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**Early Childhood Education
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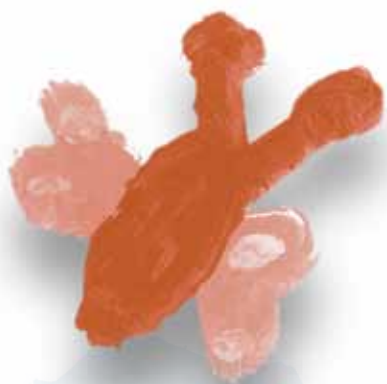
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CONTENTS

TABLE OF

Introduction and Acknowledgements 7

Explanatory Notes and Data Sources 9

Federal Government 13

Provinces and Territories 25

Newfoundland and Labrador 27

Prince Edward Island 43

Nova Scotia 59

New Brunswick 77

Quebec 95

Ontario 111

Manitoba 127

Saskatchewan 145

Alberta 165

British Columbia 185

Northwest Territories 205

Nunavut 217

Yukon 231

Comparative Tables on Key Topics 245

Most recent data (see list on following page) 246

Longitudinal data (see list on following page) 255



List of Comparative Tables

Most Recent Data (2010 unless otherwise noted)

Table 1	Number of Children 0–12 Years, 2009	246
Table 2	Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, 2009	246
Table 3	Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child, 2009	247
Table 4	Regulated Child Care Spaces and Percentage of Children for Whom There Is a Regulated Child Care Space	248
Table 5	Sponsorship of Regulated Centre-Based Spaces for Children 0–12 Years	249
Table 6	Child Care Centres on Reserve and in Self-Government Regions	250
Table 7	Total Provincial/Territorial Allocation for Regulated Child Care, Allocation for Each Regulated Child Care Space and Allocation for Each Child 0–12 Years, 2009–2010	251
Table 8	Net Income Eligibility Levels for Full and Partial Child Care Fee Subsidies	252
Table 9	Median Full-Time, Full-Year Employment Income for Centre-Based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants, 2005	253
Table 10	Maximum Staff:Child Ratios and Maximum Group Sizes in Full-Day Centre-Based Child Care by Age	255
Table 11	Maximum Number of Children Permitted in Unregulated Family Child Care	254





Longitudinal Data (from 1992 unless otherwise noted)

- Table 12** Number of Children 0–12 Years 255
- Table 13** Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force 256
- Table 14** Workforce Participation Rate of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (from 1995) 256
- Table 15** Total Regulated Child Care Spaces 257
- Table 16** Percentage of Children 0–12 Years for Whom There Is a Regulated Child Care Space 258
- Table 17** Percentage of Children 0–5 Years for Whom There Is a Regulated Full or Part-Time Centre-Based Child Care Space 259
- Table 18** Child Care Centres on Reserve and in Self-Government Regions (from 2001) 260
- Table 19** Percentage of Regulated Centre-Based Spaces that Are For-Profit 261
- Table 20** Total Allocations in Actual Dollars for Regulated Child Care 262
- Table 21** Allocation in Actual Dollars for Each Regulated Child Care Space 263
- Table 22** Allocation in Actual Dollars for Regulated Child Care for Each Child Aged 0–12 Years 264
- Table 23** Net Income Eligibility Levels for Full Child Care Subsidy for One-Parent, One-Child Family 265

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION AND

In the broadest sense, early childhood education and care (ECEC) encompasses a wide array of arrangements for young children. In this context, it refers primarily to kindergarten and licensed child care programs, as well as supports to parents.

In Canada, provincial and territorial governments have primary responsibility for the provision of social and education services for children and families, including the design and delivery of early childhood education and care policies and programs. Each province and territory (P/T) has a program of licensed and approved child care which establishes legislated requirements, standards, and funding arrangements for centre-based child care, licensed and approved family child care, school-aged child care and, usually, nursery or pre-schools. Provincial and territorial governments are also responsible for kindergarten programs.

The Government of Canada's approach respects provincial and territorial responsibility for social services while at the same time supporting parents to choose what is right for their children. Programs under the aegis of the federal government include fiscal transfers to P/Ts to be spent at their discretion on programs and services; transfers to individuals to support their choices; and programs for populations for whom the federal government has particular responsibilities, including contributions to ECEC in Aboriginal communities.

The report begins with an overview of federal programs and spending, followed by individual chapters for each province and territory which follow a common format and provide detailed information on licensed child care, kindergarten, and other ECEC programs. Finally, a series of tables presents comparative data on a number of key elements across provinces and territories, and over time.

The data and information collection process was managed by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit under contract to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, which would like to thank CRRU staff for their work on this project. Federal, provincial and territorial officials worked collaboratively to finalise the report.

AND DATA SOURCES

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data provided in this publication and to use accurate and consistent terminology and categories across provinces/territories. This was not always possible, however, due to the use of different terminologies, categories, data collection methods and missing information. In some instances, information that is consistent by date or definition was not available. Where this has occurred, dates and explanations have been provided or noted in the text or footnotes.

Method

The data were assembled from a variety of sources including Canada-wide data sources (identified below), federal/provincial/territorial government officials and from community, published and other resources.

Information on federal ECEC programs and funds was provided by federal officials.

Information on kindergarten and regulated child care was provided by provincial/territorial officials in relevant ministries.

The method used to collect and verify data on regulated child care from each province/territory followed a series of steps. First, a written questionnaire was sent to each self-identified official with key responsibility. The key P/T official then assembled the data. Following a review of the data by the researchers, a telephone interview was held with the key official or officials in each jurisdiction. A draft was then compiled using material provided by government officials and in some instances, other sources. Each jurisdiction assisted further by providing clarification and updates. Further follow-up proceeded throughout the editing stage to ensure the information's accuracy.

Kindergarten information was assembled by identifying and contacting officials in each jurisdiction with responsibility for kindergarten, collecting information using a questionnaire developed for this purpose. A process similar to the follow-up for regulated child care was followed for assembling and verifying kindergarten data.

Note that in some instances there may be minor discrepancies between previously-reported expenditures and data, based on periodic reviews and updates undertaken by specific jurisdictions.

Data Sources

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2009 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Children 0 – 12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2009 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Children 0 – 14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census. Catalogue Number [97-558-XWE2006007](#).

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada tabulations.

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census. Catalogue Number [97-553-XWE2006011](#).

Number of Children by Mother Tongue

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census. Catalogue Number [97-555-XWE2006021](#).

Children 0 – 14 Years with Disabilities

Statistics Canada. Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006. Analytic Paper. Catalogue Number [89-628-XIE - No. 003](#).

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Low-Income Cut-Off (Post-Tax, 2010)

Calculations based on the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (Statistics Canada, 2010).

Number and Percentage of Children Living in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure

Statistics Canada. Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. Persons in low income families, 2009. Table [202-0802](#).

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child

Statistics Canada. Labour force historical review, 2009, [CD2T04AN](#).

Family-Related Leave

Length of maternity, parental and adoption leave in Employment Standards Legislation (unpaid). Table from Labour Law Analysis, Strategic Policy and International Labour Affairs, Labour Program. Human Resources Development Canada (February 18, 2002).

Ad Hoc Committee on Work-Life Balance (2002). Work-life balance in Canada: A report to Ministers Responsible for Labour in Canada. Chapter II: The legislative framework. Updated using online sources.

Maternity, Parental, and Adoption Claims

For All Provinces Except Quebec

Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report, HRSDC (2009). [Annex 2, Tables 2.8, 2.9, 2.10](#).

For Quebec

Reports from *Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale Québec*:

- [Statistiques officielles sur les prestataires du Régime québécois d'assurance parentale](#). Tableaux 5, 6, 7, 8.
- *Rapport sur le portrait de la clientèle du Régime québécois d'assurance parentale*.

2009 data provided through personal communication with statistics manager at *Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale Québec*. [2008 report](#) (2009 not yet available).

Number of Births and Birth Rate (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

Statistics Canada. [Births, by provinces and territories](#).

Birth rate calculated by dividing births by population. Statistics Canada. [Population, by provinces and territories](#).

Median Full-Time, Full-Year Employment Income for Centre-Based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants

Statistics Canada. (2006). National occupational classification for statistics (NOC-S) 2006. Catalogue Number [12-583-XIE](#). Special run conducted by Statistics Canada.

Federal Government

This chapter includes the following sections:

Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures

- Universal Child Care Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Investment Tax Credit for Child Care Spaces
- Child Care Expense Deduction
- Employment Insurance – Maternity and Parental Benefits

ECEC and Related Programs under Federal Aegis

- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC): Child-Minding Component
- Military Family Resource Centres

Federal Contributions to Aboriginal ECEC

- First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative
- Child/Day Care Program – Alberta
- Child/Day Care Program – Ontario
- First Nations Child and Family Service Head Start – New Brunswick
- First Nations Elementary/Secondary Education
- Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities
- Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve

Transfers to Provinces and Territories

Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures

Universal Child Care Benefit

Department

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Description

The Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) was introduced in 2006 and provides a \$100/month cash payment to families for each child under the age of six (maximum \$1200/year per child).

Number of Children Under Six

Approximately 1.5 million families receive the UCCB in respect of over two million young children.

Other Information

The UCCB and other federal cash benefits for children are accessed through a single application process. Recipients may choose between receiving the monthly payment as a cheque, or direct deposit.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million
2006 – 2007	1,784
2007 – 2008	2,474
2008 – 2009	2,548

Child Tax Credit

Department

Canada Revenue Agency

Description

The purpose of this measure is to reduce the tax burden on families with children. It is a non-refundable tax credit based on an amount (\$2,101 in 2010) for each child under the age of 18 years at the end of a taxation year. The value of the child tax credit is calculated by applying the lowest personal income tax rate to the amount, which provided tax relief of up to \$315 per child in 2010.

Number of Children Under Six

When it was introduced in Budget 2007, the child tax credit was expected to benefit over three million Canadian families. The specific number of children (in general, and under six in particular) represented in claims to date is not available.

Federal Spending¹

Taxation year	\$ million
2007	1,445 (estimate)
2008	1,475 (projection)
2009	1,465 (projection)
2010	1,485 (projection)

¹ From *Tax Expenditures and Evaluation 2010* (Finance Canada).

Investment Tax Credit for Child Care Spaces

Department

Canada Revenue Agency

Description

This measure encourages businesses to create licensed child care spaces for the children of their employees and, potentially, for children in the surrounding community. Eligible businesses may receive a non-refundable investment tax credit equal to 25% of eligible expenditures, to a maximum credit of \$10,000 per child care space created.

Other Information

This measure came into effect in March 2007.

To date, tax expenditure information is not available.

Child Care Expense Deduction

Department

Canada Revenue Agency

Description

This provision recognises the child care costs incurred by families in the course of earning income. Child care expenses incurred for these purposes are deductible. The maximum amount deductible is \$7,000 per child under age seven; \$4,000 per child between seven and 16 years of age, or for an older child with a mental or physical impairment; and \$10,000 for a child eligible for the Disability Tax Credit. For couples, the spouse with the lower income must generally claim the deduction.

Number of Children Under Six

In the 2007 taxation year, about 1.2 million tax filers claimed the child care expense deduction. The number of children included in these claims, and the proportion under six years of age, are not available.

Other Information

Claimants may be required to provide receipts.

Federal Spending²

Taxation year	\$ million
2005	570 (estimate)
2006	740 (estimate)
2007	750 (estimate)
2008	770 (projection)
2009	755 (projection)
2010	770 (projection)

² From *Tax Expenditures and Evaluations 2010* (Finance Canada).

Employment Insurance – Maternity and Parental Benefits

Department

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Description

The length and conditions of maternity and parental leaves are determined under the applicable labour legislation, which is provincial legislation for the vast majority of employees. Income support for eligible parents is offered under the federal Employment Insurance (EI) program.³ Maternity and parental benefits are two of the four types of special benefits included under the EI program. Maternity benefits are for eligible workers who are pregnant or who have recently given birth to a child, and parental benefits are for eligible workers who are caring for a newborn or newly-adopted child.

Maternity benefits are offered for a maximum duration of 15 weeks, and generally cannot be collected past 17 weeks after the child's birth. Parental benefits are offered for a maximum duration of 35 weeks, and generally cannot be collected past 52 weeks after the child's birth or adoption. Eligible applicants must have accumulated 600 insurable hours of employment in the previous 52 weeks, or since a previous claim.

Number of Children Under Six

Information on the number of children is not available, but data is available on recent claims.⁴ The vast majority of claims pertain to care of an infant (an unknown proportion of parental leave claims by adoptive parents are presumed to be for older children).

Fiscal year	Number of claims		
	Maternity	Parental biological	Parental adoptive
2005–2006	191,690	219,410	2,830
2006–2007 ^a	162,790	181,870	2,310
2007–2008	168,460	186,480	2,120
2008–2009	172,650	191,880	2,100

^a The decrease in EI maternity and parental claims from 2005–2006 to 2006–2007 is due to the withdrawal of Quebec, which inaugurated its own program in January 2006.

Other Information

Maternity and parental benefits are based on insurable earnings (up to a ceiling of \$42,300 in 2009), paid at a replacement rate of 55%, corresponding to a maximum weekly benefit of \$447.

Low-income recipients may also be eligible for the EI Family Supplement, which provides additional benefits for low-income families with children (maximum family income \$25,921). The maximum Family Supplement brings benefits up to 80% of average insurable earnings for eligible families.

Federal Spending⁵

Fiscal year	\$ million		
	Maternity	Parental biological	Parental adoptive
2005–2006	941.4	2,156.9	29.97
2006–2007 ^a	772.9	1,939.3	23.68
2007–2008	832.7	1,876.9	23.59
2008–2009	876.2	2,025.7	23.75

^a The decrease in EI maternity and parental claims from 2005–2006 to 2006–2007 is due to the withdrawal of Quebec, which inaugurated its own program in January 2006.

³ Since January 2006, Quebec has administered its own maternity and parental leave benefits program.

⁴ Information on number of claims is from the *Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report 2009*.

⁵ Information on federal spending is from the *Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report 2009*. Amounts are inclusive of the Family Supplement.

ECEC and Related Programs Under Federal Aegis

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC): Child-Minding Component

Department

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Description

LINC provides basic language training in one of Canada's official languages to adult newcomers to Canada. The program has a child-minding component, which helps parents or guardians attend LINC classes by covering the cost of either licensed day care or on-site child care. Children also benefit by having an opportunity to learn some French or English in a safe environment.

Number of Sites

There are approximately 300 sites across Canada.

Number of Children Under Six

About 54,000 adults attended LINC programs in 2008–2009, of whom about 6,500 accessed child-minding services. The number and age of children is not known.

Other Information

Service delivery is by community-based settlement programs. Where on-site child-minding programs are provided, they must meet national requirements established by LINC.

Federal Spending

Expenditures on the child-minding component of LINC were:

Fiscal year	\$ million
2007 – 2008	25.0
2008 – 2009	27.7

Military Family Resource Centres

Department

National Defence

Description

Canadian Military Family Resource Centres are mandated to provide a range of services to military families, including child care on an emergency and/or respite basis.

Number of Sites

There are 42 Canadian Military Family Resource Centres in total, 32 of which are in Canada (the remainder are located in the United States and Europe).

Number of Children Under Six

About 15,800 children under six participated in Military Family Resource Centre programs in 2008–2009.

Other Information

Regulated child care may be provided by Military Family Resource Centres, based on local demand but is not mandated or funded. Where it is provided, it is on a user-pay basis.

Federal Spending

In 2008–2009, estimated spending on services for children under six was about \$3.3 million.

Federal Contributions to Aboriginal ECEC

Context

“Aboriginal peoples” is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. The Canadian constitution recognises three groups of Aboriginal people: Indians (commonly referred to as First Nations), Métis and Inuit. More than one million people in Canada identify themselves as an Aboriginal person, according to the 2006 Census. Aboriginal communities are located in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada. They include: First Nations or Indian Bands, generally located on lands called reserves; Inuit communities located in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec (Nunavik) and Labrador; Métis communities; and communities of Aboriginal people (including Métis, Non-Status Indians, Inuit and First Nation individuals) in cities or towns which are not part of reserves or traditional territories.

Jurisdictional considerations regarding the planning and delivery of ECEC services are complex. Funding for on-reserve social programs is generally the responsibility of the Government of Canada, but some provincial governments may carry out regulation of on-reserve child care, while others do not. Social programs for other Aboriginal peoples may be a federal, provincial or territorial responsibility.

This section details federal contributions to Aboriginal ECEC programs. First Nations and Inuit organisations generally have responsibility for administration of funds and development and delivery of services.

First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative

Department

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Description

The First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) supports the availability of child care services for First Nations on-reserve and Inuit communities. Its purpose is to allow parents to participate in education and/or training programs and return to the paid labour force. FNICCI is focused on children under six; however, children up to the age of 12 are also eligible for after-school care.

Number of Sites

In 2008–2009, FNICCI provided support to more than 450 child care facilities located in First Nations on-reserve or Inuit Communities across Canada.

Number of Children Under Six

In 2008–2009, FNICCI supported more than 8,500 child care spaces. The majority of these spaces were for children under the age of six years.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group, Canada (2006)					
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other Aboriginal
0–4	71,730	29,010	5,890	680	1,575
5–9	74,065	32,215	5,800	630	2,045
10–14	78,980	37,200	6,030	825	2,160

Other Information

FNICCI is a labour market support program of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, the predecessor to the new Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy. FNICCI funding is administered by Aboriginal service delivery organisations that distribute child care funding based on regional/community needs.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million
2000 – 2001	41.0
2001 – 2002	41.0
2002 – 2003	50.1
2003 – 2004	50.1
2004 – 2005	50.1
2005 – 2006	57.1
2006 – 2007	57.1
2007 – 2008	57.2
2008 – 2009	56.6

Child/Day Care Program – Alberta

Department

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Description

Under a financial and administrative agreement with the Government of Alberta, the federal government provides direct funding for on-reserve child care spaces. The purpose of the agreement is to provide early childhood development programming and learning services that are reasonably comparable to services offered by the provincial government to people living off reserve.

Number of Sites

Child care spaces are funded at 17 on-reserve sites.

Number of Children Under Six Years

The total number of spaces is about 820, shared by about 1,200 children under the age of 12. Additional children were funded (1,595 in 2007 – 2008, and 1,890 in 2008 – 2009) through a federal/provincial administrative reform agreement. Information specific to children under six years is not available.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million
1999 – 2000	3.6
2000 – 2001	2.7
2001 – 2002	2.7
2002 – 2003	2.7
2003 – 2004	2.5
2004 – 2005	3.4
2005 – 2006	4.0
2006 – 2007	4.7
2007 – 2008	4.3
2008 – 2009	4.8

Child/Day Care Program – Ontario

Department

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Description

Under a financial agreement with the Government of Ontario, the federal government supports on-reserve child care spaces, with the purpose of providing early childhood programming and learning services which are reasonably comparable to those offered by the provincial government to people living off reserve.

Number of Sites

Programs are offered in 52 First Nations communities (a single community could offer multiple programs).

Number of Children Under Six

Services are provided to approximately 2,850 children under the age of six.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million
1999 – 2000	12.2
2000 – 2001	12.2
2001 – 2002	13.4
2002 – 2003	14.3
2003 – 2004	15.4
2004 – 2005	15.5
2005 – 2006	15.6
2006 – 2007	15.6
2007 – 2008	15.7
2008 – 2009	15.6

First Nations Child and Family Service Head Start – New Brunswick

Department

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Description

The goals of this program are to maintain the strength of the family unit; assist children facing physical, emotional, social, and/or educational deprivation; and protect children from harmful environments.

Number of Sites

The program operates at 12 sites, offering centre- or home-based care for First Nations children under the age of six and services for parents.

Number of Children Under Six

Information on the number of children served is not available.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million
1999 – 2000	1.8
2000 – 2001	1.5
2001 – 2002	1.5
2002 – 2003	1.4
2003 – 2004	1.4
2004 – 2005	1.4
2005 – 2006	1.4
2006 – 2007	1.4
2007 – 2008	1.3
2008 – 2009	1.4

First Nations Elementary/ Secondary Education

Department

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Description

The federal government supports First Nations in the delivery of elementary and secondary (K-12) programs to on-reserve children, by providing programs that are reasonably comparable to those in the province of residence, or by arranging for students living on reserve to attend provincial schools. The objective is to provide students with culturally relevant education that supports life-long learning.

Number of Sites

Fiscal year	Type of school			
	First Nation	Federal	Private	Provincial
2007 – 2008	516	7	144	1,537
2008 – 2009	516	7	143	1,582

Number of Children Under Six Years

In 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009, the numbers of four- and five-year-old children attending kindergarten were 13,180 and 13,693 respectively.

Other Information

Band-operated schools on reserve are funded to provide education programs and services, including teachers' salaries, student support services (transportation, guidance and counselling), instructional materials, high-cost special education, school board type services (e.g. professional development

and staff training), internet access, minor school maintenance, and assistive devices. (This listing is not exhaustive.)

Federal Spending⁶

Fiscal year	\$ million
2007 – 2008	54.9
2008 – 2009	56.2

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities

Department

Public Health Agency of Canada

Description

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities is a comprehensive early childhood development program for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and their families living in urban centres and large northern communities. The primary goal of the program is to mitigate inequities in health and developmental outcomes for Aboriginal children by supporting early intervention strategies that cultivate a positive sense of self, a desire for learning, and opportunities to develop successfully as young people. Sites typically offer half-day preschool programming for Aboriginal children (ages 2–6) focused on Aboriginal culture and language, education and school readiness, health promotion, nutrition, social support, and parental involvement.

Number of Sites

There are 129 sites across Canada.

⁶ These amounts are specific to children under six, and are estimates based on the number of students enrolled in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Number of Children Under Six

In 2008–2009, about 4,800 children received services.

Other Information

Programs are designed and controlled by local communities. Services are provided at no cost to parents.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million
1999 – 2000	22.5
2000 – 2001	22.5
2001 – 2002	22.5
2002 – 2003	25.8
2003 – 2004	31.2
2004 – 2005	31.5
2005 – 2006	32.3
2006 – 2007	32.6
2007 – 2008	34.6
2008 – 2009	35.7

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve

Department

Health Canada

Description

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve is an early childhood intervention program for First Nations children (aged 0–6) and their families living on reserve. With programming designed and delivered by communities, the program supports the physical, developmental, emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual well-being of children. Programming is centered around six components: promotion and protection of language and culture; nutrition; education; health promotion; social support; and parental and family

involvement. It is intended that children in the program gain opportunities to develop self-confidence, a greater desire for learning, and an excellent start in their journey towards becoming successful people.

Number of Sites

There are more than 300 programs in First Nations communities across Canada.

Number of Children Under Six

The program currently serves more than 9,000 children.

Other Information

Parents, families and community members are encouraged to play an important role in running the program, which also builds relationships with other community programs and services. Services are provided at no cost to parents.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	\$ million ^a
1999 – 2000	29.5
2000 – 2001	24.4
2001 – 2002	22.6
2002 – 2003	34.7
2003 – 2004	35.1
2004 – 2005	41.5
2005 – 2006	51.1
2006 – 2007	52.5
2007 – 2008	54.4
2008 – 2009	50.6

^a All available funding was allocated to meet regional health program needs, including those services that First Nations have identified as priorities. Variations in spending reflect that First Nations have the flexibility to allocate funds on a clustered basis to support children's programming, based on needs and priorities.

