil	\$179
Quebec City	\$179

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES (CPES AND GARDERIES)

Maximum facility (centre) size:	80 spaces
Maximum room size:	not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios

Age	Staff:child ratios
0-17 months	1:5
18 months – four years	1:8
Four years – five years	1:10
Five years and older	1:20

Note: For a multi-age group, ratio is based on the ratio for the youngest child in the group.

Maximum group size

Age	Minimum net area (Square meters)	Maximum group size
Under 18 months	4 m ² per child	15 in each room
18 months or older	2.75 m ² per child	30 in each room except for special activities.

Centre staff (for 0-4 year-olds) qualification requirements

Centre (facility) staff qualifications: At least two child care staff members out of three (2/3) in each centre must be qualified and be present each day with the children while child care is being provided.

There is no training requirement for centre directors.

“Qualified” is defined as a child care staff member holding a college diploma in early childhood education or any other equivalent training recognized by the Minister (such as a one-year Attestation d'études collégiales combined with three years experience).

New and expanded CPEs and garderies have five years to conform to the required ratio of 2/3 staff with qualification. Until that time, they must conform to a 1/3 ratio (one in three staff is required to be qualified).

School-age child care qualification requirements

There are no educational requirements for staff working in school-age child care programs. However, a school board may require the lead staff to have an early childhood education diploma.

Parent involvement

A non-profit child care centre's board of directors must be made up of at least seven members, 2/3 of whom (a minimum of five) are parent-users of the centre. At least one board member must come from the business, institutional, social, education or community sectors and no more than two shall be staff at the centre.

A garderie's licence holder must set up an advisory committee composed of five parents and consult with the parent committee on all aspects of the care children in the centre receive, particularly with respect to implementation of the educational program, services provided and how complaints are processed.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The Ministère de la Famille issues licences for up to a five year period. Ministère de la Famille inspectors may visit any licensed operation to monitor its compliance with regulations.

Licence holders of CPEs and garderies should receive at least one inspection visit during the period that their licence is valid, generally once every five years. Otherwise there is no specified inspection schedule.

In the six months after the issuance of a new permit, an inspection is conducted for the purpose of information and prevention. The aim of this inspection is to evaluate quality, and to request corrective measures if there are irregularities.

Inspectors are not required to have a degree, diploma, or training in early childhood education.

Quebec does not issue conditional or provisional licences. If a centre is found to be in non-compliance with legislated requirements but there is no immediate danger to the health or well-being of the children, Ministère de la Famille informs the centre's board of directors or owner in writing that the program is in non-compliance with a specific regulation(s) and requests rectification. A follow-up check is done by an inspector when sufficient time is deemed to have passed. Repeated instances of non-compliance that do not pose an immediate threat may result in administrative penalties, administrative sanctions or penal sanctions.

The operator may appeal the loss of a licence (or the refusal by the Ministère de la Famille to renew a licence) or may contest a decision to the Tribunal administratif du Québec. Its decision is binding.

REGULATED HOME CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Home child care in Quebec follows an agency model. Family child care providers are supervised according to the regulations by des bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial agréés (Family Child Care Coordinating Offices).

Maximum capacity

Up to six children are permitted including the provider's own children under the age of nine-years-old, while no more than two children may be under 18 months. If the provider is assisted by another adult, they may care for nine children, including both providers' own children, with not more than four children being under 18 months.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCO) are licensed and required to do three on-site home visits per year. The CCCO is responsible for ensuring that providers meet the regulations.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

Family child care providers must hold an early childhood first aid certificate and complete a training program of at least 45 hours pertaining to child development, health, safety and diet issues, organization and leadership in a "life environment". Many Family Child Care Coordinating Offices provide training for providers. Providers are also required to take a six hour proficiency course once a year (cours de perfectionnement).

Governance

The composition of boards of directors of organizations accredited as Family Child Care Coordinating Offices is determined by the type of organization.

FUNDING

Quebec provides funding to all CPEs, to funded garderies and to regulated family child care providers (via Family Child Care Coordinating Offices) through a formula approach.

Non-profit and subsidized (publicly funded) for-profit facilities are generally treated the same way vis-à-vis operational funding. However, the formula for non-profits is higher than for for-profits. As well, only non-profits are eligible for capital funding.

Parents who use unfunded garderies and unregulated family child care arrangements (if the unregulated child care service provider is registered as a corporation and provides receipts to parents) are eligible for a child care tax credit (reimbursement up to 90% of fees depending on parental income).

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Quebec has not used individual parent fee subsidies in some years.

One-time funding

Capital funding is available to develop new CPEs.

Recurring funding

The majority of Quebec's child care services are operationally funded (with the exception of unfunded garderies). The formula for funding is based on licensed capacity and occupancy rates to determine the amount of funding which a CPE or funded garderie will receive. There are also a number of other categories of public funding available that CPEs can access such as: minor capital, professional development, staff benefits, etc.

Note that unfunded non-profit child care centres (CPEs) are not permitted and that many garderies are also publicly funded to provide reduced contribution child care for 0-4-year-olds.

Other funding

Quebec also funds parents through reimbursement (a tax credit) to cover their fees in unfunded garderies and in some unregulated child care as described in previous sections.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)

Fee subsidies	NA
One-time funding	
Capital expenditures	\$33,342,200
Recurring funding	
Funding to CPEs and funded garderies	\$2,217,773,700
Pension plan for employees in child care	\$83,744,900
Total child care expenditure for children 0-4 years	
	\$2,334,860,800
Expenditure on school-age child care (by MEES)	
	\$224,213,109
Total regulated child care	
	\$2,559,073,909

Note: These figures do not reflect the additional funds spent to reimburse parents using unfunded garderies and eligible unregulated child care.

Note: For additional calculations and explanation of costs and expenditures in Quebec child care, see [Fortin \(2017\) Quebec's childcare program at 20](#), available online.



OVERVIEW

In Ontario, the Early Years and Child Care Division of the Ministry of Education is responsible for child care, kindergarten, and child and family programs.

On August 31, 2015, the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* replaced the former *Day Nurseries Act*, bringing in new child care legislation and accompanying regulations. A number of changes were made to funding, licensing, enforcement, and health and safety regulations.

Child care is delivered by a mixture of non-profit, for-profit, and publicly-operated programs with non-profit services predominating. Publicly-operated programs are delivered by municipal/regional entities known as Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards (CMSMs/DSSABs) or service system managers and by First Nations and publicly funded school boards.

Regulated child care programs include full time centres, part time nursery schools, and home child care delivered by providers contracted with licensed home child care agencies.

Ontario is the sole province/territory to provide kindergarten to all four-year-olds. Kindergarten for four- and five-year olds is for a full school-day; attendance is not compulsory. It is delivered by publicly-funded “public” and Catholic, English and French schools and by privately-funded independent schools.

Child and family programs are intended to promote early learning, support parents and caregivers, and provide referrals to specialized services. At the end of 2017, Ontario funded four types of child and family programs: Ontario Early Years Centres, Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Child Care Resource Centres, and Better Beginnings, Better Futures. These are delivered by over 150 lead agencies, school boards, CMSMs/DSSABs, and First Nations and will have a common mandate, identity, and governance structure under the new EarlyON brand beginning in 2018.

The provincial government sets overall policy, legislation, and regulations for child care. It licenses child care centres, nursery schools and home child care agencies, conducts inspections and investigates complaints about licensed and unlicensed child care. Child care funding is transferred by the provincial government to CMSMs and DSSABs for capital and general operating expenses, fee subsidies, special needs resourcing and wage enhancement grants.

Ontario is the only province/territory in which local government entities (CMSMs/DSSABs) are designated child care and early years service system managers. These play a mandated role in child care including contributing some funding,

local service management (coordination, administration and service planning), and public delivery of child care services. The 47 CMSMs and DDSABs allocate provincial funding to child care services through contractual agreements with non-profit organizations, for-profit operations, and municipalities that provide regulated child care.

The province also transfers funds to 77 First Nations and three transfer payment agencies to support child care and child and family programs in on-reserve Indigenous communities. Indigenous child care is licensed by the province.

In addition to providing full day kindergarten to all children who are 3.8 years of age by September of the Junior Kindergarten year and 4.8 by September of the Senior Kindergarten year (four and five-year-olds), school boards are also required to ensure provision of before-and after-school programs for four and five-year-olds in publicly funded schools where there is sufficient demand as defined by the school board and municipalities.

In September 2017, the province extended the requirement for providing before-and-after-school programming for children aged 6-12 years to all publicly-funded elementary schools for children up to Grade 6 where there is sufficient demand. In addition to licensed child care centres and programs operated by school boards, new regulations allow authorized (but not licensed) recreation and skill-building programs for 6-12 year olds to be eligible as service providers, provided they meet certain requirements. Third party programs (licensed child care centres or authorized recreational or skill building programs) must be operated by a not-for-profit organization or a municipality. For-profit organizations may only be considered if the school board has made reasonable efforts to find a not-for-profit or municipal operator but was unable to do so.

In 2016, the provincial government announced a substantial increase in child care funding to help 100,000 more children aged 0-4 access licensed child care over five years. Under the [Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework \(2017\)](#), the province set out a five-year, seven-point action plan to move towards affordable child care for all families.

The 2017 provincial budget announced expansion funding of \$200 million, which must be spent on increasing access or supporting additional fee subsidies for infants, toddlers and preschool-age children (aged 0-4 years, excluding children eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten).

On June 12, 2017, Ontario entered into the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care with the Government of Canada to receive funds (\$144 million in each of the next three fiscal years) to be spent under the terms set out in the [Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#).

The [2018 Ontario budget](#) announced that in 2020, Ontario would develop no-fee (free) full day child care to all children aged 2.5 years to Junior Kindergarten whose parents so choose together with a provincial wage scale for early childhood educators. The proposed policy change are based on a provincially-commissioned analysis of affordability and associated issues. A summary of this report is available [online](#).

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	131,400
1	136,900
2	136,900
3	138,700
4	142,800
5	147,500
6	150,100
7	149,000
8	164,400
9	160,900
10	155,100
11	146,700
12	145,400
Total	1,905,800

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	405,200
3-5	429,000
6-12	1071,600
Total	1905,800

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	76,100
1	83,700
2	83,100
3	88,200
4	84,600
5	92,600
6	97,900
7	97,100
8	113,000
9	108,300
10	105,000
11	98,500
12	102,500
Total	1230,700

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	242,900
3-5	265,400
6-12	722,300
Total	1230,700

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	19,930	7,250	370	440	480	28,470
5-9	21,620	7,955	410	560	575	31,120
10-14	20,040	8,570	385	460	500	29,955
Total	61,590	23,775	1,165	1,465	1,555	89,550

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	247,900	69.4
3-5	196,800	76.6
6-15	574,800	81.9

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	582,140	107,025	92,890	14,130
5-9	599,155	147,375	123,695	23,680
10-14	578,265	164,975	136,190	28,790

Language/s spoken most often at home (2016)

Age of child	English	FrenchNon-official language	Multiple	
0-4	544,390	15,695	94,035	42,385
5-9	610,615	18,100	72,045	54,760
10-14	618,455	16,135	65,435	53,685
Total	1,773,465	49,935	231,515	150,825

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
81,566	29,646	30,615	29,540

FAMILY LEAVE AND BENEFITS

ONTARIO LEAVE PROVISIONS

Maternity leave (Termed pregnancy leave in Ontario)

Up to seventeen weeks of job-protected leave (which may begin before the baby is born) is offered to all pregnant employees who have been employed for at least thirteen weeks, with two weeks' notice afforded the employer. The leave must be taken over an uninterrupted period of time. In some cases, the leave may be longer if the baby's due date is delayed.

Parental leave

As of December 3, 2017, both new parents have the right to take unpaid parental leave time off work. Birth mothers who take pregnancy leave are entitled to take up to 61 weeks of parental leave. All other new parents are entitled to take up to 63 weeks of parental leave. Employees may decide to take a shorter leave if they wish.

During this time, employees retain their right to keep their benefit plans and parental/pregnancy leave count towards length of employment, length of service and seniority. Employees cannot be penalized for taking pregnancy/parental leave. Employers are obliged to reinstate employees upon return from leave in the same position, unless the job no longer exists in which case a comparable job can be substituted. Leaves may be taken by both parents consecutively.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the [Employment Insurance program](#) (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average

weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit, that allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education
Student Achievement Division
10th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
Telephone: 416-325-2929 or 1-800-387-5514
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Ontario Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT

	JK	SK
English language	117,313	123,813
French language	8,314	8,625
Total EN and FR	118,144	132,438

Note: Enrolment figures are based on preliminary 2015-16 data. Includes full day programs in publicly-funded public and Roman Catholic schools/ school authorities and excludes private schools.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Junior kindergarten: Four-years-old by December 31.
Senior kindergarten: Five-years-old by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Attendance is not compulsory. Most four and five-year-olds attend full day Junior and Senior Kindergarten.

HOURS

Full instructional school day. The length of the instructional program of each school day is not less than five hours a day excluding recesses. Every school year includes a minimum of 194 school days.

CLASS SIZE

Ontario introduced a class size cap for full day kindergarten beginning at 30 children in 2017-2018 and moving to 29 in 2018-2019. A minimum of 90% of kindergarten classes in a school board must meet these caps. The remaining up to 10% may exceed these caps up to 32 students only if one of the following applies: purpose-built accommodation is not available (this will be phased out after five years); a program might be negatively affected (e.g. French immersion); or compliance would increase kindergarten/Grade 1 splits. In addition, school boards must maintain a board-wide class size average for all full day kindergarten classes of not more than 26 students.

TEACHER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Full day kindergarten classrooms are staffed by an educator team of two: a certified teacher registered with the Ontario College of Teachers (or other provincial/territorial certifying body) and a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) registered with the provincial College of Early Childhood Educators. Classes of 15 students or fewer are not required to have an RECE.

A kindergarten teacher must have a teaching certificate that requires an undergraduate degree and two years of teacher education with Primary/Junior specialization. Specific training in early childhood education is not required for a kindergarten teacher.

RECEs are required to have a two year diploma in early childhood education and be registered with the provincial College of Early Childhood Educators.

Note: See REGULATED CHILD CARE section for more information about Registered Early Childhood Educator classification.

CURRICULUM

[The Kindergarten Program 2016](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available

K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015) \$13,276

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Education
Early Years and Child Care Division
24th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
Telephone: 416-314-8277 or 1-800-387-5514
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, c. 11, Sched. 1

O. Reg. 137/2015: General [<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137>]

O. Reg. 138/2015: Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance [<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150138>]

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed home child care

Unregulated child care arrangements, termed “unlicensed home child care” by the Ontario government, are not inspected unless a complaint is made. There are no stipulations regarding where it is provided, so it may or may not be in a provider’s home or home-type residence.

An unlicensed provider may not operate in more than one location however. The *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* includes provisions for compliance orders, protection orders, administrative penalties and prosecution of offences vis-a-vis unregulated child care.

Unlicensed providers must inform parents/guardians in writing that they are unlicensed. If an inspection or investigation is conducted, ministry staff verify compliance with the requirements. Inspections or visits to unregulated child care are made if there is a complaint.

Maximum number of children permitted

An unlicensed child care provider can care for a maximum of five children under the age of 13, as of August 31st, 2017. (Before that date, children 10 and up were not included in the maximum number of children.) No more than two children under the age of two may be cared for at any one time. All the provider's own children under the age of six who are on the premises are included in the total number of children.

If a provider's own four or five-year-old is attending publicly funded full day kindergarten or Grade 1, they are only included in the total number of children during summer vacation. The provider's own child does not need to be included during March break and professional activity days, as long as care is being provided between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., there is a maximum of one child younger than age two, and the provider has not been convicted of an offence under the *Day Nurseries Act* or the *Child Care and Early Years Act*.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Regulated child care is termed "licensed child care". Under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, "licensed child care" means child care that:

- (a) is provided at a child care centre,
- (b) is home child care, or
- (c) is an in-home service.

Child care centres

Licensed child care centres include full day, part day (nursery school), and before-and after-school programs. Child care centres operate in a variety of locations including schools, community centres, workplaces, places of worship, commercial space such as store fronts and purpose built facilities.

Licensed home child care

Licensed home child care was previously referred to as "private home day care" in provincial legislation. Individual home child care providers are not licensed by the Ministry of Education but are contracted by licensed home child care agencies.

Six children under 13 years are now permitted in each home (previously five). Home providers may care for no more than two children under the age of two. Providers must include their own children under the age of six although the provider's four- and five-year-olds are excluded during the school year if the children are enrolled in full day kindergarten and the care meets the additional criteria set out under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and Regulations. A transitional regulation is currently in place to exclude counting children in care aged 10 and up.

In-home services

An in-home service refers to child care provided for a child at her/his home, or at another place where residential care is provided for the child, and:

- there is an agreement between a home child care agency and the child care provider that ensures the agency's oversight of the provision of care;
- the home child care agency has been advised of all the children on the premises; and
- the child care meets any other criteria prescribed by the regulations.

Financial assistance is provided for in-home services under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

Note: The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 defines "child" as a person who is younger than 13 years old. However, children with special needs who are in receipt of a service or received financial assistance before August 31, 2017 will be eligible to continue to receive assistance until they reach 18 years of age, provided that they meet other eligibility criteria that are unrelated to age (see Ontario Regulation 138/15).

Before and after-school programs for K-Grade 6 children

School boards are required to ensure provision of before-and after-school programs for four-and five-year-olds in publicly funded schools where there is sufficient demand as defined by the school board and municipalities.

Beginning in September 2017, school boards are required to ensure provision of before-and after-school programs for children 6-12-year-olds in all publicly funded elementary schools serving students to Grade 6 where there is sufficient demand.

Before- and after-school programs for four and five-year-olds must be operated by a school board or delivered by a licensed child care centre.

Before- and after-school programs serving children ages six and older may be operated by a school board or a third party (licensed child care centres or authorized recreational and skill building programs).

Under the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, 2014, authorized recreation and skill building programs are permitted to operate once a day for up to three hours (e.g. after-school). School boards may enter into agreements with authorized recreational and skill building programs to provide after-school care for children six and older.

Third party programs (licensed child care centres or authorized recreational or skill building programs) must be operated by a not-for-profit organization or a municipality. For-profit organizations may only be considered if the school board has made reasonable efforts to find a not-for-profit or municipal operator but was unable to do so.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Ministry of Education provides funding to CMSMs, DSSABs and First Nations to plan, manage, and coordinate child care for their surrounding region, including Special Needs Resourcing funding to support the inclusion of children with disabilities in licensed child care settings. These include centres, home child care and approved recreation programs at no additional cost to parents/guardians.

Special Needs Resourcing funding is intended to:

- hire or acquire the services of a resource teacher/consultant or supplemental staff where necessary (including salary and benefits) to support the inclusion of children with special needs;
- provide training for staff working with children with special needs in regulated child care settings to support inclusion; and
- purchase or lease specialized/adaptive equipment and supplies to support children with special needs.

The ministry requires CMSMs and DSSABs to spend a minimum of 4.1% of their child care allocation on Special Needs Resourcing. All funding must be spent in accordance with ministry policies and guidelines. The ministry encourages service system managers to collaborate in the planning and provision of services and supports with Special Needs Resourcing service providers, licensees, parents/guardians, schools, and other partners.

Resource teachers/consultants may work with several children in multiple locations and can also provide professional learning experiences to individuals working with children with disabilities in licensed child care settings and approved recreation programs. The type and level of service can vary, depending on each child's needs, the local service model, and available resources.

Resource teachers/consultants typically provide a wide range of services and supports for children with disabilities and their families. These supports may include: providing child care staff with program accommodation and modification strategies and/or professional development; support for individualized support plans; developmental screens, referrals to community agencies; information and resources for parents; and obtaining specialized equipment as required.

While it is recommended that resource teachers/consultants hold, at minimum, a diploma in Early Childhood Education and have additional training/experience/education related to working with children with disabilities, they can be appointed without these qualifications by a centre director if they hold a standard first aid credential including an infant/child CPR certificate. Requirements for resource teachers/consultants directly employed by licensed child care operators are outlined in section 55 of O. Reg. 137/15, *Child Care and Early Years Act*, 2014.

Ontario Regulation 137/15 of the *Child Care and Early Years Act* also requires child care licensees to ensure that an up-to-date individualized support plan is in place for each child with additional needs who receives child care, and that the plan includes:

- a description of how the child care centre or home child care provider will support the child to function and participate in a meaningful, purposeful manner;
- a description of any supports or aids, adaptations or other modifications to the physical, social and learning environment; and
- instructions relating to the child's use of supports/aids.

The plan must be developed in consultation with the child (if appropriate for the child's age), a parent of the child with disabilities, and any regulated health care professional or other person working with the child who would be a helpful collaborator. A centre that includes children with disabilities must be structured so that the program accommodates the individualized support plan of each child and is developmentally appropriate while being inclusive of all children.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years](#) has been Ontario's official framework to guide programming and pedagogy in licensed child care since 2015. Programs are required to be consistent with its foundations and approaches. There are also specific regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act* that align with this document. *How Does Learning Happen?* is intended to be used by early years child and family programs as well.

Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT), released in 2007, is an additional resource about learning and development that includes guiding principles and a continuum of development for children from birth to eight years of age. Use of ELECT is not a provincial requirement for licensed child care programs.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE IN ON-RESERVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Ontario funds and regulates child care in Indigenous communities on-reserve.

As of April 1, 2016, the province funded 77 First Nations and three transfer payment agencies to support on-reserve child care. This funding is primarily targeted towards fee subsidies, Special Needs Resourcing, Ontario Works Child Care, and health and safety funding in First Nation communities.

There were 57 First Nations communities operating a total of 76 licensed child care centres on-reserve with a licensed capacity of 3,169 spaces as of March 31, 2016.

There were also two licensed home child care agencies with 31 homes providing home child care on-reserve in Indigenous communities.

Ontario cost-shares Ontario Works regulated child care and fee subsidies with First Nations for licensed child care programs on an 80/20 basis. The province pays 100% of other child care expenses. First Nations manage the fee subsidy system in their communities.

Ontario recovers the majority of expenditures on regular fee subsidies from the federal government under the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement but not Special Needs Resourcing or wage enhancement.

In addition to funding contributions under the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement, the federal government funds two early years programs that serve distinct community needs. These are:

- First Nation and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI), which provides child care for parents/caregivers participating in federal job/employment programs.
- Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve Program (AHSOR), which is intended to provide child development and school readiness programming in a culturally enriching context.

Note: The on-reserve licensed child care data reported above is from the 2015-16 fiscal year.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE OFF-RESERVE

Indigenous-led early years and child care programs are available to families off-reserve in a number of locations in Ontario. Examples of organizations providing culturally relevant early learning and child care programs include Friendship Centres and Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) providers. Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities is a federal government program.

A list of Ontario AHSUNC sites can be found [online](#).

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces

	Total (Full day centres and nursery schools)
Centre-based (March 31, 2016)	
Infants (0-18 months)	11,759
Toddlers (18-30 months)	41,211
Preschool age (2.5-5 years)	104,802
Kindergarten-age (3 years and 8 months-5 years (6-12 years))	85,014 146,500
Total centre-based spaces	389,286
Home child care (enrolment) (April 2015)	16,284
Total number of regulated spaces	405,570

Note: The figure for home child care represents the estimated enrolment as of April 1, 2015 based on a survey of licensed home child care agencies.

Note: Total number of regulated spaces includes licensed capacity of centres and enrolment in licensed home child care.

Number of children receiving services through Special Needs Resourcing Funding in regulated child care

Not available

Children receiving fee subsidies (2016)

78,515

Note: The number of children receiving fee subsidies is the average number of children served monthly between January and December 2015. Previous ECEC in Canada reports have reported this figure as the cumulative total number of children subsidized throughout the year. Thus, the above figure is lower than the numbers reported in previous years but can be used as comparable to subsidy figures in other jurisdictions.

Number of regulated child care programs (2016)

Centre-based (full and part day)	
Total number of child care centres	5,276
Number of school-based child care centres (Included in total centres)	2,782
Home child care (2017)	
Number of home child care agencies	122
Number of regulated child care homes	
Active homes	3,765
Inactive homes	402

Note: The total includes community-based and school-based licensed child care centres, all age groups.

Note: The number of school-based centres includes only centres located in publicly funded schools.

Note: A home child care provider who has a contract/agreement with an agency, and may or may not have children enrolled currently, is considered active. A home child care provider who temporarily does not have a current contract/agreement with the agency and is not accepting children is considered inactive.

Sponsorship of regulated child care (2016)

Full and part time regulated centre-based spaces	
Publicly-operated	5,305
Non-profit	300,012
For-profit	83,969
Regulated home child care	
Non-profit	108
For-profit	14

Note: Publicly-operated spaces are those delivered by CMSMS/DSSABs

Note: Spaces delivered by First Nations are included in the non-profit number.

Note: The figures for non-profit home child care include publicly-operated home child care agencies and homes.

Parent fees

Ontario does not set parent fees and the provincial government did not collect fee information in 2016. In 2017, the province began to collect fee information annually from licensed child care centres and home child care agencies; these data were also collected in 2015.

Based on a provincial government 2015 survey of licensed child care centres and home child care agencies in Ontario, full time daily fees were reported as follows:

Daily fees in licensed child care centres and regulated home child care (2015)

Age	Child care centres median fee/day and range	Home child care median fee/day and range
Infant	\$57 (35-107)	\$42 (31-51)
Toddler	\$48 (32-80)	\$41 (24-50)
Preschool	\$42 (25-66)	\$39 (29-46)
Kindergarten	\$37 (20-56)	\$36 (21-45)
Kindergarten before and after-school	\$23 (15-36)	\$24 (14-34)
Before and after school	\$20 (14-30)	\$22 (11-34)

Source: Licensed Child Care Survey, Ministry of Education, 2015

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included the following Ontario cities:

City	Median monthly infant fee	Median monthly toddler fee	Median Monthly pre-schooler fee
Windsor	\$977	\$608	\$586
London	\$1,128	\$1,075	\$977
Kitchener	\$1,320	\$1,140	\$1,031
Hamilton	\$1,150	\$1,020	\$900
Brampton	\$994	\$1,085	\$955
Mississauga	\$1,330	\$1,111	\$986
Vaughan	\$1,363	\$1,130	\$1,005
Toronto	\$1,649	\$1,375	\$1,150
Markham	\$1,454	\$1,137	\$996
Ottawa	\$990	\$1,074	\$990

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.

Note: Despite some differences in data collection and analysis, the 2015 ministry data is generally consistent with the findings from the 2016 national survey of large cities that included a number of Ontario cities.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

The new *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* came into effect on August 31, 2015, replacing the *Day Nurseries Act* as the legislation governing the provision of child care in Ontario. The Ministry of Education phased in implementation of new regulations; some but not all regulations previously in the *Day Nurseries Act* were rewritten.

The new *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and its regulations can be found online at: <http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>

Maximum centre size:	None	
Maximum staff/child ratios and group size		
Age group	Staff: child ratios	Max. group sizes
Infant: Under 18 months	3:10	10
Toddler: 18 mths to 30 mths	1:5	15
Preschooler: 30 mths to 6 yrs	1:8	24
Kindergarten-age: 44 mths to 68 mths	1:13	26

Primary/junior school-age:		
68 mths to 13 yrs	1:15	30
Junior school-age: 9 yrs to 13 yrs	1:20	20

Requirements in child care centres for children with special needs

Age	Staff: child ratios	Max. number of children	Proportion of qualified employees
Two years or older to younger than six years	1:4	4	1/1
Six years or older to younger than 13 years	1:3	3	1/1

Requirements in child care centres for family age grouping

As of September 1, 2017, a new licensed age group—family age grouping (i.e., mixed age groups) for children 0–12 years was introduced for licensed child care centres.

Age	Staff: child ratios
< 12 months	1:3
12 months < than 24 months	1:4
24 months < than 13 years	1:8

If a licensed toddler or preschool group (a) includes no more than 20% of children from a younger age category, the above requirements set out for toddlers or preschool children apply. If it (b) includes more than 20% children from a younger age category, the requirements set out for the youngest child in the group apply.

In a licensed kindergarten-age group, if 25% of children are three years old or turning four that school year, the group can operate under regulations for kindergarten-age. In a licensed primary/junior group, if no more than 25% are in the kindergarten age category, the group can abide by primary/junior regulations for ratios and maximum group sizes. Finally, in a licensed junior school-age group, up to 25% of children can be between five and nine years of age and be in compliance with the regulations.

Note: Age categories referred to with reference to family age grouping can be found in the table above. Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes.

Note: The Ministry of Education may give approval for a child care centre to use mixed age grouping for any licensed age group.

The College of Early Childhood Educators

The College of Early Childhood Educators is a self-regulatory body that has the statutory mandate to govern and regulate the profession of early childhood education in Ontario. Individuals with an ECE diploma or equivalent working within the scope of practice in Ontario are required to be members of the college. Registration with the College of Early Childhood Educators requires a two year diploma in early childhood education.

Centre staff qualification requirements

A child care centre supervisor must be either a member in good standing of the College of Early Childhood Educators who a) has at least two years of experience providing licensed child care and b) is approved by a Ministry of Education director or, in the opinion of a Ministry of Education director, is capable of planning and directing the program of a child care centre, being in charge of children, and overseeing staff.

One staff person with each group of children must either be a member in good standing with the College of Early Childhood Educators (i.e. listed as such on the College of Early Childhood Educators' public register) or otherwise be approved by a Ministry of Education director. Staff who work in programs serving children 9-12 years of age may be accepted with a diploma in child and youth work, a diploma or degree in leisure and recreation, or be a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers.

In the case where the group of children is a licensed junior school-age or primary/junior group that includes only children who are junior school-age, staff may also be accepted with a diploma in child and youth work, a diploma or degree in leisure and recreation, or be a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers. Staff with qualifications other than an ECE (e.g. diploma or degree in recreation and leisure or child and youth work or a teacher who is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers) may work in programs serving children 9-12 years.

LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE

Licensed home child care is delivered in the provider's home and is monitored by a licensed home child care agency according to the regulations set out by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act* 2014. Neither the provider nor the home is licensed.

Employees carrying out the monitoring on behalf of the agency are referred to as home child care visitors. Their responsibilities include inspecting approved homes according to provincial regulations.

Home visitors must be registered members in good standing with the College of Early Childhood Educators, have a minimum two years of experience working with children, and be approved by a Ministry director. The qualification requirement may be waived if, in the opinion of the director, the home child care visitor is capable of providing support and supervision at a home child care premise.

Model of organization

Agency model

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

A home visitor is required to support providers and conduct unannounced quarterly visits to every home child care provider, and complete the Ministry Inspection Checklist. A home visitor must also follow up on non-compliances, serious occurrences and complaints.

The agency is responsible for ensuring that provincial requirements for care are met, according to the *Child Care and Early Years Act*.

At least once per year, the Ministry of Education inspects licensed home child care agencies and some home child care locations to ensure the agency is in compliance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, 2014 and its regulations.

After August 2016, there is no longer a cap on the number of homes (25) a home child care visitor is allowed to have in a caseload.

Home child care provider qualification requirements

Home child care providers are not required under the CCEYA to have specific training or educational qualifications to enter into an agreement with a licensed home child care agency.

Home child care providers are defined as independent contractors who have an agreement with a licensed home child care agency for the agency's oversight.

In order to enter into an agreement, providers:

- must be at least 18 years old;
- cannot have been convicted of an offence under the CCEYA;
- cannot have been convicted of any of the prescribed offences under the Criminal Code as detailed in the CCEYA (ex., sexual interference, child pornography);
- cannot have had his/her membership revoked under the *Early Childhood Educators Act*, *Ontario College of Teachers Act* or *Social Work and Social Service Work Act*;
- must have undergone health assessment and public health-recommended immunizations; and
- must have valid certification in standard first aid, including infant and child CPR.

The provider and anyone else normally resident in the home child care environment or regularly on the premises when children are present are required to have a Vulnerable Sector (police) Check.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

In Ontario, local government entities play several key roles in child care. Forty-seven local Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards (CMSMs and DSSABs), designated as local service system managers by the Ontario government are responsible for planning and managing licensed child care services at the local level.

The Ministry of Education allocates provincial funds to the CMSMs and DSSABs using a formula introduced in 2013. CMSMs/DSSABs determine how to use child care funding within their community.

The allocations to CMSMs/ DSSABs are based on publicly available data largely drawn from Statistics Canada such as child population, Low-Income Cut-Off, cost-of-living indicators, Indigenous population data, French speaking populations and measures related to rural and remote communities. (See the 2016 Child Care Funding Formula Technical Paper at https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/CC2016/EYCC4_EN_attach.pdf).

The Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Service Management and Funding Guideline outlines the funding and the accountability requirements of local service system managers: (See the Guideline at <https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/CCGuidelines.htm>, specifying, for example, the local service planning process mandated by Ontario).

Local service system managers are required to contribute a share of up to 20% of funds to regulated child care. Some CMSMs and DDSABs contribute additional municipal funds beyond the 20% requirement.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Fee subsidies are locally managed and administered by municipalities (CMSMs and DDSABs).

All regulated services can receive subsidized children unless the local service system manager stipulates otherwise. Some municipalities set their own criteria that services must meet to receive subsidized children such as minimum quality ratings, meeting identified targets such as a salary scale, or having non-profit incorporation.

Family eligibility for fee subsidies is determined using a provincial income test that takes into account the family's total child care costs and family income; there is no upper income cut-off. (See the [City of Toronto's fee subsidy calculator](#), which is applicable Ontario-wide). The amount a subsidized family is required to pay is determined on a whole family basis, not per child.

Eligibility does not guarantee the parent a subsidy, as the supply of subsidies is linked both to availability of funding and securing a licensed space. There may be long CMSM/ DDSAB waiting lists for fee subsidies.

Child care services must have a service contract with the CMSM/DDSAB (sometimes called a "purchase of service agreement") to receive subsidized children. All types of child care services are eligible for receiving subsidized children unless the CMSM/CDDSAB specifies otherwise.

There are no set subsidy rates that determine how much a given service receives per child; Ontario permits subsidization up to the full cost of the space, as determined by the service. However, some municipalities set maximum subsidies below the full cost of a space, while some pay "actual costs" based on services' budgets.

One-time funding

Capital funding

To support the government's 2016 commitment to create access to licensed child care for 100,000 more children aged 0 to 4-years-old over the next five years, Ontario has committed to spending up to \$1.6 billion in capital funding for child care builds and retrofits to support the creation of licensed child care spaces in schools, the broader public sector, and community locations for children aged 0 to 4 years.

For-profit services are not eligible for capital funding in Ontario.

Recurring funding

Recurring funding in Ontario is primarily designated as "operating funding". This may include funds for general operating expenses, Special Needs Resourcing, funds for salaries and benefits and other operating costs. Municipalities determine how much of the funds transferred to them by the province get allocated to operating funding from their total budget.

In this funding envelope, the only category at this time that has specifications attached by the provincial government is Special Needs Resourcing. Municipalities must spend 4.1% of their allocation for this purpose.

In addition to these provincial funds transferred to CMSMs and DDSABs, in 2015, Ontario introduced a new Wage Enhancement/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant. Under this program, which is administered by municipalities separately from operating funding, all eligible child care staff/caregivers in regulated settings may receive the wage increase, now \$2/hour and \$20/day for home child care providers. All licensed child care centres and home child care agencies including those that opened in the previous year are eligible for Wage Enhancement/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant funding, including non-profit, for-profit, and publicly operated programs.

Directors/supervisors must apply for the grant on behalf of their staff. In 2016, 92% of licensed child care centres applied for this wage enhancement funding and agencies representing 60% of licensed home child care providers applied for the Home Child Care Enhancement Grant.

Note: The wage enhancement funding does not include those RECEs working under the Early ON umbrella of services.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)

Fee subsidies	\$739,911,506
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One-time funding

Capital for communities	\$8,274,822
Capital for schools	\$828,645
French language schools	\$4,321,084
Total one-time funding	\$13,424,551

Recurring funding

Operating funding	\$305,597,980
Special Needs Resourcing	\$104,374,241
Total recurring funding	\$409,972,221

Other funding for regulated child care:

Small Water Works, Territory Without Municipal Organization, and Qualifications Upgrade Program	\$6,476,621
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Total regulated child care	\$1,169,784,899
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Note: Re: all operating and Capital for communities funding: The reported expenditures are an estimate of the provincial portion of the CMSM/DSSAB expenditures for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Note: The capital for schools amount represents school boards actual expenditures per Public Accounts for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Note: French language schools information is from Official Languages in Education 2015-16 Actuals.

Note: The child care fee subsidies figure is an approximate figure as the amount of fee subsidy funding provided to each CMSM/DSSAB is not possible to determine due to the introduction of flexible reporting under the child care funding formula. The fiscal year figure was obtained by the ministry by taking 75% of CMSM/DSSAB 2015 Financial Statement entitlement and 25% of the 2016 Revised Estimates submissions (which includes both actuals and projections).

Note: Further details about Ontario's spending for regulated child care can be found at https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/CCMemos_2017.htm



OVERVIEW

Regulated child care is under the aegis of the Department of Families. Manitoba provides operating funds to eligible child care centres and to regulated family and group child care homes through a “unit funding” model. This operational funding is linked to regulated age group composition and a maximum parent fee set by the provincial government. In addition, fee subsidies are incorporated for eligible families.

Regulated child care centres, nursery schools and school-age programs for 0-12 year olds are primarily non-profit with a small number of for-profit operations. There is no publicly-delivered child care.

Regulated home-based child care (family child care and group child care homes) is delivered through an individually licensed model.

In Manitoba, the Department of Education and Training is responsible for kindergarten, which is a part day, non-compulsory program for all five-year-olds.

In February 2018, Manitoba and Ottawa signed the [Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#). It commits almost \$47 million over three years and will create up to 1,400 new and newly-funded early learning and child care spaces, including operating and capital funds, focusing on rural and northern communities, training and development for the child care workforce and will involve the child care community and provide public accountability.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	14,700
1	15,500
2	14,600
3	14,400
4	13,300
5	15,200
6	15,000
7	14,700
8	14,600
9	14,600
10	15,600
11	14,600
12	14,600
Total	191,400

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	44,800
3-5	42,900
6-12	103,700
Total	191,400

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	8,000
1	8,700
2	8,300
3	8,400
4	7,300
5	9,500
6	8,800
7	9,200
8	9,200
9	9,000
10	10,700
11	9,700
12	9,500
Total	116,400

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	25,000
3-5	25,200
6-12	66,100
Total	116,400

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	15,765	7,375	60	225	65
5-9	16,675	7,380	70	255	55
10-14	14,355	7,060	90	260	70
Total	46,795	21,820	225	740	190

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	25,200	66.5
3-5	16,900	75.1
6-15	51,000	83.7

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mothers	Lone fathers
0-4	62,085	14,960	12,810	2,155
5-9	60,785	17,675	14,485	3,185
10-14	56,800	17,440	13,875	3,565

Language spoken most often at home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	65,465	1,195	10,730	3,585
5-9	69,325	1,215	8,430	4,310
10-14	65,975	950	7,870	4,380
Total	200,765	3,365	27,035	12,265

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
71,299	25,368	23,450	25,567

FAMILY LEAVE AND BENEFITS

MANITOBA LEAVE PROVISIONS

Maternity leave

Employees who have worked for the same employer for a minimum of seven consecutive months are eligible for maternity leave of up to 17 weeks. Employers must allow those employees taking the leave to return to their position when the leave ends.

Parental leave

Available to both new parents of adopted or birth children, who have been working for the same employer for seven consecutive months or more. Parental leave is granted for up to 37 weeks, at any point up to one year following the birth or adoption of the child, but must be taken all at once.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents. As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week; the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Manitoba Education and Training
Early Childhood and Development Unit
1567 Dublin Avenue
Winnipeg, MB. R3E 3J5
Telephone: (204) 945-6162

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *Public Schools Act*.1987, C.S.M, c. P250. Amended 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2015.

[Public Schools Act](#)

[Education Administration Act](#)

Appropriate Educational Programming [Regulations](#)

Appropriate Educational Programming [Standards](#) for Student Services

[Public Schools Finance Board Act](#) regarding Child Care in Schools

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT (MARCH 2016)

Kindergarten enrolment in public schools	13,073
Kindergarten enrolment in funded independent schools	1,100
Kindergarten enrolment in First Nations administered schools	281
Four-year-olds enrolled in public school nursery programs	2,041
Four-year-olds enrolled in funded independent schools	381
Four-year-olds enrolled in school division-administered First Nations schools	241

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

In Manitoba, kindergarten is a one year, part day for all five-year-olds.

There are also some four-year-olds who may be enrolled in “nursery programs”, private schools or First Nations’ administered schools.

Manitoba Education and Training is responsible for kindergarten.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old by December 31 of the school year. Nursery or junior kindergarten programs for four-year-olds are not funded by the government. However, some school divisions offer these part time programs for four-year-olds.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Manitoba. Access is not legislated but kindergarten is available throughout the province.

HOURS

There is no minimum requirement for hours of provision. The majority of kindergarten programs are half day (two and a half hours) five days/week or full school day (five hours) alternate days per week, typically in rural areas. Some school divisions offer full day five days/week in selected or all schools within some divisions.

CLASS SIZE

In the 2012-13 school year, Manitoba introduced a new class size initiative and funding to reduce the size of kindergarten - Grade 3 classrooms to a maximum of 20 students. This was intended to be fully implemented by September 2017. The initiative was replaced in March 2017 with the Early Years Education Initiative to give school divisions greater flexibility and autonomy as to how they would use the funding to improve outcomes for students in kindergarten to Grade 3. Therefore there is no legislated maximum capacity for K-3 classrooms.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Teachers must be certified (B.Ed.), requiring an undergraduate degree (three or four years) followed by two years of training in education.

Early childhood qualifications are not required to teach kindergarten.

CURRICULUM

[A Time for Learning, a Time for Joy: A Resource for Kindergarten Teachers](#)

A Time for Learning, a Time for Joy, is a pedagogical guide to play-based learning for Kindergarten teachers. In addition, there is a series of subject-specific curriculum documents for kindergarten-Grade 12 [available online](#).

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available
K - 12 per pupil spending (2014 -2015) \$14,499

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Families
Early Learning and Child Care Program
210-114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 4V4
Telephone: 204-945-0776
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *The Community Child Care Standards Act*, C.C.S.M. c. C158. (In effect since May 1 2014).
Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Regulation, M.R. 67/2016
Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Worker Retirement Benefits Regulation, M.R. 20/2011.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Private home child care

When care is provided in an unlicensed private home, the provider cannot care for more than four children under the age of 12 years and not more than two of them may be less than two years of age. These boundaries include the provider's own children.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

All licensed child care in Manitoba follows the regulations of *The Community Child Care Standards Act*.

Child care centres

Full day, centre-based services are those that provide child care for more than four continuous hours per day, three or more days per week to more than: three infants; or four preschool-age children, of whom not more than three are infants; or four children who are enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 6 in a school.

Nursery schools

Nursery schools are part time, centre-based programs offering child care for: four or fewer continuous hours per day; or more than four continuous hours per day less than three days per week to more than three infants or four preschool children, of whom not more than three are infants.

School-age child care

Before-and after-school services provided to more than four children who are enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 6 in a school.

Family child care homes

Care in a licensed private home for a maximum of eight children, including the provider's own children under age 12. No more than five of the children can be under six and no more than three can be two years old or younger.

Group child care homes

Care in a licensed private home by two or more caregivers for a maximum of 12 children, including the providers' own children under age 12. No more than three of the children can be under the age of two.

Occasional child care centres

Licensed care on a casual basis to more than four children, of whom not more than three are infants.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Early Returns: Manitoba's ELCC Curriculum Framework for Preschool Centres and Nursery Schools, 2010](#)

[Early Returns: Manitoba's ELCC Curriculum Framework for Infant Programs, 2012](#)

The Department introduced these two framework documents to support quality programming for children attending licensed preschool-age centres, nursery schools and infant programs.

According to Manitoba's Child Care Regulation 10 (2a.1), implementing a curriculum that is consistent with the province's *Curriculum Statement* and *Early Returns* is required for preschool-age centres, nursery schools and infant programs.

Developing a curriculum statement that accurately describes each facility's unique curriculum was added to regulation requirements for preschool-age centres and nursery schools on December 30, 2011, and for infant programs on July 1, 2013.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The goal of the Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is to ensure that children of all abilities have equal access to, and participate meaningfully in, child care programs. To reach this goal, the program provides grants to licensed non-profit child care centres, nursery schools, and family and group child care homes to better support the needs of children with additional support needs. A child qualifying as "with additional support needs" has been assessed by a qualified professional as having one or more physical, cognitive, behavioural or emotional disabilities; and as a result of this disability, requires a facility to provide additional accommodation or support (Manitoba Child Care Regulation).

Staffing Grant Payments allow non-profit child care facilities to hire additional staff to help facilitate inclusion. A Guaranteed Space Payment (based on two spaces for one child) may be an option for family and group child care homes to dedicate more time to children with additional support needs by covering payment to keep one space vacant.

Regulations require that each facility has an inclusion policy with respect to children with additional support needs. As best practice, it is suggested that the daily program is inclusive of children with additional support

needs, that Individual Program Plans are developed and reviewed annually for each child and that all staff are aware of the centre's inclusion policy and Individual Program Plans.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

First Nations

Manitoba has provided early childhood consultation and guidance to First Nations communities at their request but at present, Manitoba does not necessarily have a formal role in the licensing, regulation or funding of early learning and child care in First Nations communities.

There are 62 child care facilities within First Nations on-reserve in Manitoba. It is understood that each First Nation has some form of child care, either centre-based or home-based.

Currently, two child care centres located on First Nations communities on-reserve are licensed and operate a total of 12 infant and 58 preschool spaces. Both centres were located off-reserve when initially licensed by the province.

On-reserve child care spaces, except these two provincially licensed centres are not included in the total count of spaces (see SPACE STATISTICS section).

Post-secondary colleges in Manitoba routinely contract with First Nations communities to offer Early Childhood Education diploma programs that have been customized to meet the needs of each community.

Aboriginal Head Start

There are 63 Aboriginal Head Start Programs funded by the federal government in Manitoba. This includes 20 off-reserve programs (Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities-AHSUNC)—of which five are in Winnipeg, 15 are outside Winnipeg, and 43 are on-reserve programs (Aboriginal Head Start On-reserve-AHSOR) throughout Manitoba. They are not required to be licensed but may choose to be.

SPACE STATISTICS (2016)

Number of regulated child care spaces

Centre-based

Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infants (0-2 years)	2,405	0	2,405
Preschool (2-6 years)	14,830	3,642	18,472
School-age	-	10,327	10,327
Occasional child care	-	24	24
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>	17,235	13,993	31,228
Family child care spaces	3,057		

Total number of regulated spaces 34,285

Children with special needs in regulated child care

1,541

Note: This figure represents only those children served under the Inclusion Support Program.

Children receiving fee subsidies (2016)

8,121

Note: This figure represents the average number of children receiving subsidized child care per four week period.

Number of regulated child care programs

Centre-based

Full day	349
Part day nursery schools	136
Stand-alone school-age programs	203
Occasional centre	1

Total centre-based programs 689

Family and group child care home providers 425

Sponsorship of full and part day regulated centre-based spaces

	Full day	Part day (nursery schools)	Total
Non-profit	26,339	3,375	29,714
For-profit	1,247	267	1,514

Parent fees

Maximum daily fees are regulated by the provincial government in centres and home-based services that receive provincial operating grants.

Maximum daily fees per child vary by age of child, type of child care and hours spent in child care. (See table below).

Parent fees (cont.)

There are a few regulated centres that do not receive government funding and are permitted to set their own fees. If a family receives a child care subsidy and uses an unfunded centre, the centre can only charge the maximum amount allowed by the province for a subsidized family.

Maximum (province-wide) daily child care fees by care type and age group (2016)

Age group	Hours of care (per day)	Max.	Max.
		subsidized daily fee in centres and trained family and group child care	daily fee in untrained family and group child care
Infants	< 4 hours	\$14.00	\$10.10
	4-10 hours	\$28.00	\$20.20
	> 10 hours	\$42.00	\$30.30
Preschool	< 4 hours	\$9.40	\$8.10
	4-10 hours	18.80	\$16.20
	> 10 hours	28.20	\$24.30
School-age	<i>Regular school day</i>		
	1 period	\$5.15	\$5.15
	2 periods	\$6.80	\$6.80
	3 periods	\$8.30	\$8.30
	<i>In-service and school holidays</i>		
	< 4 hours	\$9.40	\$8.10
	> 10 hours	\$28.20	\$24.30

Note: For a more detailed version of the "Maximum daily fee schedule", [see here](#).

Median (province-wide) monthly fees per space (2016)

Age group	Centres and trained family or group child care homes	Untrained family or group child care homes	
Infant	\$650	\$481	
Toddler	\$451	\$394	
Preschool	\$451	\$394	
School-age			
	1 period of attendance	\$133	\$133
	2 periods of attendance	\$186	\$186
3 periods of attendance	\$223	\$223	

Note: The province does not collect data on median monthly fees. The above figures are based on the maximum regulated fees set by the province, as of March 31, 2016, which are charged by 89% of centre spaces and 64% of licensed home child care spaces.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included Winnipeg:

Median monthly infant fee	\$651
Median monthly toddler fee	\$451
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$451

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Maximum centre size:	Not specified
Maximum room size:	Two groups of children

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

<i>Child care centre: Mixed age groups</i>		
Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
12 wks-2 yrs	1:4	8
2 yrs-6 yrs	1:8	16
6 yrs-12 yrs	1:15	30
<i>Child care centre: Separate age groups</i>		
Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
12 wks-1 yr	1:3	6
1 yr-2 yrs	1:4	8
2 yrs-3yrs	1:6	12
3 yrs-4 yrs	1:8	16
4 yrs-5 yrs	1:9	18
5 yrs-6 yrs	1:10	20
6 yrs-12 yrs	1:15	30
<i>Nursery school</i>		
Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
12 wks-2 yrs	1:4	8
2 yrs-6 yrs	1:10	20

Centre staff qualification requirements

Manitoba has three qualification levels:

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) III

An individual with one of the following: 1) ECE II classification and successful completion of a specialization or degree program recognized by the Child Care Education Program Approval Committee; or 2) Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg, Major in Developmental Studies: Stream C–Child Development and Child Care.

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) II

An individual who has successfully completed one of the following: 1) a two year Early Childhood Education diploma program approved by the Child Care Education Program Approval Committee; or 2) an assessment program offered by the ELCC Program; or 3) a two year diploma program in Early Childhood Education from a recognized college outside Manitoba.

Child Care Assistant (CCA)

Employed in a child care centre but not eligible on the basis of educational requirements for classification at the ECE II or III level. All CCAs must have 40-hours of approved early childhood training within their first year of employment.

Centre qualification requirements

In full time centres, two-thirds of staff must meet the requirements for ECE II or III. In nursery schools, one half of all staff must meet the requirements for ECE II or III and one person for every 30 licensed spaces must meet requirements for ECE II or III. In full time or school-age child care centres, at least one staff person per group of children must meet requirements for ECE II or III.

A director of a full time centre for 0-6-year-olds must be classified as an ECE III and have one year of experience working with children in child care or in a related field. A director of a school-age centre or a nursery school must be classified as an ECE II and have one year of experience in child care or in a related setting.

All staff must be 18 years of age and have completed a first-aid course that includes CPR training relevant to the age group. All staff must consent to release information to a prospective employer about any criminal record or child abuse registry record.

Qualification equivalency and exemptions

For ECEs with out-of-country credentials, provincial officials may conduct an educational equivalency test in consultation with others. These individuals may also be required to submit a credential assessment report.

The Manitoba government recognizes ECE classification applicants with out-of-province credentials who have the equivalent of Manitoba Grade 12 or Senior 4 plus two years of post-secondary Early Childhood Education from an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution.

A licensed centre can request an exemption to trained staff requirements if a staff person is in training to upgrade her or his classification level. A staffing plan to meet the regulation must be in place. No education credentials are waived.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Each provider is individually licensed and inspected by the provincial government according to *The Community Child Care Standards Act*.

Maximum capacity

Family child care homes (one licensee)

Eight children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12 years). No more than five children may be under six years, of whom no more than three children may be under two years.

Group child care homes (two to four licensees)

Twelve children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12-years-old). No more than three children may be under two years.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

When an individual applies for a licence, provincial child care coordinators complete safety inspection reports of the applicant's home. Up to three drop-in visits per year and one re-licensing visit per year are conducted.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

Family child care providers are required to complete an approved 40 hour course at a community college in family child care or early childhood education within their first year of operating.

Providers classified as an ECE II or III may charge a higher maximum daily fee, equivalent to the fees charged in child care centres.

Providers must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid first-aid certificate that includes CPR training relevant to the age group being cared for. Providers are assessed for their suitability to provide care, based on recognized family child care competencies.

Providers must give permission to release information about any criminal record or child abuse registry record or prior contact with a Child and Family Services Agency.

Note: See [online](#) for more information on provider classifications.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Base (operating) (Unit Funding) and capital funding are available to regulated child care centres, licensed family child care homes, group child care homes and nursery schools. Only non-profit child care services are eligible for Unit or capital funding. Existing for-profits may receive some other limited funding. Both non-profit and for-profit centres may enrol children receiving subsidies—see “Parent fees” for information regarding maximum daily fees for children in for-profit centres receiving subsidies.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Regulated non-profit and for-profit centres and family child care can receive subsidized children. Non-profit centres that receive provincial operating funding are required to enrol subsidized children. Parents who apply for a nursery school subsidy only need to take the income test—they do not need to be working or going to school to be eligible.