Transfers to Provinces and Territories

Department

Finance Canada

Federal Support Through the Canada Social Transfer

In addition to direct spending and tax measures for families, the federal government supports early childhood education and care (ECEC) through a notional allocation of transfers to provinces and territories. Provincial and territorial governments have the responsibility to design and deliver these programs and are accountable to their citizens and legislatures for outcomes achieved and dollars spent.

The Canada Social Transfer (CST) is the main federal transfer program providing financial support to provinces and territories for post-secondary education, social assistance, and social services, including early childhood development and early learning and child care. As announced in Budget 2007, starting in 2007–2008 the CST was notionally allocated to identify the federal contributions to each of these areas. The notional allocations reflect provincial/territorial patterns and existing federal funding of \$850 million provided within the CST as a result of prior funding announcements in 2000 for early childhood development and 2003 for early learning and child care, as follows:

- The *Communiqué on Early Childhood Development*, 2000 identified four key areas of support to improve and expand early childhood development programs and services: healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy; parenting and family support; early childhood development, learning and care; and community support. Governments agreed to report regularly to Canadians on their investments and activities in these four areas, and on common indicators of child well-being. The Government of Canada also agreed to an investment of \$2.2 billion over five years (2001–2002 to 2005–2006) to provinces and territories to support investments in these areas. Budget 2003 confirmed the

Government's ongoing funding commitment of \$500 million annually after 2005–2006 for an additional two years (2006–2007 and 2007–2008). Spending among the four priorities was at the discretion of each province and territory.

- The *Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care*, 2003 sought to improve access to affordable, quality, regulated early learning and child care programs and services, building on the earlier commitment to early childhood development. Consistent with the ECD reporting commitments, governments agreed to report regularly to Canadians on their progress in improving access to affordable, quality ELCC programs and services. Budget 2003 set aside \$900 million over five years (2003–2004 to 2007–2008) in increased federal support in these areas. Budget 2004 provided an increase in early learning and child care funding of \$75 million annually in both 2004–2005 and 2005–2006.

Budget 2007 also announced \$250 million annually for the development of child care spaces in provinces and territories. In 2007–2008, this was provided directly to provinces and territories on an equal per capita basis and, beginning in 2008–2009, was incorporated into the CST. Along with the Universal Child Care Benefit and the Investment Tax Credit for Child Care Spaces, this initiative forms part of the Universal Child Care Plan.

In 2008–2009, a total of \$1.1 billion of the CST was notionally allocated to support programs for children, including child care. Budget 2007 also put the CST on a stable long-term track through legislation that extends to 2013–2014 and includes an annual 3 per cent escalator which started in 2009–2010.

Other Federal Support

In addition to providing financial support to provinces and territories through the CST, Budget 2005 committed funding to support the *Early Learning and Child Care Initiative*. Under this initiative, funding of \$200 million in 2004–2005 and \$500 million in 2005–2006 was provided to provinces and territories in the form of bilateral agreements. With the introduction of the Universal

Child Care Plan in Budget 2006, these bilateral agreements with provinces and territories were phased out at the end of March 2007. To support the transition, the federal government provided \$650 million in 2006–2007 to provinces and territories; these funds were distributed on an equal per capita basis.

Federal Spending

Fiscal year	Notional allocation	Notes
2001 – 2002	\$300,000,000	In support of the 2000 ECD agreement, ^a transferred through the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST)
2002 – 2003	\$400,000,000	In support of the 2000 ECD agreement, ^a transferred through the CHST
2003 – 2004	\$525,000,000	In support of the 2000 ECD agreement ^a (\$500M) and 2003 ELCC (\$25M) agreement, transferred through the CHST
2004 – 2005	\$850,000,000	In support of the 2000 ECD agreement ^a (\$500M) and 2003 ELCC agreement (\$150M), transferred through the CST; also bilateral transfers under the Early Learning and Child Care Initiative (\$200M)
2005 – 2006	\$1,225,000,000	In support of the 2000 ECD agreement ^a (\$500M) and 2003 ELCC agreement (\$25M), transferred through the CST; also bilateral transfers under the Early Learning and Child Care Initiative (\$500M)
2006 – 2007	\$1,450,000,000	In support of the 2000 ECD agreement ^a (\$500M) and 2003 ELCC agreement (\$300M), transferred through the CST; also bilateral transfers under the Early Learning and Child Care Initiative (\$650M)
2007 – 2008	\$1,100,000,000	\$850M notionally allocated through the CST; \$250M for the Child Care Spaces Initiative
2008 – 2009	\$1,100,000,000	Notionally allocated through the CST; in 2009–2010 and thereafter, will increase by 3% per year to 2013–2014
2009 – 2010	\$1,133,000,000	Notionally allocated through the CST; increase reflects the 3% escalator

^a Early childhood development, learning and care was one of four priorities under the 2000 ECD agreement. As spending among the four priorities was at the discretion of each province and territory, the amounts identified here were not necessarily spent on ECEC.

Provinces and Territories



Newfoundland and Labrador

OVERVIEW

In Newfoundland and Labrador, kindergarten and regulated child care are in two ministries: the Department of Education and the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. Kindergarten is offered part-day to all five year olds. Child care centres are predominantly for-profit, with some non-profit centres and several publicly-operated programs. Family child care providers may be agency-affiliated or individually licensed. Newfoundland and Labrador has announced that the provincial government is considering changes to its approach to ECEC, developing a 10-year Early Learning and Child Care Strategy in the Ministry of Child, Youth and Family Services and an Early Childhood Learning Framework in the Ministry of Education.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	5,000
1	4,200
2	4,700
3	4,500
4	4,700
5	5,200
6	4,900
7	5,300
8	5,400
9	5,000
10	4,900
11	5,100
12	5,400
Total	64,400

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009, Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	13,900
3–5	14,400
6–12	36,000
Total	64,400

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	2,700
1	1,900
2	2,700
3	2,600
4	2,500
5	2,700
6	3,100
7	3,100
8	3,700
9	3,300
10	3,200
11	3,200
12	3,600
Total	38,100

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	7,300
3–5	7,800
6–12	23,200
Total	38,100

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	8,300	67.5
3–5	6,700	72.8
6–15	22,000	83.0

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	505	425	325	15	175	1,445
5–9	595	505	380	35	295	1,805
10–14	775	545	405	45	380	2,145
Total	1,875	1,475	1,110	95	850	5,395

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
4.69%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	440	1.9
5–9	1,040	4.0
10–14	1,530	5.2
Total	3,010	3.9

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	17,900	4,770	4,265	500
5–9	20,405	5,510	4,935	580
10–14	22,840	6,285	5,385	900
Total	61,140	16,565	14,585	1,980

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	22,285	45	415
5–9	25,335	50	385
10–14	28,785	55	450
Total	76,405	150	1,250

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	n/a	13.7
0–17	9,000	9.3

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	18,000	19.3

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave

Thirty-five weeks available to both parents.

Adoption Leave

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

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	4,480
Birth rate per 1,000 population	8.8
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	2,790
Average length of maternity claim	14.4 weeks
Number of parental claims	2,980
Average length of parental claim	29.3 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	10
Average length of adoptive claim	0.0 weeks

Kindergarten

Legislation

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

The legislation applies to both public and private schools.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

Michelle Coady
Program Development Specialist, Primary
Division of Program Development
Department of Education
P.O. Box 8700
St John's, Newfoundland
A1B 4J6

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Facsimile: 709-729-6619

Email: michellecoady@gov.nl.ca

Website: www.gov.nl.ca/edu/

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered in public and private schools (there are seven private schools). There are 475 instructional hours a year (i.e., one half of the regular instructional time of 950 hours for Grades 1 – Level III).

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Newfoundland and Labrador. Access is legislated; the right of access mandates kindergarten in every school.

There is an average of 2.5 hours of instructional time per day. Many schools have children rotate between morning and afternoon attendance on a bi-weekly or monthly basis.

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Age Eligibility

Five years old before December 31.

Class Size

There is a provincial class size limit of 20.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Newfoundland and Labrador's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/inclusion.html>

Number of kindergarten children with special needs in 2009 – 2010: 231.

Enrolment (2010 – 2011)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten: 4,738.

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Newfoundland and Labrador. Information on teacher certification requirements in Newfoundland and Labrador is available at:

<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/teaching/certification.html>

Salary (2010 – 2011): Entry-level salary for all teachers with certificate 5 (Bachelor's degree in primary/elementary education) – \$47,306; with a Master's degree and 10 years experience – \$81,168.

2010 – 2011: approximately 181 full-time equivalent kindergarten teachers and a total of 363 classes providing kindergarten.

Classroom Assistants

In Newfoundland and Labrador, classroom assistants are known as student assistants. The minimum requirement is a high school diploma. Student assistants work under the direction of a teacher.

Salary range: \$15.81 per hour – \$17.65 per hour

Curriculum

A kindergarten-specific curriculum guide: *Completely Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010) is intended to support the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, spiritual and moral development of four and five year olds and promote play-based learning using a cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning.

Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring is done by principals and/or district office specialists who visit classrooms to evaluate teachers and their program delivery. New programs are monitored through pilot teaching followed up by program specialists. Monitoring is also done through school development plans.

The Department of Education's Evaluation and Research Division compiles annual statistics about kindergarten enrolment, kindergarten teachers and trends that affect enrolment and program delivery.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Kindergarten is funded by the province from general revenues.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Average Spending per Kindergarten Student

The provincial government allocates \$12,335 to each school district per full-time equivalent K-12 student. Each district sets its spending priorities and disburses funds to individual schools.

Private and denominational schools do not receive public funding.

Special Features

English as a Second Language teachers are provided by the provincial government to school districts which deploy them at their discretion.

Literacy/Numeracy Teachers: Pilot Program 2010–2011

Literacy/numeracy teachers support teachers as they work toward achieving the effective use of instructional strategies in their classrooms.

Kinderstart

KinderStart for children and their parents/caregivers is provided the year before kindergarten entry. This orientation to kindergarten is offered at the discretion of school districts and consists of a maximum of eight one-hour orientation sessions. 4,427 children participated in KinderStart in 2010–2011.

Recent Developments in Kindergarten

2010

The *Completely Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* was developed (see **Curriculum** section).

March

In the 2010 Throne Speech, the government announced that the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services “will be proceeding with the development of a 10-year Early Learning and Child Care Strategy. This will be coordinated with the Department of Education as it begins consultations this year with parents and others on a draft Early Childhood Learning Framework.”

2011

The 2011 Speech from the Throne stated that, “In this year’s budget, my government will introduce measures to advance the implementation of its Early Childhood Learning Strategy, entitled *Learning from the Start*, to give children a firm footing in their emotional, social and cognitive development.”

April

The 2011 budget announced *Learning from the Start*, describing it as “complementary to two new child care initiatives” (see **Recent Developments in Child Care** section). The Early Childhood Learning Strategy (developed by the Ministry of Education) for children up to age three will focus on “social and early learning development opportunities to give these children a head start well before they enter the K-12 school system,” committing \$4.8 million over three years (\$1.3 million in the first year).

Regulated Child Care Services

Legislation

Newfoundland and Labrador. House of Assembly. *Child Care Services Act*. — SNL 1998, chapter c-11.1, amended 1999 c22 s6, 2001 c36.

Newfoundland and Labrador. House of Assembly. *Child Care Services Regulation 37/99*, revised March 2007.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

Director

Division of Family and Child Development
Department of Child, Youth and Family Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 4J6

Telephone: 709-729-5960

Facsimile: 709-729-6382

Website: <http://www.gov.nl.ca/cyfs/childcare/index.html>

Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Child care centres

Centre-based care for more than six children under 13 years, between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Care may be full-day or part-day.

School-age child care centres

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

Family child care

Care in the home of the provider for up to six children (up to eight children under special circumstances) including the provider's own children not attending school on a full-time basis.

Children with Special Needs

Newfoundland and Labrador's written policy regarding children with special needs is available at:

http://www.gov.nl.ca/cyfs/publications/childcare/child_care_services_inclusion_of_children_with_special_needs_policy_manual.pdf

One regulated centre, Daybreak Parent/Child Centre, works exclusively with approximately 59 at-risk children and their families. This centre receives core funding.

There are no special training requirements for staff working with children with special needs. The inclusion consultants provide training/workshops to child care practitioners on an as-needed basis.

Aboriginal Child Care

There is one licensed centre in Miawpukek First Nation at Conne River. There are centres under federal First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative funding, serving largely 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 subsidy.

Aboriginal Head Start funds projects in Hopedale, Sheshatshui, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. These programs do not provide child care and are not subject to the *Child Care Services Act*.

On December 1, 2005, the Nunatsiavut Government was established pursuant to the self-government provisions of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. The province continues to license child care centres, which have the same rights and responsibilities as other child care centres in the province. The Nunatsiavut Government (Department of Health and Social Development) operates two centres – one in Hopedale and one in Nain.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Centre-based			
Infant (0 – 24 months)	84	–	84
Preschool (24 months – school entry)	4,362	626	4,988
School-age	–	724	724
Total centre-based spaces	4,446	1,350	5,796
Family child care			
Infant (0 – 24 months)	90	–	90
Preschool (24 months – school entry)	214	–	214
School-age	–	100	100
License type			
Agency approved	324	–	–
Individually licensed	80	–	–
Total family child care spaces			404
Total number of regulated spaces			6,200

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care

Statistics are not kept on the number of children with special needs attending typical child care facilities but approximately 277 children with special needs received a fee subsidy.

There are also 59 children with special needs at Daybreak Parent/Child Centre, which receives core funding.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies	
0 – 2 years	125
2 years – school entry	1,478
School-age	309
Total number of children receiving fee subsidies	1,912

Number of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	122
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	27
Stand-alone after-school programs	23
Total number of centre-based programs	172
Family child care	
Family child care agencies	2
Family child care homes (in agencies and individually licensed)	77
School-based child care centres	
For preschool age children	11
For school-age children	18
Number of francophone child care centres	2

Sponsorship	
Regulated centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	1,615
For-profit	4,181
Total	5,796
Full-time regulated centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	634
For-profit	3,812
Total	4,446
Part-time and school-age regulated centre-based spaces	
Part-time non-profit	531
Part-time for-profit	95
Total	626
School-age non-profit	450
School-age for-profit	274
Total	724

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

60 spaces.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
0 to 24 months	1:3	6
25 to 36 months	1:5	10
37 to 69 months	1:8	16
57 to 84 months and attending school	1:12	24
85 to 155 months	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

Parent involvement is not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Staff in the four regions carry out monitoring and enforcement of child care standards. There are managers of child care and family resource programs, one or more child care services consultants, social workers, inclusion consultants and capacity consultants in each region.

Centres are inspected at least once per year. Regional child care services staff visit centres regularly (monthly where possible) and are available upon request to provide support, advice and direction.

Fire/life safety and health inspections are done annually by officials of the provincial Government Service Centre, Department of Government Services, Labour and Lands.

Minor infractions of the regulations result in a verbal warning. More serious infractions result in a violation order to the centre requesting immediate compliance. If the infractions are not remedied within the designated time, or if the infraction is considered to be sufficiently serious, a conditional license may be issued, the license may be suspended or may be cancelled.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Newfoundland and Labrador regulates family child care using two models: individually licensed providers and licensed non-profit agencies that enter into contractual agreements with approved providers under the regulations. Regional Directors of Child Care Services license both agencies and individual providers.

Maximum capacity

Care for up to six children including the provider's own children not attending school on a full-time basis. Not more than three children may be under 36 months; of these, no more than two may be under 24 months. Under exceptional circumstances (and with director's approval), the provider may add two school-age children if she has two children of her own who are younger than school-age. With director's approval, a seventh child may be added for a maximum of 1.5 hours per day, or for a maximum of 12 continuous hours once a week.

A provider may care for three children under 24 months if there are no other children being cared for at the same time.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

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 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.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

One-time funding

Bursaries for those who graduated from a full-time recognised ECE program in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2006 or later, and who are working in a child care centre or regulated family child care immediately following graduation, for a minimum of two years: \$5,000.

Bursaries for College of the North Atlantic on-campus field placements for ECEs and regulated family child care providers who are upgrading their qualifications through distance education: \$1,200/placement.

Family child care start-up grants: \$2,500 per home.

Recurring funding

Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Supplement

The ELCC Supplement provides funding to child care providers trained in early childhood education.

Annual Supplement for Child Care Services Certification		
	Level I	Level II – IV
Early Childhood Educators	3,330	6,660
Family child care providers and licensees who are part of the child:staff ratio	2,330	4,660

Entry Level Supplement of \$500.00 per year to Entry Level child care practitioners who are taking courses to upgrade their certification level to Level I.

The supplement is pro-rated for those who do not work full-time or for a full quarter.

The ELCC Capacity Initiative

This initiative aims to increase spaces 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 on-going operational costs.

Enhancing Quality and Inclusive Practice (EQuIP)

EQuIP is a voluntary, on-site collaborative consultation program for child care centres. The aim of the *EQuIP* program is to assess and enhance the quality and inclusive practices of child care centres by promoting early learning opportunities and increasing professional support services.

Inclusion initiative

This initiative provides supports to centres for children with special needs.

Annual equipment grants

Equipment grants range from \$1,000 – 3,000/year per centre, depending on the size of the centre and the hours of operation, and are \$650/year for family child care homes.

Supports to infant centres in high schools

Core funding provided to three infant centres in high schools.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to non-profit and for-profit service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

Families on income support have been needs tested and no other testing is done. Other families are income tested. To be eligible, parents must be employed or in school, or the child is referred to child care for developmental reasons. Child development is considered in the eligibility criteria for subsidy whether or not the parent is in the paid labour force or training.

Any licensed non-profit or for-profit child care program is eligible to enrol children receiving subsidies. There is no minimum user fee but programs may surcharge subsidised parents above the maximum subsidy rates.

Application for child care services subsidy may be done in person or by mail.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income, 2010)

	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 parent, one child	27,500	43,320
2 parents, one child	27,840	43,680

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum Subsidy by Age of Child (Centres and Family Child Care)		
Age group	Full-day (maximum 8.5 hours/day) (\$)	Part-day (up to 4.5 hours/day) (\$)
0 to 24 months	44/day	23/day
2 – 12 years	30/day	16/day
School-age (up to 4.5 hours)		14/day

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding	
ECE bursaries and summer institute bursaries	\$224,000
Family child care start up grants	13,075
Recurring funding	
ELCC supplement ^a	3,057,000
ELCC child care capacity initiative	1,768,000
Enhancing quality and inclusion practice (EQuIP)	66,000
Inclusion initiative (supports to centres for children with special needs)	997,500
Annual equipment grants (centres and homes)	395,500
Supports to infant centres in high schools	120,000
Family child care agencies	314,460
Child care fee subsidies ^b	13,567,820
Total	\$20,523,355
Other funding	
Certification and training	176,386

^a Supplements are paid directly to staff in child care centres working directly with children and who have the requisite academic qualifications for the age group in which they are working.

^b Includes funding to Daybreak Centre, a fully subsidised centre for at-risk children.

Remuneration

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)^a

All	15,884
Those with an ECE credential	18,608

^a **Source:** Custom tabulation, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Median monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based care (2003 – 2004)^a

Age of child	Monthly (\$)	Daily (\$)
Infants (age 0 – 17 months)	975	45
Full-time	455	21
Part-time	250	11.50
School-age	Information not available	

^a More recent information is not available. Monthly fees were calculated on the basis of 260 days per year divided by 12.
Source: Child Care Services Needs Assessment (November 2003).

Administration

The Department of Child, Youth and Family Services establishes standards and allocates public funds to regions to support families and child care services. Regional staff make decisions about issuing and monitoring licenses and approving staff to work in child care programs.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

School districts operate three licensed child care programs for teen mothers.

The City of St. John's operates one after-school program.

The Nunatsiavut³ Government (Department of Health and Social Development) operates two centres.

³ The Nunatsiavut Government is a regional Inuit government within Newfoundland and Labrador, established in 2005.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:

Four, including the provider's own children under 13 years. If all are under 24 months, maximum is three children.

Unregulated Group Programs

Programs for not more than six children for not more than nine hours a week, or for an unspecified number of children for not more than six hours a day for fewer than eight weeks in a 12-week period, are not regulated.

Funding for Unregulated Child Care

Families on income support who need child care and for whom a suitable regulated space is not available may receive \$325/month for the first child and \$125/month for each additional child. The money goes directly to the parent and is the same amount regardless of the age of the child.

In 2003–2004, \$853,320 was spent for an average of 350 children per month. More recent information is not available.

Family Resource Programs

In 2009–2010, the province through the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services via the regions provided funding to 30 family resource programs. Of these, 20 receive their core funding from the province and 10 receive core funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada with enhancements from the province. In 2009–2010, for the 20 programs that receive their core funding from the province, there were 4,755 families participating in programs with 5,895 families/caregivers attending, along with 6,086 children. There are 329 communities served by these family resource programs.

Child Care and Education

The Department of Education has an Early Childhood Learning Division, with a mandate to focus on the learning needs of children from birth to age six years, and to develop, implement and evaluate programs intended to enhance transition to school and provide a solid foundation for success in school. The Division participates with the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services on a number of working groups, and has the lead on the Early Childhood Learning Strategy. Curriculum development for K-12 falls within the Program Development Division. Kindergarten curriculum development, planning and implementation is coordinated between this Division and the Early Learning Division, both of which are aligned under the same branch of the Department of Education.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

March

Government announced the creation of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. Child Care Services became part of the new Department's Division of Family and Child Development, which was formerly a part of the Department of Health and Community Services.

April

The subsidy rates were increased (see **Funding** section for more details).

2010

March

In the 2010 Throne Speech, the Government announced that the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services would develop a 10-year Early Learning and Child Care Strategy, to be coordinated with the Department of Education.

2011

The 2011 Speech from the Throne stated that, "My government is moving forward to develop a comprehensive child care strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador...In this year's budget, my government will announce a significant initiative in child care, with a focus on infant care, with the potential to increase child care spaces."

The 2011 budget announced a provincial child care tax credit and a two-year pilot project to develop up to 400 family child care spaces over two years including:

- Increasing start-up grants for family child care from \$2,500 to \$5,000;
- Start-up grants of \$7,500 for family child care homes operated exclusively for infants up to age two; and
- An ongoing stimulus grant of \$200/month per space to infant family child care homes.

Prince Edward Island

OVERVIEW

Prince Edward Island's early childhood education and care is in the midst of a significant transformation. Until 2010, kindergarten was delivered by child care centres under child care legislation but has now moved to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the public education system, becoming a compulsory full-school day program for five year olds. (Kindergarten was still in the community and under the former Department of Education from 2000 when it became publicly funded and community based. The move to the school happened in September 2010.)