The provincial government sets maximum parent fees for all children in funded programs as well as for any parent receiving a fee subsidy in a for-profit centre. Centres and family child care homes may surcharge subsidized parents to the capped maximum fee of \$2/day.

Examples of subsidy levels

Family type	Number of children	Family's annual income	Subsidy level	Estimated annual cost of child care
1 parent	1 preschool-age child	\$16,420	Full	\$520
1 parent	1 preschool-age child	\$28,874	Partial	\$2,427
2 parents	2 preschool-age children	\$22,504	Full	\$1,040
2 parents	2 preschool-age children	\$47,412	Partial	\$3,665

Note: There are no subsidy rates: the subsidy is based on a number of factors including income, number and age of children in child care, number of days required for care, and reason for care on a case-by-case basis.

One-time funding

Start-Up Grants

A Start-up Grant is provided once per space, as funding permits. This type of grant supports centre-based and home-based child care facilities to cover costs related to becoming a licensed child care provider; purchase age-appropriate equipment or furnishings; and/or pay for leasehold improvements and capital costs. The breakdown below notes the maximum per space start up grants.

Maximum per space start up grants (2016)

Full time child care centre	\$450
Nursery school	\$245
Family or group child care home	\$300

Capital funding—Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund

This funding offsets costs of new construction, or expansion of existing, non-profit child care centres to create additional spaces. It provides reimbursement of up to 40% of paid eligible capital expenses up to a maximum of \$600,000 per capital project of centres not in schools.

A separate funding stream provides 100% of costs for centres located in schools or on school property, co-managed with the Department of Education and Training.

Training grants for child care assistants and ECE IIs

The amount of a training grant payable is the cost of the course or courses up to a maximum of \$400 annually for each child care assistant or Early Childhood Educator.

Tuition support grants for ECE students

Conditional grant of up to \$4,000 to cover the tuition costs of one school year.

Staff replacement grant

This grant supports staff who are working towards an ECE diploma in a workplace training program. This grant pays the cost of a substitute to replace the CCA or licensed family child care provider while she is attending training two days a week, while continuing to receive a full CCA salary.

Recurring funding

Grant in child care centres

Operating grant for child care centres, also known as 'Unit Funding'.

The breakdown below outlines the annual operating grant as of January 1, 2016, per space, dependent on the type of space and duration of care.

Annual operating grant in centres per space by type of child care (2016)

Full time infant child care centre	\$11,375
Full time preschool child care centre/ nursery school receiving enhanced operating grant funding	\$4,180
Nursery school 1 to 5 sessions per week	*\$264
Nursery school 6 to 10 sessions per week	*\$528
School-age child care centre	\$1,664

* Amount received if not receiving an enhanced operating grant.

The enhanced nursery school operating grant funding supports programming and enables more low and middle-income families to have access to this social and educational resource for their two, three and four-year-old children. The annual enhanced grant is \$4,180 for 10 sessions per week, 52 weeks per year; otherwise it may be prorated. In order to receive enhanced operating grants, nursery schools have to meet certain eligibility criteria, including charging a per-session fee of no more than \$5.00.

Grant for family child care homes and group child care homes

This is an annual operating grant (as of July 1, 2016) that is given per approved space. The amount depends on the type of space and duration of care.

Family or group child care home

Infant	\$1,766
Preschool	\$1,369
School-age	\$790

Grants for extended operating hours

Licensed facilities that regularly provide child care services that exceed the normal operating hours of a child care facility may receive grants for extended operating hours up to one and one-half times the facility's licensed number of child spaces.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)

Fee subsidies	\$30,246,000
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One-time funding

Capital grants	\$2,831,000
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Recurring funding

Operating grants	\$111,052,000
Special needs grants	\$12,509,000
Total recurring funding	\$123,561,000

Total regulated child care	\$156,638,000
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Note: Capital grants refers to the Family Choices Building Fund, see above explanation.

Note: Operating grants include all training, recruitment and retention grants.



Saskatchewan



OVERVIEW

Saskatchewan’s regulated early childhood education and care programs include kindergarten and prekindergarten, licensed child care centres and regulated family child care.

Kindergarten, prekindergarten (pre-k) and regulated child care are all the responsibility of the Early Years Branch within the Ministry of Education.

Kindergarten and pre-k are half time programs. Children age five and six years old attend kindergarten while children age three and four years old may attend pre-k. Pre-k is a targeted program offering educational opportunities for vulnerable children and families. Both programs are funded by the Ministry of Education and are at no cost (free) to families.

Regulated child care is termed “licensed child care”. Unlicensed child care providers are legally permitted to care for up to eight children in their home; they do not receive funding. In Saskatchewan, part day preschool (nursery school) programs are exempt from licensing, restricted by the legislation to three hours per day and are not funded.

Regulated family child care homes use an individual licensing approach.

Historically, regulated child care centres have been almost entirely non-profit (there were seven for-profits in 2016). For-profit services do not receive operating grant funding or fee subsidies. There are three municipally delivered centres (the municipality holds the license); all are located in small rural communities.

The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed an early learning and child care bilateral agreement in March 2018. Through this [three-year bilateral agreement](#), the Government of Saskatchewan will receive just over \$41 million for investments towards accessibility, inclusivity and quality. The funding is intended to improve access to quality child care spaces, as well as support inclusion and minority languages, training additional early childhood educators, improve physical activity and literacy skills.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	13,200
1	13,100
2	14,900
3	13,200
4	13,900
5	12,600
6	13,300
7	14,000
8	13,500
9	13,400
10	11,900
11	12,800
12	13,200
Total	172,900

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	41,200
3-5	39,700
6-12	92,100
Total	172,900

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	7,900
1	8,100
2	8,500
3	7,800
4	8,400
5	7,800
6	8,300
7	9,200
8	8,700
9	8,700
10	7,800
11	9,200
12	9,200
Total	109,700

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	24,500
3-5	24,000
6-12	61,100
Total	109,700

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	24,800	69.3
3-5	16,300	75.8
6-15	42,900	85.0

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	13,645	5,200	25	110	45
5-9	14,600	5,405	60	175	95
10-14	13,160	4,895	15	180	85
Total	41,400	15,505	100	465	225

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	56,635	14,155	11,925	2,235
5-9	54,510	17,090	13,770	3,315
10-14	48,495	15,970	12,585	3,385

Language spoken most often in the home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	63,990	340	6,395	2,305
5-9	66,130	285	5,440	2,555
10-14	59,635	220	5,300	2,665
Total	189,760	840	17,130	7,530

Median after-tax income for families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
85,980	28,219	25,958	28,420

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Eighteen weeks.

Parental leave

Birth mothers may take 34 weeks immediately following maternity leave. The other parent may also take up to 37 weeks. These parental leaves may be taken consecutively.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week (2017); the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education
Early Years Branch
2220 College Avenue
Regina, SK, S4P 3V7
Telephone: (306) 787-2004

[Early Years and Child Care website](#)

LEGISLATION

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *The Education Act*. 1995. E-02. Amended 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. The Education Regulations, 2015

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools within school divisions under the jurisdiction of a board of education, the conseil scolaire or independent schools. School divisions determine provision; all 28 school divisions provide kindergarten.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

The Education Act, 1995, gives school divisions the authority to set the age of entry for kindergarten programs. In most school divisions, children must be five-years-old by December 31st of the year in which they begin kindergarten.

COMPULSORY

Attendance in kindergarten is not compulsory.

HOURS

As defined in *The Education Act*, 1995, a kindergarten program requirement is that it is not less than one-half the length of the school year. Thus, 475 hours are required for kindergarten (950 hours is the requirement for Grades 1 to 12).

School divisions have legislative authority to administer and finance kindergarten in a manner that benefits both the needs of children and the school division. Almost all rural and an increasing number of urban schools offer kindergarten for a full school day, every other day. Some school divisions offer kindergarten full day every day but full day kindergarten is not provincially funded.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Number of children (2016)

School divisions (public)	13,630
Non-associated independent schools	85
First Nations schools	1,027
Total	14,742

Note: All these categories are provincially funded.

CLASS SIZE

There is no provincial class size limit in kindergarten.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

For a teaching certificate, the following requirements must be met: Saskatchewan Grade 12 or equivalent; an approved university degree or equivalent; four years of post-secondary education; completion of an approved teacher education program consisting of at least 48 semester hours, including a practicum. English or French proficiency is also required.

There are no ECE requirements or formalized requirements for ongoing education of kindergarten educators.

CURRICULUM

[Saskatchewan Kindergarten Curriculum Guide, 2010](#)
[Children First: A Resource for Kindergarten, 2009](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available	
Per pupil K-12 (2014-2015)	\$15,040

PREKINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREKINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education
 Early Years Branch
 2220 College Avenue
 Regina, SK, S4P 4V9
 Telephone: (306) 787-3858

[Website](#)

PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Prekindergarten is a developmentally appropriate no-fee early childhood education program that currently targets vulnerable three- and four-year-old children and their families; it is not universal. The program requires a qualified teacher, preferably with early childhood education knowledge and a prekindergarten associate who provide programming for up to a maximum of 16 children.

In 2015-16, there were 316 ministry-funded prekindergartens across the province. The Ministry provides funding, program guidelines and consultative support. School divisions hire staff and operate the program. Prekindergarten programs are run by schools although school divisions have the option of collaborating with a community organization to offer programming.

Prekindergarten has a holistic child development focus, fostering social-emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual development with attention to engaging families.

Prekindergarten programs offer opportunities for enhanced play and exploration as guided by Ministry developed and supported documents.

[Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide](#)

[Essential Learning Experiences](#)

ELIGIBILITY

Prekindergarten is offered in targeted communities/ neighbourhoods for three- and four- year-old children who meet specified eligibility criteria (i.e. family and environmental risk, existing delays, behavioural challenges, isolation, low socio-economic status).

HOURS

Prekindergarten is offered for a minimum of 12 hours per week, usually three hours/day for four days a week 10 months of the year.

CLASS SIZE

A maximum of 16 children is permitted.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

The program requires a qualified teacher, preferably with early childhood education specialized knowledge, and a prekindergarten associate, requiring completion of grade 12. Preference is for an associate with an early childhood education background.

PREKINDERGARTEN SPENDING

In 2015-16, complementary services for prekindergarten totaled \$20.6 million plus additional funding through other funding model components such as Supports for Learning, Plant Operations, and Maintenance included \$5.4 million, bringing the total allocation for prekindergarten to \$26 million.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Education
Early Years Branch
2220 College Avenue
Regina, SK, S4P 4V9
Telephone: (306) 787-3858

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Act*. Bill 8, 1990 as amended by the Statutes of Saskatchewan, 2000.
Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Regulations*. 2001.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Care provided to no more than eight children including the caregiver's own children under 13-years-old. Of the eight, five may be younger than six-years-old; of these five, two may be younger than 30 months.

Nursery schools

Part time preschools operating less than three hours/day do not require a license.

School-age programs in schools

Programs located in schools and solely for school-aged children (including all children up to, but not including, 16 years of age who have completed kindergarten), do not require a license.

Child care services on-reserve

Services provided within Indigenous communities on a reserve as defined in *The Indian Act* (Canada) are not licensed.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centres

Services that provide care to children in group settings. Centres must have a license from the Early Years Branch and may care for up to 90 children from six-weeks-old to and including 12-year-olds. Child care centres can include non-profit services that are governed by a board of directors of parents, and for-profit services that have parent advisory committees.

Teen student support centres

Teen student support centres are located in or near a high school and provide child care services to children of parents attending the high school.

School-age child care

Care outside school hours for children under 13-years-old in a mixed-age centre, family child care home, or in a program solely for school-age children not located in a school.

Family child care homes

Operated by individually licensed family child care providers in a residence. They may care for up to eight children depending on the children's ages.

Group family child care homes

Operated by individuals in a residence and licensed for up to 12 children. The caregiver must have an assistant adult caregiver in attendance when the numbers or ages of children permitted in a family child care home are exceeded.

Teen student support family child care homes

Teen student support homes are family child care homes formally associated with a high school that provide child care services to children of parents attending the high school. Teen student support family child care homes are licensed to care for up to six children, depending on their ages.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Play and Exploration: Early learning Program Guide](#)
[Jouer et explorer, Guide du programme d'apprentissage, Pour la petite enfance](#)
[Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers](#)

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Child Care Inclusion Program provides various grants to child care facilities to include children with diverse or exceptionally high needs. Up to 15% of a centre's spaces may receive inclusion grants (and up to 25% with special approval).

Individual inclusion grants are provided to licensed centres and family child care homes to assist with the cost of supervising individual children with cognitive, physical, social, emotional, behavioral or language needs that require additional support. Grants may vary from \$200 to \$300/month depending on the need, as this can be categorized within three defined levels.

Enhanced accessibility grants of up to \$2,000 per month may be provided to assist with additional costs of including a child with exceptionally high needs. The child must have a referral (not necessarily a diagnosis) and must require significant additional support. The parents must be enrolled in an education program or employed. The grant may be provided in the case of employed parent/guardian(s) during maternity/paternity leave. Parents of children with diverse needs pay for the space but not for the additional supports.

Facilities may receive a training and resource grant of \$100 per child with additional needs per year, as well as a grant of up to \$600 (\$1,200 for exceptional needs) for adapted equipment required to meet the child's needs.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Saskatchewan does not regulate or fund on-reserve child care programs. Since 2001, at the request of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, monitoring child care among Indigenous communities on-reserve has been the responsibility of First Nations.

The federally funded First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) has resulted in the development of approximately 70 on-reserve child care facilities with 840 spaces monitored by First Nations.

SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 2016)

Number of part and full day regulated child care spaces	
<i>Centre-based</i>	
Age group	Total
Infants (6 weeks-17 months)	1,176
Toddlers (18-29 months)	3,123
Preschool (30 months-kindergarten)	6,758
School-age (Grade 1-13 years part day)	1,501
Total centre-based spaces	12,558
<i>Family child care</i>	
Number of children enrolled in family child care homes	885
Number of children enrolled in group family child care homes	1,103
<i>Total number of children enrolled in family child care</i>	<i>1,988</i>
Total number of regulated child care spaces	14,546
<i>Note: Saskatchewan does not license part day child care (pre-schools). The number of hours these services may be provided is restricted by the legislation to three hours per day.</i>	
Children with special needs in regulated care (March 2016)	409
Children receiving fee subsidies (March 2016)	2,885

Number of regulated child care services

Child care centres	310
School-based child care centres for preschool-age children (included in centre-based)	128
Individual family child care providers	226

Sponsorship of regulated full day centre-based spaces

Non-profit	12,209
Municipally operated	116
For-profit	233

Parent fees

There is no set parent fee and Saskatchewan does not collect fee information.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included the following Saskatchewan cities:

	Saskatoon	Regina
Median monthly infant fee	\$850	\$785
Median monthly toddler fee	\$750	\$620
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$695	\$570

Note: These median monthly figures include fees for centre-based child care and regulated home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: 90 spaces
(maximum of 12 infant spaces)

Maximum room size: Not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
Infants (under 18 months)	1:3	6
Toddlers (19 to 29 months)	1:5	10
Preschool-age (30 months-six years)	1:10	20
School-age (Grade 1-12)	1:15	30

Centre staff qualification requirements

Saskatchewan has three levels of certification:

ECE Level I

Completion of an ECE orientation from an approved accredited post-secondary institution, or completion of nine credit units (three courses) that are directly related to early childhood – one course from each of three areas: child development, programming, and relationships.

ECE Level II

Completion of a one year ECE certificate from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework.

ECE Level III

Completion of a two year ECE diploma from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework. Only courses completed through an approved, accredited post-secondary institution are considered for ECE certification.

Centre directors must have at least a two year diploma or equivalent and be certified as an ECE III.

All staff employed in a centre for 65 hours or more per month have to meet the qualifications of an ECE I.

At least 30% of staff are required to have a one year ECE certificate or equivalent (ECE II).

At least 20% of staff are required to have a two year ECE diploma or equivalent (ECE III).

All staff members in a centre must have completed a first aid and CPR course.

Individuals must apply to the Early Years Branch, Ministry of Education for certification. The requirements for certification and the courses required to achieve equivalency status are set out by the Ministry of Education.

ECE certification from another Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) province or territory is automatically recognized. Individuals must submit an application for certification and a photocopy of the certificate and a letter of authentication from the certifying agency.

If a licensee is unable to hire a centre director, supervisor, or child care worker whose qualifications meet the requirements of the *Child Care Regulations, 2015*, the licensee may apply to the Early Years Branch for an exemption from those requirements. An education plan

must also be submitted, indicating how the licensee intends to meet the requirement of the regulations through further education of the individual to be hired.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity in a family child care home

Up to eight children (including the provider's own children under 13 years) between six weeks and 12-years-old. Of the eight children, only five may be younger than six years; of these five, only two may be younger than 30 months.

Maximum capacity in a group family child care home

Up to 12 children (including the provider's and assistant's own children under 13 years). Of the 12 children, only 10 may be younger than six years, of these 10, only five may be younger than 30 months and only three younger than 18 months.

Maximum capacity in a teen student support family child care home

Up to six children (including the provider's own children under 13 years). Of these six children, no more than four may be younger than six years; of these four, only two may be younger than 30 months.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Provincial program consultants conduct annual visits to renew licenses in addition to a minimum of two drop-in visits throughout the year.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

Must be 18 years old. All providers require an orientation session, undertaken with a program consultant from the Ministry of Education. They also require first aid/CPR training plus six hours of professional development workshops each licensing year.

Must submit the results of a criminal records search with respect to the applicant and to each adult who resides in the premises in which the home will be operated.

Providers in regular family child care homes must complete a 40 hour introductory early childhood education course within the first year of licensing.

Providers in group family child care homes have three years to complete the 120 hour orientation course (ECE I). Assistants require first aid and CPR training plus six hours of professional development each licensing year.

FUNDING

Funding is available to regulated child care, which includes child care centres, teen student support centres, school age child care, family child care homes, group family child care homes, and teen student support family child care homes.

Only non-profit and municipal child care services receive public funding, including operating (base) funding, capital funding and fee subsidies.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Child Care Subsidy Program

Subsidies are available in regulated non-profit child care centres and licensed family child care homes. They are paid directly to service providers. Parents must secure a child care space before applying for a subsidy.

Child care subsidies are available to all families that meet the income requirements. Subsidy rates vary by age of the child, the type of care and by region (tiers) (see below).

Maximum subsidy rates

	Tier 1		Tier 2		Tier 3	
	*F/T	*P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T
<i>Child care centres</i>						
Infants	\$570	\$400	\$485	\$340	\$410	\$290
Toddlers	\$440	\$310	\$390	\$275	\$375	\$265
Preschool-age	\$405	\$285	\$350	\$245	\$340	\$240
Kindergarten-age	\$365	\$365	\$325	\$325	\$315	\$315
<i>School-age</i>						
Sept to June	\$275	\$275	\$245	\$245	\$230	\$230
July to Aug	\$385	\$275	\$340	\$245	\$330	\$230
<i>Family child care homes</i>						
Infants	\$485	\$340	\$415	\$295	\$410	\$290
Toddlers	\$440	\$310	\$390	\$275	\$375	\$265
Preschool-age	\$405	\$285	\$350	\$245	\$340	\$240
Kindergarten-age	\$365	\$365	\$325	\$325	\$315	\$315
<i>School-age</i>						
Sept to June	\$275	\$275	\$245	\$245	\$230	\$230
July to Aug	\$385	\$275	\$340	\$245	\$330	\$230

* F/T = full time; P/T = part time.

Tier 1-Regina, Saskatoon and communities in the Northern Administration District

Tier 2- Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Battlefords, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Nipawin, Balgonie, pilot Butte, Martinsville, Warman

Tier 3- Other cities, towns and rural areas.

Subsidy rates do not cover full fees, leaving a parent portion to be paid. A family eligible for subsidy is required to pay a minimum fee of 10% of the actual cost of care (i.e., the subsidy can cover up to 90% of the child care fees). Based on current fees in licensed facilities and subsidy rate maximums, parents may pay more than the 10% minimum. The Child Care Subsidy program pays for the parent portion of fees for parents who are on social assistance.

One-time funding

Space Development Funding: Start up grants

<i>Grant</i>	<i>Type of program</i>	<i>Max. grant</i>
One-time grant for the purpose of developing child care spaces	Centres	\$615 per child care space
Grant for a family child care home or a teen student support family child care home located within or outside the Northern Saskatchewan Administration	Family child care homes	\$2,250 within district; \$1,800 outside district
Grant for group family child care home located within or outside the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District	Family child care homes	\$2,500 within district; \$2,000 outside district
Grant for licensees that change from a family child care home to a group family child care home	Family child care homes	\$400 per licensee

Space development capital grant

One-time grant to a developmental licensee or a licensee of a non-profit centre to assist with costs of developing, renovating or constructing new child care spaces in a centre. The grant is \$3,360 per new child care space approved by the minister for development.

Fire, health and safety grant

One-time grant to a provisional licensee with respect to costs associated with meeting necessary fire, health and safety requirements. Maximum grant is \$1,200 for a new family child care home.

Enriched learning environment grant

One-time grant to the licensee of a facility to support the design implementation of an enriched learning environment. Maximum grant is \$246 per licensed child care space in a non-profit centre, \$1,025 per family child care home, group family child care home or teen student support family child care home.

Recurring funding

Northern transportation grants for centres

Grant for licensee of a centre located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District for transportation of children attending the centre. Maximum grant is \$20 per month per child provided with transportation to the centre.

Equipment and program grants for centres

Grant for licensee located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District for replacement of equipment and supplies. The maximum grant is \$100 per year per licensed child care space.

Equipment and program grants for family child care homes

Grant to a licensee of a child care home for developmentally appropriate programming, equipment and supplies. The maximum grant is \$100 per year per licensed child care space.

Early childhood services grants for centres

Recurring grants to support on-going operating and staffing costs to provide child care services.

Maximum grant for licensee of full time centres or student support centres

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Amount per month, per space</i>
Infant	\$656.67
Toddler	\$394.00
Preschool	\$197.00
School-age	\$131.33

Maximum grant for licensee of extended hours centre that operates 120 hours per week or more

<i>Age groups</i>	<i>Amount per month, per space</i>
Infant	\$985.00
Toddler	\$591.00
Preschool	\$295.50
School-age	\$197.00

Maximum grant for licensee of extended hours centre that operates less than 120 hours per week

<i>Age groups</i>	<i>Amount per month, per space</i>
Infant	\$820.83
Toddler	\$492.50
Preschool	\$246.25
School-age	\$164.17

Teen Student Child Care Centre Support

Recurring support service grants for on-going costs associated with centres or home providing parenting programs.

Maximum grant for centres is \$810 per month per infant child care space and \$680 per month per toddler child care space.

Maximum grant for homes is \$350 per month per teen student support child care space.

Nutrition grants for family child care homes

Recurring nutrition grant to licensee for family child care homes for the provision of nutritious meals and snacks. Maximum grant per month per licensed child care space in a home located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District is \$50 and outside the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District is \$40.

Inclusion grants

Individual inclusion grants provided to a centre based on an individual child with additional needs. Maximum grant per month to assist with additional costs of supervising the child, for a period not exceeding one year is \$300. Maximum grant per year for the purchase of adapted equipment required to meet the needs of the child is \$600 (\$1,200 per year if the Director approves the exceptional circumstances). Max grant to assist with the cost of training employees and the provision of resources other than those listed above is \$100.

Enhanced accessibility grants provided to a licensee with respect to an individual child with exceptionally high needs attending the facility. Maximum grant per month to assist with additional costs of supervising the child, for a period not exceeding one year is \$2,000. Maximum grant per year for the purchase of adapted equipment required to meet the needs of the child is \$600 (\$1,200 per year if the Director approves the exceptional circumstances). Maximum grant to support training of employees and the provision of resources other than those above is \$200.

Other funding

Tuition reimbursement grant

Grant to a licensee of a facility for reimbursement of tuition fees paid and required books purchased for ECE courses completed by licensee or staff to meet requirements or for upgrading ECE qualification. Maximum grant per individual course taken by the person is \$500 (in the case of courses leading to qualification as an early childhood educator I level or above and the maximum grant for the early childhood educator orientation course is \$1,500).

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

One-time funding

Development funding (Start-up grants, space development capital grants, Fire health and safety grants)	\$812,852
Capital (school-based)	\$0
Enriched Learning Environment Grants	\$66,666
Equipment–family child care homes	\$171,104

Fee subsidies \$14,292,355

Recurring funding

Early Childhood Services Grants	\$40,215,830
Teen Student Child Care Centre Support	\$2,632,260
Nutrition-family child care homes	\$897,873
Inclusion grants	\$5,399,220
Total recurring funding	\$49,145,183

Total regulated child care \$64,488,160

Other funding \$934,572

Early childhood training \$931,288

Note: Inclusion grants include Individual Inclusion, Centre Inclusion, Enhanced Accessibility and Adapted Equipment Grants.

Note: Other funding includes Preschool Support, Home Alternates Program, Early Childhood Initiatives, Northern Equipment/Transportation, ELPG Grant, Employer Sponsored.

Note: Early childhood training includes funds paid to licensed child care programs for tuition reimbursement, professional development, and northern training.





OVERVIEW

In Alberta, responsibility for early childhood education and care (ECEC) falls under two Ministries; Alberta Education and Alberta Children’s Services. Responsibility for licensed and approved child care was under Alberta Human Services for part of the time period covered in this report but moved to the newly created Ministry of Children’s Services as of January 2017.

Responsibility for Early Childhood Services (ECS) including kindergarten and other educational programming for children prior to Grade 1 is under the Education Supports Sector of Alberta Education.

Regional Child and Family Services at the local level are responsible for licensing, monitoring and issuing enforcement actions for licensed child care programs.

There are five categories of licensed child care (often referred to as ECEC programs) defined under Alberta’s *Child Care Licensing Act*. Each operates with the primary purpose of providing child care to seven or more children. Licensed ECEC in Alberta includes: 1) day care programs for preschool-aged children (under seven years); 2) part day preschool programs; 3) out-of-school programs for kindergarten and school-aged children; 4) group family child care; and 5) innovative child care programs designed to meet the unique child care needs of the community in which they are provided, as approved by the director.

Another child care option available to parents in Alberta is referred to as the Approved Family Day Home (FDH) program. Contracted family day home agencies and approved providers are required to operate according to ministry standards.

Somewhat more than half of Alberta’s licensed full and part day centre-based child care programs (58%) and nearly half of approved family day home agencies (46%) are for-profit. The others are not-for-profit, which includes a small number of municipally operated or supported centres.