Regulated child care (centres are called early childhood centres) moved to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in 2007. Centres are all privately (for-profit and non-profit) delivered. Child care is in the process of becoming a more publicly managed program with the introduction of Early Years Centres, which are governed by new provincial policies. These policies include regulated parent fees, required spaces for infants and children with special needs, mandatory parent advisory committees, established staff wages and benefits, new early learning (curriculum) framework, revised certification and training requirements and a formula-based, unit funding approach. At the introduction of the new initiative, existing centres were given the option to apply for designation as Early Years Centres, or remain regulated private centres. Government determines the number of centres based on demonstrated community need. Private centres include those that do not wish to or were not selected to become Early Years Centres.

Numerical data in this section refers to ECEC in Prince Edward Island before the transition to the new policy in 2010.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	1,500
1	1,300
2	1,500
3	1,400
4	1,500
5	1,200
6	1,200
7	1,300
8	1,600
9	1,700
10	1,600
11	1,800
12	2,100
Total	19,600

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	4,300
3–5	4,100
6–12	11,300
Total	19,600

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	900
1	900
2	1,000
3	1,000
4	1,000
5	800
6	900
7	900
8	1,100
9	1,100
10	1,100
11	1,300
12	1,500
Total	13,600

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	2,800
3–5	2,800
6–12	7,900
Total	13,600

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	2,900	76.3
3–5	2,000	83.3
6–15	7,100	87.7

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	150	60	15	0	0	235
5–9	165	40	10	0	0	205
10–14	120	30	0	0	0	160
Total	435	130	25	0	0	600

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
1.29%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	190	2.9
5–9	320	4.0
10–14	470	5.0
Total	980	4.1

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	5,515	1,075	990	90
5–9	6,245	1,725	1,465	260
10–14	7,285	2,015	1,720	295
Total	19,045	4,815	4,175	640

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non – official language
0–4	6,410	115	60
5–9	7,560	160	70
10–14	8,940	185	95
Total	22,910	460	225

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age ^a	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	n/a	n/a
0–17	n/a	2.3

^a Sufficient data for all age breakdowns are not available.

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	3,000	11.2

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave

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

Adoption Leave

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

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	1,397
Birth rate per 1,000 population	9.9
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	1,030
Average length of maternity claim	14.7 weeks
Number of parental claims	1,190
Average length of parental claim	27.6 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	30
Average length of adoptive claim	35.0 weeks

Kindergarten

Legislation

Until 2010, kindergarten was part of the child care system. The legislation governing kindergarten was *The Child Care Facilities Act, Regulations, and Guidelines* R.S.P.E.I. 1988.

In September 2010, kindergarten moved to the public education system. The legislation governing kindergarten effective September 2010 is *The School Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, c. S-2.1.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

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.

Kindergarten Contacts

Kathy McDonald

Director

English Programs

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Email: kmmcdonald@edu.pe.ca

Guy Albert

Acting Director

French Programs

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Email: gcalbert@gov.pe.ca

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
250 Water St., Holman Centre
Summerside, PE
C1N 1B6

Facsimile: 902-438-4884

Website: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/eeecd/>

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Until September 2010, kindergarten programs were part of the child care system. They operated for a minimum of three hours per day, five days per week or the equivalent, and provided 2.5 hours of instructional time at no charge to parents. Kindergarten was not compulsory and access was not legislated. They operated for between nine and 10 months in a 12-month period, and each kindergarten determined its own hours of operation.

Effective September 2010, kindergarten became part of the public school system. It is offered in both public and private schools. It is a compulsory grade level for all eligible children as a full school-day program (five hours of instructional time per day).

Data and information on kindergarten refers to the 2009 – 2010 year (prior to the transition) unless otherwise noted.

Age Eligibility

Five years of age by December 31.

Class Size

Effective September 2010, class sizes are based on 15 children. When there are 18 or more children in a class, an additional teacher is required.

Children with Special Needs

There is a philosophy of inclusion. Students with special needs are supported in the classroom by educational assistants. Transition plans are developed

for children with special needs who have been in child care settings as they are entering kindergarten.

The number of kindergarten children with identified special needs in 2009 – 2010: 71

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten:
1,574

Kindergarten Teachers

Initial qualifications for kindergarten teachers following the transition to the education system are: a two-year ECE diploma, certification from the Child Care Facilities Board, and a minimum of one year's employment in the Prince Edward Island kindergarten sector since 2000; additional kindergarten teaching experience is an asset.

If successful candidates do not already have a Bachelor of Education degree, they are required to enrol in a special Bachelor of Education – Kindergarten program at the University of Prince Edward Island. The program was designed specifically for these kindergarten teachers and will be offered part-time over a 5–6 year period.

Classroom Assistants

In Prince Edward Island, classroom assistants are known as educational assistants. As of September 2010, responsibility for kindergarten falls under each school board or district. Educational assistants support children with special needs, and are required to have either two years of formal training in the education of persons with special needs (e.g. a human services program) or any equivalent program from a recognised institution, or 4,000 hours of related experience. The salary range is \$19.89 – \$23.68/hour.

Curriculum

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has an integrated play-based kindergarten curriculum, which includes social studies,

science, health and physical development, creative development as well as early literacy development and early numeracy development. This curriculum was implemented provincially in September 2008.

Monitoring and Assessment

As of September 2010, school principals are responsible for evaluating kindergarten teacher performance. As of August 2011, the Bridges team no longer supports kindergarten.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Since September 2010, provincial funding is paid to individual school districts.

Prince Edward Island does not provide funding to private schools.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Average Spending per Kindergarten Student

Per capita spending on kindergarten: \$2,768

Total Spending on Kindergarten

\$3,001,700 – excludes special needs assistants, and the Bridges support program.

Recent Developments in Kindergarten

2008

The Government of Prince Edward Island announced that kindergarten would move from the child care system to the public school system.

2010

April

The provincial budget committed an additional \$13.6 million for early learning and education including an increase from \$3.2 million to \$10 million in the fiscal year for kindergarten and new funding of \$2.5 million plus additional kindergarten-related savings for child care to help to maintain child care spaces.

September

Kindergarten was successfully transitioned to the public school system.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly.
The Child Care Facilities Act. 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly.
Child Care Facilities Regulations. 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly.
The Social Assistance Act. 2003

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Provincial Contact

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Website: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/eeed/>

Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Early childhood centres

Group care for less than 24 hours/day for children from birth to seven years including part-day nursery schools for children aged 2–5 years.

School-age child care centres

Care outside school hours for school-age children (usually 5–12 years).

Family child care

Full-day care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of seven children, including the provider's own preschool-aged children.

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, which may be up to \$11.50/hour plus mandatory employment-related costs, based on the training and experience of the staff hired. The role of these grants is to lower ratios to allow for more successful inclusion into early childhood settings for children with special needs. The funding is not capped and there is no waiting list for service.

Aboriginal Child Care

Prince Edward Island does not fund or license child care programs on reserve. There are no First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative programs in Prince Edward Island. There are two unlicensed centres on reserve, and an unlicensed kindergarten program on Abegweit First Nation Lennox Island Reserve.

The Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre operates an Aboriginal Head Start program in Charlottetown. It serves 3–6 year olds and is regulated.³

³ As of May 2011 Abegweit First Nation Scotchfort Reserve operates an Aboriginal Head Start program. It serves 2–6 year olds, operates from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is licensed.

Space Statistics (March 2010)⁴

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (0 – 24 months)	210	0	210
Preschool (2 – 4 years)	2,353	44	2,397
School-age (6 – 12 years)	–	875	875
Kindergarten	884	690	1,574
Total centre-based spaces	3,447	1,609	5,056
Family child care			
Total family child care spaces			28
Total number of regulated spaces			5,084

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care
233

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies	
0 – 2 years	116
2 years – school entry	408
School-age (5 years and over)	434
Total number of children receiving fee subsidies	958

Number of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	82
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	3
Stand-alone after-school programs	24
Kindergarten centres	34
Total number of centre-based programs	143
Family child care	
Individual family child care providers	4
School-based child care centres	
For preschool age children	10
For school-age children	6
Number of francophone child care centres	5

Sponsorship	
Regulated centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	2,126
For-profit	2,958
Total	5,084

⁴ All figures in this section are for the period of time before the transition of kindergarten to the education system; therefore, kindergarten children are included.

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

50 spaces.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
0–2 years	1:3	6
2–3 years	1:5	not specified
3–5 years	1:10	not specified
5–6 years	1:12	not specified
7+ years	1:15	not specified

Staff qualification requirements⁵

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, p. 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

Early Years Centres are required to have a parent advisory committee.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Centres are visited for licensing purposes by staff of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, who observe the administration and programming of the centre. Annual inspections are required by the Fire Marshall's office and the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Health and Wellness.

If a centre is not in compliance with the legislation it may operate under a regular license but is given a specific time frame in which to comply. A centre may have a provisional license for a period of six months, or it may have its license revoked or not renewed. A centre receiving a provisional license or having its license revoked or not renewed may appeal directly to the Minister who then must establish an appeal board. This board must conduct an inquiry and render a decision within 30 days.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Providers are individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Up to seven children including the provider's own children under school-age, with a maximum of three children under two years.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

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

⁵ See **Recent Developments** section for staff qualification requirements for Early Years Centres.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

All licensed child care centres are eligible for all funding programs.

Recurring funding

Operating grants⁶

Full-day centre-based programs	\$1.20/day/space
Part-time centre-based programs^a	
12 children or fewer	825.83/year
24 children or fewer	1,321.32/year
50 children or fewer	2,200.20/year

^a Funding is calculated according to months of operation and is less than stated above if the program operates less than 12 months a year.

Infant incentive funding

\$500/space/year. An annual grant is provided to centres and family day care programs enrolling at least one child younger than two years on a regular basis for at least six months.

Funding to family child care

\$544.40/provider/year.

Special needs funding

Available to centre-based and family day care programs to pay staff to provide individualised programming for children with special needs. The funding will cover wages and benefits up to \$11.50/hour plus mandatory employment-related costs, based on training and experience.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined by an income test and by the following social criteria: parent(s) working or studying, parental medical emergency, child in need of protection, children with special needs, children of immigrant families who are registered for English/French second language programs and school readiness.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is not capped and in 2009–2010 there was no waiting list for subsidy.

Any regulated non-profit or for-profit child care program is eligible to enrol children receiving subsidies.

There is no minimum user fee. Centres and family day care homes may surcharge subsidised parents higher than the maximum subsidy. Approximately half the centres charge fees higher than the maximum subsidy but not all require subsidised parents to pay this difference.

Parents in receipt of social assistance have access to the child care subsidy program.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income 2010)		
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 parent, 1 child	15,400	27,400
2 parents, 2 children	21,200	53,040

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

⁶ In September 2010 the Preschool Excellence Initiative began implementation of Early Years Centres. These centres receive operating funding according to a funding formula. See **Recent Developments** for details. All other licensed child care facilities that are open for a minimum of six consecutive months receive operating grants as described above.

Maximum Subsidy by Age of Child (2010)

Age group	Max. \$/day
0–2 years	30/day
2–3 years	23/day
3+ years	22/day
School-age	18/day

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009–2010)⁷

Recurring funding	
Operating grants	1,509,500
Special needs funding	1,315,000
Child care fee subsidies	3,607,000
Total^a	\$6,431,500
Other funding	
Kindergarten funding to early childhood centres	\$3,001,700
Early Childhood Development Association	\$80,000
Partnerships for children	110,000
Research and evaluation	60,000
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	74%
Over six years	26%

^a For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is in the public education system, kindergarten funding has been separated from spending on regulated child care. The allocation for kindergarten is \$3.2 million; the amount above is actual spending. See **Recent Developments** section for changes to funding effective September 2010.

Remuneration**Median gross hourly wage for centre-based full- and part-time child care staff combined^a (2009)^b**

Uncertified	n/a
Certified ECEs ^c	12.49
Certified ECEs in kindergarten	14.00
Special needs staff	9.00

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)^d

All	19,616
Those with an ECE credential	21,970

^a **Source:** Early Childhood Services, Direct Funding Program April 2009.

^b See **Recent Development** section for changes to funding effective September 2010.

^c 80% of certified ECEs fall within the \$8.50–19.76 range.

^d **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees**Median parent fees for centre-based full-time care (2009–2010)^a**

Age group	Monthly (\$)	Daily (\$)
Infants	685	32
Toddlers	599	28
Preschool	556	26
School-age	Information not available	

^a **Source:** Data from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

⁷ These figures are for the period before the transition of kindergarten to the education system and the establishment of Early Years Centres.

Administration

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for the regulation of child care services and management of government funds allocated to child care.

The Child Care Facilities Board is responsible for standards and regulations, monitoring, qualifications and certification of child care staff. The Board includes six members who represent the Departments of Health and Wellness, Education and Early Childhood Development, the Early Childhood Development Association and the public at large, and a chair who is a public official.

The local offices of the Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour are responsible for assessing eligibility for subsidy and for managing the subsidy budget.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role in the development or delivery of child care.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Five children including the caregiver's own preschool-age children are permitted. If all children are under two years, three are allowed, or five preschoolers if not more than two of them are younger than two years. Six are allowed in a mixed-age group up to 10 years with no more than two younger than two years.

Funding for Unregulated Child Care

The provincial social assistance budget allocates \$50,000 for unregulated care for infants, or for extended-hour care when regulated care is unavailable, or for occasional "babysitting" costs.

As of March 2010, 69 children in unregulated care were being subsidised.

Family Resource Programs

There are seven family resource programs. Funding for all family resource programs comes from the federally-funded Community Action Program for Children; none is provincially funded.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2010

January

The government commissioned an early childhood development framework and a plan for development of an ECEC system for children 0–4 years. Following province-wide consultations, *The Early Years Report – Early Learning in PEI: An Investment in the Island's Future* was released in May 2010. It proposed major changes to the governance and delivery of early childhood programs and was fully endorsed by government.

Recommendations included:

- A move to a more publicly-managed system of ECEC;
- Introduction of Early Years Centres, which include a regulated parent fee schedule, established staff wages according to a specified wage grid, parent advisory committees, an early years curriculum (yet to be developed), and expansion of infant care. Existing child care centres may become Early Years Centres through an application process, and upon approval, receive provincial funding to deliver the program;
- Revisions to the child care subsidy program to eliminate requirements for labour force attachment and to increase income thresholds for income testing; and
- A new certification model for staff. There are three levels: Entry level (90 hours/3 post secondary courses); Level 1 (one-year certificate); Level 2 (two-year diploma); Level 3 Director (post-diploma credential in ECE Administration). Uncertified staff working in Early Years Centres will be required to become certified at a 90-hour entry level certification program.

May

The government released *Securing the Future for our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative*, which outlined plans for the first 18 months of implementation, following wide community consultation. The plan included:

- Ensuring that all early childhood personnel are trained and certified;
- Improving wages and adopting a province-wide salary grid for Early Years Centres;
- Using a newly-established planned approach, developing Early Years Centres, the core of the new system;
- Regulating parent fees with uniform rates at Early Years Centres based on a new “unit funding” model;
- Introducing a common early learning framework (curriculum) for Early years Centre, and mandating parent committees;
- Introducing infant child care (home-based) with trained, certified providers, supported by family resource centres and other infrastructure supports;
- Assisting the transition to the Early Years Centre model, including providing funding for private operators who wish to retire their licenses;
- Improving and expanding training and credentials in early childhood education at all levels; and
- Developing the early learning framework covering birth to school entry following a social pedagogical approach.

The provincial budget for ECEC was increased by 63%. Effective September 2010, parent fees were established for Early Years Centres at the following rates:

- \$32/day for infants up to 2 years;
- \$26/day for children age 2–3 years; and
- \$25/day for children over the age of 3.

Hourly wage scales for Early Years centres are as follows:

Position ^a	Education completed	Experience after certification				
		1 yr or less	2yr	3yr	4yr	5yr or more
Director^b	Post Diploma/Degree	21.00	21.63	22.28	22.95	23.64
Level 2	2-year diploma	15.00	15.45	15.91	16.38	16.88
Level 1	1-year certificate	13.50	13.91	14.33	14.75	15.17
Entry Level	90 hours of coursework	12.00	12.36	12.73	13.11	13.50

^a Staff must have completed the education level required in order to start the associated pay band.

^b Funding for the Director position will remain at the start level of the pay band until they have completed an approved post-diploma course. In the interim, in consultation with the Government, the Contractor may pay the Director a lower salary if the Director is not responsible for all aspects of Centre management.

In the first year of implementation, Early Years Centres operate under contract with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Funding to Early Years Centres is based on the total wages and benefits for all program staff according to the provincial wage scale, divided by .78, less 90% of parent fee revenue, according to the provincial fee schedule.

As of July 2011:

- 41 Early Years Centres, had been established, with another six under development.
- 13 child care operators had chosen to retire their licenses.
- 26 full-day child care centres, nine part-day nursery programs, 29 school-age programs and five family child care homes remain.

Nova Scotia

OVERVIEW

In Nova Scotia, kindergarten and regulated child care are in two departments, the Department of Education and the Department of Community Services. Kindergarten, called Grade Primary, is full school-day for all five year olds and is compulsory. Child care is delivered in both non-profit and for-profit centres; there is no publicly-delivered child care.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	8,100
1	9,600
2	8,900
3	8,000
4	8,900
5	9,000
6	8,600
7	9,700
8	9,500
9	10,200
10	8,400
11	9,200
12	9,500
Total	117,500

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	26,600
3–5	25,900
6–12	65,100
Total	117,500

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	4,200
1	5,800
2	5,400
3	5,000
4	5,600
5	5,700
6	5,700
7	6,100
8	6,400
9	7,000
10	5,800
11	6,200
12	6,900
Total	75,700

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	15,400
3–5	16,300
6–12	44,100
Total	75,700

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	15,900	68.2
3–5	12,700	82.5
6–15	40,000	83.9

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	1,355	360	0	0	35	1,750
5–9	1,520	495	15	0	45	2,075
10–14	1,825	580	35	0	35	2,475
Total	4,700	1,435	50	0	105	6,300

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
2.68%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	770	1.9
5–9	2,430	5.2
10–14	3,330	6.0
Total	6,530	4.5

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	32,880	8,860	7,810	1,045
5–9	36,420	11,380	9,855	1,530
10–14	42,190	13,545	11,640	1,910
Total	111,490	33,795	29,305	4,490

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	39,510	630	1,210
5–9	45,490	765	1,060
10–14	53,055	975	1,320
Total	138,055	2,370	3,590

**Number and Percentage of
Children in Low Income Families
According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)**

Age ^a	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	n/a	9.2
0–17	15,000	8.9

^a Sufficient data for all age breakdowns not available.

**Number and Percentage of Children
in Low Income Families According
to the Market Basket Measure (2009)**

Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	25,000	14.4

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave

Both parents are entitled to 52 weeks which must be taken within 12 months of the child's birth. Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken pregnancy/maternity leave.

Adoption Leave

Fifty-two weeks.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	8,810
Birth rate per 1,000 population	9.4
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	6,140
Average length of maternity claim	14.4 weeks
Number of parental claims	6,710
Average length of parental claim	28.3 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	140
Average length of adoptive claim	32.8 weeks

Kindergarten (Grade Primary)

Legislation

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act and Regulation. 1995-96, c. 1, s. 1.* (Amended 1998; 2000; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2010).

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

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten (Grade Primary) Contact

Nancy Taylor
Early Learning Coordinator
English Program Services
NS Department of Education
Brunswick Place
2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578
Halifax, NS
B3J 2S9

Telephone: 902-424-6286

Email: taylornl@gov.ns.ca

Website: <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/http://www.ednet.ns.ca/index.php?t=subpages&cat=410> (*Communautés acadiennes et francophones*)

Grade Primary

Grade Primary (kindergarten) is delivered in both public and private schools. It is compulsory for all eligible children in Nova Scotia on a full-time basis (a minimum of four hours/day is required for Grade Primary to Grade 2).

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Age of Eligibility

Five years old on or before December 31.

Class Size

Class size limit of 25 students in Grade Primary to Grade 2.

Class size limit of 20 students in combined Grade primary/Grade 1 classrooms.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Nova Scotia's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/>

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

There were 496 classes of Grade Primary. This includes multi-grade classes.

Number of children enrolled in Grade Primary (2010):

Public	8,412
Private	181
Total	8,593

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Nova Scotia. Information on teacher certification requirements in Nova Scotia is available at:

<http://certification.ednet.ns.ca/>

Classroom Assistants

In Nova Scotia, classroom assistants are known as teacher assistants. A high school diploma or equivalent is required.

Curriculum

There is a provincial kindergarten curriculum, as published in the *Learning Outcomes Framework* (2004). The focus is on transitioning from home to school, laying the foundations for lifelong learning, and fostering development in all areas. Subject-specific curriculum outcomes are included.

Monitoring and Assessment

Information not available.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Public school education is funded by both provincial and municipal levels of government. Generally, this funding represents approximately 97% of school board revenues, with the remainder being board-generated.

Nova Scotia does not provide funding to private schools.

Public Spending on Kindergarten

Information not available.

Special Features

Some school boards offer programs to some children prior to Grade Primary. Most are staffed by early childhood educators.

- The Halifax Regional School Board funds five Early Learning Opportunities programs targeted to children at risk for poor educational outcomes. The maximum group size is 18 students and the curriculum is play-based. In 2010, 89 students participated.
- The Strait Regional School Board offers a School Transition Entry Program. In 2010, 13 students participated.
- The Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (francophone school board) offers a program in which 331 students participated in 2010.
- The African Canadian Services Division of the Department of Education offered a program in which 40 students participated in 2010. This program is staffed by licensed teachers.

Recent Developments

In partnership with the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation and the Strait Regional School Board, the Department of Education is leading an exploration of the link between early learning and care and the public school system. The focus of this discussion is the School Transition Entry Program, which is open to children in the year before they enter Grade Primary, led by early childhood educators, and located in the public school. Under the umbrella of Schools Plus (Nova Scotia's integrated service delivery model), a collective of municipal, regional, provincial and non-governmental departments/programs/services/agencies with a shared interest in early learning, parenting, and care are exploring the necessary supports for young children and their families in this rural community. The goal is to develop a framework that can be used to influence continued development in this direction throughout the province.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

Day Care Regulations made under Section 15 of the *Day Care Act* R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 120 O.I.C. 2010-456 (December 20, 2010, effective April 1, 2011), N.S. Reg. 193/2010, as amended by O.I.C. 2011-116 (March 29, 2011, effective April 1, 2011), N.S. Reg. 155/2011.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

Virginia O'Connell

Director

Early Childhood Development Services

Department of Community Services

P.O. Box 696

Halifax, NS

B3J 2T7

Telephone: 902-424-5489

Facsimile: 902-424-0708

Email: oonneva@gov.ns.ca

Website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/index.html>

Child Care 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. This includes full-day and part-day child care centres, and programs for school-age children.

Child development centres

Child Development Centres were established to provide a part-day preschool experience in communities to enhance opportunities for children's development as they prepare for school entry. These non-profit centres receive a grant that cannot exceed 50% of their operating costs. In order to qualify for a grant, a percentage of the families of children

enrolled must qualify for assistance under established income guidelines.

Centres establish their own fees, which are often on a sliding scale according to family income. There are 27 programs across the province.

Family child care

Child care for up to six children of mixed ages including the provider's own children, or eight school-age children including the provider's own school-age children, in a care provider's private home that is approved, managed and monitored by a licensed family home day care agency.

Children with Special Needs

Supported Child Care Grant funding assists regulated child care facilities to support delivery of inclusive early childhood environments. Funding can be used for specialised training and professional development for early childhood educators, additional staff to enhance ratios for the delivery of a facility's inclusive program, and to purchase educational and resource materials directly related to inclusive programs. Families do not pay for the additional supports provided.

Aboriginal Child Care

Development and monitoring of on-reserve child care centres as part of the First Nations and Child Care Initiative was the responsibility of the Mi'kmaq Employment and Training Secretariat until September 2010. The Nova Scotia Tripartite Social Working Committee: Child Care Facilities and Licensing Agreement Sub-Committee has a mandate to explore options and make recommendations for development of a formal structure with regard to regulating (or licensing).

There are currently 13 First Nations child care centres with a total of 253 spaces. First Nation child care centres are not provincially licensed or funded but are required to abide by the Mi'kmaq Child Care Guidelines.

There is one unregulated Aboriginal Head Start program off reserve.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day	Part-day ^a	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (0 – 17 months)	594	–	594
Toddler (18 – 35 months)	2,989	–	2,989
Preschool (36 months – 5 years)	5,549	2,697	8,246
School-age (6 – 12 years)	–	3,039	3,039
Total centre-based spaces	9,132	5,736	14,868
Family child care			
Total family child care spaces			427
Total number of regulated spaces			15,295

^a Approximate numbers.

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care ^a
500

^a Data do not capture all children with developmental needs attending licensed child care as funding is not based on a diagnosis of a special need for individual children.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies (March 31, 2010) ^a
3,977

^a As of May, 2009 the Department of Community Services made all subsidies portable, attaching them to the family, rather than the child care centre or family child care agency. In total, 6,345 children received a child care subsidy in 2009 – 2010.

Number of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	284
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	113
Stand-alone after-school programs	12
Total number of centre-based programs	409
Family child care	
Family child care agencies March 2010 ^a	10
Family child care providers	94
School-based child care centres	
For preschool-age children	24
For school-age children	9
With both preschool and school-age children	21
Number of francophone child care centres	12

^a Includes one francophone family child care agency.

Sponsorship	
Regulated centre-based spaces^a	
Non-profit	7,194
For-profit	7,674
Total	14,868

^a Includes full- and part-day spaces.

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
0 – 17 months	1:4	10
18 months – 35 months	1:6	18
36 months – 5 years (full-day)	1:8	not specified ^a
30 months – 5 years (part-day)	1:12	not specified ^a
5 – 12 years (and attending school)	1:15	30

^a Although group size is not specified for full-day and part-day preschool programs, the day care regulations state that “no more than 25 children shall be in a room or a specified play area at any one time for rest or play.”

Staff qualification requirements³

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, p. 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

Parent meetings must be held at least four times in a year for full-day programs and twice a year for part-day programs.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Initial and ongoing inspections are conducted by the Department of Community Services’ provincial Licensing Services Unit. Licensing officers conduct annual inspections, as well as annual unannounced

³ See **Recent Developments** section for changes to qualification requirements effective May 2012.

inspections, and are responsible for inspecting family home day care agencies and child care facilities.

Licenses are issued for a five-year term. If a centre is not in compliance with the *Day Care Act* and regulations, written communication about the enforcement requirements and the compliance dates are sent to the centre director and the operator. The non-compliance will be documented and conditions may be attached to a license requiring that the violations be corrected. To assist the centre with compliance, the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy provides guidelines for this process.

If the centre fails to meet the legislative requirements in this period, the *Day Care Act* and regulations authorise the Minister to cancel, suspend or not renew the license. A license may be cancelled, suspended, or not renewed if there is evidence of a threat to the health or safety of children, or if there is a pattern of non-compliance with regulations that impact on the physical, social, emotional, or intellectual development of children.

Early childhood development consultants are available to assist and support licensees to identify areas for enhancement in the provision of quality and inclusive programs and services for children. They have training and experience in the field of early childhood education and are available to consult with licensees and staff and to provide support through the provision of resources, tools, workshops and professional development.

Health inspections are conducted by inspectors from the Department of Agriculture. Fire inspections are conducted by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Family home day care agencies are licensed by the Department of Community Services to approve, manage and monitor family day care homes and care providers.

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.

Licensing officers conduct annual inspections of agencies and 25% of their family day care homes operated under the auspice of each agency to confirm adherence to the family home day care regulations (as per the funding agreement and program terms and conditions).

Maximum capacity

Persons who provide approved family home day care may care for a maximum of six children up to the age of 12 at a time, including their own children, and must not have any other children in their care, subject to the following restrictions:

- No more than two children may be infants (up to 17 months);
- No more than three children may be toddlers (18–35 months).

Persons who provide approved family home day care for school-age children may care for a maximum of eight 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 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.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads-ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

A family home day care 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 training from a recognised program approved by the director.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding

Expansion and replacement loan

During 2009 – 2010, the Expansion Loan program approved approximately 283 new licensed child care spaces, in addition to 520 spaces approved in 2008 – 2009, and 515 spaces in 2007 – 2008.

Licensed non-profit facilities were eligible to receive a 75% forgivable loan with the remaining 25% provided by the facility, third party or via a Department of Community Services repayable loan (1% interest).

Licensed commercial facilities were eligible to receive a 25% forgivable loan, with the remaining 75% being provided by the facility, third party or via a Department of Community Services repayable loan (1% interest).

Repair and renovation loan

During 2009 – 2010, approximately 45 centres were approved for funding, in addition to 49 centres approved in 2008 – 2009, and 35 in 2007 – 2008.

Up to \$50,000 for approved licensed commercial and non-profit child care centres to improve or enhance their centres (this amount includes both the forgivable and repayable portions of the loan). Funding is for repairs, renovations, and improvements including energy upgrades and accessibility for children and families with identified special needs.

Recurring funding⁴

Child Care Operating Grant (CCOG)

Available to licensed full-day and part-day commercial and non-profit child care centres.

Full-day licensed centres: \$8 per day per occupied space for infants; \$3 per day per occupied space for toddler and preschool children; and \$2 per day per occupied space for school-age children.

Part-day licensed centres: \$2 per day per occupied space for infant, toddler, preschool and school-age children.

Child Care Stabilization Grant (CCSG)

Available to commercial and non-profit centres.

To improve wages and assist in attracting/retaining staff: \$4,500/year per trained staff, \$4,200/year per ECE equivalent and \$1,200/year per untrained staff according to regulated staff:child ratios. At least 80% must be spent on salaries; up to 20% may be spent on benefits and professional development.

Child Development Centre Grant

Annual operating grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the centre's approved operating budget.

Family Home Day Care Operating Grant

An annual grant provided to all licensed family home day care agencies intended to support the agency in meeting the cost of running an agency. The amount of funding depends on the number of homes each agency supports.

Family Home Day Care Start Up Grant

As each new agency is licensed, a one-time start-up grant of \$5,000 is provided to offset expenses directly related to the start-up costs for the family home day care agency.

⁴ As of April 1, 2010 the CCOG and CCSG have been combined into the Early Childhood Enhancement Grant (ECEG).

Supported Child Care Grant (SCCG)

SCCG funding is available to licensed child care facilities in compliance with the *Day Care Act* and regulations. SCCG funding assists child care facilities in building capacity to support the delivery and planning of inclusive early childhood environments. SCCG funding can be used for specialised training and professional development for early childhood educators, to hire additional staff to enhance ratios for the delivery of a facility's inclusive program, and to purchase educational and resource materials directly related to the delivery of an inclusive program.

Early intervention

Funding is provided to 17 early intervention programs and two satellite sites. Early intervention programs provide home visitation and guidance/support to families of children with identified special needs.

Eligibility for recurring funding as of March 31, 2010

Full- and part-day, non-profit and commercial facilities are eligible for the CCOG and SCCG.

Full-day non-profit and commercial facilities are eligible for the CCSG.

Family Home Day Care Agencies are eligible for start-up and operating grants.

Child Development Centres are eligible for the CCOG and Child Development Centre Grant.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of families eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program. Subsidy is available at full-day licensed child care centres or family home day care agencies. Eligibility for subsidy is determined by evaluating four primary areas of eligibility: social need, financial assets, residency and family income. Social need takes into consideration employment, training, seeking employment or training, developmental needs of the child, medical or rehabilitation needs, and emergency reason for subsidy, such as a crisis affecting the family or the child.

Subsidies are assigned to the child, not to the child care centre or agency, and may be used in any eligible licensed full-day non-profit and for-profit child care centre, or family home day care agency.

Programs may surcharge subsidised parents if costs are above the maximum subsidy rate; they must charge full fee parents at least the same as subsidised parents.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income 2009 – 2010)

	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 child	20,883	62,731
2 children	20,883	62,731
3 children	20,883	76,461
4 children	20,883	93,200
5 children	20,883	108,200

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum Subsidy by Age of Child^a (2009 – 2010)

Age group	Max. \$/day
Infants to 17 months	22.00/day
Toddlers	20.00/day
Preschoolers	19.00/day
School-age	17.70/day

^a Nova Scotia no longer includes a minimum daily parent fee in its subsidy rate.

Provincial Allocations for Licensed Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding	
Expansion and replacement loans ^a	\$2,684,148
Repair and renovation loans ^b	280,800
Recurring funding	
CCOG	\$7,989,825
CCSG	5,496,274
Child Development Centre grant	258,200
Family home day care	496,098
SCCG	3,961,372
Early intervention	2,448,213
Child care fee subsidies	\$15,417,959
Total	\$39,032,889
Other funding	
Early childhood education training initiative	\$800,000
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	75%
Over six years	25%

^a Portion reported reflects the remainder of forgivable loans paid in 2009–2010, as issued to approved licensed non-profit facilities in the 2009–2010 fiscal year. Repayable loans issued are not reported as expenditures.

^b Portion reported reflects forgivable loans only, as issued to approved licensed non-profit facilities. Repayable loans issued are not reported as expenditures.

Remuneration

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2009 – 2010)^a

All	\$20,648
Those with an ECE credential	\$22,213

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)^b

All staff	\$20,060
Those with an ECE Credential	\$20,945

^a Source: 2009 – 2010 CCSG annual report statements. This amount is prior to disbursement of CCOG and/or CCSG funding.

^b Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Median daily parent fees for full-time centre-based care (2009 – 2010)^a

Infants (0 – 17 months)	\$31.00
Toddlers (18 – 35 months)	27.98
Preschool (36 months – 5 years)	27.69
School-age (5 – 12 years)	19.99

Daily Fee Range in Family Child Care^b

Full-day	\$21.96 – \$30.00
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^a Source: Annual Reports of licensed full-day child care facilities that are in receipt of CCSG (March 2010).

^b Source: 2009 – 2010 Information collected by early childhood development consultants.

Administration

The Early Childhood Development Services Branch of the Department of Community Services is responsible for the development of legislation, regulations and standards for licensed child care facilities and family home day care agencies, and the administration of grant funding and program consultation for regulated programs. The Branch approves all new early childhood education and training programs and approves the training status of child care staff working in licensed child care facilities. It is also responsible for the administration of the child care subsidy program and SCCG funding, and provides funding, ongoing support and policy direction to 17 early intervention programs and two satellite sites.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Care for six or fewer children of any age, including the preschool-aged children of the person providing the care. Care for a maximum of eight school-age children, including the children of the person providing the care.

Unregulated Centre-Based Care

School board operated after-school programs are not required to be licensed. In addition, after-school programs operated by community agencies such as the YMCA are not required to be licensed.

Funding For Unregulated Care

Parents on social assistance who are working, involved in an employability program or are unable to look after their children because of their health may receive money (as part of their social assistance payment) to assist with child care costs. The parent may choose any form of licensed, unlicensed or relative care, except care provided by a spouse, legal guardian or dependent child. Parents using licensed care are encouraged to apply for subsidy; the child care allowance may cover the difference between the subsidy rate and the fee charged by the centre. Parents may receive \$400/family/month; on average, 1,112 families are served each month. Total funding was \$3,719,000.

Children who are permanent wards, temporary wards or involved in a family support program may be eligible for child care funding. Care may be provided in licensed, unlicensed or relative care, except a spouse, legal guardian or dependent child. Occasionally a home care agency may be used. If the care is unlicensed, the provider must undergo a police check and not be on the child abuse register. If the child is a ward, the full cost of care is covered. If there is a supervision order or family support, the parent is encouraged to apply for subsidy. When

using licensed care, the minimum parent fee and surcharge may be covered. Payments to clients through child welfare totalled \$1,156,971.

Family Resource Programs

There were 19 family resource programs. Total spending was \$2,157,500.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2008

April

The early childhood education assistance program was launched. This program provides a debt reduction incentive to eligible ECE graduates from an approved training program who are in receipt of a Nova Scotia student loan. Graduates are eligible for a maximum of \$5,000 for each year of attendance, to a maximum of four years.

June

The continuing education program for child care staff was launched. The program provides financial support to child care staff working in licensed child care centres or family home day care agencies to continue their education and enhance their skills and qualifications.

2009

April

SCCG: Prior to April 1, 2009, children with special needs were supported in licensed child care centres based on a per diem rate and paid through the submission of monthly claims. As of April 1, 2009, SCCG became a grant-based program to support funding to licensed, full-day/part-day child care centres to create or sustain inclusive child care programs. Facilities apply for SCCG funding, which is granted upon approval of a work plan which is monitored by early childhood development consultants.

CCSG: In accordance with the commencement of enhancements to funding in September 2007 and January 2008, the program received an increase in funding to support enhanced wages and professional development opportunities for early childhood educators.

Child Development Centre Grant: A review of eligibility guidelines was conducted.

2010

April

The Stabilization Grant and the Child Care Operating Grant were replaced by the Early Childhood Enhancement Grant. The Grant provides funding support to licensed full- and part-day child care facilities to enhance the salaries of child care educators and support retention. Eighty percent of the grant funding is to be used to support the salary and benefits of early childhood educators who provide care for children (based on education and training levels). The remaining 20% can be used as follows: 15% for operating expenses and 5% for professional development.

The family home day care agency grant was revised with a new funding formula. The operating grant increases as the agency recruits additional family day care homes. This increase began in the 2010–2011 fiscal year.

Additional child care fee subsidies were announced, for a total of 3,977. The minimum assessed daily parent fee of \$1.00 per family was eliminated.

The licensing transformation project took place, transforming the roles of early childhood development officers which included both licensing and program responsibilities, to early childhood development consultants and licensing officers.

- Consultants provide specialised consultation, support and advice to early childhood programs in licensed child care centres and family home day care agencies, and support such programs to meet the individual needs of children in a developmentally appropriate early childhood context.
- The role of licensing has been transferred to Licensing Services. Licensing officers are responsible for inspecting family home day care agencies and child care facilities to ensure each facility meets standards and regulations pursuant to the *Day Care Act*, *Children and Family Services Act*, and respective regulations.

The Department of Community Services and the Department of Health and Wellness (formerly the Department of Health Promotion and Protection) co-chair the Food and Nutrition Support in Licensed Child Care Centres Provincial Advisory Group. The

group was established to inform the development of a comprehensive food and nutrition policy for licensed child care facilities and family home day cares. Food and nutrition standards have been developed and will be included as part of the regulations and standards manual on the *Day Care Act* and regulations. The food and nutrition standards are effective as of July 1, 2011.

A new set of regulations for day care and family home day care was approved. These regulations, effective April 1, 2011, have replaced the former day care regulations and family home day care program regulations.

Key areas of change to the regulations include:

- Updated staff qualifications
- One set of regulations for day care and family home day care
- Distinct requirements set out for each program type (part-day, full-day, school-age, family home day care agency)
- Additional building and space requirements
- New language on requirements to comply with standards in the areas of program, food and nutrition, training and extended hours care
- Mandatory child abuse register checks and criminal record checks
- Requirements for parent committees
- Serious incident reporting
- New requirements regarding payments, overpayments, and agreements, including the ability for the Department to share information within programs and with the Government of Canada.

A Regulations and Standards Manual for the *Day Care Act* and regulations is under development as a guide and reference for: licensees, directors and staff of child care facilities and family home agencies; family home day care consultants, and care providers for family home day care agencies; early childhood development consultants; and licensing officers. Included are standards for food and nutrition, the daily program, standards for family home day care and for extended hour care, and standards for Level 1 ECE classification.

An orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities is in development. The orientation is for all untrained staff working in licensed child care centres in the province. The program is scheduled to be launched during 2011; information sessions will be held regarding the new program.

As part of the amendments to the regulations, the following changes to staff qualifications will come into effect May 1, 2012. In order to work with children in a licensed facility staff will be required to apply for a classification level.

- Entry level classification will be issued to applicants who complete the orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities.
- Level 1 classification will be issued to applicants who: a) complete orientation training approved by the Minister as well as coursework and guided workplace experience as specified in standards; or b) hold a one-year certificate in early childhood education; or c) hold equivalency status granted on or before May 1, 2012 and for which the applicant applies no later than April 30, 2011.
- Level 2 classification will be issued to applicants who have completed a two-year diploma in early childhood education.
- Level 3 classification will be issued to applicants who hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, or who have met the requirements for Level 2 classification and hold a bachelor's degree in any discipline.

At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the staff working directly with children must hold a Level 1, 2, or 3 Classification.

The centre director must hold a Level 2 or 3 classification. A person who begins work as a facility director before May 1, 2012, will continue to be qualified as a director having met the requirements of 'equivalent to early childhood education' as defined in the former regulations.

In school-age programs staff must hold the same qualifications as for the classification levels. Additionally, staff may be considered trained to work in a school-age program only if they apply for and meet the following qualifications: hold a bachelor's degree in early or elementary education or a university credential associated with school-age care, and also complete the orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities. Such individuals will be issued a school-age training approval.

Family home day care consultants must have:
a) a Level 2 or Level 3 classification and b) at least two years' experience working in an early learning and child care program.

To maintain classification for school-age approval, staff will be required to complete 30 hours of professional development in every three-year period.

New Brunswick

OVERVIEW

In New Brunswick, kindergarten and regulated child care are now under the aegis of one department, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, where responsibility for regulated child care and related early childhood development programs was transferred in 2011. Kindergarten is a compulsory full school-day for all five year olds. New Brunswick is an officially bilingual province with parallel English and French public education sectors; French and English kindergartens are delivered as part of those two sectors. Regulated child care centres are predominantly for-profit; there is no publicly-delivered child care. Licensed child care spaces are referred to as approved spaces, regulated family child care homes are termed community child care homes, and parental leave is termed child care leave.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	7,700
1	7,500
2	7,200
3	6,900
4	7,900
5	6,700
6	7,100
7	7,100
8	6,900
9	7,200
10	8,300
11	7,200
12	8,100
Total	95,900

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	22,400
3–5	21,500
6–12	51,900
Total	95,900

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	5,200
1	4,800
2	5,000
3	4,600
4	5,500
5	4,700
6	5,000
7	5,100
8	4,800
9	5,100
10	5,700
11	5,000
12	5,800
Total	66,300

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	15,000
3–5	14,800
6–12	36,500
Total	66,300

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	14,900	76.4
3–5	9,900	81.1
6–15	32,500	83.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0 – 14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0 – 4	1,085	230	10	0	30	1,350
5 – 9	1,340	220	20	0	20	1,610
10 – 14	1,215	205	15	20	40	1,495
Total	3,640	645	45	20	90	4,455

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
2.45%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0 – 14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0 – 4	550	1.6
5 – 9	1,670	4.4
10 – 14	2,460	5.6
Total	4,680	4.0

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0 – 4	27,140	7,090	6,245	840
5 – 9	29,815	8,665	7,370	1,295
10 – 14	34,340	10,240	8,405	1,835
Total	91,295	26,000	22,025	3,975

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0 – 4	23,920	8,925	615
5 – 9	27,290	10,085	580
10 – 14	31,060	11,925	710
Total	82,270	30,935	1,905

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	n/a	1.2
0–17	n/a	3.0

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	20,000	14.6

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave (Child Care Leave)

Thirty-seven 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.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	7,044
Birth rate per 1,000 population	9.4
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	4,970
Average length of maternity claim	14.4 weeks
Number of parental claims	5,410
Average length of parental claim	28.8 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	70
Average length of adoptive claim	20.6 weeks

Kindergarten

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).

New Brunswick is officially bilingual, and the public education system is made up of an anglophone sector and a francophone sector. Many characteristics of kindergarten programs are shared by the two sectors. Where there are differences and where data is available by sector, it is noted below.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact – Anglophone Sector

Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan
Executive Director
Educational Programs and Services
Department of Education
Place 2000
250 King Street
Fredericton, NB
E3B 9M9

Telephone: 506-444-4672

Facsimile: 506-457-7835

Email: Darlene.whitehouse-sheehan@gnb.ca

Website: <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/index-e.asp>

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individual and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Kindergarten Contact – Francophone Sector

Gina St-Laurent

Directrice

Services aux élèves

Department of Education

Place 2000

P. O. Box 6000

Fredericton, NB

E3B 5H1

Telephone: 506-453-2750

Email: gina.st-laurent@gnb.ca

Website: <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/index-f.asp>

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools and is compulsory.

The kindergarten program in New Brunswick is a full school day program; 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).

Independent schools may offer a kindergarten program. If parents choose to send their child to an independent school or to homeschool their child for kindergarten, they must write to the Minister of Education requesting an exemption from the public school system.

Age Eligibility

To attend kindergarten, a child must be five years of age by December 31. If a child turns five after September 1, the child may, at his/her parents' discretion, enter school that year or the following year. If parents delay kindergarten entrance for a year, the child must enter the public education system the following year through the kindergarten program.

Class Size

Provincial class size limits are specified in the agreement between Board of Management and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The 2008–2012 agreement stipulates a maximum kindergarten class size of 22 pupils. A kindergarten class combined with any other grade shall not exceed 17 pupils.

Average class size (2009 – 2010):

Provincial	17
Anglophone sector	17.6
Francophone sector	15.9

Children with Special Needs

Information on New Brunswick's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at: <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/anglophone-e.asp#ss> (anglophone sector) and <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/francophone-e.asp> (francophone sector).

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten (Sept. 30, 2009): 6,997

Enrolment by Age			
Age	Francophone	Anglophone	Province
4	476	1, 025	1,501
5	1,616	3,777	5,393
6	11	89	100
7	2	1	3
Total	2,105	4,892	6,997

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in New Brunswick. Information on teacher certification requirements in New Brunswick is available at:

<http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/Pub/EServices/ListServiceDetails.asp?ServiceID1=599&ReportType1=ALL>

Teacher salaries (2008–2012): Entry level salary \$43,085; average salary \$60,826.