In April 2018, the Alberta and federal governments signed the [Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#). The federal government will transfer \$136 million over three years to Alberta to increase accessibility, affordability and quality, address gaps and flexibility and provide an evaluation.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	52,700
1	52,700
2	50,700
3	53,200
4	56,300
5	51,400
6	56,700
7	53,100
8	58,100
9	50,600
10	49,500
11	48,700
12	47,600
Total	681,100

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	156,100
3-5	160,900
6-12	364,300
Total	681,300

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	28,400
1	30,800
2	27,300
3	30,000
4	33,900
5	30,100
6	34,400
7	31,500
8	33,800
9	30,700
10	31,300
11	31,800
12	30,100
Total	404,200

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	86,500
3-5	94,000
6-12	223,600
Total	404,200

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	14,300	9,215	250	390	240
5-9	15,865	10,120	285	245	240
10-14	13,790	9,555	230	285	170

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	89,900	62.9
3-5	69,000	72.9
6-15	167,800	82.1

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	228,685	31,915	26,450	5,465
5-9	219,010	45,330	36,260	9,075
10-14	188,085	46,755	36,645	10,110

Language spoken most often in home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	215,860	2,015	35,610	12,520
5-9	226,640	2,015	27,690	14,120
10-14	202,910	1,615	23,805	13,220
Total	645,405	5,645	87,105	39,865

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
92,890	31,264	40,636	30,240

FAMILY RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Fifteen weeks.

Available to the birth mother only.

Parental leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be taken by one parent or shared between two parents; the total combined leave cannot exceed 37 weeks. The provincial legislation stipulates that there is no requirement to grant parental leave to more than one parent at a time if both parents of a child work for the same employer.

Adoption leave

Parental leave only. Thirty-seven weeks may be taken by one parent or shared between two parents but the total combined leave cannot exceed 37 weeks.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week (2017); the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN (EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES)

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGAREN

Alberta Education
Education Supports Sector
8th Floor – 44 Capital Boulevard
10044-108 Street
Edmonton, AB, T5J 5E6
Telephone: (780) 427-4919

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Government of Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *School Act*. 2000.
Early Childhood Services Regulation 31/2002.
Private Schools Regulation 190/2000.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES ENROLLMENT (2016-2017)

Kindergarten enrolment not available

66,000 funded students (includes kindergarten and children with severe disability/delay younger than kindergarten age in Early Childhood Services programs)

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Alberta Education is responsible for providing Early Childhood Services (ECS) under the *School Act*.

Kindergarten, as part of ECS programming, is intended for children in the year prior to entry into Grade 1 and may be offered by local school boards and/or private non-profit ECS operators. It is usually part day (minimum of 475 hours/year) but some local authorities provide a full day option.

ECS provides educational services in a variety of early learning settings in addition to kindergarten. Children with special needs may be included starting as early as two-and-a-half years of age.

Funding for kindergarten and other ECS programs may be accessed by all school authorities, which include: school jurisdictions (public, separate, Francophone school boards), accredited private schools, charter schools, and approved private, non-profit ECS operators.

AGE ELIGIBILITY (FOR KINDERGARTEN)

To enter kindergarten, children must be four-years and six months of age on or before September 1st of the relevant school year.

COMPLUSORY

Attendance in kindergarten is not compulsory but most five-year-olds attend (an estimated 98% of age-eligible children).

HOURS

475 hours throughout the school year. Kindergarten is usually part day, every day.

CLASS SIZE

The provincial government does not set a class size limit in kindergarten.

Alberta Education has for some years provided funding to school jurisdictions to support smaller class sizes in K-3 with the expectation that school boards use these funds to achieve targeted lower class sizes for the younger grades, including kindergarten. Boards are required to participate in the annual class size survey and report class size averages annually.

The provincial class size average for K-3 was 20.4 in the 2016/2017 school year.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification requirements: Early Childhood Services teachers in Alberta must hold a valid Alberta teaching certificate based on a four year university degree that includes a basic teacher preparation program (B.Ed.), or a bachelor's degree supplemented with a teacher preparation program (two year post-degree for teacher course work and practicum).

There is no specific requirement for early childhood training.

CURRICULUM

[Alberta Kindergarten Curriculum](#) (2008)
[Kindergarten Program Statement](#) (2008)
[My Child's Learning: A Parent's Resource](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten spending is not available.

More than \$330 million operational funding is spent annually for approximately 66,000 children in ECS not including capital expenditures. In addition, \$270 million is spent for ECS children with mild/moderate and severe disability/delay and children with gifted and talented learning needs.

K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015) \$13,115

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Children's Services
Early Childhood Development Branch
6th Floor Sterling Place
9940 - 106th Street
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2N2
Telephone: (780) 422-1119
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Licensing Act*.
Alberta. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Licensing
Regulation, 143/2008.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed family child care

In Alberta, the maximum number of children permitted in an unlicensed family child care setting is six under the age of 13, not including the caregiver's own children.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Under Alberta's *Child Care Licensing Act*, there are six types of regulated child care and early childhood education and care (ECEC) programs. Five program types are licensed and one program type is approved.

Alberta's [Child Care Licensing Act](#) states that anyone caring for seven or more children must be licensed by the Government of Alberta. The following five programs, required to be licensed, are all subject to Alberta's [Child Care Licensing Regulation](#).

Note that approved family day home agencies are approved, not licensed.

Day care program

A child care program provided to seven or more infants, preschool and kindergarten children for four or more consecutive hours in each day that the program is provided.

Preschool program

A child care program provided to preschool and kindergarten children for less than four hours per child in each day that the program is provided.

Innovative program

A child care program approved by the director that is designed to meet the unique child care needs of the community in which it is provided.

Out-of-school care program

A child care program provided to kindergarten-aged and school-aged children (under age 13) in any or all of the following periods: before-and after-school; during the lunch hour; when schools are closed.

Group family child care program

A child care program provided in the private residence of the licence holder to a maximum of 10 children, including infants, preschool, kindergarten and school-aged children. Group family child care programs must have two providers on record and both must be on the premises when seven or more children are in attendance. As a licensed program, group family child care is subject to the Child Care Licensing Regulations in Alberta.

Approved family day home program

Alberta's Family Day Home (FDH) Program is delivered under a contracted agency model. Homes are referred to as "approved family day homes". An approved family day home program is one in which the Child and Family Services Region has entered into an agreement with a family day home agency to coordinate and monitor the provision of child care in the private residence of each approved child care provider.

Note that an approved family day home agency is not licensed but approved.

Under the legal authority of the *Child Care Licensing Act*, the [Family Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta](#) outlines the requirements for approved family child care, including the roles, objectives, responsibilities and expectations for the Child and Family Services Region, FDH Agency and FDH provider. Contracted FDH agencies and approved providers are required to operate according to these Ministry standards.

The maximum number of children is six, including the provider's own children.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Play, participation and possibilities: An early learning and child care curriculum framework for Alberta](#)

Alberta's curriculum framework supports a holistic view of children and will build common language across diverse delivery settings about the importance of play in early learning, emergent curriculum planning and responsive care. It is intended to guide practitioners in their intentional interactions with young children. The framework was piloted in selected early learning and child care sites across Alberta. The ministry continues to work with Mount Royal University and MacEwan University on the curriculum project through expansion of programs and learning communities, as well as the development of professional resources.

The curriculum framework is currently not mandatory. It is available free of charge to any educator who wants to engage voluntarily with the ideas and concepts as a way to support their evolving practices, planning and provisions for young children's learning.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Inclusive Child Care Program provides supports to facilitate inclusion of children with special needs in Alberta's approved child care settings. Program delivery and funding may vary depending on the needs of the child, the type of service required, and the regional Child and Family Services delivery model. Regions determine the disbursement of funds for inclusive child care programming. Funds are typically paid to licensed or contracted operators on behalf of eligible children.

Additional training for staff working with children with special needs is not required in legislation; however, staff members typically have an early childhood education credential.

In 2013/2014, Alberta Human Services funded a non-profit community program, Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (GRIT), to provide staff support at five centres to foster inclusive practices for children with additional needs and better enable meaningful participation for all children.

Between 2014 and 2016, the ministry provided GRIT programs with a grant to complete a two year provincial pilot to implement their ASaP (Access, Support and Participation) program, extending GRIT staff support to 42 licensed and approved child care programs across Alberta. Participating programs completed an assessment to determine areas for enhancement, then child care teams received training and on-site, practice-based coaching to provide them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to provide equitable access and support participation of all children within quality, inclusive environments.

For more detailed information, see the [ASaP Continuum Project report](#) (2017).

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Alberta child care programs in Indigenous communities on-reserve are not required to meet provincial child care legislation requirements. Indigenous child care programs may be eligible for federal government funding equivalent to parent child care subsidies when programs demonstrate to the federal government that they adhere to provincial licensing standards. By invitation of the First Nation, provincial child care licensing staff will schedule and conduct an inspection visit, and provide a written inspection report based on provincial licensing standards. Alberta has ongoing communication with federal funders under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) to consult on and respond to requests for inspection of child care programs located on First Nations reserve land.

Alberta recognizes early learning and child care education training programs in approved private vocational training institutions that are based on theoretical understanding of First Nations/Indigenous cultural knowledge as well as an academic study of all aspects of child development. Depending on program content and course hours, staff members who complete these programs may be eligible for certification as a Child Development Worker or a Child Development Supervisor. Alberta also contracts with early childhood educators to deliver the entry level Child Care Orientation Course in First Nation communities. Completion of the course qualifies staff for certification as a Child Development Assistant.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 2016)			
<i>Centre-based spaces</i>			
Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infants (under 12 months)	1,724	-	1,724
Infants (13-19 months)	4,566	-	4,566
Toddlers (19 months < 3 years)	12,480	1,445	13,925
Preschoolers (3 years-4.5 years)*	15,716	14,807	30,523
Kindergarten (age 4.5 years +)**	7,485	10,820	18,305
Out-of-school (Grades 1-6) reported as part day		28,063	28,063
Innovative child care (no age grouping)	560	-	560
Total centre-based spaces	42,531	55,135	97,666
<i>Family child care spaces</i>	11,816	-	11,816
(Licensed family child care - 30 and approved family day homes - 11,786)			
Total number of licensed and approved spaces			
	54,347	55,135	109,482
* Attending day care program - full day spaces; attending pre-school program part day spaces.			
** Attending an approved ECS program - part time. Day care spaces reported as full day: preschool/out-of-school care reported as part day spaces.			
Children with special needs in regulated/approved child care			
Not available. Funding is distributed by regional delivery offices to regulated child care programs. The number of children served is not collected.			
Children receiving fee subsidies (2016)			24,509
Number of child care programs (March 2016)			
<i>Centre-based programs</i>			2,402
Day care centres			782
Innovative			22
Out-of-school care			898
Preschools (part day)			700
<i>Family child care</i>			74
Group family child care programs (licensed)			3
Number of family day home agencies (contracted)			71
Number of individual family child care providers (approved by agencies)			1,999

Sponsorship of regulated child care programs and spaces (March 2016)

Sponsorship	Number of programs
Regulated centre-based child care programs (total)	
	2,402
Non-profit	1,078
For-profit	1,324
<i>Day care programs (full day)</i>	
	782
Non-profit	237
For-profit	545
<i>Preschool programs (part day)</i>	
	700
Non-profit	444
For-profit	256
<i>Out-of-school care programs</i>	
	898
Non-profit	378
For-profit	520
<i>Innovative child care programs</i>	
	22
Non-profit	19
For-profit	3
Regulated/approved home child care programs	
<i>Family day home agencies-approved</i>	
	71
Non-profit	38
For-profit	33
<i>Group family child care programs-licensed</i>	
	3
Non-profit	0
For-profit	3
Number of full and part day centre spaces	
<i>Total</i>	
	97,106
Non-profit	40,798
For-profit	56,308
<i>Day care spaces (full day)</i>	
	41,971
Non-profit	11,788
For-profit	30,183
<i>Preschool spaces (part day)</i>	
	17,940
Non-profit	10,551
For-profit	7,389
<i>Out-of-school care spaces (part day)</i>	
	37,195
Non-profit	18,459
For-profit	18,736

Parent Fees (March 2016)

In Alberta, child care operators are responsible for setting their own fees.

Alberta collects data on actual child care fees paid, which vary by program type and age of child.

In March 2016, the mean average monthly fees based on provincial government data were:

Age Group	Child care program type-fees per month		
	Day care centre	family day home	Out-of-school-care centre
Infants < 12 months	\$884	\$533	-
Infants 12 months < 19 months	\$938	\$677	-
19 months < 3 years	\$864	\$735	-
3 years < 4.5 years	\$828	\$728	-
4.5+ years	\$796	\$688	\$628
4.5+ years and attending school	-	\$500	\$456
March 2016 mean parent fee	\$848	\$680	\$476

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's largest cities included the following Alberta cities:

	Calgary	Edmonton
Median monthly infant fee	\$1,102	\$835
Median monthly toddler fee	\$1,050	\$835
Median monthly preschool-age fee	\$1,010	\$825

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care. Fee data collected by provincial/territorial governments and that collected by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in Canada's largest cities use different methods and represent different sets of regulated child care programs (all programs vs. those in the largest cities; break-down into centre-based, family child care and school-aged programs vs. all full day centre and home child care and median vs. mean fees), so may not be consistent.

The CCPA data are included so as to provide comparison fee data for all provinces.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: Not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff: child ratios	Max. group sizes
<i>Full day centre-based day care</i>		
Infants < 12 months	1:3	6
Infants 12 months < 19 months	1:4	8
19 months < 3 years	1:6	12
3 years < 4.5 years	1:8	16
4.5 years and older	1:10	20
<i>Out-of-school care program</i>		
Part day programs for kindergarten-age children	1:10	20
Part day programs for children attending Grade 1 and higher	1:15	30

Centre staff qualification requirements

Child care staff certification

Under the Alberta Child Care Licensing Regulation, staff working in licensed day care, preschool, out-of-school care and group family child care programs are required to be certified. Certification is the process used to review educational training and competencies to determine eligibility and to certify staff as meeting one of the three levels of certification specified in regulation.

Staff working in licensed child care programs have six months to become certified. Without certification, they cannot be left alone to supervise children. All staff must apply for certification to the Child Care Staff Certification Office. The Certification Office is also responsible for contracting the delivery of the child care orientation course or Child Development Assistant certification and for the online delivery of this course.

Alberta has three levels of qualifications for child care certification:

Child Development Assistant certificate (formerly Level 1)

Completion of the Child Care Orientation Course (Alberta government-sponsored course); or completion of specific courses in Alberta high schools; or completion of a 45 hour (three credit) college/university-level course related to child development; or completion of the Step Ahead Family Day Home Training or Family Child Care Training Program through an approved Alberta Family Day Home Agency registered with the Alberta Family Child Care Association.

Child Development Worker certificate (formerly Level 2)

Completion of a one year early learning and child care certificate program offered by an Alberta public college or university or completion of an equivalent level of training (refer to [Educational Equivalencies for Alberta Child Care Staff Certification](#) for details).

Child Development Supervisor certificate (formerly Level 3)

Completion of a two year early learning and child care diploma program offered by an Alberta public college or has completed an equivalent level of training (refer to [Educational Equivalencies for Alberta Child Care Staff Certification](#) for details).

For certification as a Child Development Worker and Child Development Supervisor, proof of language proficiency at Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 7 is required if post secondary training was not completed in English or French. Information about language proficiency requirements is available in Alberta's [Child Care Staff Certification Guide](#). (As of August 1, 2017, the only language proficiency tests accepted for certification are CELPIP and IELTS. See the Certification Guide for more information.)

A course hours equivalency chart is available to applicants (refer to the [Course Hours Equivalency chart in the Certification Guide](#)). Course equivalencies include a total of 1,545 hours of ECE coursework with 800 hours of practicum for certification as a Child Development Supervisor or completion of at least 770 hours of ECE coursework including 400 hours of practicum for certification as a Child Development Worker.

Staff credential requirements in each licensed program

Day care program requirements (Schedule 1: Child Care Licensing Regulation)

The Program Supervisor must hold a Child Development Supervisor certificate. In the extended absence of the Program Supervisor, a person with at least Child Development Worker certification must be designated to assume the responsibilities of the Program Supervisor.

In addition, at least one in every four primary staff working directly with children between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. must hold at least a Child Development Worker certificate.

All other primary staff working directly with children at any time of day must hold at least a Child Development Assistant certificate. Regulation allows maximum six months for staff to obtain this certificate; until then, the staff person must not have unsupervised access to children.

Out-of-school care program requirements (Schedule 4: Child Care Licensing Regulation)

Staff working directly with children at any time must hold at least a Child Development Assistant certificate. Regulation allows maximum six months for staff to obtain this certificate; until then, the staff person must not have unsupervised access to children.

Preschool program requirements (Schedule 5: Child Care Licensing Regulation)

Staff working directly with children at any time must hold at least a Child Development Assistant certificate. Regulation allows maximum six months for staff to obtain this certificate; until then, the staff person must not have unsupervised access to children.

Group family child care program requirements (Schedule 2: Child Care Licensing Regulation)

The licence holder or an additional care provider must be certified at minimum as a Child Development Worker and each additional child care provider must be certified at minimum as a Child Development Assistant.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Inspection visits are intended to ensure all licensed child care programs adhere to the Child Care Licensing Act and Regulation. Licensed child care programs will generally receive a minimum of two licensing inspections during a 12-month-period. However, if non-compliances are identified or incidents/complaint investigations take place, licensing staff may complete additional inspections as required for follow up.

Refer to Alberta's *Child Care Licensing Act* and Child Care Licensing Regulation for additional information. Links to these documents can be found [online](#).

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Alberta uses two models for delivery of regulated family-based child care: a) contracted, approved agencies, which have the role of overseeing individual approved family day homes, and b) individually licensed group family child care homes.

Licensed group family child care is provided in the private residence of the licence holder in which two providers care for a maximum of ten children.

The [Child Care Licensing Act](#) states that anyone caring for seven or more children must be licensed by the Government of Alberta.

Individuals who care for six or less children do not require a license and have the option of becoming an approved family day home with an approved agency. Section 25 of the *Act* defines the family day home program (FDH) as a program under which the person with whom the director has entered into an agreement (the agency), agrees to coordinate, monitor and administer a family day home service.

Operating under the legal authority of the *Child Care Licensing Act*, the [Family Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta](#) describes the roles, objectives, responsibilities and expectations for the Child and Family Services region, agency and approved family day home provider. Approved family day home agencies recruit, monitor and support family day home providers according to the standards. Agencies may be non-profit or for-profit.

Maximum capacity

Approved family day home providers may accommodate a maximum of six children 0 to 12-years-old in each private residence, including the provider's own children. A maximum of three children may be 36 months or younger and a maximum of two children may be 24 months or younger.

In a licensed group family child care home, two providers care for a maximum of ten children, of which not more than three may be under three years of age, and not more than two may be infants (24 months or younger). The licence holder must ensure that where seven or more children are present at a program, whether on or off the program premises, two care providers are on duty.

Monitoring and enforcement

Through its contract with a Child and Family Services Region, a family day home agency is responsible for complying with the agency standards and monitoring compliance to the provider standards. Provincial staff monitor each agency and also randomly select a minimum of 10% of the agency's active homes to visit annually. The minimum ministry-wide monitoring requirement for agencies is once annually in each contract term.

Approved family day home agencies are required to monitor all providers with both scheduled and unscheduled visits at least six times per year. Agency staff, referred to as family day home agency consultants or home visitors, monitor compliance utilizing a standard Government of Alberta checklist to ensure adherence to the provider standards. Under the Family Day Home Standards, agency staff responsible for monitoring approved family day home providers must be certified at minimum as a Child Development Worker. The consultants work closely with both family day home providers and parents.

As group family child care is a licensed category, they are subject to the Child Care Licensing Regulations. Inspection visits are intended to ensure all licensed child care programs adhere to the *Child Care Licensing Act and Regulation*. Licensed child care programs will generally receive a minimum of two licensing inspections during a 12 month period. However, if non-compliances are identified or incidents/complaint investigations take place, licensing staff may complete additional inspections as required for follow up.

Refer to Alberta's *Child Care Licensing Act and Child Care Licensing Regulation* for additional information.

Family day home provider qualification requirements

Family day home providers must be 18 years of age, have a criminal records check including a vulnerable sector search, and have completed a first aid course.

The [Family Day Home Standards Manual](#) requires that direct care providers receive training in such areas as child development, child guidance and employing appropriate culturally sensitive strategies. Family day home agencies are required to develop an appropriate training plan based on the needs of their providers and families, on topics such as first aid, health and safety, child guidance and cultural sensitivity.

In the group family child care program, the licence holder must be certified at minimum as a Child Development Assistant and ensure that each additional child care provider is certified at minimum as a Child Development Assistant (see certification table).

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Alberta does not differentiate between non-profit and for-profit child care programs in terms of funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Eligible families using regulated and approved child care services may have all or some of their fees paid. Subsidies are paid to the child care program on the parent's behalf. Eligibility and the amount of subsidy funding depend on the number of individuals in the household; a family's gross income; the age of the child attending child care; and type of care.

Subsidies are available to all eligible low-income families who meet the required income test, who demonstrate the need for care child care (i.e., employment and/or schooling); and have secured a regulated space. Families must secure a space before applying for a subsidy.

Subsidy rates may not cover full fees; centres and family day home agencies are permitted to surcharge above the subsidy rates.

Note: Fee subsidies are available for preschool attendance in the Stay-at-home-parent program.

Fee subsidy rates

Monthly child care subsidy rates for eligible families living in all Alberta regions except the Northeast Alberta Region (2016).

Program type	Age group		
	Infant 1-18 mos.	Toddler 19 mos.- Kinder.	Grades 1-6
Day care/out-of-school care	\$628	\$546	\$310
Family day home and group family child care	\$520	\$437	\$310
Extended hours	\$100	\$100	\$100
Stay-at-home parent (max. per year)	\$1,200	\$1200	NA
Kin child care	\$400	\$400	\$200

One-time funding

Professional Development Grant

This grant is available to eligible certified staff to enable them to obtain higher levels of certification and attend approved conferences and workshops relating to early learning and child care. Certified Child Development Assistants and Child Development Workers in both levels of accreditation are eligible for up to \$1,000/year.

Child Care Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance

This funding is intended to reduce labour market pressures in child care by supporting the recruitment of qualified staff to the profession. Certified Child Development Workers and Child Development Supervisors in both levels of accreditation are eligible for \$2,500 if they are a new staff person and \$5,000 if they are a returning staff. This funding is also considered a "wage" under the *Alberta Employment Standards Code*.

Recurring funding

Infant Care Incentive

The Infant Care Incentive is a per-space amount paid to regulated child care programs. It pays \$150/month for each child under 19 months of age who is in more than eight hours of care in that month. Regulated programs were receiving payments for an average of approximately 4,000 infants/month in 2014/15.

Northern Allowance (Former Oil Sands Strategy)

Under the former Alberta Oil Sands Strategy, a northern allowance is still in place to help stabilize the child care sector in the Wood Buffalo region of Alberta through additional funding to support recruitment, retention and professional development of staff. This funding is intended for staff working in licensed day care centres, licensed out-of-school care programs and contracted family day home agencies located in Fort McMurray. The allowance includes a monthly flat-rate payment to staff (in addition to the provincial accreditation wage top-up) and access to an additional \$500 per year for professional development.

Accreditation funding for child care programs

Accreditation funding is paid to eligible child care programs (licensed child care and out-of-school care programs as well as approved family day home agencies). Programs are responsible to transfer funding to the staff in accordance with the Alberta Employment Standards and policies set out in the guide. The accreditation criteria include a commitment to meet the accreditation standards at all times, to continue work on quality improvement in accordance with the strategies set in Quality Enhancement Plans (QEP), annual reviews through submission of evidence to [AELCS](#), and subjection to unannounced status verification visits.

Types of accreditation funding include: Staff/Provider Support Funding, Benefit Contribution Grant, Professional Development Grant, and the Staff Attraction Incentive.

Staff/Provider Support Funding

This funding provides a wage top-up for eligible paid program staff/providers over and above the base wage paid by the employer. Wage top-up funding is paid to the child care program, which distributes it to staff members. Rates vary by type of child care program and level of staff certification. The wage top-up is considered a “wage” under the *Alberta Employment Standards Code*. Overviews of funding rates by program type are available at the link provided above. Rates for staff working in day care centres are provided below as an example:

	<i>Pre-accredited centres</i>	<i>Accredited centres</i>
<i>Day care staff</i>		
Child Development Assistant	\$1.44/hr	\$2.14/hr
Child Development Worker	\$2.70/hr	\$4.05/hr
Child Development Supervisor	\$4.42/hr	\$6.62/hr

Benefit Contribution Grant

Grant provided to child care programs to offset the costs of the mandatory provincial and federal employer contributions associated with the wage top-up funding and the child care staff attraction incentive allowance including statutory pay, vacation pay, Employment Insurance (EI), Canada Pension Plan (CPP), and Workers Compensation Board (WCB) premiums. This grant supports 16% of Staff Support Funding and 16% of Child Care Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance.

Other funding

Kin Child Care Funding to pay for child care by a non-custodial relative of up to \$400 per month is available to eligible low- and middle-income families with children under the age of seven and not yet attending Grade 1, and up to \$200 for school-age children (Grades 1-6).

ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015/2016)

Fee subsidies

Day care centres	\$89,000,000
Family day homes	\$14,000,000
Preschools-Stay-at-Home parent support	\$1,250,000
Out-of-school care	\$34,802,000
Extended hours	\$250,000
Total fee subsidies	\$139,302,000

One-time funding

Staff certification	\$972,000
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Recurring funding

Accreditation funding	\$101,182,000
Infant care incentive	\$8,000,000
Family day home agency contracts	\$6,437,000
Specialized child care (includes Inclusive Child Care)	\$5,782,000
Northern Allowance	\$2,169,000
Total recurring funding	\$123,570,000

Total regulated child care	\$263,844,000
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Other funding

Parent Link centres	\$26,210,000
Home visitation	\$9,896,000
Kin Child Care	\$2,200,000

ALLOCATIONS FOR CHILD CARE (2015/2016) AS
PER [ALBERTA HUMAN SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT
2015/2016](#) (p. 72)

Accreditation Funding Program	\$101,182,000
Child Care Subsidy and Supports	\$191,401,000
Program Planning and Delivery	\$4,314,000
Total allocation for child care	\$296,897,000

Source: Alberta. Ministry of Human Services. Year ended March 31, 2016.

Preschool-Stay at Home Parent Support: Eligible families who have one parent who stays at home or works, volunteers or attends school less than 20 hours per week may qualify for a child care subsidy of up to \$1,200 per year.

Oil Sands Strategy: Northern living allowance: additional funding to support recruitment, retention and professional development of staff paid to licensed day care centres/out-of-school care programs and contracted family day home agencies in Fort McMurray.

Kin Child Care Funding: Available for eligible parents who pay a non-custodial relative to care for their child in a private, non-regulated arrangement (see description above).

British Columbia



OVERVIEW

Responsibility for BC's early childhood education and care is split among three ministries:

- Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD): Child care policy and funding programs, including child care subsidies; operating funding; major and minor capital funding; the ECE Registry; and Indigenous child and family supports.
- Ministry of Health (HLTH): Child care licensing, with monitoring carried out through local health authorities.
- Ministry of Education (EDUC): Kindergarten, StrongStart BC Early Learning Programs and the Ready, Set Learn initiative.

British Columbia introduced full day kindergarten for five-year-olds in 2010. All public schools are now required to provide the program. BC also funds private schools but these are not required to provide full day kindergarten.

A variety of regulated child care programs (sometimes referred to as “facilities” in BC) for children 0-12 years old are provided, including programs outside regular school hours for school-aged children. Of BC's centre-based spaces (full and part day), 51.4% (48,470 spaces) are operated on a non-profit basis, with 48.6% (45,767 spaces) operated on a for-profit basis. There are no municipally or other publicly operated child care programs identified.

All services may receive all forms of funding—operating funds (CCOF), fee subsidies, and one-time-only (capital funding). BC also provides parent fee subsidies in unregulated child care.

Licensed family child care for up to seven 0-12-year-olds is provided by individually licensed family child care providers. BC terms unregulated child care providers caring for a maximum of two children or a sibling group “Licence Not Required” (LNR). Local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) offices offer a voluntary registration process for LNR providers to become “Registered LNR providers”. These unregulated providers receive a higher child care subsidy rate than licence-not-required providers that are not registered.

A May 2017 general election brought a change of government to BC, with a minority New Democratic Party supported by the Green Party forming government in June. Child care was featured in the election campaign. The NDP and the Greens both committed to significant policy changes in child care and—after forming government—to building universal child care over a 10-year period. [Significant changes](#) to child care funding introduced in April 2018 will modify some of the material in this section.

In February 2018, British Columbia entered into a three year bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada. British Columbia will receive almost \$153 million dollars over three years from federal funds. The funds will contribute to initiatives including accessibility, quality improvement and under served communities. Further details are available [online](#).

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	39,400
1	40,900
2	42,600
3	38,200
4	44,600
5	47,600
6	43,500
7	49,100
8	46,200
9	48,300
10	48,600
11	44,900
12	41,200
Total	575,000

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	122,900
3-5	130,400
6-12	321,800
Total	575,100

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	21,900
1	23,700
2	27,800
3	23,000
4	27,500
5	29,300
6	26,700
7	30,000
8	29,500
9	33,000
10	30,500
11	31,200
12	29,700
Total	363,800

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	73,400
3-5	79,800
6-12	210,600
Total	363,800

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	75,600	67.8
3-5	56,800	73.5
6-15	176,200	81.1

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	14,485	6,510	195	440	150
5-9	16,535	6,730	210	555	165
10-14	15,945	7,365	135	380	135
Total	46,970	20,605	540	1375	450

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	189,370	27,840	23,210	4,625
5-9	188,900	43,695	34,845	8,850
10-14	177,910	50,970	40,475	10,490

Language spoken most often in home, by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	174,715	990	33,270	11,485
5-9	196,320	930	25,465	14,045
10-14	194,470	780	23,695	14,735
Total	565,505	2,705	82,435	40,280

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
81,298	27,621	33,024	26,967

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks. An additional six weeks is available to the birth mother if she is unable to return to work for health reasons related to the birth or pregnancy.

Parental leave

Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken maternity leave; must be taken immediately following maternity leave. Thirty-seven weeks if parental leave is taken by the other parent or by a birth mother who has not taken maternity leave. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care. Parental leave must be taken within 52 weeks of the child's birth.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care.

Family-related leave

Five days per year.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week; the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education
PO Box 9158 STN ProvGovt
4th floor, 620 Superior Street
Victoria, BC, V8W 9H1
Telephone: (250) 516-4589

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

School Act R.S.B.C 1996] c.412.

Independent School Act [R.S.B.C. 1996] c. 216.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old on or before December 31 of the relevant school year.

COMPULSORY

Attendance is not compulsory.

HOURS

Full school-day.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT (2015-16)

Public schools	38,147
Independent schools	6,429
Total kindergarten enrolment	44,576

CLASS SIZE

A provincial class size limit is specified in the *School Act*, which sets the maximum average aggregate size for kindergarten at 19.1 students. Maximum class size is 20 students.

See [Overview of Class Size and Composition in British Columbia Public Schools 2016/17](#).

SPECIAL NEEDS

The schools section 106.3 (5) of The *School Act* provides the legal authority for special needs funding. A student must qualify for special needs funding through appropriate assessment and identification, and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place.

Supplemental funding for the following is per the current year's [operating grant manual](#).

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Elementary school teachers (which includes kindergarten teachers) must have completed 30 credits of general coursework in areas related to the BC elementary curriculum. These 30 credits must include three of each of the following: Canadian studies, mathematics and science.

There are no ECE requirements.

CURRICULUM

[British Columbia Kindergarten-Grade 12 Curriculum](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Per kindergarten pupil	Not available
K-12 per-student funding (2014/15)	\$11,216

2015-16 OPERATING FUNDING
(based on kindergarten enrolment)

Kindergarten in public schools	\$309,955,861
Kindergarten in independent schools	\$25,200,000
Total kindergarten funding	\$335,155,861

Note: Independent (private) schools receive public funding in British Columbia

OTHER

StrongStart BC is an early childhood play-based drop-in program under the Ministry of Education. It operates in all 60 school districts for children 0-5-years-old. It requires that children be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver and is provided at no cost. StrongStart BC is intended to prepare children for kindergarten.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Child Care Programs and Services
PO Box 9953, STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9R3
Telephone in Greater Victoria or outside BC: (250) 356-6501

Elsewhere in BC call toll-free: (888) 338-6622

[Website](#)

Ministry of Health
Community Care Facility Licensing
PO Box 9638 STNProvGovt
Victoria BC
Telephone: (250) 952-1847

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Community Care and Assisted Living Act, S.B.C. 2002, Chapter 75; *Child Care Licensing Regulation 332/2007*.
Child Care Subsidy Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 26; *Child Care Subsidy Regulation 74/97*.
Child Care BC Act, S.B.C. 2001. Chapter 4.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: two children or one sibling group of any age, not including children related to the caregiver. This category is referred to in BC as "licence-not-required" (LNR). The *Child Care Subsidy Regulation* specifies that LNR care is in the provider's own home.

A registered licence-not-required (RLNR) provider must be registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral program and must meet specific registration requirements established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Unlicensed care provided in the child's own home is in a different category. Care in the child's own home is subject to the same rules as LNR, restricting maximum group sizes to two children or one sibling group.

Child-minding

Unlicensed child care offered to immigrant families who are attending programs in respect of English as Second Language, settlement or labour market integration under a government-funding contract (funded either by the Government of Canada or British Columbia). The parent(s) must be attending courses on the same premises as the child-minding service and must be immediately accessible at all times to attend to the child's needs. Maximum group size: 24 children based on age calculation (a child younger than 12 months counts as 2.5 children).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Centre-based child care—under 36 months

Centre-based care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 12 children from birth to 36 months.

Centre-based child care—30 months to school-age

Centre-based child care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 25 children.

Centre-based child care—school-age

Centre-based child care outside school hours, including during school vacations for children attending school. It may be provided for no more than 13 hours/day, for no more than 24 children (if kindergarten or Grade 1 children are present) and for no more than 30 children (if all children are in Grade 2 or higher).

Multi-age child care

Centre-based child care by an early childhood educator to groups of eight children of various ages. No more than three children may be under 36 months, and no more than one child may be younger than 12 months.

Preschool- 30 months to school-age

Part day, centre-based programs for preschool-age children for no more than four hours/day per child, for no more than 20 children.

Family (home) child care

Child care in a private home for no more than seven children aged birth to 12-years-old including the provider's own children under the age of 12. No more than three

children may be under 48 months, with no more than one child younger than 12 months. If no children under 12 months are present, then a provider may care for four children under 48 months, with no more than two under the age of 24 months.

The care provider must reside in the same location as care is provided.

Occasional child care

Occasional or short term child care for children who are at least 18 months old, for no more than 40 hours in a calendar month per child. Maximum of 16 children if a child under three years of age is present and a maximum of 20 children if all children are three years of age or older.

In-home multi-age care

Child care in a private home for no more than eight children, aged birth to 12 years including the provider's own children under the age of 12. No more than three children may be under 36 months, and no more than one child may be younger than 12 months.

The care provider must be an early childhood educator, and reside in the same location as care is provided.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The [Early Learning Framework \(ELF\)](#) is a document developed by British Columbia's Ministry of Education, but its use is not a mandatory requirement for child care programs.

It can be used in a variety of early learning environments; including kindergarten, StrongStart BC programs and child care settings, preschools and other early childhood development or child health programs, and by parents/families. Free online training modules are publicly available for early years professionals providing care for children between the ages of 0-6-years-old. Additionally, post secondary programs may teach pre-service ECEs using the ELF as a foundational document.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Supported Child Development (SCD) program assists families and child care providers to fully include children needing extra support in typical child care settings. Services include individualized planning, training, information and resources, referrals to other specialized services and when required, extra staffing supports.

The program serves children from birth to 12-years-old, with services for youth 13 – 19 years old available in some communities.

In 2016, there were 49 community agencies providing SCD Consultant Services for families and extra support staff for children in child care settings.

In addition, there were 49 Aboriginal SCD (ASCD) programs; 39 of these programs are within Aboriginal agencies both on and off-reserve, with an additional 10 ASCD programs with non-Aboriginal contractors in BC. Participation is voluntary and SCD services are provided at no charge to parents but parents are responsible for child care fees. Families who are eligible for the child care subsidy program are provided with an additional special needs supplement of up to \$150 per month towards the cost of child care by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to assist families whose child has a designated special need.

The Supported Child Development [website](#)
The Aboriginal Supported Child Development [website](#)

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Child care services in Indigenous communities on-reserve are licensed and funded by the province through the same programs available to non-Indigenous facilities, parents, and providers.

A number of post secondary educational institutions deliver ECE training with an Indigenous focus. In addition, the provincial government provides funding to the [British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society \(BCACCS\)](#) to provide training and workshops, resource and referral services to Indigenous child care providers.

As of March 2016, the number of licensed, funded child care facilities located in Indigenous communities on-reserve, or who reported a First Nation contract type as part of their application for Child Care Operating Funding was 201 (177 organizations).

The number of licensed, funded child care spaces was 5,831. (These are included in the overall count of child care spaces for British Columbia).

Note: The above Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) data is as of March 2016. The funding and number of spaces provided to First Nations and Indigenous child care may be under-reported since child care providers are not required to provide this information to the ministry.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 2016)

<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age group or program	Full day	Part day	Total
Group child care (<3 years)	9,840	-	9,840
Group child care (30 months > school-age)	28,897	-	28,897
Preschool	-	19,917	19,917
School-age (including kindergarten)	-	32,720	32,720
Emergency care	-	-	0
Special needs	-	-	0
Group multi-age child care	2,368	-	2,368
Total centre-based spaces	41,105	52,637	93,742
<i>Total regulated home child care spaces</i>			12,160
Total regulated child care spaces			105,902

Note: This table shows the number of licensed centre-based child care spaces that received Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) as of March 2016. Information on the number of child care spaces that do not receive CCOF is not available and is not included in the totals. The majority of licensed child care providers in the province receive this operating funding. Therefore, the figures may not directly align with the totals.

Children with special needs in regulated and unregulated child care (2016)

10,700

Note: This represents children receiving special needs support through the Supported Child Development (SCD) program in both regulated and unregulated child care. The number of children receiving SCD services in regulated child care only is not available.

Children receiving fee subsidies in regulated child care (March 2016)

Age group	Total monthly average
Under three years	3,158
Three-four years	7,251
School-age (includes kindergarten-age children)	4,683
Total children subsidized	15,092

Note: Age group is based on children's actual age. Depending on date of birth and age at the start of kindergarten, some four-year-olds may already be attending school-age programs (children with late birthdays will be four years old at the start of kindergarten) and some five-year-olds may attend child care programs (children with birthdays prior to September may attend child care between January-August as a five-year-old.)

Number of child care programs (March 2016)

<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day (0-three years; three-five years)	1,507
Part day nursery schools/preschools (30 months-school entry)	1,005
After-school programs	1,141
Multi-age	296
Total centre-based programs	2,932
<i>School-based child care centres (included in total centre-based)</i>	
For children younger than school-age	498
For school-age children (includes kindergarten-age children)	523
<i>Number of licensed home child care providers</i>	<i>1,700</i>

Note: This table shows the number of licensed centres and home child care providers that received Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) as of March, 2016. Information on the number of licensed child care programs that do not receive CCOF is not available and is therefore not included in the totals; however, the majority of licensed child care providers in the province receive this operating funding. Program types cannot be summed to get the total number of centre-based programs as facilities may offer more than one care type and be double counted. School-based centres include those in both public and independent schools.

Sponsorship of part and full day centre spaces (March 2016)

	<i>Full day</i>	<i>Part day</i>
Non-profit	17,308	31,162
For-profit	24,292	21,475

Sponsorship of part and full day centre spaces (by age group and type) (March 2016)

<i>Non-profit</i>		
Age group	<i>Full day</i>	<i>Part day</i>
Group child care (under 36 months)	3,961	-
Group child care 30-months-school-age	12,489	-
Preschool	-	11,486
School-age	-	19,676
Emergency care	-	-
Special needs	-	-
Group multi-age child care	858	-
Total centre-based non-profit spaces full and part day	17,308	31,162
Total centre-based non-profit spaces	48,470	

Sponsorship (continued)

<i>For-profit</i>		
Age group	<i>Full day</i>	<i>Part day</i>
Group child care (under 36 months)	5,879	-
Group child care 30 months-school-age	16,408	-
Preschool	-	8,431
School-age	-	13,044
Emergency care	-	-
Special needs	-	-
Group multi-age child care	2,005	-
Total centre-based for-profit spaces full and part day	24,292	21,475
Total centre-based for-profit spaces	45,767	

Parent Fees

Parent fees are not set by the province. They are established by individual child care providers and vary depending on the type of care, age of child, and community.

In 2015/16, the Child Care Provider Profile Survey reported the following median monthly fees for licensed, funded centre-based child care facilities in BC:

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Median monthly centre fees</i>
Infant	\$1,000
Toddler	\$953
30 months-five years	\$755
Preschool (three days)	\$180
Preschool (five days)	\$320
Out-of-school (kindergarten)	\$400
Out-of-school (Grade 1+)	\$315

Source: The 2015/2016 Child Care Provider Survey conducted by the provincial government.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included the following British Columbia cities:

<i>City</i>	<i>Median monthly Fees</i>		
	<i>Infant</i>	<i>Toddler</i>	<i>Preschooler</i>
Vancouver	\$1,321	\$1,325	\$950
Richmond	\$1,200	\$1,210	\$875
Burnaby	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$850
Surrey	\$995	\$950	\$750

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from licensed centre-based child care and licensed family child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size	Not specified	
Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratio</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
Under 36 months	1:4	12
30 months-school entry	1:8	25
Preschool (part day)	1:10	20
Kindergarten-Grade 1	1:12	24
Above Grade 1	1:15	30
Multi-age	1:8	8

Required ECE staff qualifications for centres

Centre-based child care, under 36 months

Each group of four or fewer children requires one infant/toddler educator.

Each group of five to eight children requires one infant/toddler educator and one early childhood educator.

Each group of nine to 12 children requires one infant/toddler educator, one early childhood educator and one assistant.

Centre-based child care, 30 months to school-age

Each group of eight or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.

Each group of nine to 16 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant.

Each group of 17 to 25 children requires one early childhood educator and two assistants.

Preschool, 30 months to school-age (part day)

Each group of 10 or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.

Each group of 11 to 20 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant (some exceptions apply where there is an approved parent education program).

School-aged centre-based child care

Staff are termed “Responsible adults” and must be at least 19 years of age; be able to provide care and mature guidance to children; have completed a course or a combination of courses of at least 20 hours in duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition; and have relevant work experience.

Otherwise, there are no early childhood training requirements.

Occasional child care

These staff are termed “Responsible adults” and must be at least 19 years of age; be able to provide care and mature guidance to children; have completed a course or a combination of courses of at least 20 hours duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition; and have relevant work experience.

Otherwise, there are no early childhood training requirements.

Multi-age care

Each group of eight children requires one early childhood educator. No more than three children in each group may be younger than 36-months-old and no more than one child may be younger than 12-months-old.

Child-minding

No early childhood training requirements.

All staff must be “of good character”.

Certification of early childhood educators

There are four categories of certification for an early childhood educator that define the qualifications of staff in the above program types.

Early childhood educator

Successful completion of a basic early childhood education training program with a minimum 902 hours of instruction and training in: child growth and development; program development; curriculum planning and foundations; family, community resources and communications; health, safety and nutrition; and practicum. This training is to be completed at a recognized post secondary educational institution. In addition, a written reference from an educator and completion of 500 hours of supervised work experience are required.

One year early childhood educator certificate

Same certification as above. However there is no requirement to submit a reference or complete 500 hours of supervised work experience. This certificate is only valid for one year and may only be renewed once.

Infant and toddler educator

Must qualify for an early childhood educator certificate and have successfully completed a specialized, post-basic program that includes 250 hours of instruction in advanced child growth and development, working with infants and toddlers, working with families, administration, advanced health, safety and nutrition, and a 200-hour infant/toddler practicum. This training is to be completed through a post secondary educational institution recognized to offer the post-basic program.

Special needs early childhood educator

This level requires completion of the basic early childhood education program that includes 250 hours of instruction in advanced child growth and development; working with children with special needs; working with families; administration; advanced health safety and nutrition; and a 200-hour special needs practicum. This training is to be completed through a post secondary educational institution recognized to offer the post-basic program.

Assistant early childhood educator

This category requires successful completion of one course of a basic early childhood education training program from a recognized post secondary ECE program in one of the following three areas: child growth and development; child guidance; or health, safety and nutrition. To renew certification, ECE Assistants are required to complete one additional course that is part of a recognized post secondary ECE program and 400 hours of work experience relevant to early childhood education every five years.

Other

A staff person termed a “responsible adult” must be at least 19 years of age; be able to provide care and mature guidance to children; have completed a course or a combination of courses for at least 20 hours in duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition and have relevant work experience.

Certificates issued for early childhood educators, infant/toddler educators or special needs early childhood educators are valid for five years. To renew the certificate, the individual must have completed 40 hours of professional development and 400 hours of work experience, both relevant to early childhood education, within the previous five years.

If there are concerns regarding the practice of a licensed early childhood educator, a special needs educator, an infant/toddler educator, or an assistant, the Director of the Early Childhood Educator Registry has the authority to investigate and take action on a certificate, including the placing of terms and conditions, suspension or cancellation. In all cases, early childhood educators or assistants are entitled to a hearing and appeal process.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

If any child younger than 12-months-old is present, a responsible adult caring for seven or fewer children in a personal residence can have no more than three children younger than 48-months-old. Of those three, no more than one child may be younger than 12 months. If no child younger than 12-months-old is present, a responsible adult caring for seven or fewer children in a personal residence can have no more than four children younger than 48-months-old. Of those four, no more than two children may be younger than 24-months-old.

If the licensee is an early childhood educator, he or she may operate a multi-age child care home, in which the licensee may care for no more than eight children in his or her personal residence. No more than three of those children may be younger than 36-months-old and no more than one child may be younger than 12-months-old.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

All family child care providers have at least one comprehensive licensing inspection conducted by their local health authority every 12-18 months. An initial inspection by the local fire authority may be required when a new licensed family child care facility opens.

Family child care provider requirements

Providers do not need to be certified early childhood educators unless they are operating an in-home multi-age care program.

Providers must be at least 19 years of age, be of good character, have a valid first-aid certificate, be able to provide care and mature guidance to children, have completed a course or combination of courses of at least 20 hours in child development, guidance, health and safety or nutrition and have relevant work experience.

A criminal records check must be completed for any person over the age of 12 who will be ordinarily present at the facility.

FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Fee subsidies are available to families in all licensed child care settings: family child care home, child care centre or preschool and in some unregulated arrangements: registered licence-not-required, licence-not-required (both in the provider's home) and in the child's own-home care except by someone who is a relative of the child or a dependent of the parent and who resides in the child's home.

Subsidies are available to all eligible families who qualify. Families may be eligible for a full or partial subsidy only up to a maximum income level, depending on factors such as: the family size, age of the children and type of child care setting. The full subsidy rates are based on the age of the child, the type of care, and the number of hours in care.

Subsidy rates may not cover the full fees, in which case the child care provider may charge the parent the difference between the full child care fee and the amount of subsidy received. In specific circumstances, the Child Care Subsidy Program may cover the total cost of care; for example if child care is arranged or recommended by staff delegated under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* or the child care is provided for a parent participating in a Young Parent Program.

Fee subsidy rates

	<i>*Four hours or less daily</i>		<i>**More than four hours daily</i>	
	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Monthly</i>
Licensed centre (group) care				
G1 (0-18 mos.)	\$18.75	\$375.00	\$37.50	\$750.00
G2 (19-36 mos.)	\$15.90	\$317.50	\$31.75	\$635.00
G3 (37 mos. but not school-age)	\$3.75	\$275.00	\$27.50	\$550.00
G4 (school-age)	\$10.38	\$207.50	\$20.75	\$415.00

Four hours or less daily* *More than four hours daily*
Daily *Monthly* *Daily* *Monthly*

Licensed family child care

J1-L Family (0-18 mos.)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
J2-L Family (19-36 mos.)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
J3-L Family (37 mos. but not school-age)	\$13.75	\$275.00	\$27.50	\$550.00
J4-L Family (school-age)	\$10.38	\$207.50	\$20.75	\$415.00

Licensed preschool

N1 (30 mos. but not school-age)	\$11.25	\$225.00	-	-
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Subsidy rates for unregulated (LNR) child care

F1-LNR Family (0-18 mos.)	\$10.95	\$219.00	\$21.90	\$438.00
F2-LNR Family (19-36 mos.)	\$10.10	\$202.00	\$20.20	\$404.00
F3-LNR Family (37 months +)	\$8.85	\$177.00	\$17.70	\$354.00

Subsidy rates for unregulated (LNR) child care

R1-R Family (0-18 months)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
R2-R Family (19-36 months)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
R3-R Family (37 months but not school-age)	\$13.75	\$275.00	\$27.50	\$550.00
R4-R Family (school-age)	\$10.38	\$207.50	\$20.75	\$415.00

Subsidy rates for in-child's-own-home child care

H1-1st child (0-18 months)	\$9.85	\$197.00	\$19.70	\$394.00
H2-1st child (+18 months)	\$7.95	\$159.00	\$15.90	\$318.00
H3-2nd child (0-18 months)	\$4.95	\$99.00	\$9.90	\$198.00
H4-each additional child (including 1st child of school-age if another child in the family, younger than school-age, is in category H1 or H2)	\$3.68	\$73.50	\$7.35	\$147.00
L2-school-age except if considered the 'additional child'	\$8.75	\$175.00	\$10.50	\$210.00

Subsidy rates for care surrounding school-day

Four hours or less daily* *More than four hours daily*
Daily Monthly Daily Monthly

L2—all children of school-age except children in child's-own-home child care considered the 'additional child'

\$8.75 \$175.00 \$10.50 \$210.00

* Unless both before-and after-school care is provided.

** Both before-and after-school care is provided.

One-time funding

Child Care Minor Capital Funding

Available to help licensed centre-based non-profit child care providers maintain quality services for families in their communities (i.e., emergency repair, replacement and relocation).

Licensed centre-based, non-profit child care providers may receive up to \$2,000 per facility for:

- Emergency upgrades or repairs to existing facilities
- Emergency replacement of furnishings and equipment necessary to comply with the Child Care Licensing Regulation
- Relocation costs when a child care facility is moving to another location

Those eligible for the funding include non-profit societies in good standing with the BC Corporate Registry, local governments, public institutions, bands/tribal councils and First Nations governments. Occasional child care, child minding and family child care licensees are not eligible to receive Child Care Minor Capital Funding.

Child Care Major Capital Funding

Supports costs associated with the creation of new licensed non-profit and for-profit child care spaces excluding occasional child care, child minding and residential care. The province opened the first application intake period for the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program in May 2014. Under this program, child care operators could apply to receive up to a 90% provincial contribution for the creation of licensed child care spaces located on school grounds and up to a 75% provincial contribution for all other projects.

Non-profit organizations could receive up to a maximum of \$500,000 and for-profit organizations a maximum of \$250,000.

Recurring funding

Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)

Direct operating funding that assists eligible, licensed centre-based and regulated family child care providers with the cost of providing child care. Amounts are based on enrolment, number of hours per day care is provided and the age and type of child care. The daily rates below are set by the government. CCOF is not available for Occasional Child Care and Child Minding.

Non-profit and for-profit child care providers are treated the same way vis-à-vis operating funding.

CCOF rates are based on the estimated cost of providing child care in different settings. Monthly payments are determined by multiplying the daily rates below by the total number of children enrolled in a facility, with a maximum sum available.

CCOF daily rates for centres by age group and hours of attendance

Group child care: Rates for providers with a group or multi-age group licence for more than eight children, or if the facility is in a location other than a personal residence.

<i>Rate category</i>	<i>Four hours or less</i>	<i>More than four hours</i>
Under 36 months	\$6.00	\$12.00
3 years to kindergarten	\$2.74	\$5.48
Grade 1 to 12 years	\$1.40	\$2.80
Preschool	\$1.37	\$1.37

CCOF daily rates for family child care by age group and hours of attendance

Family child care: family, in-home multi-age or multi-age child care licence for eight or fewer children in their principal residence.

<i>Rate category</i>	<i>Four hours or less</i>	<i>More than four hours</i>
Under 36 months	\$1.85	\$3.70
3 years to Kindergarten	\$1.41	\$2.82
Grade 1 to 12 years	\$0.73	\$1.46

Supported Child Development Program (SCDP)

Available in both regulated and unregulated child care. Assists and covers consultation, training and extra staffing required to support children with extra support needs who attend child care. Some communities have targeted some of the funds towards improving access for Indigenous families.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED
CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies in regulated child care	\$80,690,000
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One-time funding

Major capital	\$6,330,000
Minor capital	\$382,000

Recurring funding

Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)	\$85,745,000
Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) (see note)	\$58,254,000

Total regulated child care	\$231,401,000
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Other funding

Child Care Resource and Referral	\$9,821,000
Child care fee subsidies in unregulated child care	\$28,350,000

Note: Spending for children accessing supports through the Supported Child Development Program includes expenditures for children attending both regulated and unregulated settings.



Northwest Territories



OVERVIEW

Regulated child care, junior kindergarten (JK) and kindergarten in the Northwest Territories are under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Early Childhood Development and Learning (ECDL) division. The ECDL operates the Early Childhood Program (ECP) funding to support early learning and child care programs under the *Child Day Care Act* and is responsible for licensing, monitoring and subsidizing programs.

Territorial implementation of junior kindergarten (JK) began in the 2017-18 school year. [Prior to 2017-18](#), JK was piloted in small communities. Education Authorities can choose to offer JK as a full day or part day program; most are full day. Kindergarten for five-year-olds may be full or part day; most are full day.