In 2009–2010, 447 teachers were responsible for kindergarten students. Over 85% had single kindergarten classes; the remainder had multi-grade classes.

Classroom Assistants

In New Brunswick, classroom assistants are known as teacher assistants. They are required to have Grade 12, and fill a variety of positions including interventionist, teaching assistant, and student attendant. These positions carry different responsibilities and are paid at different rates.

In 2007–2008, the average hourly wage of a teacher assistant increased to \$16.21 with a minimum of 26.25 hours/week. In 2008, the minimum guaranteed weekly hours increased to 28, and the salary advanced to \$17.00/hour; these were maintained in 2009–2010.

Number of teacher assistants, 2009–2010 (1 FTE = 28 hours/week)

Francophone	646.5 FTE
Anglophone	1,531.4 FTE
Total	2,177.9 FTE

In addition, the kindergarten support worker program is funded under the Work Ability Program from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour and is administered centrally by the Department of Education. This position is paid at minimum wage, and involves 30 hours/week for 20 weeks to assist teachers with overall operation of the kindergarten classroom.

Criteria for eligibility are that the individual be unemployed and a new participant in the program. Only classrooms having enrolments of 21 or more students are eligible for kindergarten support workers.

Curriculum

Each of New Brunswick's education language sectors has its own curriculum.

Anglophone Sector

The provincial curriculum was revised in 1999, 2005 and 2008. It addresses cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. It is student-centred and advocates developmentally appropriate practices within an activity-based approach to learning. The curriculum identifies specific curricular outcomes across a variety of subject areas.

Francophone Sector

Information not available.

Monitoring and Assessment

There are both internal and external reviews of a school's performance in 21 distinct areas, using a detailed instrument. The 21 areas are clustered into seven specific standards: school climate, school leadership, school management, staff performance, partnerships with parents, growth and improvement, and teaching and learning.

Kindergarten programs are also monitored by school administrators and other school district personnel.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

100% provincial funding from general revenues.

Individual schools may charge parents a "reasonable" amount for supplies.

There is no public funding of independent schools.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Average Spending per Kindergarten Student

\$9,053

Special Features

The Department of Education provides a one-time English as a Second Language grant of \$600 per student for the provision of English tutoring.

During the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year, the Department of Education allocated funding to school districts to support transition-to-school initiatives. Some funding was dedicated to hiring individuals to implement such programs. In 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009, each school district was allocated one full time equivalent position to conduct transition-to-school initiatives.

During May and June, preschool children and parents are invited to attend an orientation to kindergarten. This session lasts approximately two hours.

In the 2009 – 2010 school year, all children who registered early for kindergarten were invited to participate in the *Early Years Evaluation: Direct Assessment*. Based on results, some children are offered interventions prior to beginning school. 4,402 preschool children were assessed in 2010 and results were shared with parents. The assessment focuses on the following domains: awareness of self and the environment; cognitive skills; language and communication; and physical/motor skills.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

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

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

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

Diane Lutes

Acting Director

Early Learning and Child Care Unit

Education and Early Childhood Development
Place 2000

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E3B 1E7

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Facsimile: 506-453-5629

Email: diane.lutes@gnb.ca

Website: http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/services/services_renderer.2736.html

Child Care Services

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.

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.

Community day care homes

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

Children with Special Needs

Children with identified special needs may be referred for integrated day care services through the Early Childhood Initiatives program. To be identified as special needs, the child must fall into one of three categories: a confirmed diagnosis at birth, developmental issues after birth, or family risk factors.

Facilities providing integrated day care services to children referred under this program may receive an average of \$3,400/year/child for children age 2–5 years. The maximum payment for a child with high needs is \$5,400/year, primarily to provide a support worker. The funding may also be used for transportation, materials and equipment and/or additional nutritional needs of the child. There are no additional training requirements for support personnel.

Aboriginal Child Care

New Brunswick approves child care centres on reserve upon request from a First Nations community. Eight centres on reserve are currently approved³ by the Department. There are 219 approved spaces on reserve; 173 preschool and 46 school-age. 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 Aboriginal child care programs that are approved by the Department and receive provincial government funding.

Some Head Start programs receive funding through an agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (New Brunswick Head Start) and from Health Canada (Aboriginal Head Start). These programs are not licensed by the provincial government.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces	
Centre-based^a	
Infants (0–2 years) (est.)	1,259
Preschool (2–4 years) (est.)	7,997
School-age (5–12 years) (est.)	8,994
Total centre-based spaces	18,250
Family child care	
Total family child care spaces	535
Total number of regulated spaces	18,785

^a 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 (QIFS) application process.

³ In New Brunswick the term “approved” is used instead of “licensed” for all facilities, including First Nations.

Enrolled Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day	Part-day ^a	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (0–2 years)	998	246	1,244
Preschool (2–4 years)	5,176	3,207	8,383
School-age (5–12 years)	6,180	2,232	8,412
Total enrolled centre-based spaces^b	12,354	5,685	18,039
Family child care^c			
Infants (0–2 years)	72	20	92
Preschool (2–4 years)	197	183	380
School-age (5–12 years)	119	30	149
Total enrolled family child care spaces	388	233	621
Total number of regulated enrolled spaces	18,660		

^a Includes enrolment in part-day programs and part-time enrolment in full-day centres.

^b Total enrolment could exceed approved spaces because of part-time enrolment.

^c The number of enrolled spaces by age group is reported through QIFS (see **Funding** section), which includes 562 approved facilities in the province at the time of the QIFS application.

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care ^a
322

^a This figure represents the number of children receiving integrated day care services as of March 31, 2010. The average monthly number served for 2009–2010 was 219. In addition to the total reported here, 25 school-age children were supported through the Support Worker Program.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies (March 2010) ^a	
Infants and toddlers (0–23 months)	680
2–6 years	1,647
School-age (6 years and older)	2,339
Total number of children receiving fee subsidies	4,666

^a This figure is the number of children receiving subsidies as of March 31st, 2010. Note that New Brunswick reports only annual cumulative totals. Thus, this figure is not comparable to the numbers reported in the various editions of *Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada*. The cumulative total is 5,841.

Number of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	237
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	55
Stand-alone after-school programs	144
Combined nursery/school-age programs	55
Total^a	491
Family child care	
Individual family child care providers	87
School-based child care centres	
For preschool-age children	21
For school-age children	82
Number of francophone child care centres	176

^a The part-day nursery school/preschools and combined/nursery school figures are estimates as the data cannot identify part-time. In addition, 16 facilities did not apply for QIFS due to a change in program policy; information on the part-day/full-day nature of their operations is not available.

Sponsorship	
Full-time regulated centre spaces (estimates) ^a	
Non-profit	7,062
For-profit	11,188

^a Estimates provided by provincial officials.

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

60 spaces.⁴

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
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

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

Non-profit centres are required to be managed by a board of directors whose members include at least two parents of enrolled children. There is no requirement for parent involvement.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Fifteen regional early childhood services coordinators are responsible for monitoring compliance with the regulations. Regional coordinators must have an ECE credential or equivalent. Child care centres receive one annual inspection and may receive up to three unannounced monitoring visits per year. The schedule of monitoring visits is linked to the facility's quality improvement assessment rating. Centres determined to be in non-compliance with standards are given a time frame in which to comply. Where the child care service is considered necessary and where the Minister is satisfied that the requirements will be met within the designated period of time, the regulation permits the issuance of a temporary approval for a period not to exceed six months.

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. The authority to issue certificates of approval and renewal is delegated to the supervisor level of the Department's regional offices. Terminations (i.e., directives for closure) have not been delegated and may only be issued by the Minister.

Regulated Family Child Care (Community Day Care Homes)

Regulation

Individually licensed.

⁴ Child care programs are approved for a maximum of 60 spaces. However, those approved before 1983 that had more than 60 spaces were grandparented.

Maximum capacity

Infants: Three

2–5 years old: Five

6 years and over: Nine

Combination of ages: Six

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

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The regional Early Childhood Services Coordinators are responsible for licensing and monitoring community day care homes. Community day care home providers are issued an initial license and must make an annual request for renewal. The regional coordinators spot-check homes to ensure compliance with the regulations. The authority to issue certificates of approval and renewal is delegated to the supervisor level of the Department's regional offices. Temporary approvals may not be issued for community day care homes. Terminations (i.e., directives for closure) have not been delegated and may only be issued by the Minister.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

One-time funding

None.

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Funding Support Program (QIFS)

QIFS makes funding available to increase 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

The majority of funding is paid as grants on behalf of children directly to child care facilities for integrated child care services. Additional funding is provided under the support worker project for families in the labour force whose children have relatively high support needs. It provides funding to cover up to an additional 25 hours per week of support personnel wages, beyond what is provided under the integrated day care services program.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents through the day care assistance program. Eligibility 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. 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. In addition, a social worker may refer a child to part-time care for social reasons.

Subsidies are payable to any regulated non-profit or for-profit child care centre or community day care home.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is not capped. Allocation of spaces is based on financial and social need, not geography, program, and/or child/group-at-risk criteria assessment.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income, 2009 – 2010)		
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 child, 2 years and older	22,000	41,000
1 child, under 2 years	22,000	41,000

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum Subsidy by Age of Child ^a (2009 – 2010)	
Age group	Max. \$/day
0 – 2 years	24.50
2 – 6 years	22.50
6 – 12 years and part-day preschool rate	12.00

^a There is no minimum user fee. Programs may surcharge subsidised parents. The same subsidy rate applies to centres and community day homes.

Other funding⁵

Start-up funding

For new infant child care spaces:

- Day care centres and community day care homes (minimum of three spaces must be created)
\$2,500/space

For new spaces in rural New Brunswick local service districts and villages:

- Day care centres (minimum of five spaces must be created)
5,000/space
- Community day care homes (minimum of three spaces must be created)
3,000/space

For new extended hours spaces for shift workers:

- Day care centres (minimum of eight spaces must be created)
7,500/space
- Community day care homes (minimum of five spaces must be created)
5,000/space

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: up to \$3,000.

English and French early learning and child care curriculum

Funding to accredited post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick for development and implementation of an English and French early learning and child care curriculum, including training for child care staff in the use of the new curriculum.

To support on-going curriculum implementation, the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund has provided:

- wages for child care staff while they complete the curriculum training outside of work hours;
- funding to assist with the cost of attending the *2009 Braiding Our Resources* conference in PEI. This was a one-time expenditure;
- \$50 per space to assist with the purchase of items to support the new curriculum; and
- funds to deliver curriculum training, develop support documents and other professional development opportunities to enhance the ongoing implementation of the curriculum.

⁵ "Other funding" is allocated through the Early learning and Child Care Trust Fund and is not part of the provincial allocation.

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

Recurring funding	
QIFS (includes training initiatives)	\$15,700,000
Special Needs Funding	1,836,200
Fee Subsidies	11,400,000
Total	\$28,936,200
Other funding	
Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund	
Training Assistance for Child Care Staff	\$311,127
New Child Care Spaces	797,500
Early Childhood Care and Education NB (wage reimbursement program)	492,000
Professional Development	755,477
Braiding Our Resources	23,460
Curriculum Materials Grant	33,361
Total	\$2,412,925
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	70%
Over six years	30%

Remuneration

Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time staff combined) (2009 – 2010)^a

Trained staff (across all eligible staff)	14.80
Untrained staff (across all eligible staff)	11.75

Mean gross hourly wage for family child care providers (full- and part-time staff combined) (2009 – 2010)^a

Trained staff (across all eligible staff)	13.84
Untrained staff (across all eligible staff)	13.27

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)^b

All	17,429
Those with an ECE credential	17,942

^a These figures include base wages and increases/bonuses provided through the QIFS. QIFS Wage Enhancement rate 2009 – 2010: \$4.50 for trained employees and \$2.75 for untrained employees.
Source: 2009 – 2010 QIFS Program applications.

^b **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Mean monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based and family child care (2009 – 2010) ^a	
Infants (aged 0 – 24 months)	621 (\$29.03/day)
Preschool (aged 2 – 5 years)	527 (\$24.62/day)
School-age	300 (\$14.03/day)

^a **Source:** Figures provided by the Department of Social Development from information collected on facility applications for QIFS as of March 2010.

Administration

Most administrative aspects of child care programs are now the responsibility of the Early Learning and Child Care Unit of the Education and Early Childhood Development department.

Social Development administers the day care assistance (subsidy) program through its regional offices.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role.

Related Programs

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children of mixed ages, 0 – 12 years permitted: Five, including the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

Maximum if all are 2 – 5 years: Four.

Maximum if all are school-age: Eight.

No more than two infants are allowed.

Parents who are working or training and for whom no accessible regulated child care is available due to where they live or their hours of work, may be eligible for the alternative child care program. The maximum daily subsidy is \$18.50 for infants, \$16.50 for children two years and older, and \$9.25 for after-school care.

In 2009 – 2010, 255 children received a subsidy through this program. Spending was \$300,000.

Family Resource Centres

Number of family resource programs: 13

Spending on family resource programs: \$400,000 (\$30,000 to each program and \$10,000 to their association)

ECEC and Schools

Following the early registration process, many school boards/districts have initiated preschool programs particularly to respond to the *Early Years Evaluation – Direct Assessment* results of individual children. These are usually six weeks in length and occur once a week between March and June. Some districts may have more than one session per week and these usually run for 1½ hours. Transition-to-school coordinators under the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development coordinate these sessions. These programs are not licensed.

Recent Developments In Child Care And Other ECEC Services

2008

October

The maximum daily subsidy rates increased (see **Funding** section for details).

2009

See **Other Funding in Provincial Allocations** section for details on the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund.

The responsibility for hiring and supervising early learning community advisors and a learning project manager was delegated to the provincial association, Early Childhood Care and EducationNB/ Soins et éducation à la petite enfance (ECCENB/ SEPENB). The primary role of advisors is to support curriculum implementation, which currently includes delivering the program of professional learning in collaboration with community partners and the universities.

Four early childhood development centre sites were selected by government through a request for proposals process as part of a three-year pilot. Each site is funded at \$100,000/year. The Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation funds the evaluation and five additional sites. All nine sites are now included in the evaluation. The McCain-funded sites receive \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year.

As part of the 10-year strategy, the Government implemented an early childhood development community mapping model (using the Early Development Instrument, census socio-economic data, program and service data and other data sources) as a community-based planning and assessment tool. Data was collected Feb/March 2009.

2010

An additional early learning community advisor was hired to assist with the implementation of the francophone curriculum éducatif.

Changes were made to QIFS:

- As of April 2010, the \$2.75/hr allowance for untrained staff will not be provided to new entrants. Untrained staff receiving allowances prior to April 2010 have been grandparented and will maintain their funding.
- Newly approved facilities with infant spaces may apply throughout the year; new facilities with no infant spaces must wait until the following April.
- A new funding program was introduced under the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund for the creation of spaces that support the minority language of a community.

April

A new *Early Learning and Child Care Act* was passed and will be proclaimed once regulations have been approved by the Government. The introduction of this act was a commitment of Overcoming Poverty Together, New Brunswick's economic and social inclusion plan.

October

The newly-elected Conservative government announced that early childhood services would become part of the newly created Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Child care policy, program development and licensing will be part of the new department.

The Path Forward: Putting New Brunswick First for a Change contains the new government's vision for the province. It includes the David Alward Childcare and Early Learning Plan, which is based on four key principles: the system must be accessible, affordable, deliver quality learning and care, and be inclusive.

Over the next four years the government plans to:

- Increase the total number of child care spaces by 50 percent to 30,000 spaces.
- Increase the total number of infant/toddler spaces in licensed facilities by 50% to 2,100 spaces.
- Enhance affordability of licensed early learning and child care costs for families with income under \$30,000/year.
- Raise the upper household income limit for the early learning and child care subsidy for families from \$40,000 to \$55,000.
- Examine how child care is financed, creating a more systematic approach.
- Increase compensation for staff to levels that support retention of qualified individuals.
- Raise standards for staff training to ensure a greater percentage of staff have successfully completed an early childhood training program.
- Explore instituting a two-year, early learning and child care community college training program.
- Ensure equity for under-served groups including families in rural areas, children with disabilities and other special needs, and families who do shift or seasonal work.
- Build on existing early learning and childhood education initiatives.
- Work with employers to develop workplace child care options.
- Assure full use of suitable and available space in public schools.

2011

March

A Ministerial Advisory Committee on Early Learning and Childcare was created to provide advice on implementing the Childcare and Early Learning Plan. The committee is to also facilitate communication between the department and early learning and child care centres, parents, schools and community partners.

April

Responsibility for child care and related early childhood development programs was transferred to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The provincial government announced the following for 2011 – 2012:

- \$1.4 million to fund an increased number of early learning and child care spaces; and
- Increasing funding by \$800,000 for the daycare assistance program.

Quebec

OVERVIEW

Quebec's early childhood education and care provision, which is provided by two ministries, the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (MELS) and the *Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés* (MFA), has undergone significant changes since 1997.



Quebec provides full-day kindergarten (*maternelle*) for all five year olds under MELS.

Regulated child care for children aged 0–4 is under the aegis of MFA and includes *centres de la petite enfance* (CPEs) which operate as small non-profit networks of several “installations” or centres and often include regulated family child care as well.

Family child care is operated by family child care coordinating offices (many of which are CPEs). In addition, there are garderies, which are primarily for-profit centres. There are no regulated part-day child care programs, although unregulated part-day *jardins d'enfants* are permitted.

CPEs, family child care and some garderies are primarily publicly funded with parents paying a flat fee of \$7.00 a day; spaces in these programs are referred to as “reduced contribution spaces.” Quebec does not use fee subsidies. All children aged 0–4 who have secured a space in a reduced contribution program may attend at \$7.00 a day regardless of family income or mother's employment status. Some garderies are unfunded; parents using unfunded garderies may be reimbursed an amount so that the cost is equivalent to \$7.00 a day.

All school-age child care is operated under MELS by school boards and is available at the same flat fee (\$7.00/day, which applies when school is in session) as regulated child care. School boards are required to provide school-age care when demand is sufficient.

Quebec has its own program for family-related leave and benefits. Parents may choose between two options: the Basic Plan and the Special Plan. Quebec family leave benefits pay at an income replacement rate of 70–75% (based on earnings up to a maximum of \$64,000 in 2011) for most of the leave period.

Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	82,700
1	73,500
2	77,000
3	77,300
4	75,000
5	69,900
6	77,100
7	79,100
8	75,700
9	81,800
10	76,300
11	80,100
12	89,700
Total^a	1,015,300

^a Total may not add up due to rounding.

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age group	Number of children
0–2	233,200
3–5	222,200
6–12	559,800
Total	1,015,300

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	54,900
1	51,000
2	51,000
3	49,000
4	51,700
5	47,000
6	49,900
7	55,800
8	52,200
9	53,100
10	54,200
11	56,800
12	66,800
Total^a	693,300

^a Total may not add up due to rounding.

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	156,900
3–5	147,700
6–12	388,800
Total^a	693,300

^a Total may not add up due to rounding.

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	153,800	73.2
3–5	104,300	78.2
6–15	343,200	85.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	5,525	1,660	1,335	35	120	8,675
5–9	5,605	1,975	1,385	30	195	9,185
10–14	5,975	2,035	1,350	85	195	9,650
Total	17,105	5,670	4,070	150	510	27,510

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
1.46%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	4,750	1.3
5–9	14,960	3.8
10–14	17,270	3.6
Total 0–14 years	36,980	3.0

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age of child	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	324,820	48,510	41,805	6,705
5–9	314,475	81,340	65,565	15,775
10–14	359,805	113,880	88,920	24,960
Total	999,100	243,730	196,290	47,445

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age of child	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	30,775	285,765	40,725
5–9	35,070	310,815	35,460
10–14	40,760	381,760	37,145
Total	106,605	978,340	113,330

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	36,000	7.1
0–17	124,000	8.2

Number and Percentage of Children Living in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	133,000	8.9

Family-Related Leave

On January 1, 2006, the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan replaced the maternity and parental benefits previously available to Quebec parents under the federal Employment Insurance plan. The Quebec plan stipulates that financial benefits be paid to all eligible workers – salaried or self-employed – who take maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, or adoption leave. Parents must choose between two options: the Basic Plan or the Special Plan. In so doing, they decide the duration of their leave as well as their income replacement rate. Once made, the choice of plan cannot be modified. Income replacement rates are based on earnings up to a maximum of \$64,000 in 2011.

Maternity Leave

Birth mother only. Cannot be shared between the two parents.

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

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

Paternity Leave

Father only. Cannot be shared between the two parents.

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

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

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 benefits, with the first seven weeks at the rate of 70%, and the following 25 weeks at the rate of 55%

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

Adoption Leave

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

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

Family-Related Leave

Ten days per year unpaid.

Births and Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	88,400
Birth rate per 1,000 population	11.2
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	68,471
Average length of maternity claim	17.9
Number of initial paternity claims allowed	56,458
Average length of paternity claim	4.9
Number of parental claims, women	66,317
Average length of parental claim, women	30.6
Number of parental claims, men	17,492
Average length of parental claim, men	11.5
Number of adoptive parent claims, women	573
Average length of adoptive claim, women	34.2
Number of adoptive parent claims, men	266
Average length of adoptive claim, men	15.5

Kindergarten and Related Services

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 **Conseil 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.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

Christiane Bourdages-Simpson

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17^e étage
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Email: christiane.bourdages-simpson@mels.gouv.qc.ca

Kindergarten Services

Five Year Old Kindergarten

Kindergarten for five year olds is delivered on a full-time basis in public and private schools (both English and French). There are 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours a year.

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Quebec. Entitlement is legislated.

Kindergarten is funded by the province for four and five year olds in private schools.

Four Year Old Kindergarten

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.

Initially, four year old kindergarten was developed for low-income children (although this is no longer its sole clientele). Most four year old kindergartens are in Montreal and were developed prior to the new family policy and child care expansion. There is no new development of four year old kindergarten; those existing are being maintained.

Passe-Partout

A family-oriented approach for four year old children and their parents, Passe-Partout, is a program developed for low-income families living mostly in rural Quebec. Passe-Partout is designed to provide targeted parents with the tools they need to help their child adopt attitudes and practices that will enable the child to develop, grow and succeed at school.

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

With the new family policy and child care expansion, Passe-Partout, like the four year old kindergarten program, is no longer being developed but only maintained.

Age Eligibility

Five year old kindergarten: Five years old by September 30

Four year old kindergarten: Four years old by September 30

Class Size

Class size limits are defined in the collective agreement.²

Five year olds: Maximum 20, average 18

Four year olds: Maximum 18, average 15

Multi-age groups: Maximum 15 children per group

Children with Special Needs

Information on Quebec's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at (available in French only):

http://www.formulaire.gouv.qc.ca/cgi/affiche_doc.cgi?dossier=926&table=0

For four year olds with special needs, the school board has the obligation to deliver a kindergarten program if the parents so request.

In 2007–2008, 2,133 children identified with special needs were included in regular kindergarten classes.

There are additional budgets tied to inclusion of children with special needs.