All regulated child care programs are non-profit. With the introduction of JK, the Education Authorities no longer offer user-pay preschool programs for four-year-old children. Regulated family child care homes are termed licensed family home day care facilities and are licensed individually.

The NWT does not have a stand-alone child care subsidy program. Parents must qualify for the territorial [Income Assistance Program \(IA\)](#) under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, which provides financial assistance towards the cost of child care for its clients. In order to qualify, applicants must meet all other eligibility requirements of the IA program.

In 2015, ECE completed a [review](#) of the administrative and funding processes of the Early Childhood Program (ECP), as identified in the *Right from the Start Framework and Action Plan* for early childhood development in the NWT.

Effective October 1st, 2016, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment revised the ECP funding model. Changes to the ECP funding model include:

- Revising ECP operating funding model, increased rates and reduction from 10 areas to two zones;
- Consolidating licensing and funding applications into a single application form and the possibility of a multi-year funding agreement;
- Eliminating Start-up and Minor Health and Safety funding;
- Increased funding for operators within government buildings;
- Rebranding the Healthy Children Initiative (HCI) funding stream as the Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP), with a phased-in approach (base funding to be introduced in 2019-20 for all licensed centers and unlicensed programs in communities without a licensed centre; in addition, proposal-based funding for those that meet the eligibility criteria).

In March 2018, the [Canada-Northwest Territories Early Learning Agreement](#) was signed by the two parties. It will provide almost \$7.5 million over three years to NT to contribute to quality improvement, training, professional development, accessibility and affordability, among other initiatives.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,900
3-5	1,900
6-12	4,200
Total	8,000

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,100
3-5	1,200
6-12	2,900
Total	5,200

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	1,095	260	400	35	0
5-9	1,120	235	405	10	0
10-14	1,125	230	370	20	10
Total	3,335	725	1180	60	0

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Not available

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	2,420	605	490	115
5-9	2,180	700	550	150
10-14	1,905	660	505	230

Language spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	2,875	65	115	60
5-9	2,770	45	125	65
10-14	2,460	45	145	75
Total	8,105	160	385	195

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be shared between the parents. Fifty-two weeks is the maximum allowed for combined maternity and parental leave.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the [Employment Insurance program](#) (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit, that allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Although the federal parental benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot be paid for the Extended option until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have already changed.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Early Childhood and School Services
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 920-3491

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, R.S.N.W.T. 1995, c. 28.

The legislation applies to public schools.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Four-years-old by December 31 for junior kindergarten.
Five-years-old by December 31 for kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT (2016)

Junior kindergarten: 100 students

Kindergarten: 785 students

COMPULSORY

Junior kindergarten and kindergarten are not compulsory. Access is a legislated entitlement.

HOURS

Education Authorities can choose to offer either a full day or a part day program or both. A majority of the JK/K programming offered is full day. Funding is provided to Education Authorities through the School Funding Formula. Education Authorities are required to offer a minimum of 485 instructional hours for JK/K programming.

CLASS SIZE

There is no class size limit. Class sizes and configurations vary across the territory and are determined at the discretion of the Education Authority and local school principal.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A Bachelor of Education or a two year diploma in early childhood from an accredited institution is required to teach junior kindergarten. Junior kindergarten teachers are required to be certified by the Registrar.

A Bachelor of Education is required to teach kindergarten. There are no ECE requirements.

CURRICULUM

[NWT Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten Curriculum](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2015-2016)

\$13,025 (per full time equivalent JK and K student)

Estimated total spending: \$9,352,000

Source: Territorial government child care Standards and Regulations.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Early Childhood and School Services
Lahm Ridge Tower, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 920-3491
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. Northwest Territories [Child Day Care Act and Standards and Regulations](#) 1988 (2013).

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Maximum number of children permitted: Four including the caregiver's own children up to 12 years.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Centre day care facility

Group care, instruction and supervision provided in a place other than a private residence.

Preschool day care

Part time day care provided for a child two years of age or older that is not enrolled for the full day in a school operated under the *Education Act*.

Family day home facility

A child day care facility where day care is provided within the private residence of the operator. It may include up to eight children under 12 years including the caregiver's own children.

Out-of-school day care

Day care provided following completion of the daily school program for a child who is in regular attendance at a school operated under the *Education Act*.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

An early learning framework is in development and will be completed by March 2019.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. The NT child care Standards and Regulations state that a centre day care facility must modify the daily program to ensure that any child is able to participate and also obtain any specialized equipment required for the child to participate.

Licensed child care providers are supported with higher operating grants for children with special needs through the ECP Operating Subsidy. Documentation from a health care professional must be provided.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

The Northwest Territories is composed of Dene, Métis and Inuvialuit (Inuit) communities. The majority of community-based programs are available to all children equally.

Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs are the only programs targeted specifically to Indigenous children. However, they may include non-Indigenous children if capacity allows. There are eight AHS programs in the NWT.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (2016)	
<i>Age group</i>	<i>Number of part and full day spaces</i>
<i>Centre-based</i>	
Infant (0-2 years)	130
Preschooler (2-5 years)	892
After-school (6-12 years)	434
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>	1,456
<i>Family child care</i>	
Infant (0-2 years)	80
Preschooler (2-5 years)	160
After-school (6-12 years)	80
<i>Total family child care spaces</i>	320
Total number of regulated spaces	1,776
<i>Note: All centres are licensed for full time spaces even though many operate as part day nursery schools/playschools. Of the 1,052 preschooler spaces for children aged 2-5 years, 279 operate as part day spaces.</i>	
Children with special needs in regulated child care	
Information not available.	
Children receiving fee subsidies (2016)	
Information not available.	
The Northwest Territories does not provide stand-alone child care user subsidies. However, the Income Assistance (IA) program provides financial assistance toward the cost of child care for clients. In order to qualify, applicants must meet all other eligibility requirements of the IA.	
Number of child care programs	
<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day centres	32
Part day nursery schools/preschools	16
Stand-alone school-age centres	16
<i>Total centre-based programs</i>	64
<i>School-based child care centres</i>	
For preschool-age children	21
For school-age children (included in centre-based)	13

Family child care

Individually licensed family child care providers 40

Sponsorship of part and full day centre spaces

All centres are currently non-profit and family day homes are also considered to be non-profit.

Parent fees

The average monthly parent fee for full time centre-based care varies from free of charge up to \$1,380 for an infant and free of charge up to \$1,170 for a preschooler. In regulated family day homes, the average monthly parent fee is \$1,000 for an infant and \$900 for a preschooler.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size	Not specified	
Staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
0-12 months	1:3	6
13-14 months	1:4	8
25- 35 months	1:6	12
3 years	1:8	16
4 years	1:9	18
5 years	1:10	20

Centre staff qualification requirements

Primary staff must be at least 19 years of age and have a certificate in first aid and infant/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation. All staff must provide a criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector search prepared by the RCMP.

Primary staff must have successfully completed a post-secondary program (minimum of a one year certificate) in child development satisfactory to the Director or demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director an understanding of developmentally appropriate practices in respect of children and the ability to apply that understanding to the operator's child day care program.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Maximum of eight children under 12 years (including the provider's own children). No more than six of the eight children may be under six years of age, and no more than two children may be under two years.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Homes are visited at least once a year by staff from the Early Childhood Program and a representative from each of the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) Environmental Health Officer and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' (MACA) Office of the Fire Marshall. Licences are usually issued in conjunction with annual inspections.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

A provider must be a minimum of 19 years of age and have a certificate in first aid and infant/child cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. The operator and all adults that live in the home must provide a criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector search prepared by the RCMP. Must undertake training in relation to child development and care on an annual basis through appropriate courses, seminars or workshops and retain documentation respecting attendance at such training.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Non-profit licensed early childhood centres and family day homes including part time, infant, after-school and special needs spaces are eligible for public funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

The NT does not provide a stand-alone child care subsidy. The Income Assistance (IA) program offers financial support to IA applicants to assist them with their child care expenses so that they can participate in the labour force, or pursue education and training opportunities in the NWT. In order to be eligible for the child care benefit, applicants must:

- Require care for children under the age of 13 because both parents are participating in the labour force or attending school or training.
- Provide monthly invoices from the child care provider.
- Provide receipts showing the child care has been paid, if the provider is not being paid directly, for continued eligibility.

IA daily subsidy rates

	Licensed (\$)	Unlicensed (\$)
Infant (0-1 years)	\$42	\$33
Children (2-12 years)	\$39	\$28
Preschool/pre-kindergarten		
with extended care (3-4 years)	\$39	NA
Part time (0-5 years)	\$26	\$13
After-school (5-12 years)	\$15	\$8

Recurring funding

Operating funding

Available to non-profit licensed early childhood centres and family day homes. Ranges from \$14.17-\$19.81/per occupied preschool space/day, depending on the location of the program.

For infants/children with special needs it is \$35.75-\$49.66/per occupied space/day, depending on the location of the program.

For out-of-school spaces it is \$4.72-\$5.01 per occupied space/day, depending on the location of the program.

Programs that operate part time receive half the full day rate.

Family day homes and licensed early childhood centres receive the same rates in operating funding.

The Early Childhood Staff Grant

The purpose of the Early Childhood Staff Grant is to increase the earnings of staff in licensed early childhood centres and to offer an incentive to attract new professionals to the early childhood workforce. It is paid directly to the staff person.

Employees eligible for this grant must:

- Be a permanent employee of a licensed early childhood centre;
- Provide care, assistance and supervision of children as part of their usual job duties or provide on-site supervision of the daily operation of the program.

The following table outlines the grant amounts for eligible employees based on the amount of hours worked per quarter and the level of early childhood post-secondary education (PSE) completed:

	100-234 hrs/worked quarter (8-18 hours/wk)	235-351 hrs/worked quarter (18.5-27 hrs/wk)	354-468 hrs/worked quarter (27.5-36 hours/wk)	469 + hrs/worked quarter (37 + hrs/wk)
No early childhood PSE	\$600	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500
Early childhood certificate	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000
Early childhood diploma	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Early childhood degree	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000

Note: For example, if an employee who has not completed a post-secondary early childhood program worked 35 hours/week during April–June, she/he will qualify for a grant of \$1,200 for the 1st quarter grant payment.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies

Income Assistance program funds	NA
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One-time funding

Start-up contributions	\$52,321
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Recurring funding

Operational contributions	\$2,265,829
Rent and mortgage contributions	105,805
Minor health and safety renovations	133,279
Healthy Children Initiative	1,641,042
Small Community Initiative	\$289,000

Total regulated child care	\$4,487,276
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OVERVIEW

Nunavut’s regulated child care and kindergarten are the responsibility of the Department of Education.

Kindergarten is a part day program for all five-year-olds.

Regulated child care programs for children aged 0-12 are all non-profit. Individually licensed family child care homes are called “family day homes” in Nunavut and are considered non-profit.

The Department of Education’s Early Learning and Child Care Division is responsible for promoting early childhood development, licensing and monitoring early childhood facilities, and developing linguistically and culturally appropriate early childhood resources. Regional offices act as liaisons between non-profit providers and the Early Learning and Child Care Division to administer applications and coordinate services.

Nunavut, previously part of the Northwest Territories, is the result of a land claim agreement that took effect April 1st, 1999 and is considered to be entirely Indigenous land. There are no reserves. Nunavut’s population is predominantly Inuit.

Nunavut signed a bilateral agreement on early learning and child care with the Government of Canada on September 20th, 2017. [The agreement](#) allocates just over \$7M over three years to Nunavut’s child care, with a focus on providing more spaces, professional development opportunities for the workforce and greater incorporation of Nunavut’s official languages into programs.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016, annual averages)

Age	Number of children
0-2	2,600
3-5	2,300
6-12	4,700
0-12	9,600

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	900
3-5	1000
6-12	2,200
0-12	4,100

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	10	15	3,800	10	0
5-9	15	10	3,865	10	0
10-14	10	10	3,240	10	0
Total	35	25	10,905	30	0

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Not available

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	2,970	1,045	780	260
5-9	2,905	955	745	210
10-14	2,305	785	555	230

Language most often spoken in home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	1,860	40	2,195	60
5-9	1,775	30	2,235	70
10-14	1,515	15	1,825	55
Total	5,155	90	6,255	180

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
65,109	21,824	11,168	24,309

FAMILY RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be shared between the parents. If a woman takes both leaves, the leaves are to be taken consecutively to total a maximum of fifty-two weeks of combined maternity and parental leave.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit. The new option allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Although the federal parental benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot be paid for the Extended option until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have already changed.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Curriculum and School Services
Department of Education
P.O. Box 1000, Station 960
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Phone: 867-975-5666

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. 2014.

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under regional school operations and is a part day program.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old by December 31 of the school year.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT

807 children.

COMPULSORY

Attendance is not compulsory but most children attend. Access to kindergarten is legislated and it is an entitlement.

HOURS

The requirement is for no fewer than 485 and no more than 570 instructional hours per year and no more than six hours per day.

CLASS SIZE

There is no class size limit.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Kindergarten teachers must hold a valid Nunavut teaching certificate, requiring a four year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) or a two year post degree Bachelor of Education After Degree (BEAD).

Kindergarten certification requires a two year program in ECE, successful completion of two academic years of classroom teaching, and completion of courses for one year of teacher training, or a Letter of Authority—which requires one year ECE or some course work towards a B.Ed. and must be renewed annually.

Most kindergarten teachers have a B.Ed. or Letter of Authority as a Language Specialist, which means that they speak an Inuit language. All but five kindergarten classes are in Inuit languages. A kindergarten teacher who has only a Language Specialist qualification (Letter of Authority) must be participating in teacher training.

CURRICULUM

[Kindergarten curriculum guides](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available

K-12 per pupil spending - Not available

REGULATED CHILD CARE

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education
Government of Nunavut
Early Childhood Division
Box 1000, Station 920
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Telephone: (867) 975-5600
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act and Child Day Care Standards and Regulations*, 1994.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: Four, including the caregiver's own children up to 12-years-old.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Group care, instruction and supervision for five or more children aged 0–12 years by a person who is not a relative of the majority of the children.

Nursery schools/preschool

Programs for children under six years of age for four consecutive hours or less per day, including Aboriginal Head Start Programs, which are licensed by the territory.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children, up to and including 11 years of age.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

None

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. Centres and other care providers are funded through daily operating grants to provide the necessary supports, which are based on the age of the child and the area in which the centre is located. The operating grant for a preschool child is increased by approximately 50% for a child with an identified special need and is an entitlement. A letter from a recognised health care professional may be required for the centre to receive the additional funding.

In addition, centres may apply for funding from the Healthy Children’s Initiative (HCI) for adaptive equipment or for a one-on-one worker if necessary. The HCI has two arms, Community Initiatives and Supportive Child Services. The former provides funding for the enhancement of a variety of early childhood programs and services whereas the latter provides funding for individual children requiring intensive or specific support.

Parents are eligible for fee subsidy for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. This subsidy eligibility requires a financial needs assessment and parents must have a medical referral from a recognised health care professional for the child to be in developmental care.

[Inuit Children with Special Needs: Perspectives of Early Childhood Educators](#)

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Nunavut is the result of one land claim agreement that took effect April 1st, 1999. As a result, the whole territory is now considered to be Indigenous land. There are no reserves.

There is an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) regional office in each of Nunavut’s three regions, each of which is responsible for the delivery and administration of the Inuit child care programs and funding by the federal First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) program.

First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI)—a facet of ASETS Nunavut—aims to provide child care for First Nations and Inuit children (0-6) whose parents are beginning new employment or participating in a training program. FNICCI operates under a mandate to increase the number of spaces while offering quality child care programming in collaboration with elders. Services are intended to be rooted in the cultures and languages of the Indigenous communities they serve. Since 1995, FNICCI has provided capital and start-up funding for the development of approximately 59 centres in Nunavut.

In addition to providing capital funding for new child care centres, all child care centres with the exception of Aboriginal Head Start programs may receive block funding from ASETS.

ASETS may also provide one-time funding for repairs

and renovations and for developing or acquiring culturally relevant program materials. In addition, ASETS may provide wage subsidies based on the number of Inuit staff in a centre and fee subsidies to parents who are land claim beneficiaries. These fee subsidies are in addition to the regular fee subsidy funded through Early Childhood Services. ASETS offices have also provided funding for training in each region, including the delivery of ECE training through Arctic College.

Additionally, there are seven Aboriginal Head Start programs funded by the federal government.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (2016)

<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infant (under two years)	155	-	155
Preschool-age (two years-school entry)	468	276	744
School-age (kindergarten-12 years)	-	137	137
<i>Family child care</i>			
Infant (under two years)	2	-	2
Preschool-age (two years-school entry)	4	-	4
School-age (kindergarten-12 years)	-	2	2
Total number of regulated spaces	629	415	1044

Children with special needs in regulated child care

Information not available.

Children receiving fee subsidies in regulated child care

The number of children is not available, but 104 families received subsidies through the Daycare User Subsidy, and 70 families received subsidies through the Young Parents Stay Learning program. These are in addition to fee subsidies provided to land claim beneficiary parents through the ASETS program (see Indigenous child care section above).

Number of child care programs

<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day centres	27
Part day nursery schools/preschools	15
Stand-alone after-school programs	6
Total number of centre-based programs	48

<i>School-based child care centres</i>	
For preschool-age children	12
For school-age children (included in centre-based)	4
<i>Family child care homes</i>	1

Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces

All child care centres in Nunavut are non-profit. Family child care homes are considered to be non-profit as well.

Parent fees

Average daily parent fees for centre-based care

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Full time fees</i>	<i>Part time fees</i>
Infants	\$35.12	\$18.82
Preschoolers	\$34.95	\$18.83
School-age	-	\$18.80

Note: This information comes from the application for Program Contributions collected each year.

Maximum staff: child ratios and group size for mixed-age groupings

<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff:child ratio</i>	<i>Max.group size</i>
0–24 months	1:4	8
2–5 years	1:8	16
5–11 years	1:10	20

Centre staff qualification requirements

There are no early childhood training requirements.

Staff must be at least 19 years of age, have an awareness of early childhood development theory, have an awareness of the basic health and safety measures, have up to date immunizations, provide a doctor's note documenting good health if needed, have a first aid certificate, and submit to an RCMP Security Clearance. It is also detailed in the *Child Day Care Act* that staff must be able to communicate with and be accepted by the children, as well as representing the cultural background of the children.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: not specified

Maximum staff: child ratios and group sizes for individual age groups

<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratio</i>	<i>Max. group size</i>
0–12 months	1:3	6
13–24 months	1:4	8
23–25 months	1:6	12
3 years	1:8	16
4 years	1:9	18
5–11 years	1:10	20

Maximum room size

<i>Age</i>	<i>Max. number of children in a room</i>
0–12 months	9
13–24 months	12
25–35 months	18
3 years	25
4 years	27
5–11 years	30

At least two staff must be on duty when there are more than six children being cared for.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

The provider may care for a maximum of eight children under 12-years-old, including the provider's children. No more than six of the children may be younger than five-years-old, no more than three children may be younger than three years, and no more than two children may be younger than two years.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Homes are visited at least once a year by staff from the Early Childhood Program, as well as a representative from each of the Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office.

Provider qualification requirements

There are no early childhood training requirements.

Providers must be at least 19 years of age, have an awareness of early childhood development theory, have up to date immunizations, provide a doctor's note stating good health, have a first-aid certificate, submit to a RCMP Security Clearance, and represent the cultural background of the children.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Funding is only available to non-profit, regulated centres and family day homes except fee subsidies, which may be used in unregulated child care.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee Subsidies

Daycare User Subsidy (Administered by the Department of Family Services)

Fee subsidies may be used in both regulated and unregulated child care.

Subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents if the child care is a regulated service unless the child care centre requests that the subsidies be paid directly to the parent.

In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent and is based on an attendance report signed by the child care provider. An unregulated provider may be a relative of a parent of the child being subsidised.

To qualify for the Day Care Subsidy, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age, with a child who is 12-years-old or younger, be employed and/or attending a training or education program or have a child with a special need for whom child care is recommended by a recognised health care professional. Eligibility is determined by a needs assessment, which takes into consideration parent costs and family size, as well as income.

Maximum subsidy rates are set for each type of care. There is no minimum user fee and programs may surcharge subsidised parents.

Fee subsidy rates

Maximum monthly amounts per child

Licensed child care (full time)	\$700
Licensed family day care (full time)	\$600
Unlicensed (full time)	\$500
Licensed child care (part time)	\$350
Licensed family day home care (part time)	\$300
Unlicensed child care (part time)	\$250
School-age (part time)	\$145

Young Parents Stay Learning Program (Administered by the Department of Education)

Since June 2009, all parents who are working toward a high school diploma may be eligible for child care subsidy under this program regardless of their age. Students under 18 who are attending a post secondary institution within Nunavut may also be eligible.

Eligibility for Young Parents Stay Learning does not require a needs test. The parent must use regulated child care if available; unregulated care may be approved in certain circumstances.

Maximum rates and payments in the Young Parents Stay Learning are the same as the regular subsidy rates. The parent's school attendance records are sent to the early childhood officer along with the child's attendance records; there is an expectation that the parent will be attending school unless he or she is ill or has an excused absence. Parents may apply for subsidy in person, by mail, or by fax.

One-time-funding

Start-up funding

Available to non-profit, regulated centres and family day care homes including part time, infant, after-school, and special needs spaces. Funding ranges from \$300-\$3,420/space depending on the geographic area of the program and the ages of the children served.

Security and Safety Funding

The Security and Safety Funding program was developed and implemented in the fall of 2014. Each licensed facility is eligible once every three years for up to \$40,000. This money is allocated for upgrades and repairs that contribute to security and safety features.

Recurring funding

Operating funding

An allocation of \$2.42-\$17.25 per occupied space per day (depending on the age of the child and the location of the program) is available to non-profit, regulated centres and family day care homes.

Other funding

Healthy Children Initiative

The Department of Education offers funding to early childhood programs (licensed and unlicensed) and additional programs and services for individual children aged 0–6-years-old who require extra supports to reach their full potential. Funding is available for community programs or for individual children. Programs eligible for funding can support children with special needs in a variety of ways and may take a variety of forms: parent and child groups, parenting workshops, equipment, and expert services, etc.

District Education Authority—Early Childhood Education Inuit Language Funding

The Nunavut Education Act states that District Education Authorities (DEAs) shall provide funding for early childhood programs that promote fluency in the Inuit language and knowledge of Inuit culture. DEAs are able to access funding to support existing early childhood programs (licensed and unlicensed) that promote Inuit language and culture, or they can get funding to create and operate their own early childhood education programs.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies

Daycare User Subsidy	\$502,000
Young Parents Stay Learning	\$170,000

Note: Fee subsidy budgets include spending on both regulated and unregulated child care.

One-time funding (Security & Safety Funding) \$833,000

Recurring funding

Start-up and operating grants	\$2,150,000
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Note: A breakdown between one-time start-up and ongoing operating grants is not available.

Total regulated child care \$3,655,000

Other Funding

Healthy Children Initiative	\$908,000
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Note: This funding is for early childhood programs to enhance the development opportunities of children 0 to 6-years-of-age. This can be used for licensed or unlicensed early childhood programs.

DEA-ECE Language/Cultural Funding	\$1,000,000
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Yukon Territory



OVERVIEW

Regulated child care is under the aegis of Health and Social Services, whereas kindergarten is the responsibility of the Department of Education and part of the public school system.

Kindergarten part day or full day is offered to children who are five-years-old as of December 31st of the school year. Yukon Education supports early learning and early intervention by offering kindergarten programs but attendance is not mandatory.

There is a full day Early Learners program for four-year-olds at the Whitehorse Francophone School and in some rural communities there are part day Early Learners programs for four-year-olds (3.8 years old as of September).

Regulated child care for 0-12 year olds is for-profit and non-profit with for-profit services predominating. There are no publicly operated programs.

Regulated family child care homes are termed “family day homes” and are individually licensed.

In February 2018, the [Canada-Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#) was signed by the territory and federal government. It will provide \$7.2 million over three years to Yukon to contribute to quality improvement, training, professional development, accessibility and affordability, among other initiatives.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,300
3-5	1,200
6-12	2,700
Total	5,200

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	900
3-5	900
6-12	2,100
Total	3,900

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	455	65	0	30	10
5-9	555	85	30	20	0
10-14	540	70	25	20	10
Total	1,550	215	55	75	15

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child)

Not available

Language spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	1,915	80	70	60
5-9	1,905	80	70	55
10-14	1,810	55	75	55
Total	5,635	215	220	180

Living arrangements by age of child by age by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	1,735	355	290	70
5-9	1,500	515	385	130
10-14	1,350	565	430	130

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
101,376	37,683	44,032	36,779

FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS

Maternity leave

This entitlement applies to biological mothers who have worked continuously for an employer for at least 12 months, provided that the employer is notified four weeks prior to taking the leave. The leave period consists of up to seventeen weeks of unpaid maternity leave.

Parental leave

Parental leave is up to thirty-seven weeks and can be taken by biological and adoptive mothers and fathers. Parents who share a parental leave cannot take their leave simultaneously under ordinary circumstances. This applies whether or not they work for the same employer. Applicants must provide written notification to the employer four weeks prior to taking leave.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents. As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week (2017); the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Government of Yukon
Department of Education
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-5141
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, 1990.S.Y. c.25. Last updated December 31, 2016.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Age eligibility for kindergarten in the Yukon territory, as denoted in the *Education Act*, includes those children who are five-years-old as of December 31st of the school year. Children must be four-years-old, as of December 31st of the school year to attend the Early Learners programs.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT

Rural 84
Urban 361
Total 445

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is not compulsory.

HOURS

Kindergarten programming is up to approximately five hours a day.

CLASS SIZE

Mean class size in 2015/2016: 16

Full day classes are capped at 18 students as per the collective agreement between the Yukon Government and Yukon Teacher's Association.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A kindergarten teacher must have teacher certification, which requires a B.Ed. or a bachelor's degree plus an approved program of teacher preparation of not less than one academic year.

There are no ECE requirements for kindergarten teachers.

CURRICULUM

As of September 2017, the Yukon Department of Education adopted the British Columbia curriculum, which is geared towards skill development and experiential learning with the student at the centre. The curriculum also draws on Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing. More information on kindergarten can be found on the [website](#).

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available

Spending per student K-12 (est). (2013-2014) \$18,803
Source: [Government of Yukon Annual Report](#) (2014)

REGULATED CHILD CARE

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Child Care Services Unit
Yukon Health and Social Services
Government of the Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-3492
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Act*, 1990.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Centre Program Regulation, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. Family Day Home Program Regulation, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. School-Age Program Regulation, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Subsidy Regulation, 1995.

Note: Sections of the child care regulations have been repealed, amended or replaced. See Child Care Act, Tab 121.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed family child care

A maximum of three children not including the provider's own children is permitted.

Preschools

Programs for children aged three-to-six years-old operating for less than three consecutive hours are not required to be licensed.

Camps

A program for children that has a primary purpose other than providing child care and operates for a period of 12 consecutive weeks or less is exempt from the *Child Care Act*.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centres

Group care for less than 24 hours a day for four or more children, up to and including 12 years of age, in a place other than a preschool, a school-age program or a family day home.

School-age child care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 12 years-old.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for mixed age groups with no more than four infants; or six children with no more than three under 18 months; or eight children all over 18 months. Four additional school-age children may be in attendance with an additional staff member with the above numbers. The provider's preschool children are included in the above numbers; their own school-age children are exempt from the maximum number of children permitted.

Indoor space requirements must also be met with no less than four square meters of useable space provided per child in attendance.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

None

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Child care regulations state that children with disabilities in regular child care programs must be integrated to the fullest extent possible. A child is designated as living with a disability upon assessment by a child care professional.

An individual program plan must be developed for the child in consultation with staff, parents and professionals in the community, outlining goals and objectives for the child.

There are no segregated regulated child care programs for children with disabilities.

Funding is available for centres and family day homes through the Supported Child Care Fund and is based on the individual needs of the child. Funding may be provided for adaptive equipment, transportation, programming support and additional staff.

Fee subsidies for families are allocated on the basis of an income test, family size, and community. Once the family is deemed eligible, they will receive a fee subsidy for their child with disabilities to attend a child care program. This is also an option for parents not in the workforce. Parents who are not eligible for a subsidy pay for the child care space but not for the additional supports.

The Whitehorse Child Development Centre provides special needs programming and supports across the Yukon. It operates a licensed integrated preschool program. The CDC also provides early intervention supports and resources to families of children with disabilities.

Additionally, they operate a mobile outreach unit that serves every community in the territory with support and resource provision.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

There are no reserves for First Nations people in the Yukon.

First Nations communities receive the same start-up and operating grants from the Yukon government as others operating licensed child care centres and family day homes. Parents who use regulated centres and family child care homes are eligible for fee subsidies.

In total, there are 277 regulated spaces operated by First Nations in nine child care centres.

There are also four Aboriginal Head Start programs.

SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 2016)

Number of regulated child care spaces	
<i>Centre-based (licensed capacity)</i>	
<i>Age</i>	
Infants (up to 18 months)	86
Toddlers (18-36 months)	227
Preschool (36 months-Grade 1)	471
School-age	154
Total regulated centre-based spaces	1232
<i>Total number of occupied centre-based spaces</i>	938
<i>Family child care</i>	207
Total number of regulated child care spaces	1439
<i>Note: The calculations here use licensed capacity, not occupied spaces, to be consistent with previous years and other jurisdictions.</i>	
<hr/>	
Children with special needs in regulated child care	
(estimated)	37
<hr/>	
Children receiving fee subsidies	434
<hr/>	
Number of child care programs	
<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day centres	34
Stand-alone after-school programs	2
Total centre-based programs	36
<i>School-based programs</i>	
Preschool-age children (included in total centres)	1

<i>Family child care</i>	
Individual family child care providers	23
Sponsorship of regulated full day centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	431
For-profit	802
Parent fees (2016-2017)	
<i>Average monthly parent fees for centre-based full time care</i>	
Age group	
Infants (0-17 months)	\$796
Toddlers (18 months-3 years)	\$709
Preschoolers (3-5.11 years)	\$693
School-age (before school/lunch/after school)	\$362

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size:	64 spaces	
Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
Up to 18 months	1:4	8
18 months- 3 years	1:6	12
3 years to kindergarten	1:8	16
Grade 1 to 12 years	1:12	24

Centre staff qualification requirements

There are three levels of designation for child care workers in the Yukon Territory. Legislation requires that 20% of staff must meet or exceed Child Care Worker III qualifications and an additional 30% must meet Child Care Worker II qualifications. The rest (50%) must meet Child Care Worker I qualifications. The classification criteria for each designation are described below.

Child Care Worker I: 60 hour introduction to early childhood development course (ECD) or equivalent.

Child Care Worker II: One year of training in ECD or equivalent from a recognized college or university.

Child Care Worker III: Two or more years of training in ECD or equivalent from a recognized college or university.

Note: These three levels of designations correspond to five levels of training completed. A description of these can be found [here](#).

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

The Yukon Department of Health and Social Services licenses individual family child care operations.

Maximum capacity

No more than four infants or six children with no more than three under 18 months; or eight children all over 18 months. Four additional school-age children may be attendance with an additional staff member with the above numbers.

Indoor space requirements must also be met with no less than four square meters of useable space provided per child in attendance. The provider's preschool-age children are included in the above numbers; their own school-age children are not.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family child care homes are regulated by the *Child Care Act* and family day home regulations. They receive a minimum of one annual inspection and three unannounced spot checks per year to monitor for compliance with the regulations.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

Caregivers must complete a 60 hour introductory early childhood development course and a specific family day home course or equivalent within the first year they provide care for children.

Caregivers must be 18 years of age, have valid first-aid certification, a medical note, a TB test, a record of immunization status and a criminal records check.

FUNDING

All regulated child care programs are eligible. Both non-profit and for-profit programs may receive funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Subsidies may be used in any regulated for-profit or non-profit regulated service. Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined through an income test, family size and the community where the applicant resides. Subsidies may be used for part time child care.

Subsidy is an entitlement for all eligible families; there is no cap on the number of subsidised spaces. To be eligible, parents must be gainfully employed, actively seeking employment, attending/preparing to attend an educational institution, undertaking medical treatment or have a special need (themselves or their child), as assessed by a professional. Subsidy is also available when child care is recommended by a child protection service, approved on the basis of an individual assessment of special needs of the family or child by a qualified professional, or when emergency child care services are required to meet a short-term family crisis. Parents seeking employment may be eligible for part time child care for two months.

Fee subsidy rates

Subsidy rates are determined by the age of the child; the number of hours the child attends a child care service; and whether or not they have special needs. A table offering specifics for the maximum subsidy rates is available below and on the government's [website](#).

Maximum subsidy rates

Category/Age	Monthly hours in child care	Maximum monthly subsidy
Infant (0-18 months*)	100 or >	\$688
Toddler (19-36 months)	100 or >	\$622
Preschool-age (37-59 months) (including half time kindergarten) (or 71 months if in half day kindergarten)	100 or >	\$578
Special needs (0-59 months) (infant, toddler, and pre-school) (or 71 if half-day kindergarten)	100 or >	\$688
Full day Kindergarten (60 months +)	< 80 hours	\$330
Kindergarten-summer months (60 months +)	100 or >	\$578
School-age (72 months +)	< 80 hours	\$303
School-age (72 months +) -summer months	100 or >	\$550

There is no minimum user fee. Centre-based programs and family day care homes may surcharge subsidised parent fees above the maximum subsidy rate, in which case the parent/caregiver must pay the difference.

One-time funding

Start-up funding is available to family child care homes of up to \$1,000/home in Whitehorse and up to \$2,000/home in the rest of the territory in areas underserved by licensed child care.

Start-up funding is also available to child care centres to a maximum of \$10,000 for areas underserved by licensed child care.

Enhancement Funding is available yearly to child care programs up to \$5,000 to meet regulatory requirements related to health and safety or playground development and maintenance.

Enhancement Funding is available yearly to family day home programs up to \$500 for the replacement of a major appliance (up to 50% of the cost), for health and safety requirements and for outdoor playspace development and maintenance.

Recurring funding

Operating grants

Operating grants are allocated quarterly, according to a "unit funding" formula that assesses a given centre according to four factors: the age and number of children enrolled, the level of training among staff, whether a hot meal is provided, and the building costs. All licensed non-profit and for-profit child care programs are eligible for an operating grant.

Family child care homes are eligible for the unit and training components of the grant but not the building cost.

Unit funding

Age unit	Max. funding (per month)
Infant	1 staff/4 infants = \$720 With hot meal program = \$776
Toddler	1 staff/6 toddlers = \$795 With hot meal program = \$879
Preschooler	1 staff/8 preschoolers = \$800 With hot meal program = \$912
Kindergarten-age	1 staff/8 kindergarten children = \$640 With hot meal program = \$752
School-age unit	1 staff/12 school-age children = \$1,010 With hot meal program = \$1178

Child care centres and family day home programs receive \$14/child/month if a hot lunch program is provided.

Staff wage funding

Wage enhancement funding is provided to assist with the cost of staff wages based on the level of training held by child care staff. Funding is provided up to a maximum of 40 hours per week, per staff, for actual hours worked.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Hourly rate</i>
Level I	\$1.85
Level IA	\$3.50
Level II	\$4.75
Level IIA	\$6.95
Level III	\$9.00

Note: The above levels of training correspond to the [qualification designations](#) on the previous page.

Building costs

Eligible building expenses are subsidized at \$0.32 per dollar. Eligible expenses include: rent or mortgage, insurance, janitorial wage and supply costs, water/sewer taxes, garbage, snow removal, minor repairs, carpet cleaning, internet, electricity, heating fuel, recurring phone/cell phone costs, security system monitoring, equipment rentals.

Other funding

The Whitehorse Child Development Centre received \$2.3 million from the Government of Yukon to provide a range of services in regulated and unregulated child care.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies	\$1,801,000
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One-time funding	NA
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Recurring funding

Direct Operating Grant (including unit funding)	\$3,984,000
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Supports to children with special needs	\$470,000
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Total regulated child care	\$6,255,000
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Other Funding

Child Development Centre	\$2,306,571
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The Big Picture



TABLE 1

Number of regulated child care spaces by age group and type, percent of children 0-12 years for whom a regulated space was available, and percent of children 0-5 years for whom a part or full day centre space was available. Provinces/territories/Canada total (2016).

P/T	Number of centre-based full and part day child care spaces for children 0-5 years ¹	Number of school-age child care spaces ²	Number of regulated family child care spaces ³	Total number of regulated spaces for children 0-12 years	Percent of children 0-12 years for whom a regulated space was available ⁴	Percent of children 0-5 years for whom a regulated part or full day centre space was available ⁵
NL	6,355	942	862	8,159	12.9	24.3
PE	3,313	1,322	7	4,642	23.2	39.4
NS	13,203	4,297	1,645	19,145	17.0	26.7
NB	12,085	13,623	1,143	26,851	29.2	28.9
QC	193,711	330,002 ⁶	94,151	617,864	55.1	38.4
ON	242,786 ⁷	146,500	16,284	405,570	21.3	29.1
MB	20,877	10,327	3,057	34,261	17.9	23.8
SK	11,057	1,501	1,988	14,546	8.4	13.7
AB	69,603	28,063	11,816	109,482	16.0	22.0
BC	61,022	32,720	12,160	105,902	18.4	24.1
NT	1,022	434	320	1,776	22.2	26.9
NU	899	137	8	1,044	10.9	18.4
YT	784	154	207	1,145	22.0	31.4
CA ⁸	636,157	570,022	143,648	1,350,387	27.2	28.7

1 These figures are not separated into part and full day, as some provinces/territories cannot separate them.

2 At one time, school-age child care was for 6-12 year olds. In recent years, school-age now may include four and five year olds in some provinces; the age categories are not consistent across provinces/territories.

3 Note regulated family child care (FCC) does not use the concept of “spaces” in the same way centres do. The FCC figures usually represent enrolment, not licensed capacity.

4 This calculation uses all regulated child care spaces—centre-based and family child care.

5 The total number of regulated spaces including regulated family child care cannot be used here as most provinces/territories cannot provide age breakdowns in family child care.

6 Data on school-age child care in Quebec was not available in 2010 and 2012; the 2008 figure was used. This means the differences between 2016 and 2014 and earlier years is overly exaggerated and should be used cautiously.

7 This figure in Ontario includes kindergarten-aged children in centres. Although the kindergarten-age child care program in Ontario has changed in recent years (is an identifiable category), kindergarten is included here in the 0-5 category to keep numbers consistent with previous years. Of the 242,786 spaces, 85,014 are identified as kindergarten-age (3.8 yrs-5 yrs).

8 Note inconsistencies in definitions and missing data means the total number of spaces in this table is slightly different from totals in the provincial/territorial sections.

TABLE 2

Selected characteristics of kindergarten programs. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Program title/Age Compulsory? School day	Curriculum framework/s	Workforce requirements
NL	Dept Education and Early Childhood Development	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Non-compulsory Full school day	Completely Kindergarten: Kindergarten Curriculum Guide – Interim Edition	B. Ed. or a B.A. + 1 yr post degree study in education
PE	Dept of Education, Early Learning and Culture	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Compulsory Full school day	Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum Document	B. Ed. with a specialization in early years (as of 2016)
NS	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	<i>Grade Primary</i> : 5-yr-olds Compulsory <i>Pre-primary</i> : 4-yr-olds Non-compulsory Both full school day	Learning Outcomes Framework: Grades Primary-6	<i>Grade Primary</i> : Bachelor’s degree from recognized university with 3 yrs approved content studies, 2 yrs of approved program of professional studies <i>Pre-primary</i> : Team of early childhood educators; 2 yr diploma or university degree required for lead staff, diploma required for 2nd staff.
NB	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Compulsory Full school day	K-12 Anglophone Sector Curriculum K-12 Francophone Sector Curriculum	B. Ed
QC	Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur (MEES)	<i>Maternelle</i> : 5 yr-olds Full school day <i>Pre-maternelle</i> : vulnerable 4-yr-olds Part or full school day Non-compulsory	The Quebec Preschool Education Program (EN , FR) Preschool Education Program for 4-year-olds (EN , FR)	Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education
ON	Ministry of Education	<i>Senior kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds <i>Junior kindergarten</i> : 4-yr-olds Both non-compulsory Both full school day	The Kindergarten Program	Team of 2: Blended model <i>Teacher</i> : B. Ed. Registered with Ontario College of Teachers <i>ECE</i> : RECE with 2 yr ECE diploma

TABLE 2 *continued*. Selected characteristics of kindergarten programs. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Program title/Age Compulsory? School day	Curriculum framework/s	Workforce requirements
MB	Manitoba Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds, some vulnerable 4-year-olds Both non-compulsory Both part day	Manitoba Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. + training in education
SK	Ministry of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds <i>Pre-kindergarten</i> : vulnerable 3, 4 yr-olds Both non-compulsory Both part school day	SK Curriculum: Kindergarten Better beginnings, better futures: Effective practices policy and guidelines for pre-kindergarten in SK	B. Ed., prefer teacher with early childhood for pre-K
AB	Ministry of Education and Children's Services	<i>Early Childhood Services Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds, <i>ECS</i> : 3-4 yr-olds with disabilities Both non-compulsory Both part school day	Alberta Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. or undergraduate degree with basic teacher preparation program (2 year post-degree)
BC	Ministry of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Non-compulsory Full school day	British Columbia Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. or Bachelor's degree + post-graduate teacher training
NT	Dept of Education, Culture and Employment	<i>Senior kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds <i>Junior kindergarten</i> : 4-yr-olds Non-compulsory Part and full school day	NWT Junior Kindergarten/ Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. for kindergarten B. Ed. or 2 year ECE diploma for junior kindergarten
NU	Dept of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Non-compulsory Part school day	Kindergarten curriculum	B. Ed. or Kindergarten Teacher Certificate or Letter of Authority (ECE + 1 year teacher training)
YT	Dept of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds, some 4-yr-olds Non-compulsory Full school day	YT has adapted the BC Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. or bachelor's degree + approved teacher prep program of 1 academic year

TABLE 3

Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
NL	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<p><i>Centre-based care:</i> Full or part day for <13-year-olds</p> <p><i>School-age centre-based care:</i> Provided outside school hours for children <13 yrs.</p> <p><i>Family child care:</i> In provider's home</p>	Early Childhood Learning Framework (in development)	Most regulated child care is for-profit, with some non-profit centres.
PEI	Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture	<p><i>Early learning and child care centres:</i> Full day for children < 13 yrs. Some ELCC centres are designated Early Years Centres by the provincial government.</p> <p><i>Pre-school centres:</i> Centre-based < 4 consecutive hours for children 3 yrs-school-age.</p> <p><i>School-age centres:</i> Centre-based for 5-12 year-olds outside regular school hours.</p> <p><i>Family home centres:</i> In a private residence; up to 6 children, up to full day.</p>	PEI Early Learning Framework: Relationships, Environments, Experiences (2011)	<p>Early Years Centres have additional provincially-defined requirements such as set fees, a salary scale and operational funding.</p> <p>Predominantly for-profit with some non-profits.</p>
NS	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<p><i>Child care centres:</i> Centre-based part day and full day for 0-12 yr-olds.</p> <p><i>Family home day care:</i> In provider's home; max 7 children, depending on age.</p>	Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework (in development)	Mix of non-profit and for-profit.
NB	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<p><i>Day care centres:</i> Part or full time, 0-12 yrs.</p> <p><i>Nursery school:</i> Part day for preschool-aged children.</p> <p><i>School-age child care centres:</i> Centre-based outside school hours <13 yrs.</p> <p><i>Community day care homes:</i> Child care in private residence for 0-12 yrs-old, "approved".</p>	New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care, EN & FR (2008)	Predominantly for-profit, with some non-profit centres.

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
QC	Ministère de la Famille Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES)	<i>Centre de la petite enfance (CPE):</i> Non-profit centres providing educational care for 0-4 yr-olds <i>Gardereries (For-profit centres, 2 types):</i> a) Funded centres with “reduced contribution spaces” (set fees); b) Unfunded centres (no set fees) for which parents can claim tax credits. <i>Service de garde en milieu familial:</i> Care in private residence; up to 6 children to 9-yrs-old (9 children with 2 providers), licensed agency model. <i>Services de garde en milieu scolaire:</i> Child care provided by school boards from pré-maternelle (4 yrs) to 13 yrs <i>Jardins d’enfants:</i> Part day for 2-5 yr-olds	Accueillir la petite enfance (2007)	Preschool-age child care under Ministère de la Famille; school-age is under MEES. For 0-4-yr-olds: approximately half for-profit, half non-profit centres; school-age all publicly operated.
ON	Ministry of Education, Child Care and Early Years Division	<i>Child care centres:</i> Full day for 0-3 yrs <i>Nursery schools:</i> Part day for < kindergarten-age children <i>Licensed home child care:</i> 6 children max., 0-12 yrs, licensed agency <i>Before and after-school programs for K-Grade 6 (4-12 yrs):</i> Provided by licensed program, school board or by third party (licensed centre or authorized recreation program - Grade 1+	How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years (2015)	Municipal-level govt plays key mandated roles in administration, planning, funding. Mix of for-profit, non-profit, small number of public services; non-profit predominates.

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
MB	Department of Families	<p><i>Child care centre:</i> Full day for 0-12 yrs</p> <p><i>Nursery school:</i> Part day centre-based, infants-preschool-age</p> <p><i>School-age child care:</i> Before and after school, children in K-Grade 6</p> <p><i>Family child care home:</i> Care in private residence</p> <p><i>Group child care homes:</i> Care in private residence by 2 or more caregivers, 0-12 yrs</p> <p><i>Occasional child care centres:</i> Child care on casual basis</p>	<p>Early Returns: Manitoba's ELCC Curriculum Framework (2010)</p> <p>Early Returns: Manitoba's ELCC Curriculum Framework for Infant Programs (2012)</p>	Primarily non-profit; small number of for-profit services.
SK	Ministry of Education	<p><i>Child care centre:</i> Group care, up to 90 children, 6 wks-12 yrs</p> <p><i>Teen student support centres:</i> Child care near a high school, for high school students</p> <p><i>School-age child care:</i> Group care outside school hours not in a school; to 13-yrs-old</p> <p><i>Family child care home:</i> In private residence, up to eight children, depending on ages</p> <p><i>Group family child care home:</i> In private residence, caregiver has assistant adult caregiver; up to 12 children</p> <p><i>Teen student support family child care home:</i> Up to six children in private residence. high school student parents</p>	<p>Play and Exploration: Early learning Program Guide (2008)</p> <p>Jouer et explorer, Guide du programme d'apprentissage, Pour la petite enfance (2008)</p> <p>Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers (2010)</p>	<p>Part day preschools not required to be regulated.</p> <p>Almost all regulated services are non-profit, with a few for-profits and a few publicly operated, predominantly in rural areas.</p>

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
AB	Ministry of Education & Children's Services	<p><i>Day care program:</i> Centre for 7 + children up to 5-yrs of age for 4 or more hrs/ day</p> <p><i>Preschool program:</i> Centre, up to 5 yrs of age, no more than 4 hrs/day</p> <p><i>Innovative program:</i> Child care program designed to meet unique needs of community</p> <p><i>Out-of-school care program:</i> For 5-12-yr-olds during out-of-school hrs;</p> <p><i>Family day home:</i> Care in private residence under an agreement with an approved agency to meet provincial guidelines</p> <p><i>Group family child care program:</i> Care in private residence by at least 2 caregivers, no more than 10 children; licensed</p>	<p>Play, participation and possibilities: An early learning and child care curriculum framework for Alberta</p>	<p>Family day homes and agencies are not licensed but approved, group family child care homes are licensed.</p> <p>Mix of for-profit and non-profit services, a few publicly operated or supported programs.</p>
BC	<p>Ministry of Children and Family Development</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p><i>Centre-based child care:</i> Group care for 0-12 yrs, defined by age groups</p> <p><i>Multi-age child care:</i> Centre care, eight children of mixed ages</p> <p><i>Preschool:</i> Part day (no more than 4 hrs/day; 30 months to school-age, no more than 20 children</p> <p><i>Family child care:</i> In a private residence, up to 7 children 0-12 yrs aged birth to 12</p> <p><i>Occasional child care:</i> Short-term care, at least 18 mths, no more than 40 hours in calendar month</p> <p><i>In home multi-age care:</i> In provider's residence, up to 8 children, 0-12 yrs</p>	<p>British Columbia Early Learning Framework (ELF)</p> <p>EN/FR</p>	<p>Ministry of Health licenses; other functions are under Children and Family Development.</p> <p>Fee subsidies are available in unregulated care.</p> <p>Mix of non-profit and for-profit, for-profit predominating.</p>

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
NT	Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Early Childhood Development and Learning division	<p><i>Centre day care facility:</i> Group care not in a private residence</p> <p><i>Preschool day care:</i> Part day for children 2-yr-olds+ not enrolled in full day school</p> <p><i>Family home day care facility:</i> Care in caregiver's private residence, up to eight children under 12 yrs</p> <p><i>Out-of-school day care:</i> Care outside school hours for children in school</p>	In development, expected completion: March 2019	All regulated child care programs are non-profit.
NU	Department of Education	<p><i>Day care centre:</i> Group care, five or more children 0-12 yrs of age</p> <p><i>Nursery school/preschool:</i> Groups care up to 4 hrs/day for children up to 6 yrs</p> <p><i>Family day home:</i> In private residence for up to eight children <12 yrs</p> <p><i>After school care:</i> Care outside school hours for school-age to 12 yrs</p>	NA	All child care programs are non-profit.
YK	Yukon Health and Social Services	<p><i>Child care centre:</i> Children 0-12 yrs-old in a centre in groups of four or more</p> <p><i>School-age child care:</i> Child care during out-of-school hours for school-aged children up to 13 yrs</p> <p><i>Family day homes:</i> In a private residence for mixed age groups</p>	NA	<p>Part day preschools are not required to be licensed.</p> <p>Mix of non-profit and for-profit services, for-profit predominating.</p>

TABLE 4

Minimum post-secondary education (PSE) credentials for kindergarten teachers and staff in full day child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Kindergarten	Full day child care centres		
	Teacher	Director/supervisor	Educators/staff	Comments
NL	B. Ed. or B.A. + 1 year post-degree study in education.	2 year ECE diploma.	Trainee Certification minimum (30-60 hour course), must upgrade to the next level in 5 years. All infant staff require 1 year ECE certificate. Other ages: 1, 1 year ECE per group.	Age group specialization for PSE trained staff Level 1 and above. 30 hrs/yr professional development required to maintain any level of certification.
PE	B. Ed. with early years specialization (required for K-Grade 2)	2 year ECE diploma or degree in ECE or child and family studies.	1 full time staff member in each centre with 1 year ECE certificate.	
NS	<i>Primary:</i> Bachelor's degree from recognized university with 3 yrs approved content studies, 2 yrs of approved program of professional studies. <i>Pre-primary:</i> Team of early childhood educators; 2 yr diploma or university degree required for lead staff, diploma required for 2nd staff.	Approved post-secondary ECE program.	None	2/3 staff in each centre require child care orientation and PSE coursework in specified early childhood area.
NB	B. Ed.	None specified	1/4 staff with 1 year ECE certificate	Director or 1/4 of staff must have 1 year ECE certificate.
QC	Bachelor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education	None specified	2/3 of staff in centre with ECE diploma or 1 year attestation d'études collégiales	Attestation: college study program other than ECE.

TABLE 4 continued. Minimum post-secondary education (PSE) credentials for kindergarten teachers and staff in full day child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Kindergarten	Full day child care centres		
	Teacher	Director/supervisor	Educators/staff	Comments
ON	“Team” model: <i>Teacher:</i> undergraduate degree+ 2 year teacher education with primary/junior specialization; <i>RECE:</i> 2 year ECE diploma.	2 year ECE diploma or have the approval of a director (Ministry of Education).	1 staff with each group of children with 2 year ECE diploma, or the approval of a director of the Ministry of Education.	
MB	B. Ed.	BA from University of Winnipeg with Developmental Studies major or 2 year ECE diploma + recognized degree or specialization.	2/3 of staff with 2 year ECE diploma.	
SK	University degree or equivalent + teacher education (48 semester hours).	2 year ECE diploma or equivalent.	30 percent of staff with 1 year ECE certificate; 20 percent of staff with 2 year ECE diploma or equivalent.	
AB	B. Ed. or undergraduate degree that includes teacher preparation program.	2 year ELCC diploma from a public college or equivalent.	1/4 staff with 1 year ECE certificate or equivalent.	Staff working directly with children 8:30 AM-4:30 PM.
BC	4 year degree + 30 hours course work related to BC elementary curriculum	None specified	For 3 yr olds: 1 staff per group with 1 year certificate + post-basic infant toddler specialization. For groups of 4-12 children: 1 additional staff with 1 year certificate. For 3-5 yr olds: 1staff per group with 1 year certificate.	Infant specialization required w/ infants, toddlers.
NT	B. Ed. or 1 year ECE diploma.	None specified	None	
NU	B. Ed., or 1 year post degree bachelor of education or 2 year ECE + 1 year of teacher training.	None specified	None	

TABLE 4 continued. Minimum post-secondary education (PSE) credentials for kindergarten teachers and staff in full day child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Kindergarten	Full day child care centres		Comments
	Teacher	Director/supervisor	Educators/staff	
YT	B. Ed., or B.A. + 1 year teacher preparation program.	None specified	30 percent of staff with 1 year ECD certificate or equivalent; 20 percent of staff with 2 year ECD diploma or equivalent.	

Note both these professions have additional experience, practice and certification requirements in addition to these minimum post-secondary education credentials. Refer to each provincial/territorial section for further details.