Enrolment (2009–2010)

Five year old kindergarten:
75,459 (includes public and private schools)

Four year old kindergarten: 5,903

Passe-Partout: 10,055

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Quebec. Information on teacher certification requirements in Quebec is available at (available in French only):

<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/dftps/>

Classroom Assistants

There are no provincial policies regarding teaching assistants and no assistants are provided.

Curriculum

A provincial kindergarten curriculum for four and five year olds was implemented in 2000. It is based on children's development.

Monitoring and Assessment

Information not available.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Kindergarten is funded 82% from provincial grants and 11% from local property tax levies.

Private schools are funded in Quebec, receiving less money than public schools.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009–2010)

Total spending on kindergarten

Five year old kindergarten:	\$301,877,260
Four year old kindergarten:	13,525,402
Passe-Partout:	10,999,076

Special Features

Allophone (non-French, English or Aboriginal mother tongue) children have access to "services particuliers" under the regulation. The policy and formula are established at the Quebec level. School boards receive and distribute budgets for these services to schools.

² According to the collective agreement, a teacher cannot have more than 20 children under her/his responsibility.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

On December 16, 2005, the National Assembly adopted Bill 124, *Educational Child Care Act*.

Since June 1, 2006, *Educational Child Care Act* (R.S.Q., chapter S-4.1.1) replaced *An Act Respecting Child Care Centres and Child Care Services* (R.S.Q. cC-8.2).

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.

Since August 31, 2006, Regulation respecting reduced contributions (R.S.Q., c.[S-4.1.1., r.1]) and Regulation respecting educational child care services (R.S.Q., c.[C-8.2, r.2], and Regulation respecting day care centres (R.R.Q., 1981, c. [C-8.2, r.5.1]) have been in force.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

Line Bérubé

Sous-ministre

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425, rue Saint-Amable
Quebec, QC
G1R 4Z1

Telephone: 418-643-1226

Website: <http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca>

Early Childhood Contact

Dominique Bélanger

Direction de l'accessibilité et de la qualité des services de garde
Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés
600 rue Fullum, 6^e étage
Montréal, QC
H2K 4S7

Telephone: 514-873-6741

Facsimile: 514-864-6736

Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Centre de la petite enfance (CPE)

A CPE is a small network of child care centres and often family child care homes. A CPE provides educational child care primarily for children 0–4 years old. Children may be cared for in centre-based programs for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours.

A centre/facility may have up to 80 children and no more than two facilities may be housed in a building.

CPEs must be non-profit with a board of directors having a minimum of seven persons, at least ⅓ of whom must be parent-users of the program; these must be neither staff nor family child care providers.

Garderie (day care centre)

An organisation that provides child care in a facility of not 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 a building. Garderies are generally for-profit operations but may be operated by a non-profit group that does not have a majority of parents on the board of directors (e.g. church-run centres).

Service de garde en milieu familial (family child care)

Family child care is provided in a private residence by an individual for up to six children including the provider's own children. If the provider is assisted by another adult, nine children are permitted.

Family child care providers are coordinated by 165 *bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial* (family child care coordinating offices) under agreement with MFA. The *bureaux de coordination* give assistance to providers and monitor application of the standards. Most family child care coordinating offices are CPEs; some are free-standing non-profit organisations.

Milieu scolaire (school-age child care)

These programs are provided by a school board for children attending kindergarten or elementary grades under the jurisdiction of MELS. School boards are obliged to provide school-age child care when there is a demonstrated need.

Children with Special Needs

Admission to a regular child care program is at the discretion of the CPE, garderie or the family child care provider. However, Quebec's objectives regarding children with special needs in child care programs strongly favour inclusion.

For a child with a diagnosed disability, or who meets the Ministry definition of a "disabled" child, a one-time grant of \$2,200 and an additional \$37.30/day/child (2009–2010) in addition to the regular operating grants is available.

In addition to the supplementary allowance allocated to child care establishments including children with a disability, an assistance measure has been put in place for the integration of children with significant special needs into child care services.

Aboriginal Child Care

Quebec regulates child care on reserve.

In 2009–2010, there were 49 CPEs, four family child care services and no garderies in nine First Nations communities, with a total of 3,661 spaces. Other centres are under construction.

On-reserve child care is funded through agreements between First Nations communities and federal and provincial governments. Aboriginal child care services receive funding from MFA. The Quebec government has reached agreements with Inuit, Cree communities and the Mohawk community of Kanawake, thereby delegating some legal authority for child care under the law.

Space Statistics (March 31, 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces	
Centre-based (0–4 years, CPEs and garderies ^a)	
Infants (under 18 months)	14,685
Preschoolers (18 months–4 years)	114,900
Total centre-based spaces (0–4 years under MFA)	129,585
Regulated family child care (enrolled spaces)	
Infants (under 18 months)	21,080
Toddlers (18 months – up to age 3)	33,920
3–4 year olds	31,491
Kindergarten and school-age	318
Total enrolled family child care spaces	86,809
Total spaces regulated by MFA	216,394
School-age	
Total school-age child care spaces^b	162,992
Total number of spaces regulated by MFA and under the aegis of MELS	379,386

^a Garderies can be financed or not financed. (See **Sponsorship** section.)

^b Four and five year olds may be included in school-age spaces. The total number of school-age spaces is from 2008. More recent information is not available.

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care

4,799

Number of Child Care Programs	
Number of CPEs	981
Number of centres that are part of CPEs	1,367
Number of garderies	848
Number of garderies – financed	621
Number of garderies – not financed	227
Number of school-age services	n/a
Number of family child care coordinating offices	165
Number of family child care providers	15,304
Number of anglophone child care centres	21 CPEs and 5 garderies

Sponsorship	
Centre-based spaces	
Non-profit (CPEs)	79,547
Garderies (for-profit ^a and other non-CPE centres)	50,038
(Financed garderies – 38,865)	
(Not financed garderies – 11,173)	
School-age (school board operated)	162,992 ^b

^a Most garderies are for-profit.

^b The number of school-age spaces is from 2008. More recent information was not available.

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres (CPEs and Garderies)

Maximum centre size

80 spaces

Maximum staff:child ratios

Age	Staff:child ratio
0 – 17 months	1:5
18 months – less than 4 years	1:8
4 years – less than 5 years	1:10
5 years and older	1:20

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

A non-profit child care centre's board of directors must be made up of at least seven members, $\frac{2}{3}$ of whom (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 license holder must set up an advisory committee made up of five parents and consult with the parent committee on all aspects of the care the children receive in the centre, particularly with respect to implementation of the educational program, services provided and how complaints are processed.

The composition of the boards of directors of organisations accredited as family child care coordinating offices are determined by the type of organisation.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The MFA issues licenses for up to a five-year period. MFA inspectors may visit any licensed operation to monitor its compliance with regulations. License holders of child care centres and garderies should receive at least one inspection visit during the period that their license is valid – generally one every five years.

In the six months after the issuance of a new permit, a first visit is conducted for the purpose of information and prevention. The aim of this visit is to evaluate quality, identify problems, establish an action plan and provide support.

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

Quebec does not issue conditional or provisional licenses. 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, MFA informs the centre's board 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 a court hearing.

The operator may appeal the loss of a license (or the refusal by MFA to renew a license) or may contest a decision to the *Tribunal administratif du Québec*. Its decision is binding.

Regulated Family Child Care

Family child care providers are supervised by *des bureaux coordonnateurs* (family child care coordinating offices).

Maximum capacity

Up to six children including the provider's children under nine years; 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.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family child care coordinating offices are required to do three on-site home visits per year. The child care coordinating office is responsible for ensuring that providers meet the regulations.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding

Development grants (CPEs only)

Grant for professional services incurred by the project manager in setting up a facility: \$8,000

Start-up grant for establishing a family child care component of a CPE: \$8,000

Major and minor capital grants (CPEs only)

See **Programme de financement des infrastructures** (available in French only).

<http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/services-de-garde/cpe-garderies/gestion-finances/programme-financement-infrastructures/Pages/index.aspx>

Recurring funding

MFA provides funding to CPEs, garderies and family child care coordinating offices through several basic and supplementary mechanisms that are calculated according to three financing parameters:

- annualised spaces on the license;
- annual occupancy; and
- the annual occupancy rate.

These funds are paid to the CPEs on a monthly basis.

Basic allowance: CPE

Expenses related to the premises:

- the lesser of the actual expenses established by MFA or an amount equal to \$36,720 for the first 30 annualised spaces, and \$1,020 for each annualised space beyond 30.

Overhead costs:

- \$2,336.05 for each of the first 60 annualised spaces, plus \$1,518.45 for each additional space beyond 60.

Performance:

- with the exception of new or expanded facilities, a deduction is made from the grant if the annual occupancy rate falls below 85%.

Child care and educational expenses:

- \$57.70/day for children 17 months and younger; and
- \$37.30/day for children 18–59 months.

Basic allowance: garderies**Basic costs:**

- \$2,247.25 for each annualised space.

Performance:

- with the exception of new or expanded facilities, a deduction is made from the grant if the annual occupancy rate falls below 85%.

Child care and educational expenses (variable costs):

- \$50.90/day for children 17 months and younger; and
- \$34.05/day for children 18–59 months.

Basic allowance: family child care**Allowance for the Operating Budget (goes to one coordinating office):**

Model	Number of places	Annual budget (\$)
1	140 or less	68,134
2	over 140 up to 280	172,597
3	over 280 up to 420	243,862
4	over 420 up to 560	303,792
5	over 560 up to 700	369,149
6	over 700 up to 850	406,489
7	over 850 up to 1,000	479,337
8	over 1,000 up to 1,150	540,837
9	over 1,150 up to 1,300	615,296
10	over 1,300 up to 1,500	665,270
11	over 1,500 up to 1,700	741,393
12	over 1,700	839,142

Child care and educational expenses:

- a maximum of \$19/day for children aged 59 months and younger, and an infant supplement of \$9.75/day for children 17 months and younger.

Supplementary allowances (CPEs, garderies and family day care coordinating offices)**Allowance for exemption from payment of the contribution:**

- An allowance to make up for the parental contribution exemption of parents who receive income security for two and a half days maximum or five half days per week.

Allowance for a facility in a disadvantaged area:

- To help the facility (CPE and garderie) meet the additional costs of enrolling children from a disadvantaged area are equal to:
 - 2.3% of the basic operating allowance when the proportion of payment-exempt days is between 5% and 10%;
 - 4.6% of the basic operating allowance when the proportion of payment-exempt days is between 10% and 20%; and

- 6.9% of the basic operating allowance when the proportion of payment-exempt days is greater than 20%.

Allowances for places at the reduced contribution offered to school-age children:

- To support child care institutions who serve kindergarten or elementary school children who cannot receive any other child care service at their school:
 - \$2.20/day for each school day; and
 - \$15.35/day for each pedagogical day, for a maximum of 20 days per child.

Allowances for the integration of a child with a disability:

- To facilitate the integration of a child with a disability aged 59 months or younger, for a maximum of nine children in a facility, providing that number does not exceed 20% of licensed spaces or one child per family child care provider:
 - a lump sum of \$2,200 per child, of which \$1,800 is for equipment or improving the set-up to meet the child's needs; and
 - \$37.30/day of occupancy in CPE (\$34.05 in garderie and \$26 in family day care).

Specific allowances:

- Allowance for group insurance plans and maternity leaves. This program is maintained at 3% of the insurable aggregate employable earnings of participating CPEs and garderies. The allowance is 2.83%.
- Subsidy for personal pension plan for CPEs and garderies. Finances a portion of personal pension; amount is not specified.
- Other specific allocations. MFA may grant these to CPEs under special circumstances or for special projects.

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)³

Child care fee subsidies	not applicable ^a
One time funding	
Capital expenditures	\$23,244,000
Recurring funding	
Funding to CPEs and garderies	\$1,823,176,000
Total child care expenditure for children 0 – 4 years	\$1,846,420,000
Expenditure on school-age child care (by MELS)^b	\$152,300,000
Total	\$1,998,720,000

^a Quebec does not use fee subsidies.

^b Expenditure figures on school-age child care are from 2008. More recent information is not available.

Remuneration

Recommended salary scales for salaried staff in CPEs by job category (hourly rate, April 2010)^a	
Pedagogical staff	17.99 – 22.52
Qualified educator	16.06 – 21.28
Non-qualified educator	14.19 – 21.28
Assistant educator	12.75 – 15.07
Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)^b	
All	26,240
Those with an ECE credential	27,298

^a Figures provided by provincial officials.

^b **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

³ **Source :** Comptes publics 2009 – 2010.

Fees

The provincial government sets maximum fees for all children in CPEs, family child care, school-age care and funded garderies.

Maximum daily fees in funded child care programs (2009 – 2010)

\$7/day

Daily fees in school-age care apply only to the days school is in session. It does not apply during the winter and spring break or during the summer.

Administration

MFA is responsible for setting standards and regulations, administration of the legislation, administration of funding, and coordination of the child care system across the province.

MELS is responsible for school-age child care services; however, when a school cannot provide child care services, the child may attend a child care service regulated by MFA.

School-age children are not eligible for a \$7/day place during the summer.

Municipal and Other Local Government Role

Municipalities may not hold licenses to operate child care facilities for preschool children.

School boards provide school-age child care for children attending kindergarten and elementary school.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:
Six, including the caregiver's own children.

Jardins d'enfants (Nursery Schools)

Programs for a minimum of seven children aged 2–5 years on a regular basis for up to four hours/day.

Haltes-garderies (Stop-Over Centres)

Child care provided on a casual, drop-in basis, mostly to children aged up to four years.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

June

A new Act '*la Loi sur la représentation de certaines personnes responsables d'un service de garde en milieu familial et sur le régime de négociation d'une entente collective les concernant et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives*' (available in French only) was passed. This Act allows for a system of representation and negotiation for family child care providers.

<http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ministere/ministere/lois-et-reglements/representation/Pages/index.aspx>

2010

November

The Department reached an agreement in principle with two associations representing family child care providers: the Federation of Health and Human Services, affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions and the Federation affiliated with the Centrale des syndicats du Québec.

December

The *Educational Child Care Act* was amended to provide a new process for allocation and reallocation of subsidised spaces, a mechanism to deter the establishment of child care chains.

As of December 31, more than 14,550 family child care providers were represented by a union association.

Ontario

OVERVIEW

Ontario's early childhood education and care (ECEC) environment has been experiencing significant policy and program transition for the last few years. Beginning with an election promise in 2007 to implement full-day kindergarten, Ontario set out to develop a more integrated approach to ECEC policy. In Ontario, regulated child care is referred to as "licensed child care." In 2010, licensed child care began to be transferred to the Ministry of Education with full responsibility effective January 2012. Child care and full-day kindergarten are both now part of an Early Learning Division in the Ministry of Education. Ontario is the sole province that offers universal kindergarten for four year olds, called Junior Kindergarten; universal kindergarten for five year olds is called Senior Kindergarten. Ontario is phasing in full-day kindergarten, beginning 2010, with full implementation in 2014.



Full-day kindergarten provides four and five year olds with a seamless and integrated day that includes a play-based educational program, and integrated programs before and after school where there is sufficient demand.

Ontario is the only province in which municipal governments play a significant role in child care and one of two provinces with a significant publicly-delivered child care sector. In Ontario, managing the delivery of child care is the responsibility of local government; licensing child care is the responsibility of the provincial government. The Ministry of Education provides funding to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards across Ontario, who are the service system managers responsible for planning, managing, and coordinating child care for their surrounding region. Municipal and regional governments operate an estimated 6% of regulated spaces. The majority of Ontario's child care is delivered by non-profit programs, with a growing for-profit sector (now 25%).

Licensed child care can be offered in a centre or in a home where the provider is associated with a licensed home child care agency.

Maternity leave is termed "pregnancy and parental leave" in Ontario.

Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	130,400
1	136,500
2	143,600
3	139,300
4	139,800
5	138,700
6	134,300
7	137,900
8	146,200
9	146,900
10	164,800
11	148,400
12	153,000
Total	1,859,700

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	410,500
3–5	417,800
6–12	1,031,500
Total	1,859,700

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	82,200
1	79,800
2	83,900
3	83,200
4	84,900
5	86,300
6	85,300
7	89,400
8	94,200
9	103,200
10	111,400
11	100,700
12	104,200
Total	1,188,800

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	245,900
3–5	254,400
6–12	688,400
Total	1,188,800

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	250,900	69.0
3–5	183,400	74.6
6–15	601,400	83.2

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes And Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	14,705	4,345	260	165	335	19,815
5–9	15,355	4,960	175	155	430	21,075
10–14	16,410	6,120	260	190	455	23,435
Total	46,470	15,425	695	510	1,220	64,325

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
2.02%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	11,760	1.8
5–9	29,130	4.1
10–14	41,920	5.2
Total^a	82,820	3.8

^a Total may not add up due to rounding.

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	573,825	92,495	81,115	11,385
5–9	590,600	124,880	107,260	17,620
10–14	645,325	164,435	137,820	26,615
Total	1,809,750	381,810	326,190	55,620

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	516,715	16,475	107,425
5–9	570,010	19,355	100,990
10–14	651,550	22,990	112,260
Total	1,738,275	58,820	320,675

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	81,000	9.4
0–17	216,000	8.0

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	298,000	11.1

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave (Pregnancy Leave)

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave (Includes Adoption Leave)

Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who took maternity leave; 37 weeks for the other parent.

Leaves may be taken by both parents consecutively.

Adoption Leave

See **Parental Leave**.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	141,784
Birth rate per 1,000 population	10.8
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	87,930
Average length of maternity claim	14.6 weeks
Number of parental claims	99,050
Average length of parental claim	29.8 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	960
Average length of adoptive claim	25.9 weeks

Kindergarten

Legislation

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

Section 16 of the *Education Act* is specific to private schools.

Provincial Contact for Kindergarten

Ministry of Education
Early Learning Division
24th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Website: www.edu.gov.on.ca

Education Facts

Government funding for public education in Ontario (2008–2009): \$19.1 billion

Ontario provides funding for public and Catholic school boards to deliver education in both official languages. Ontario's schools are administered by 72 district school boards and 11 school authorities. "School authorities" consist of geographically isolated boards and hospital school boards. School boards include: 31 English public, 29 English Catholic, four French public and eight French Catholic.

There are 4,034 elementary schools in Ontario (2008–2009).

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

In Ontario, it is not compulsory for children to be enrolled in kindergarten programs; however, most four and five year olds attend Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten respectively.

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individual and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

The organisation and delivery of these programs is the responsibility of the local school board. Kindergarten programs are organised in multiple ways including full-day, every day programs; full-day, alternate day programs; and part-day, every day programs. The most common organisation has been part-day, every day programs in urban communities and full-day, alternate day programs in rural communities.

All 12 French-language school boards provide full-day, every day kindergarten programs. In addition, some English-language school boards offer combined four and five year old classes or French immersion classes for five year olds.

The *Education Act* does not define instructional hours for Junior or Senior Kindergarten. School boards decide on the daily schedule.

Ontario does not fund private schools. Private elementary schools in Ontario may operate programs for four or five year olds. There are no Ministry of Education requirements for curriculum or teacher qualifications in private schools.

Age Eligibility

Junior Kindergarten: Four years old by December 31.

Senior Kindergarten: Five years old by December 31.

Class Size

As of 2009 – 2010:

- All primary classes have 23 students or fewer;
- 90.5% have 20 or fewer.

The average class size for the full-day kindergarten program (which began implementation in September 2010) is 26 students, with one teacher and one early childhood educator in the classroom. See **Recent Developments** section for further information.

Students with Special Needs

Information on Ontario's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html>

Enrolment (2008 – 2009)³

Number of children enrolled in Junior Kindergarten: 117,529

Number of children enrolled in Senior Kindergarten: 124,620

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Ontario. Information on teacher certification requirements in Ontario is available at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/employ.html>

Teaching Assistants

The *Education Act* stipulates the responsibility of school boards to provide (or to purchase from another board) special education programs and special education services for their exceptional pupils (paragraph 7 of subsection 170(1) *Education Act*).

Kindergarten Program

All kindergarten programs are based on the expectations outlined in the *Kindergarten Program* 2006 (revised).

The *Kindergarten Program* is designed to help children build on their prior knowledge and experiences, form concepts, acquire foundational skills, and form positive attitudes to learning as they begin to develop their goals for lifelong learning. Local boards decide how the expectations can best be achieved within the total kindergarten program that they offer.

³ Current data were not available.

The learning expectations outlined in the document represent the first steps in a continuum of programming from kindergarten to Grade 8. They describe learning achievements that are appropriate for young children and that provide the foundation for successful future learning experiences. Learning expectations are given for six areas of learning: personal and social development, language, mathematics, science and technology, health and physical activity, and the arts.

Funding for Kindergarten

The provincial government determines each school board's annual funding allocation based on a series of grant formulae that collectively make up the Grants for Student Needs. These grants respond to factors such as enrolment, student need, capital requirements, school board size, and school board location. Funding is provided to boards through a combination of local property taxes and provincial grants.

Under the formula, kindergarten classes (including full-day classes in French school boards) are currently funded on a half-time basis, according to kindergarten enrolment, but boards have the flexibility to use their resources to support a full-day program.

There is no provincial government funding for independent (private) schools.

Special Features

It is up to individual school boards to determine additional policies or resources regarding English as a Second Language or inner-city kindergarten students.

Recent Developments

2009

June

The government released the report of the Early Learning Advisor, entitled "With Our Best Future in Mind."

http://www.ontario.ca/ontprodconsume/groups/content/@onca/@initiatives/documents/document/ont06_018899.pdf

Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) began in September 2010 at almost 600 schools, benefiting approximately 35,000 four and five year olds. By September 2012, almost half of Ontario's four and five year olds will benefit from FDK – which means that an estimated 120,000 children will be enrolled in approximately 1,700 schools. FDK will be available in all elementary schools by September 2014.

To date, the government has allocated over \$420 million in capital funding to support the implementation of the first three years of FDK.

Four and five year olds will benefit from the complementary skills and backgrounds that teachers and early childhood educators bring to the program. With two qualified professionals in the classroom for the full school day more students get one-on-one attention and opportunities to learn together in small groups.

In the first year of implementation, more than 1,400 early childhood educators are working in nearly 600 FDK classrooms across the province. Over the past two years, nearly 700 people have returned to school to pursue careers as early childhood educators through the second career program.

Registered early childhood educators are responsible for the before- and after-school programs run by boards or licensed child care centres. Schools with FDK will provide either an integrated extended day program or an on-site before- and/or after-school program delivered by a qualifying third party, where there is sufficient demand.

Program documents for Ontario's FDK and extended day/before- and/or after-school programs are publicly available (see Ministry of Education links below).

More information

- Ministry of Education website
<http://www.ontario.ca/kindergarten>
- *The Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten Program 2010–2011*, draft
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten_english_apr13.pdf
- *The Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten Program: Extended Day Program 2010–2011*, draft
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderProgram2010.pdf>
- *The Education Act* (1990)
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90e02_e.htm
- *The Full Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010* (Bill 242)
http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39_Parliament/Session2/b242ra.pdf
- *Better Tomorrow for Ontario Act* (Bill 173)
http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2475

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

Ontario. Legislative Assembly. *The Day Nurseries Act. Revised Statutes of Ontario*, 1990 (reprinted 1998). Amended by *The Services Improvement Act* effective January 1, 1998, c. D-2 Amended by: 1997, c. 30, Sched. C; 1999, c. 12, Sched. E, s. 2; 1999, c. 12, Sched. G, s. 21; O. Reg. 500/00; 2001, c. 13, s. 14.

Ontario. Legislative Assembly. *Ontario Regulation 262*, 1990. (Amended 1998, 1999, 2006).

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Ministry of Education
Early Learning Division
24th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Website: www.edu.gov.on.ca (for policy, program, funding and contract management)

Website: www.children.gov.on.ca (for licensing)

Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Day nurseries (child care centres, nursery schools, before- and after-school programs)

Group care for less than 24 hours/day for five or more unrelated children under 12 years, and under 18 years for children with special needs.

Regulated private-home day care (family child care)

Private home day care agencies provide home child care at more than one location. Care in each location is provided to five children or fewer under 10 years of age in a private residence other than the home of the parent/guardian of the child. All children who are being cared for by the provider must be counted and not exceed the limit of five at any one time.

Further, there can be no more than two children under two years of age and three children under three years of age in the home at any one time. The provider's own children are included in the count only if they are under six years of age.

Children with Special Needs

Ontario encourages integration and inclusion of children with special needs into child care services with their peers. Special needs resourcing provides assistance for staffing, equipment, supplies or services to support the inclusion of children with special needs in child care.

Resource teachers generally work for agencies that provide a variety of services for children with special needs, and may serve children in several child care settings. The level of service per child can vary, depending on the child's needs, the local service model, and available resources.

A resource teacher must hold a diploma in early childhood education and be registered with the College of ECEs or academic equivalent and have completed a post-secondary school program related to children with special needs. If working with children with multiple disabilities, the resource teacher must also have a current standard certificate in first aid.

Aboriginal Child Care

Ontario funds and regulates on-reserve child care. As of March 31, 2010, there were 74 licensed child care centres on reserve with a licensed capacity of 3,067. There were also two licensed private home day care agencies with 31 homes on reserve.

Ontario cost-shares fee subsidies for licensed on-reserve child care programs on an 80/20 basis with First Nations. The province pays 100% of other child care financing (wage subsidies, special needs resourcing and family resource centres). First Nations manage the fee subsidy system in their communities.

Ontario recovers the majority of expenditures on fee subsidies from the federal government under the 1965 *Memorandum of Agreement Respecting Welfare Programs for Indians*.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day ^a	Part-day	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (0 – 18 months)	8,511	–	8,511
Toddlers (18 – 30 months)	28,083	–	28,083
Preschool (2.5 – 5 years)	103,174	–	103,174
JK (3 years 8 months)	21,404	–	21,404
SK (4 years 8 months)	6,217	–	6,217
School-age (6 – 12 years)	–	90,233	90,233
Total centre-based spaces^b	167,359	90,233	257,457
Family child care^c			18,953
Total number of regulated spaces^d			276,410

^a Breakdowns of full-day and part-day centre-based child care are not available by age. Capacity in nursery school is not available.

^b The total number of centre-based spaces is not the sum of the age groups listed. This is a result of child care centres having alternate capacity rooms. Alternate capacity means that a room may be used for different age groups at different times. Therefore, the capacity by age group can exceed the total number of spaces.

^c This figure represents the enrolment in family child care. Licensed capacity information is not available because it fluctuates according to the ages of the children being served.

^d The estimated licensed capacity includes the capacity of child care centres and enrolment in regulated family child care enrolment.

Children Receiving Special Needs Resourcing in Regulated Child Care^a

23,838

^a This figure is a cumulative total number of children serviced throughout the fiscal year. Figures comparable to other provinces/territories, that is, the number of children served at a given point in time, are not available.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies^a**132,513**

^a This figure is the cumulative total number of children subsidised throughout the fiscal year. Figures comparable to other provinces/territories, that is, the number of children served at a given point in time, are not available.

Number of Centres and Homes**Child care centres**

Number of child care centres	4,803
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Family child care

Number of family child care agencies	140
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Number of family child care homes	7,071
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Sponsorship**Full and part-time regulated centre spaces**

Non-profit ^a	192,256
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For-profit	65,201
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Regulated family child care (private home day care) agencies

	Agencies	Homes
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Non-profit ^b	125	6,624
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For-profit	15	447
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^a This includes municipally-operated centres. Current figures were not provided for the number of municipally-operated child care spaces.

^b This includes municipally-operated family child care agencies and homes. Current figures were not provided for the number of municipally-operated family child care agencies and homes.

Standards and Regulations**Regulated Centres****Maximum centre size**

Not specified.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
Infant (under 18 months)	3:10	10
Toddler (18 – 30 months)	1:5	15
Preschool (2.5 – 5 years)	1:8	16
44 months – 67 months as of August 31	1:10	20
56 months – 67 months as of August 31	1:12	24
68 months as of August 31 up to and including 12 years	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements

Centre supervisors must have a two-year diploma in early childhood education from an approved Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) or the equivalent and at least two years' experience working in a day nursery with children who are of the same age and developmental level as the children in the day nursery where the supervisor is employed.

One staff person with each group of children must have a two-year early childhood education diploma from a CAAT or the equivalent and be registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario.

A Ministry Director has the authority to approve exceptions to the educational requirements for supervisors and other staff in a specific program. A Director is an employee of the Ministry appointed by the Minister as a Director for the purposes of *Day Nurseries Act*.

Out-of-province and international equivalency assessments are the responsibility of the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario.

The College of Early Childhood Educators was established in 2007. The college is a professional self-regulatory organisation for early childhood educators, focused on quality and standards in the practice of early childhood education.

The College regulates the practice of early childhood education, establishes and maintains qualifications for membership and issues certificates of registration. It provides for the ongoing education of members, enforces professional and ethical standards, investigates complaints against members and deals with issues of discipline. In carrying out its objectives, the college's primary duty is to serve and protect the public interest.

Parent involvement

Each centre and family child care agency must have a written statement regarding parent involvement. The type of parental involvement is not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Through 2011, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services Program Advisors based in Regional Offices continue to license, monitor and enforce *Day Nurseries Act* and its Regulations. Effective January 2012, this function is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

The annual license renewal process includes an inspection of the child care facility to determine whether it is in compliance with the regulatory standards. Some license renewals are conducted more frequently if the license is provisional or short term. Unannounced drop-in visits are also conducted. Non-compliance with the legislation that does not pose an immediate threat to the children's well-being may result in a provisional license with a time frame in which the operator is required to correct the non-compliance. Repeated non-compliance of a serious nature or non-compliance that poses a likely danger to the children may result in a refusal to renew or a revocation of the license. However, the director must give notice of intent to close the centre to

the operator, who then has the right to appeal to the License Appeal Tribunal. The legislation provides the authority for immediate closure in the situation of immediate danger to the children's well-being.

Regulated Family Child Care

In Ontario, family child care has historically been referred to as "private home day care" in provincial legislation. The terms "home child care" or "family child care" are also used.

Regulation

The Ministry licenses family child care agencies that then enter into agreements with caregivers to provide child care. The agencies support and monitor providers as specified in the regulations.

Maximum capacity

Care for up to five children under 10 years of age; with the approval of the agency, school-age children up to and including 12 years of age may be included. Not more than two of the children may be under two years, and not more than three of the children may be under three years, or five children under six, including the caregiver's own children only when they are under six years. No more than two may be children with special needs. Only one child with special needs may be cared for if there is one other child under two years of age or two children over two years of age but under three years of age.

When the caregiver's children are under six years, she/he may still have five children in addition to her own by caring for school-age children over six years. For example, a caregiver who has two children ages three and four may also care for three children under six years and two children over six years.

Provider qualification requirements

No caregiver training qualifications are specified in provincial regulations. Regulation requires caregivers to be older than 18 years and, if working with children with special needs, to hold a standard first aid certificate. Many agencies provide training for caregivers.

Licensed private home day care agencies are required to have a criminal reference check policy. This policy applies to potential new providers and their family members (18 years of age and over), or others normally resident in the private home day care environment or regularly on the premises when the enrolled children are present.

Providers are supported and monitored by agency staff called home visitors, who are required to have completed a post-secondary program in child development or family studies and to have at least two years' experience working with children who are of the same age and developmental levels as the children cared for by the agency where the person is employed.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The agency home visitor is required to conduct quarterly in-home monitoring visits. The agency is responsible for ensuring that legislated requirements are met.

As part of agency licensing inspection, provincial program advisors inspect a sample of homes to determine whether the agency is in compliance with the *Day Nurseries Act* and Regulations.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care⁴

Recurring funding

Wage subsidy funding may be paid to full- and part-time permanent staff in:

- non-profit and for-profit licensed child care centres;
- non-profit and for-profit private home day care agencies;
- non-profit special needs resourcing agencies; and
- non-profit family resource centres.

Family child care providers may be eligible to receive the provider enhancement grant (a portion of the wage subsidy) if they are associated with a licensed agency.

Child care fee subsidy program for regulated child care

Fee subsidies are paid directly to non-profit and for-profit service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

As of January 2007, an income test was implemented to determine eligibility for fee subsidy.

Eligibility for fee subsidy
(effective 2007 – 2008 (net income))

Turning point for all families: \$20,000

Break-even point: Not applicable. Subsidies depend on cost of child care. Examples are provided below.

Net family income (\$)	Daily child care fee for subsidised families (\$)
20,000	0
30,000	4.00
40,000	8.00
50,000	19.00
60,000	31.00
70,000	42.00

The province does not set maximum subsidy rates. There is no provincial minimum user fee; however, municipalities have the leeway to charge minimum user fees. The provincial government permits subsidisation up to the full cost of the program; however, in practice, some municipalities set maximum subsidy rates.

⁴ Public funding for regulated child care is administered by 47 local government authorities (see **Municipal Or Other Local Government Role**).

Municipalities allocate subsidised spaces to programs. There is a province-wide cap on the total subsidy budget rather than on the number of subsidised spaces available. Waiting lists of parents eligible for subsidies exist in some communities.

Other funding

Ontario Works child care

Ontario Works child care funds may be used to cover the cost of regulated child care as a transition measure where participants are in employment assistance activities or are entering the paid labour market; or funds may be used for payment for unregulated child care arrangements or alternatives to child care (e.g., summer camp, supervised homework programs, recreation programs) up to established maximums.

Whether the payment goes to the parent or to a service provider is determined by individual municipal or regional authorities (see **Municipal or Other Local Governmental Role**).

Learning, Earning and Parenting is a program within Ontario Works that supports young parents on social assistance and includes high school, parenting courses, career counselling, job preparation and child care.

Provincial Expenditures for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

Recurring funding	
Wage subsidies	\$170,500,000
Special needs resourcing	48,500,000
Child care fee subsidies	
Regular fee subsidies	344,600,000
Ontario Works subsidies for regulated care	25,100,000
Total	588,700,000
Other transfers to municipalities^a	213,100,000
Total	\$801,800,000
Other	
Ontario Works child care (unregulated care)	6,200,000

^a In 2009 – 2010, an additional \$213.1 million was provided to municipal or regional authorities under Early Learning and Child Development operating funding for fee subsidies, special needs resourcing and/or wage subsidies.

Remuneration and Fees

Ontario does not collect salary or fee information.

Administration

With the exception of licensing, responsibility for the administration of child care has transferred to the Early Learning Division of the Ministry of Education. Licensing is being transferred January 1, 2012.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

In Ontario, 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers or District Social Services Administration Boards (these are usually municipal or regional governments) and First Nations administer the fee subsidy and other funding programs. The legislated cost-sharing formula is as follows:

- Approved cost of fee subsidies – 80% provincial, 20% municipal;
- Capital – 50% provincial, 50% municipal;
- Administrative – 50% provincial, 50% municipal; and
- Special needs resourcing – 80% provincial, 20% municipal with the exception of special needs resourcing funded under the new federal funds from 2005–2006 onwards.

Ontario waived cost-sharing for municipalities on funds received through the 2003 Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care agreement and on Best Start funding from 2005–2006 onward.

Municipalities may make local policies regarding planning for and use of cost-shared funding. These local discussions may have downstream impacts such as increased waiting lists for child care subsidies.

A change to child care policy in 2000 meant that 20% of funding for wage subsidies, resource centres and special needs resourcing is paid by local governments, whereas 100% of these funds were previously paid by the provincial government.

In addition, some Ontario municipal governments operate regulated child care, a role they have played since World War II.

Beginning in 1992, school boards also were authorised to operate child care services; however, very few do so.

The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, a non-governmental organisation composed of municipal social services staff, in operation since 1950, works to “build members’ (municipal governments and non-profit social service organisations) capacity to plan, manage and deliver quality human services in their communities.” In addition, the Government of Ontario maintains separate confidential consultation agreements with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Toronto which includes consultation on issues associated with child care.

Child Care Planning and Development

The provincial government requires local governments to develop local service plans including service targets and levels according to provincial guidelines on local service planning. Although these are three-year service plans, regional offices review them on an annual basis.

Under the Best Start initiative, 47 local Best Start Networks were established and required to submit long-term plans outlining how the Best Start vision would be achieved in their communities.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted: No more than five children under the age of ten years in care at any one time; this does not include the caregiver's own children.

Parenting and Literacy Centres

There are currently 155 parenting and family literacy centres located across the province. The centres are all located in schools.

Parenting and family literacy centres help prepare children for starting school and encourage families to be a part of their children's learning by:

- Helping children build essential literacy and numeracy skills through stories, music, reading and playing;
- Encouraging families to engage in their children's learning;
- Offering a book-lending library in different languages so parents can read to their children in their first language;
- Familiarising children and families with school routines;
- Giving children and families the chance to spend time with other families; and
- Linking families with appropriate community resources for special needs, health and other related services.

Centre staff, who are hired by the school board, work closely with kindergarten teachers to ensure a positive and welcoming learning environment for children from babies up to six years of age. The centres are free to attend and no pre-registration is required. Parents/caregivers and children attend and participate together in centre activities, supported by the staff, who have a background in early childhood development.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

June

The government released the report of the Early Learning Advisor, entitled "With Our Best Future in Mind".

http://www.ontario.ca/ontprodconsume/groups/content/@onca/@initiatives/documents/document/ont06_018899.pdf

Transfer of Responsibility for Child Care

- To create a more integrated system and support transitions for children and families, the Ministry of Education has taken on responsibility for child care.
- Transfer of responsibility will be phased in.
 - Child care policy and program responsibilities were transferred in May 2010.
 - Responsibilities for funding and contract and program management were transferred Jan. 1, 2011.
 - Licensing remains the responsibility of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

More Information

- Ministry of Education website
www.ontario.ca/childcare

Manitoba

OVERVIEW

In Manitoba, kindergarten and regulated child care are in two ministries, Manitoba Education and Manitoba Family Services and Labour. Kindergarten is a part-day program for all five year olds under Manitoba Education and is not compulsory. Regulated child care for 0–12 year olds is primarily non-profit with a few for-profit operations; there is no publicly-delivered child care. Manitoba provides operating grants to eligible centres and homes and provides fee subsidies to parents. The operational funding is linked to regulated age group composition and a maximum parent fee.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	13,700
1	12,700
2	13,200
3	12,100
4	12,700
5	13,000
6	12,800
7	14,600
8	14,000
9	14,700
10	14,500
11	13,300
12	14,000
Total	175,200

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	39,600
3–5	37,800
6–12	97,900
Total	175,200

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	6,900
1	6,800
2	7,100
3	6,500
4	7,500
5	7,000
6	7,300
7	8,600
8	8,200
9	10,300
10	9,400
11	9,500
12	9,400
Total	104,500

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	20,800
3–5	21,000
6–12	62,700
Total	104,500

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	21,000	61.8
3–5	13,700	71.4
6–15	51,700	85.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	12,285	6,130	85	120	195	18,815
5–9	12,320	6,515	45	65	230	19,180
10–14	12,860	7,060	45	60	170	20,200
Total	37,465	19,705	175	245	595	58,195

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
15.47%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	1,140	1.9
5–9	3,370	5.0
10–14	3,790	5.0
Total^a	8,290	4.1

^a Total may not add up due to rounding.

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	51,830	14,050	12,220	1,830
5–9	55,190	16,355	13,995	2,360
10–14	62,005	18,460	15,335	3,120
Total	169,025	48,865	41,555	7,315

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0 to 4	56,255	1,150	8,695
5 to 9	61,505	1,330	8,780
10 to 14	69,595	1,655	9,525
Total	187,355	4,135	27,000

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	n/a	11.2
0–17	29,000	11.1

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	29,000	11.6

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave

Both parents may take up to 37 weeks.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	15,990
Birth rate per 1,000 population	13.0
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	7,910
Average length of maternity claim	14.7 weeks
Number of parental claims	9,100
Average length of parental claim	30.4 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	170
Average length of adoptive claim	29.7 weeks

Kindergarten

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.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

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Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered and funded in public and private schools on a part-time basis. There were 503 instructional hours in the 2009–2010 school year. The number of instructional hours varies yearly.

The hours of attendance (e.g. part-day five days/week or full-day two days/week) are determined by school boards.

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Manitoba. Access is not legislated but kindergarten is available throughout the province.

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Pre-Kindergarten

The Winnipeg School Division offers part-day kindergarten for all four year olds who live within the Division's catchment area (they are referred to as "nurseries" but are not licensed as nursery schools under *The Community Child Day Care Standards Act*). All Winnipeg School Division schools have nursery classes. Staffing includes a qualified teacher and sometimes an assistant with an average class size of 20.

Frontier School Division also offers a part-day pre-kindergarten program for four year olds.

Age Eligibility

Five years old by December 31.

Class Size

There is no provincial class size limit. Some collective agreements specify class size.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Manitoba's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/aep/inclusion.html>

An interdepartmental support protocol for use by school divisions and preschool agencies, *Guidelines for Early Childhood Transition to School for Children with Special Needs*, was revised in September 2002. It outlines the planning for students with special needs entering the school system.

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

Number of Children Enrolled in Kindergarten

Public schools	11,964
Funded independent schools ³	865

Number of Children Enrolled in Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten Programs

Public schools	2,302
Funded independent schools ³	422

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Manitoba. Information on teacher certification requirements in Manitoba is available at:

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/profcert/certificates.html>

Classroom Assistants

In Manitoba, classroom assistants are known as teacher assistants. There is no provincial policy regarding teacher assistants, and their roles and qualification requirements are determined by local jurisdictions.

Curriculum

The provincial kindergarten curriculum identifies end-of-year learning outcomes in a variety of subject areas. Through an activity centre-based approach it includes learning experiences related to language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education/health education, arts education and French.

Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring of kindergarten programs is the responsibility of school administrators.

³ There are also unfunded independent schools in Manitoba. These are mainly faith-based schools, and follow their own curricula. Independent schools that wish to become funded must operate unfunded for two years. Funded independent schools must follow the Manitoba curriculum.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Financing public school education is a shared responsibility between the province and school divisions. The provincial government's share comes from two sources, general revenues and the Education Support Levy which is a property tax on all assessed commercial property. School divisions determine the level of expenditures and off-setting revenues that will comprise their budget and raise the remaining amount needed to meet their budgets through another tax on assessed residential, farm and commercial property called the Special Levy.

Funded independent schools are provided with partial funding through a formula that takes public school expenditures into consideration. K-12 funding to independent schools for the 2009–2010 school year was \$56.1 million.

Early Childhood Development Initiative funding is provided to help school divisions increase pre-schoolers' readiness prior to school entry in partnership with parents, the community, and Healthy Child Manitoba. A number of school divisions have implemented programs in this area. This program may not be used to fund nursery school or child care programs in Manitoba. School divisions receive the greater of \$300 per eligible kindergarten pupil or \$5,500.

Public Spending on Kindergarten 2009–2010

Average Spending per Kindergarten Student

\$4,700 (est.)⁴

Total Provincial Spending on Kindergarten

Information not available.

Average Spending per Nursery or Pre-Kindergarten Student

Information not available.

Total Provincial Spending on Nursery or Pre-Kindergarten

Information not available.

Special Features

English as an Additional Language grants are available for a maximum of four years. School divisions may receive \$775 per eligible full time equivalent pupil for the first year of programming, and \$750 per eligible full time equivalent pupil per year for the next three consecutive years of eligibility.

School divisions receive Aboriginal Academic Achievement Grant funding, intended to improve academic achievement and the graduation rate of the Aboriginal population.

School divisions allocate funds to specific inner city schools for programming. Total annual provincial funding for this initiative is in excess of \$6 million.

Recent Developments in Kindergarten

2010

Listening and speaking: First steps into literacy, a support document for kindergarten teachers, speech-language pathologists and educators, begun in 2008, has been implemented. It includes a parent video, promoting oral language skills of children in the early years.

⁴ This figure is half the \$9,401 average operating expenditure per pupil budgeted by school divisions.

Manitoba Education is in the process of developing an early childhood education unit. Early collaboration has begun among Manitoba Education, Family Services and Labour (Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care) and the Healthy Child Manitoba office. Manitoba Education has been involved in the development of the early learning and child care curriculum document soon to be released by Family Services and Labour.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *The Community Child Care Standards Act*, C.C.S.M. c. C158. (amended June 2004, May 2010).

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Regulation*, M.R. 62/86.

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Worker Retirement Benefits Regulation*, M.R. 20/2011.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

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Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Child care centres

Full-day centre-based services provided for more than four continuous hours per day and three or more days per week to more than three infants, or to more than four preschool-age children of whom not more than three are infants, or to more than four children who are enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 6 in a school.

Nursery schools

Part-time centre-based programs for more than three infants, or more than four preschoolers of whom no more than three are infants, for a maximum

of four continuous hours/day, or for more than four continuous hours/day and less than three days/week.

School-age child care centres

Services outside school hours for more than four children ages 6–12 years (and may include children attending kindergarten).

Family child care homes

Care in a private home for a maximum of eight children under 12 years, including the provider's own children under 12 years. Family child care providers are individually licensed.

Group child care homes

Care in a private home by two caregivers for a maximum of 12 children, including the providers' own children under 12 years.

Occasional child care centres

Care on a casual basis for more than four children, of whom not more than three are infants.

Children with Special Needs

The Inclusion Support Program integrates children with additional support needs into mainstream child care. Support is available to non-profit child care centres, nursery schools and family and group child care homes. To receive additional supports, children must have one or more physical, cognitive, behavioural or emotional disabilities as assessed by a qualified professional, and need additional accommodation or support to meaningfully participate in the program at the child care facility. Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care will also cover nursing support for medically fragile children. Services are not an entitlement but there is usually no waiting list once a diagnosis has been made.

Parents pay the same basic cost of child care as other families, but regardless of family income parents do not pay the cost of the additional resources to support the child's participation in a child care program.

Funding for the additional supports is paid to the program. Non-profit child care centres and regulated family child care homes are eligible for funding. Approximately 10% of the child care budget is allocated for children with additional support needs.