TABLE 5

Regulated family (home) child care: Required ECE training and administrative model. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Required ECE training	Administrative model	Comment
NL	30-60 hour course (Trainee Certification) required; 30 hours professional development required every 3 years.	Both agency model and individual licence.	
PE	30 hour course related to care/ education of infants/preschoolers; 45 hours of approved on-going training required every 3 years.	Individual licence	
NS	Level 1 of Canadian Child Care Federation family child care training.	Agency model	
NB	None	Individual (approved)	Approved, not licensed.
QC	45 hour orientation course; 6 hours per year professional development required.	Agency model includes 2-provider model.	<i>Agencies:</i> Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCCO) usually part of a centre de la petite enfance. Agencies, not providers, are licensed.
ON	None	Agency model	Agencies, not providers, are licensed.
MB	40 hour approved community college course in family child care or ECE within the 1 year.	Individual licence, includes group family child care.	
SK	40 hour course within first year; 6 hour workshops each licensing year. Group family child care providers require 120 hour ECE course.	Individual licence, includes group family child care.	
AB	<i>Agency:</i> must develop training in specified areas. <i>Group family child care:</i> minimum 45 hour course.	<i>2 models:</i> Agencies and group family child care.	Agencies approved, not licensed. Group family child care homes are licensed.
BC	Minimum course or combination of courses in child development, guidance, health, safety, nutrition (20 hours).	Individual licence	
NT	None	Individual licence	
NU	None	Individual licence	
YT	60 hour course in early childhood development and family day home course or equivalent.	Individual licence	

TABLE 6 Characteristics of unregulated child care. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Maximum number of children	Caregiver's own children included?	Additional age limitations?	Are there circumstances under which centre-based programs for 0-5 year olds are exempt from regulation?	Other
NL	4	Including caregiver's own children <13 years.	If all children < 24 months, 3 is maximum	Care for up to 6 children < 9 hours/week or any number of children up to 6 hrs/day for < 8 weeks in a 12 week period exempt.	
PE	6	Including caregiver's own preschool-aged children.	Maximum 2 children if they are < 2 years. Maximum 4 children if they are between 2-4 years. A maximum of 6 children between 5-12 years is allowed.	5 children allowed in mixed-age groupings; 1 child can be < 22 months and 3 children can be between 2-4 years.	
NS	6	Including caregiver's own preschool-age.	Maximum 9 if all children are school-aged (5-years-old as of 12/31 of the school year).	Public school-provided before and after-school programs for children 4-years-old by 12/31 are exempt.	
NB	8	Including caregiver's own children <12 years.	Maximum 5 children 0-12 years; maximum 4 children if all are 2-5 years; max 8 children if all are 6-12 years.		
QC	6	Not including caregiver's own children.		Jardins d'enfants (seven children 2-5 years up to 4 hours/day) operating before October 2005. Haltes garderies (Temporary or occasional group child care).	

TABLE 6 continued. Characteristics of unregulated child care. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Maximum number of children	Caregiver's own children included?	Additional age limitations?	Are there circumstances under which centre-based programs for 0-5 year olds are exempt from regulation?	Other
ON	5 children aged < 13 years	Including caregiver's own children < 6 years. Own children in FDK/Grade 1 included only during summer vacation, March break or PD days if care occurs between 6am-7pm but only 1 child can be < 2 years.	No more than 2 children < 2 years.		An unlicensed care provider cannot operate in more than 1 location.
MB	4	Including caregiver's own children 0-12 years.	No more than 2 children < 2 years.		
SK	8	Including caregiver's own children < 13 years.	Of the 8, no more than 5 may be < 6 years. Of the 5, no more than 2 may be < 30 months.	Preschools operating < 3 hours/day or 3 days/week are regulation-exempt.	Programs for school-aged children operating in schools are exempt.
AB	6	Not including caregiver's own children < 13 years.			
BC	2 (or 1 sibling group of any age)	Not including children related to the caregiver.		A program operating up to 2 hours/day, operated/funded by a municipality.	Care is for 2 children termed "license-not-required". Fee subsidies available in unregulated child care. Child care for immigrant families attending settlement/language programs, where family can be reached during the care for maximum 24 children is permitted (children < 12 months counted as 2.5 children) is exempt.

TABLE 6 *continued*. Characteristics of unregulated child care. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Maximum number of children	Caregiver's own children included?	Additional age limitations?	Are there circumstances under which centre-based programs for 0-5 year olds are exempt from regulation?	Other
NT	4	Including caregiver's own children < 12 years.			.
NU	4	Including caregiver's own children < 12 years.			
YT	3	Not including caregiver's own children.		Preschools for 3-6 year-olds < 3 consecutive hours.	Program whose primary purpose is not "care" operating < 12 consecutive weeks is exempt.

TABLE 7

Median full time monthly parent fees by age group in Canada's largest cities (2016–2017)^{1,2}.

P/T	Infants (\$)		Toddlers (\$)		Preschoolers (\$)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
NL						
St. John's	1,085	1,085	868	955	890	868
PE						
Charlottetown	738	738	608	608	586	586
NS						
Halifax	902	910	820	825	803	823
NB						
Saint John	864	868	738	716	681	694
QC						
Gatineau	179	183	179	183	179	183
Laval	179	183	179	183	179	183
Montreal	164	168	164	168	164	168
Longueuil	179	183	179	183	179	183
Quebec City	179	183	179	183	179	183
ON						
Windsor	977	998	846	879	749	781
London	1,128	1,217	1,075	1,120	977	1,010
Kitchener	1,320	1,325	1,140	1,085	1,031	975
Hamilton	1,150	1,062	1,020	1,052	900	931
Brampton	994	955	1,085	1,128	955	1,050
Mississauga	1,330	1,452	1,111	1,200	986	1,052
Toronto	1,649	1,758	1,375	1,354	1,150	1,212
Ottawa	990	998	1,074	1,109	990	1,009
Markham	1,454	1,150	1,137	1,120	996	1,017
Vaughan	1,363	1,415	1,130	1,150	1,005	1,031
MB						
Winnipeg	651	651	451	451	451	451
SK						
Saskatoon	850	900	750	790	695	710
Regina	785	875	620	635	570	575
AB						
Calgary	1,102	1,250	1,050	1,050	1,010	1,000
Edmonton	835	990	835	891	825	885
BC						
Vancouver	1,321	1,360	1,325	1,292	950	950
Burnaby	1,200	1,250	1,200	1,200	850	840
Richmond	1,200	1,200	1,210	1,200	875	980
Surrey	995	1,050	950	920	750	800

1 These figures include both centres and regulated home child care.

2 See the SOURCES section for the source of the data in this table.

TABLE 8

Percent and number of centre-based spaces by full day and part day that are for-profit. Provinces/territories (2016)¹.

P/T	Number of full day non-profit centre spaces	Number of full day for-profit centre spaces	Total number of full day centre spaces	Number of part day non-profit centre spaces	Number of part day for-profit centre spaces	Total number of part day centre spaces	Total number of centre spaces	Total number of full and part day for-profit centre spaces	% of full day centre spaces that are for-profit	% of part day centre spaces that are for-profit	% of total centre spaces that are for-profit
NL	1,257	4,708	5,965	821	511	1,332	7,297	5,219	79	38	72
PE	859	1,855	2,714	1,049	851	1,900	4,614	2,706	68	45	59
NS ²	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17,500 ³	9,684	NA	NA	55
NB ⁴	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25,708	15,962	NA	NA	62
QC ⁵	92,398	101,313	193,711	305,743	NA	305,743	499,454	101,313	52	0	20
ON ^{6,8}	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	389,286 ⁷	83,969	NA	NA	22
MB	26,339	1,247	27,586	3,375	267	3,642	31,228	1,514	5	7	5
SK ^{9,10}	NA	NA	11,057	NA	NA	1,501	12,558	233	NA	NA	2
AB	11,788	30,183	41,971	29,010	26,125	55,135	97,106	56,308	72	47	58
BC	17,308	24,292	41,600	31,162	21,475	52,637	94,237	45,767	58	41	49
NT ¹¹	NA	NA	1,456	NA	NA	NA	1,456	0	0	0	0
NU ¹²	623	NA	623	413	NA	413	1,036	0	0	0	0
YT	431	802	1,233	NA	NA	154	1,387	NA	65	NA	65

1 Note this information is not available (NA) for all provinces/territories; some do not have a breakdown of part and full day, while in several instances there are no for profit spaces.

2 NS does not breakdown part and full day spaces by auspice. Of NS's 17,500 centre-based spaces, 1,867 for 3-5 year olds and 4,297 for school-age 6-12 years are identified.

3 Of total spaces, NS identifies 7,816 as non-profit and 9,684 as for-profit.

4 NB does not breakdown full and part day spaces by auspice or as a share of total spaces. NB provides an estimate of 9,746 non-profit and 15,962 for-profit spaces,

5 QC does not identify part day spaces for 0-4-year-olds. Part day centre programs (jardins d'enfants) are now required to apply to be licensed). All school-age programs (part day) are operated by schools, thus are not-for-profit.

6 ON does not break down centre spaces for 0-4 year olds by part day/full day operation. Of the 389,286 centre spaces, however, 231,514 spaces are identified as kindergarten-age

and school-age—thus, part day. There would be—in addition—some nursery school (part day) spaces among the remaining 157,772 spaces for 0-4 year-olds.

7 Of ON's non-profit spaces, 5,305 are identified as publicly-operated (municipal).

8 Of ON's total centre-based spaces, 305,317 are identified by the province as not-for-profit, while 83,969 are for profit.

9 SK does not require part day programs for preschool-age children to be licensed, thus all spaces for preschool-age children are full day, while school-age is considered part day.

10 Of SK's total 12,228 centre spaces, 12,325 are identified as non-profit spaces (including 116 spaces identified as municipally operated) and 233 for-profit.

11 All centre-based child care in NT is non-profit and considered to be full day.

12 All centre-based child care in NU is non-profit.

The Long View



TABLE 9
Number of children 0-12 years (rounded estimates in 1000s). Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2016).

P/T	1992		1995		1998		2001		2003		2005		2007		2009		2012		2014		2016	
	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12
YRS	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12
NL	45	63	41	57	34	52	30	46	31	41	29	39	28	37	28	36	30	34	28	37	26	37
PE	12	14	11	14	10	14	10	13	9	13	8	12	9	12	8	11	8	11	9	11	8	12
NS	74	86	70	86	64	89	61	80	55	77	51	75	49	69	53	65	54	61	50	61	49	64
NB	57	72	56	70	51	68	49	63	46	63	44	58	40	56	44	52	44	51	41	50	42	50
QC	502	655	565	627	527	646	460	656	443	634	435	604	468	554	455	560	513	560	516	579	504	618
ON	848	964	899	1,024	875	1,098	844	1,100	832	1,097	822	1,097	812	1,071	828	1,032	846	1,047	868	1,011	834	1,072
MB	98	111	92	106	87	108	79	107	76	104	77	102	78	97	77	98	89	98	87	98	88	104
SK	94	112	85	107	77	106	76	93	69	91	67	81	64	81	71	80	77	84	77	86	81	92
AB	250	279	242	289	231	301	233	289	218	298	228	284	246	295	260	299	291	307	308	329	317	364
BC	266	312	286	338	289	351	248	353	255	329	233	341	244	324	257	314	268	302	262	309	253	322
NT	9	8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
NU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
YT	2	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
CA	2,257	2,680	2,347	2,719	2,245	2,832	2,090	2,801	2,048	2,764	2,004	2,705	2,049	2,608	2,093	2,558	2,230	2,566	2,257	2,581	2,202	2,734

TABLE 10 Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers¹ (rounded estimate in 1000s)². Provinces/territories/Canada (1995–2016).

P/T	1995		1998		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2012		2014		2016	
YRS	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	0-5	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12
NL	22	33	19	30	18	31	17	25	16	16	16	23	15	23	17	22	16	24	16	23
PE	8	10	8	11	7	10	6	10	7	7	6	8	6	8	6	8	7	8	5.4	8.3
NS	40	53	38	59	40	57	35	51	32	32	30	47	32	44	34	41	32	42	32	45
NB	30	43	31	44	32	45	28	41	26	26	26	39	30	37	27	35	26	34	28	36
QC	325	400	325	424	304	469	286	424	358	358	320	395	305	389	356	391	358	418	367	453
ON	539	711	546	774	538	787	495	730	530	530	504	725	500	688	524	694	530	671	508	722
MB	55	76	54	79	49	79	46	72	49	49	47	67	42	63	49	63	49	62	50	66
SK	55	80	47	77	47	66	43	64	50	50	39	57	45	58	47	57	50	61	49	61
AB	154	211	138	207	135	206	118	198	137	137	140	202	141	198	160	199	137	238	181	224
BC	162	245	168	234	147	241	148	210	161	161	144	215	151	200	151	201	161	203	153	211
NT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.6	3	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.9
NU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.6	2.2	1.7	2.5	1.9	2.2
YT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	2	1.8	2.1
CA ³	1,390	1,862	1,375	1,939	1,317	1,991	1,224	1,829	1,370	1,370	1,275	1,783	1,268	1,711	1,376	1,720	1,370	1,768	1,389	1,848

1 The term “Mothers in the paid labour force” was used in versions of *ECEC in Canada* until 2014 when the term “Employed mothers” began to be used. The terms are comparable.

2 Further age breakdowns are available in provincial/territorial chapters in *ECEC in Canada 1992-2016*.

3 Totals may not add up due to rounding.

4 Canada total figures did not include NT or YT until 2003, while figures for NU were not available until 2012 (NU was officially created in 1999).

TABLE 11
Employment rate of mothers by age of youngest child¹ (rounded estimate). Provinces²/territories/Canada (1998–2016).

P/T	1998 (%)		2001 (%)		2004 (%)		2006 (%)		2008 (%)		2010 (%)		2012 (%)		2014 (%)		2016 (%)	
	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5
NL	58	63	64	66	71	67	66	71	66	74	68	73	68	78	70	69	68	79
PE	81	83	77	79	78	82	81	84	78	85	76	83	78	82	85	85	76	76
NS	63	70	71	72	71	77	76	77	70	78	68	83	74	77	75	78	73	84
NB	64	69	67	74	70	75	71	80	76	77	76	81	73	80	71	81	70	84
QC	65	67	67	75	73	77	74	79	74	80	73	78	77	81	77	82	80	81
ON	65	72	67	74	68	74	69	76	68	79	69	75	71	75	70	77	69	77
MB	62	76	66	75	68	77	64	76	66	76	62	71	66	74	65	74	67	75
SK	65	73	65	74	67	77	67	77	69	77	70	77	65	80	71	76	69	76
AB	64	71	60	71	59	71	63	69	61	73	63	70	60	73	60	72	63	73
BC	62	67	63	69	67	74	64	76	65	71	66	75	64	75	70	76	68	74
CA	65	71	66	73	69	75	69	76	69	77	69	75	70	77	70	77	71	77

1 A similar table including mothers' employment rates with youngest child aged 6-15 years was available in previous editions of this document. The columns for 6-15 year-olds have not been included here; the information is available in the DEMOGRAPHIC section for each province/territory.

2 Comparable figures for mothers' employment rate are not available for the territories.

TABLE 12

Total number of regulated child care spaces for children 0-12 years¹. Provinces/territories/Canada (1992-2016).

P/T	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2007	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
NL	3,568	4,202	4,275	4,226	4,921	5,642	5,868	5,972	6,200	7,200	7,200	8,159
PE ²	4,123	3,888	3,717	4,270	4,100	4,051	4,293	4,424	5,084	4,051	4,262	4,642
NS	10,826	10,645	11,163	11,464	12,759	12,982	13,247	13,711	15,295	17,321	17,899	19,145
NB	7,162	7,952	9,204	11,086	11,897	13,163	14,170	15,506	18,785	21,695	25,491	26,851
QC	78,388	111,452	175,002	234,905	321,732	361,533 ³	364,572	368,909	379,386	401,568	556,447	617,864
ON	145,545	147,853	167,090 ³	173,135 ⁵	206,743	229,875	242,488	256,748	276,410	292,997	334,010	405,570
MB	18,977	18,846	20,490	23,022	25,634	25,984	26,375	27,189	29,382	30,614	32,531	34,261
SK	6,418	7,266	7,124	7,166	7,910	8,712	8,850	9,173	10,848	12,275	13,314	14,546
AB	51,656	51,088	47,033	47,693	63,351 ⁴ (46,238)	66,288 (47,587)	71,177 (52,528)	73,981 (54,499)	82,050 (62,980)	91,884 (69,610)	99,009	109,482
BC	42,927	59,794	68,978	72,949	80,230	79,190	82,386	87,538	97,170	102,908	106,719	105,902
NT	963	1,286	1,351	1,234	1,219	1,525	1,703	1,768	1,785	NA	1,872	1,776
NU	NA	NA	NA	932	1,014	987	970	1,013	1,015	1,104	1,140	1,044
YT	1,020	1,060	1,307	1,348	1,369	1,330	1,293	1,262	1,431	1,440	1,114	1,145
CA	371,573	425,332	516,734	593,430	745,925	811,262	837,392	867,194	921,841	986,842	1,201,008	1,350,387

1 These figures include full day and part day (nursery schools or preschools) centres for children under compulsory school-age, regulated family child care and school-age centre-based care. In most cases, these figures represent licensed capacity, not enrolment. Refer to provincial/territorial sections for further information.

2 Publicly funded kindergarten was part of the regulated child care system in PEI between 2000 and September 2010. At this time, for the purpose of comparison with other provinces, part day kindergarten spaces in child care centres were not included in these space figures.

3 In 2006 a figure for school-age spaces in Quebec was not available. At that time, we calculated an estimate based on the *ECEC in Canada* 2004 figure of 141,977 school-age spaces, and expanded using the same percentage increase in total centre-based spaces for children aged 0-4 from 2004-2006 (13.7%). Quebec school-age figures were available in 2006 and 2008 but not in 2010 or 2012. The 2008 school-age space figure was used in the 2012 calculations.

4 School-age child care in Alberta became regulated for the first time in 2004. For the purpose of comparison with previous years, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 figures include total number of spaces with and without school-age care.

TABLE 13

Total allocations¹ for regulated child care (unadjusted dollars, rounded). Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2015/2016).

P/T	1992 (\$ millions)	1995 (\$ millions)	1998 (\$ millions)	2001 (\$ millions)	2003/04 (\$ millions)	2005/06 (\$ millions)	2007/08 (\$ millions)	2009/10 (\$ millions)	2011/2012 (\$ millions)	2013/2014 (\$ millions)	2015/2016 (\$ millions)
NL	1.67	2.98	3.3	7.75	9.64	12.32	19.84	20.52	21.22	21.22 ²	39.31
PE ⁴	2.77	1.68	2.58	4.23	4.68	4.73	6.23	6.43	12.47	12.12	11.82
NS	11.42	11.84	15.69	12.89	19.77	23.70	37.15	39.03	43.22	46.23	42.89
NB	3.65	3.20	5.52	11.82	13.90	22.48	26.24	28.94	35.00	38.74	42.21
QC	140.73	203.70	299.86	1,092.43	1,560.00	1,678.88	1,730.57	1,998.72 ³	1,998.72 ³	2,485.41	2,559.07
ON	420.14	541.8	470.5	451.5	497.4	534.10	780.40	801.80	865.10	960.10	1,169.78
MB	42.15	45.2	45.19	62.88	73.00	86.33	105.98	116.55	134.35	139.44	156.64
SK	12.31	12.71	15.75	16.39	19.64	22.77	47.13	53.72	62.65	64.84	64.49
AB	66.61	67.62	54.30	57.50	53.6	72.47	105.73	190.63	257.55	263.09	263.84
BC ⁵	55.80	98.68	128.87	164.56	140.73	176.11	216.74	227.51	227.15	227.43	231.40
NT	2.29	1.71	2.27	1.60	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54 ⁶	4.48	4.50
NU	NA	NA	NA	1.87	1.79	2.32	2.47	2.78	3.03	2.61	3.66
YT	2.44	4.15	4.76	4.44	5.20	5.41	6.41	7.36	7.66	7.66	6.26
CA	761.96	995.28	1,048.58	1,889.80	2,401.88	2,940.14	3,087.44	3,496.53	3,670.67	4,273.37	4,595.88

1 These figures are budgeted allocations, not spending.

2 Figures for NL were not available in 2014; the 2011/2012 figures were used in this table for 2013/2014.

3 This figure includes spending on school-age child care from 2008, as more recent information was not available

4 Between 2000 and September 2010, PEI's kindergartens were part of the child care system. For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions, these figures do not include PEI's spending on part day kindergarten between 2000 and 2010.

5 Subsidies in British Columbia may be used in both regulated and unregulated care. At one time, no breakdown was available. At the suggestion of provincial officials, these figures were estimated using 60% of the subsidy allocation in 1992, 55% in 1995, and 50% in 1998–2007/08.

6 Figures for NT were not available in 2012; the 2010 figures were used in this table for 2012.

TABLE 14

Allocation for each regulated child care space¹ (unadjusted dollars). Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2016).

P/T	1992 (\$)	1995 (\$)	1998 (\$)	2001 (\$)	2003/04 (\$)	2005/06 (\$)	2007/08 (\$)	2009/10 (\$)	2011/12 (\$)	2013/14 (\$)	2015/16 (\$)
NL	468	709	772	1,835	1,958	2,183	3,323	3,310	2,948	2,948 ²	4,818
PE	671	433	694	1,334 ²	1,137 ³	1,166 ³	1,407 ³	1,265 ³	3,078	2,843	2,547
NS	1,055	1,113	1,405	1,125	1,549	1,825	2,710	2,552	2,495	2,582	2,240
NB	509	402	600	1,066	1,168	1,707	1,692	1,540	1,613	1,519	1,572
QC	1,795	1,828	1,713	4,651	4,849	4,644	4,691	5,268	4,977	4,466	4,142
ON	2,887	3,664	2,816	2,608	2,406	3,611	3,040	2,901	2,952	2,874	2,884
MB	2,221	2,399	2,205	2,731	2,848	3,322	3,898	3,967	4,388	4,286	4,572
SK	1,918	1,750	2,210	2,279	2,483	2,614	5,138	4,952	5,104	4,870	4,433
AB	1,290	1,324	1,154	1,206	846	1,093	1,429	2,323	2,803	2,657	2,422
BC	1,300	1,650	1,868	2,256	1,754	2,224	2,476	2,341	2,207	2,131	2,175
NT	2,374	1,328	1,681	1,298	2,085	1,666	1,438	1,424	NA	2,394	2,534
NU	NA	NA	NA	2,001	1,091	2,345	2,438	2,733	2,742	2,285	3,501
YT	2,390	3,914	3,645	4,086	3,796	4,067	5,079	5,143	5,320	6,877	5,463
CA	2,051	2,340	2,029	3,185	3,223	3,259	3,560	3,792	3,719	3,558	3,405

1 These figures are based on total provincial allocations and total number of regulated child care spaces; they are merely approximations of actual allocation or spending per space.

2 Figures for NL were not available in 2014; the 2012 figures were used in this table.

3 2001, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2007/08 and 2009/10 figures for PEI do not include part day kindergarten expenditure in child care centres or spaces for the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions.

TABLE 15

Percent of children 0-5 years for whom there is a regulated part or full time centre-based child care space. Provinces/territories (1992–2016)¹.

P/T	1992 (%)	1995 (%)	1998 (%)	2001 (%)	2004 (%)	2006 (%)	2008 (%)	2010 (%)	2012 (%)	2014 (%)	2016 (%)
NL	7.0	9.0	10.8	11.9	13.1	16.5	17.3	17.9	18.9	18.9 ²	24.3
PE ³	29.9	29.4	31.0	38.1	38.2	42.2	41.0	41.6	46.5	32.4	39.4
NS	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25.2	22.1	22.6	23.9	25.5	26.7
NB	NA	NA	NA	11.9	NA	18.1	19.9	21.1	30.7	29.1	28.9
QC	9.2	9.4	11.5	16.8	22.0	25.6	25.0	28.5	36.3	30.3	38.4
ON	12.4	NA	(est.) 12.4	(est.) 14.0	14.9	16.9	19.6	19.7	20.8	23	29.1
MB	12.5	13.6	15.0	17.9	20.2	20.0	20.6	22.8	20.5	22.9	23.8
SK	3.6	4.4	5.2	5.4	6.7	8.1	9.1	10.5	11.5	12.6	13.7
AB	17.5	17.9	17.5	17.6	18.9	17.9	17.4	19.8	19.8	20	21.8
BC	9.9	11.0	12.2	14.6	15.6	17.1	18.3	19.8	23.7	22.7	24.1
NT	10.2	NA	NA	NA	18.7	21.0	23.3	22.9	NA	26.1	26.9
NU	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.8	20.5	20.2	20.5	20.8	22.6	18.3
YT	25.3	NA	NA	NA	35.9	26.4	28.3	27.8	28.6	28.3	31.4
CA	11.5	11.5	12.6	14.9	17.1	19.1	20.3	21.8	22.5	24.1	28.9

1 The figures represented here include only regulated centre-based care for 0–5-year-olds. Regulated home child care is not factored into the calculation as breakdowns by age group are not available.

2 Figures for NL were not available in 2014; the 2012 figures were used in this table for 2014.

3 PEI introduced publicly-funded part day kindergarten in September 2000. At that time, kindergarten in PEI was still part of the regulated child care system, as it was before 2000. In September 2010 kindergarten moved to the public education system. For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is under the public education system, the number of children attending part day kindergarten only have not been included in totals; PEI's figures for 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 are not comparable to those of previous years.

TABLE 16

Percent of regulated part and full day centre-based child care spaces for 0–12 year olds¹ that are for-profit. Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2016).

P/T	1992 (%)	1995 (%)	1998 (%)	2001 (%)	2004 (%)	2006 (%)	2008 (%)	2010 (%)	2012 (%)	2014 (%)	2016 (%)
NL	78	66	61	64	73	69	70	72	65	65	72
PE	35	32	42	46	70 ²	56 ²	58 ²	58 ²	80	64	59
NS	40	40	43	43	45	46	50	52	53	55	55
NB	43	40	NA	NA	70 ³	64 ³	67 ³	62 ³	62 ³	63 ³	62 ³
QC	18	18	14	14	12	13	14	17	22	19	20
ON	24	20	17	17	22	23	24	25	25	24	22
MB	10	12	13	8	8	6	5	5	5	5	5
SK	6	2	1	1	0	0.6	0	0	0.5	0.6	2
AB	65	62	59	56	54	49	51	50	51	53	58
BC	39	39	40	42	NA	NA	42	43	44	47	49
NT	18	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0
NU	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YT	14	25	26	27	26	31	36	44	64	61	65
CA	30	28	24	23	20 ¹	21 ¹	25	28	29.4	30	30

1 Canada-wide percents for 2004 and 2006 did not include British Columbia or New Brunswick, which had substantial for-profit child care sectors.

2 For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is in the public education system, these figures did not include part day kindergarten. As of September 2010, kindergarten moved to the public education system.

3 Percentage estimate provided by provincial officials.