There is an added exemption in the child care subsidy assessment if any member of the family has a disability.

Most of the additional support needs funding is for staff. There may also be grants available for necessary renovations, equipment, training or professional services.

Children's disABILITY Services staff work with Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care and the Departments of Education and Health to coordinate and place children with additional support needs into child care programs, and to facilitate the transition to school. Children's disABILITY Services also provides consultation and funding to non-government agencies that deliver therapy, respite and family support services.

There are no specific training requirements for staff working with children with additional support needs in child care.

Aboriginal Child Care

Manitoba does not require child care programs on reserve to be licensed but Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care assists facilities on reserve if they choose to become licensed. Two on-reserve child care facilities, with a total of 70 spaces, are licensed.

Sixty-two child care facilities have been established in First Nations communities under the federal government's First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative. Manitoba post-secondary colleges routinely contract with First Nations communities to offer the diploma program in ECE, customised to meet the needs of each First Nations community.

A post-diploma certificate program in Aboriginal child care is offered through Red River College.

There are 57 Aboriginal Head Start programs in Manitoba; they are not required to be licensed but may choose to become so.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (0–2 years)	1,751	–	1,751
Preschool (2–6 years)	11,804	4,044	15,848
School-age	–	8,406	8,406
Occasional	–	40	40
Total centre-based spaces	13,555	12,490	26,045
Family child care			
Total family child care spaces			3,337
Total number of regulated spaces			29,382

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care

1,465

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies

Infants and toddlers (0–23 months)	784
2–5 years (including nursery school)	5,456
School-age (6 years and older)	2,824
Average number of children receiving fee subsidies per four-week period	9,189^a

^a The total number of subsidised children is calculated based on the average number of distinct subsidies per four-week period, throughout the year. The number of children receiving fee subsidies by individual age group is based on the distinct number of children served in March 2010, and therefore does not equal the average number of children receiving fee subsidies.

Number of Centres and Homes

Child care centres	
Full-day	288
Part-day nursery schools	168
Stand-alone after-school programs	179
Total	635
Family child care	
Individual family child care providers	468
School-based child care centres^a	n/a
Number of francophone child care centres	24

^a Early Learning and Child Care in Schools Policy views schools as the first choice location for child care centres, especially where surplus school space exists. The policy recommends cost recovery rent only. In addition, when a new, renovated or replacement school is under construction, the child care needs of the community are considered and must include an early learning and child care facility in that school or on adjacent school property. Funding is provided through the Public Schools Finance Board. Community members work with Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care to conduct a needs survey and help determine numbers. The school retains ownership of space and has a partnership agreement as long as there is a need for child care. Centres pay rent according to board policy for exclusive space and are expected to share common space.

Sponsorship

Regulated centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	24,871
For-profit	1,174

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum room size

2 groups of children.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
Child care centre – Mixed age groups		
12 weeks – 2 years	1:4	8
2 – 6 years	1:8	16
6 – 12 years	1:15	30
Child care centre – Separate age groups		
12 weeks – 1 year	1:3	6
1 – 2 years	1:4	8
2 – 3 years	1:6	12
3 – 4 years	1:8	16
4 – 5 years	1:9	18
5 – 6 years	1:10	20
6 – 12 years	1:15	30
Nursery school^a		
12 weeks – 2 years	1:4	8
2 – 6 years	1:10	20

^a Group sizes and staff:child ratios for occasional child care centres are consistent with full-day preschool and school-age child care centres.

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

All licensed non-profit centres are required to have boards of directors where parents constitute a minimum of 20% of the board members. For-profit centres are required to have parent advisory committees.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

There are 30 child care coordinators. They conduct a minimum of three monitoring visits per year, one of which is a re-licensing visit.⁵ Coordinators must be certified ECE IIIs, and have a minimum of five years of supervisory experience in child care.

A provisional license may be issued if the facility does not meet all of the requirements of the regulations; this permits the facility to come into compliance with the requirements within a specified time line.

A licensing order may be issued when a severe violation of the Act or regulations occurs. The order requires immediate correction of the areas listed and is posted in the centre. Failure to comply may result in suspension or revocation of the license.

A license may be revoked if there is continued non-compliance with licensing requirements and the facility is deemed hazardous to the health, safety and well-being of the children.

⁵ Effective April 2008, child care coordinators began using the early childhood environmental rating scale and the infant toddler environmental rating scale as part of the licensing process.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Family child care homes (one provider):

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 providers):

Twelve children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12 years). No more than three children may be under two years.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

When an individual applies for a license, provincial child care coordinators complete safety inspection reports of the applicant's home. Three drop-in visits per year and one scheduled re-licensing visit per year are conducted.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding

The Family Choices Building Fund was established to offset costs of construction, expansion or revitalisation of existing non-profit child care centres, ensuring that environments are child and family friendly and meet the needs of children with additional support needs in their design and practical use. The Building Fund also partners with Manitoba Education's Public Schools Finance Board to prioritise child care spaces in schools or on school property.

The Building Fund provides 100% of costs for centres located in schools or on school property. It also provides one-third of total project costs up to \$400,000 for centres not in schools.

Recurring funding

Operating grants

Non-profit child care services are eligible to receive an annual per space operating grant, inclusion support grants and start-up grants. For-profit child care programs are not eligible to receive grant funding; however, those licensed prior to April 18, 1991, are eligible to receive a guaranteed payment on behalf of subsidised children of up to 25% of their licensed spaces.

Maximum Annual Operating Grants per Licensed Space			
	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Funded child care centre	\$9,620	\$3,562	\$1,340
Funded child care home	1,676	1,044	636
Funded group child care home	1,676	1,044	636

Funded⁶ nursery schools that operate from one to five sessions per week are eligible for \$225/space/year; nursery schools that operate from six to 10 sessions per week are eligible for \$450/space/year.

Programs that provide extended-hour care may receive one-and-a-half times the regular operating grants for children receiving this type of care.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined by an income test via a mail-in or online application. To be eligible, a family's net income must be under a certain amount and the parents using preschool or school-age centre-based or family child care must show they need care because they are employed or are looking for work, attending school or a training program; have a special need based on a family plan that the parent, professional and a child care provider will complete; or have a medical need and are undergoing treatment.

A subsidy for families using nursery schools, including those with a stay-at-home parent, became available in 2005. The subsidy is income-based only. Parents do not need to be working or going to school to qualify. Depending on family income, full and partial subsidies (with no extra non-subsidised fee charged) are available for up to five sessions a week.

There is a maximum subsidy of \$4,368/child/year for full-day preschool children and \$8.40/day for nursery school. In addition, subsidised parents usually pay a surcharge of \$2.00 a day (except those using enhanced nursery schools).

The department's employment and income assistance program pays \$1.00/day of the surcharge for parents on social assistance.

Non-profit and for-profit centres and family child care homes may enrol children receiving subsidies. Non-profit child care facilities receiving provincial operating grants are required to enrol children receiving subsidies.

Non-profit and for-profit centres may not charge subsidised parents more than the maximum surcharge of \$2.00/day.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income, 2009 – 2010)		
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 parent, 1 child	15,593	27,796
2 parents, 2 children	21,371	45,777

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding	\$2,900,000
Recurring funding	
Operating grants^a	73,903,400
Special needs grants	11,406,200
Child care fee subsidies	28,341,400
Total	\$116,551,000
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	80%
Over six years	20%

^a Includes all training, recruitment and retention grants.

⁶ Enhanced nursery school funding was introduced in 2006 and provides funding at a rate equivalent to the full-time centre preschool rate of \$3,562 (prorated based on the number of sessions operating). This enhanced funding enables these nursery schools to charge no more than \$5.00 per session, with full and partial subsidies available based on family income. No extra surcharge is permitted.

Remuneration

Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time combined, 2010) ^a	
Child Care Staff	
Child Care Assistants	11.20
ECE IIs	16.24
ECE IIIs	17.63
Supervisors	
Child Care Assistants	15.82
ECE IIs	18.60
ECE IIIs	19.23
Assistant Directors	
ECE IIs	20.78
ECE IIIs	22.44
Directors	
ECE IIs	22.80
ECE IIIs	26.14
Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005) ^b	
All staff	\$21,126
Those with an ECE credential	27,420

^a **Source:** Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care. Data from child care budget forms.

^b **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

The provincial government sets maximum fees for all children (subsidised or full fee) in funded centre-based and family child care programs.⁷

Maximum daily fees for full day of care (2009 – 2010)		
	Centres and trained family child care providers (ECE II and ECE III)	Family child care
Infants	\$28.00/day, \$560/month	\$20.40/day, \$408/month
Preschool	18.80/ day, 376/month	16.40/day, 328/month
School-age (full day)	18.80/day, 376/month	16.40/day, 328/month
School-age (before/lunch/after)	9.60/day, 244/month	9.60/day, 244/month

Administration

Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care, Department of Family Services and Labour, is responsible for licensing centres and family child care under the Act, and for providing fee subsidies and operating funding to eligible centres and homes. It also classifies all early childhood educators and child care assistants who work in licensed centres and provides competency-based assessment training for child care assistants and family child care providers to attain their ECE II classification level, as well as a qualifications recognition assessment process for highly trained immigrants. An integrated service delivery model, which blends health and social service providers and licensing staff, is in place. Child care coordinators and subsidy advisors are part of integrated service delivery teams and, as such, report to regional supervisors.

⁷ Unfunded centres and family child care homes may charge what they wish for their services, except to subsidised families.

There are six regions outside Winnipeg (Central, Westman, Parkland, Eastman, Northern and Interlake) and six community areas in Winnipeg.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role in the delivery or operation of child care.

Related Programs

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:

Four, including the caregiver's own children under 12 years. No more than two children may be under two years.

School-Age Care in Schools

Services for school-age children may be exempt from licensing if provided by public schools. Fee subsidies are not available in unregulated care.

Healthy Child Manitoba

Healthy Child Manitoba is a government long-term cross-departmental prevention strategy. The Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet develops and leads a child-centred public policy framework across government and facilitates interdepartmental cooperation and coordination with respect to programs and services for children and families.

The Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet represents ten areas of government: Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs; Health; Aboriginal and Northern Affairs; Justice; Culture, Heritage and Tourism; Education; Family Services and Labour/Status of Women; Housing and Community Development; Immigration and Multiculturalism; and Children and Youth Opportunities. The *Healthy Child Manitoba Act* was proclaimed in legislation on December 6, 2007.

Healthy Child Manitoba works across departments and sectors to facilitate community development to promote the well-being of children, families and communities. Based on current research on the critical importance of the early years, the priority focus is on conception through infancy and the preschool years.

Family Resource Programs

The Department of Family Services and Labour through Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care does not fund family resource programs. Healthy Child Manitoba provides funding to Parent-Child Coalitions, some of which support family resource programs located in schools and other community facilities.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

Family Choices: Manitoba's current Five Year Agenda for Early Learning and Child Care was launched in 2008. The key annual commitments making up this five year plan include:

- 2008 – 2009 (Year 1)
 - Funding for 2,350 child care spaces and 100 enhanced nursery school spaces
 - Approving 10 capital projects in surplus school space
 - Launching of a workforce stability strategy that included a 3% funding increase to support higher wages, a wage adjustment fund to assist facilities in raising the wages of ECEs to at least \$15.50 per hour and child care assistants-in-training to at least \$12.25 per hour, and other improvements
- 2009 – 2010 (Year 2)
 - Funding for 500 child care spaces and 311 enhanced nursery school spaces
 - Completing environmental assessments at all preschool and infant centres, as well as nursery schools receiving enhanced funding, so each facility can develop a quality enhancement plan
 - Increasing the annual training grant to \$350 from \$250 and for the first time, offering the training grant to ECE IIs upgrading their qualifications to an ECE III
 - Offering scholarships of \$1,500 to high school students enrolling in the ECE diploma course at University College of the North and Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
 - Funding a 3% increase to support higher wage for child care centre staff
 - Implementing regulation changes to further support children with additional support needs and resources to help facilities write an inclusion policy

- 2010–2011 (Year 3)
 - Funding for 650 child care spaces
 - Approving 14 child care capital projects
 - Creating a pension plan and retirement supports for early learning and child care workers
 - Initiating the phase-in of the province-wide child care registry, starting in Brandon
 - Legislating Canada’s first child care safety charter, with resources and supports, including province-wide workshops to help facilities develop enhanced safety plans and codes of conduct
- 2011–2012 (Year 4)
 - Funding for 2,100 spaces and 400 enhanced nursery school spaces
 - Approving 46 more capital projects over the next two years
 - Creating a new, two-year incentive that pays up to half of an employee’s pension contribution
 - Formally launching the Early Returns curriculum framework, with ongoing support through information workshops and on-site mentors to assist facilities in articulating their curriculum
 - Completing the phase-in of the online child care registry province-wide

Saskatchewan

OVERVIEW

Early childhood education and care services in Saskatchewan, which include kindergarten, pre-kindergarten (pre-K) and regulated child care, are all under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. Pre-K and regulated child care are under the Early Learning Branch and kindergarten is part of the Curriculum and E-Learning Branch. Kindergarten is offered part-day to all five year olds. Pre-K, also part-day, is targeted to vulnerable children who meet locally specified eligibility criteria. Both kindergarten and pre-K are provided by school authorities (school divisions) at no parent fee.

Regulated and unregulated child care are termed licensed and “exempt from licensing” respectively. Regulated child care centres have historically been almost entirely non-profit. For-profit services receive no public funding; currently, there are none in Saskatchewan. Regulated family child care homes are individually licensed. Saskatchewan does not require part-day preschool programs to be licensed, nor are they funded.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	12,700
1	12,600
2	12,300
3	11,300
4	12,000
5	9,800
6	10,700
7	11,600
8	11,100
9	11,100
10	12,000
11	12,000
12	11,600
Total	150,900

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0 – 2	37,600
3 – 5	33,100
6 – 12	80,100
Total	150,900

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	7,800
1	7,800
2	7,700
3	7,100
4	7,800
5	6,300
6	7,000
7	8,200
8	7,900
9	7,900
10	9,200
11	8,900
12	9,200
Total	103,100

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0 – 2	23,300
3 – 5	21,200
6 – 12	58,300
Total	103,100

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 2	22,000	69.6
3 – 5	13,300	76.9
6 – 15	44,600	88.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	11,885	4,425	30	55	190	16,590
5–9	11,730	4,480	10	65	230	16,515
10–14	12,170	4,995	35	75	205	17,495
Total	35,785	13,900	75	195	625	50,600

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
14.88	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	880	1.7
5–9	2,630	4.7
10–14	3,040	4.8
Total	6,550	3.9

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	43,040	12,885	11,070	1,815
5–9	45,190	14,830	12,305	2,525
10–14	51,365	15,770	12,830	2,935
Total	139,595	43,485	36,205	7,280

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	51,945	225	4,625
5–9	55,625	275	4,430
10–14	63,000	350	5,010
Total	170,570	850	14,065

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	8,000	10.4
0–17	17,000	7.9

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	29,000	13.3

Family-Related Leave²

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.

Adoption Leave

Primary caregiver may take 18 weeks of adoption leave, followed by 34 weeks of parental leave. Other parent may take up to 37 weeks which may be taken consecutively.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	14,122
Birth rate per 1,000 population	13.6
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	7,070
Average length of maternity claim	14.6 weeks
Number of parental claims	7,810
Average length of parental claim	29.5 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	70
Average length of adoptive claim	22.0 weeks

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is part of the Curriculum and E-Learning Branch of the Ministry of Education. Pre-kindergarten and regulated child care are part of the Early Learning and Child Care Branch.

Kindergarten Legislation

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. 1995. E-02. Amended 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The *Independent Schools Regulations* set out the criteria with which independent schools are required to comply. Under the *Education Act*, 1995, independent schools must be registered with the Ministry of Education in order to operate legally.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

Early Childhood Education/Kindergarten

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² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under school boards and independent schools (as defined in the *Education Act*).

Part-day kindergarten is provided for five year olds.

The *Education Act* requires 80 full-school day equivalents. Schedules and total time vary by school division, but most offer 100 full-school day equivalents. At the discretion of the school division, kindergarten is usually offered either every day for half-days or every other day for a full day. Recently, some school divisions have offered full-time (full-school day) kindergarten.

Saskatchewan funds and delivers denominational education. Both public and denominational (usually Catholic) education are governed by school boards and are publicly funded.

Kindergarten is not compulsory (although more than 90% attend), nor is it an entitlement. Provision is determined by school divisions; all 29 school divisions provide kindergarten.

Age Eligibility

There is no provincial kindergarten eligibility age; it varies by school division. (For Grade 1, a child must be six years old by December 31). In most school divisions, children must be five years old by December 31 of the year in which they begin kindergarten.

Class Size

There is no provincial class size limit in kindergarten.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Saskatchewan's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/Instruction>

Recent amendments to the *Education Act, 1995* and the *Education Regulations, 1986*, continue to permit boards of education to provide educational programming and services for children identified with intensive needs who are three years of age or older. Block funding is provided to school divisions for this purpose.

During 2009–2010, funding was provided for more than 210 three and four year olds requiring intensive supports to access educational programming who were not yet in kindergarten. Personal program plans for these children address priority areas of impact/need across nine domains (communication, sensory, motor, transition, etc.). This programming may take place in a preschool, child care centre, pre-kindergarten, or a combination of these settings.

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten:
11,104

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Saskatchewan. Information on teacher certification requirements in Saskatchewan is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/certification>

Average salary (2003 – 2004): The average yearly salary of teachers identifying themselves as kindergarten teachers was \$49,981. More recent information is not available.

Number of kindergarten teachers in 2003 – 2004: 996 kindergarten teachers (not FTEs). Some kindergarten teachers also teach other grades. More recent information is not available.

Classroom Assistants

In Saskatchewan, classroom assistants are known as teacher assistants. There are no specific qualification requirements. Roles and responsibilities are established by local school divisions.

Curriculum

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education has renewed the Kindergarten Curriculum (2010); it uses a play-based approach to learning, with a focus on the whole child.

Monitoring and Assessment

Determined by the school division.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Both local (property tax-based) and provincial funding support kindergarten.

School divisions are provided with global funding; kindergarten funding is not specified.

There is no public funding of private schools other than denominational schools, which are publicly funded.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2006 – 2007)

Average Spending per Child in Kindergarten

Major urban	\$2,385
Francophone	7,674
Northern	5,223
Other	7,727

Total spending on kindergarten: \$44.2M

More recent figures are not available.

Early Learning and Child Care Branch

The Early Learning and Child Care branch includes pre-kindergarten, regulated child care and child development. Kindergarten is administered through the Curriculum and E-Learning Branch.

Early Learning and Child Care Contact

Lynn Allan

Executive Director

Early Learning and Child Care Branch

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Pre-Kindergarten

Legislation

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly.
Education Act. 1995. E-02. Amended 1996,
1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Provincial Responsibility for Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-Kindergarten Contact

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Pre-Kindergarten Services

Pre-kindergarten may be provided part-day in targeted communities for vulnerable children who meet specified eligibility criteria determined by the school division (family and environmental risk, existing delays, behavioural challenges, isolation, low socio-economic status, high rate of single parents).

Pre-kindergarten programs must adhere to program guidelines, which include staff qualifications, adult child ratios, class size, facility requirements, parent engagement, and minimum hours of operation. Most pre-kindergarten programs are operated in schools. School divisions have the option of partnering with a community organisation to offer programming; approximately four percent of pre-K programs currently operate in partnership.

Pre-kindergarten is offered for a minimum of 12 hours per week, usually three hours/day for four days/week.

In 2009–2010 the Ministry of Education funded 212 pre-kindergartens for three and four year old children.

Age Eligibility

School divisions determine the age of eligibility. While pre-K is primarily for three and four year olds, school divisions may enrol younger or older children.

Class Size

Staff:child ratio of 1:8; group size of 16 (one teacher and one associate). Programs may enrol additional children with an increase in staff.

There may be waiting lists.

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

Number of pre-kindergarten spaces: 3,392 (est.)³

There were also about 1,200 children registered in on-reserve pre-kindergarten or nursery programs for four year olds funded by the federal government.

Pre-Kindergarten Teachers

See **Kindergarten Teachers** section for information on qualifications. Salary information is not available. In 2009–2010, there were 155 pre-kindergarten teachers (not FTEs). Some pre-kindergarten teachers also teach a second pre-kindergarten program or other grades.

Classroom Assistants

Classroom assistants known as pre-kindergarten associates may assist teachers in pre-kindergarten programs. There are no specific qualification requirements.

³ Pre-kindergarten enrolment is estimated based on 212 programs with a maximum 16 spaces.

Curriculum

Schools are expected to develop a pre-kindergarten program based on guidelines established by the Ministry (*Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide*).

Monitoring and Assessment

Determined by the local school division. Pre-kindergarten programs provide an annual report to the Ministry of Education and school divisions provide annual assessment and evaluation plans.

Sources of Funding for Pre-Kindergarten

Funding is provided by the Ministry of Education to school divisions.

Public Spending on Pre-Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Block Funding

School divisions receive block funding of \$54,000 for a pre-kindergarten class of up to 16 three and four year olds. Funding primarily covers the cost of a half-time teacher, half-time teacher associate and other classroom operation expenditures.

Based on 16 spaces per class, the funding can be calculated as \$3,375 per child.

Additional Funding

\$21,540 (initial year) for start-up costs for each pre-K.

Total Provincial Spending on Pre-Kindergarten in 2009 – 2010

\$11.5 million calculated based on per program funding.

Ongoing additional funding for therapy supports, administration and transportation is also provided (total not available at this time).

Pre-Kindergarten Developments

2008

A \$7,000 grant was added to pre-kindergarten start-up funding.

2010

The Province of Saskatchewan is considering phasing-in voluntary pre-kindergarten for all four year olds and 25% of three year olds.

2010 – 2011

Pre-kindergarten was expanded by 18 programs.

Regulated Child Care⁴

Legislation

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.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

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Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Child care centres

Child care centres provide care to children in group settings. Centres must have a license from the Early Learning and Child Care Branch and may care for up to 90 children from six weeks to and including 12 years. Child care centres can include non-profit services, governed by parent boards of directors, 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 in a mixed-age centre, family child care home or in a program solely for school-age children that is not located in a school.

Family child care homes

Family child care homes are 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

Group family child care homes are operated by individuals in a residence and are 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 family child care homes are exceeded.

Teen student support family child care homes

Teen student support homes are family child care homes formally associated with a high school, and 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.

⁴ All child care in Saskatchewan is regulated in that the Act sets limits on the number of children that may be cared for in an unlicensed home or group. More specifically, this section refers to licensed care.

Children with Special Needs⁵

The Child Care Inclusion Program provides various grants to child care facilities to include children with diverse and/or intensive needs. Individual inclusion grants are available to licensed centres and family child care homes to include children experiencing a delay or a condition of risk that may result in a delay. A referral (not necessarily a diagnosis) is needed; the child must attend the program for a minimum of 20 hours per month. Grants may vary from \$200 to \$300/month depending on the need within three defined levels. Up to 25% of a centre's spaces may receive individual inclusion grants.

Centre inclusion block funding replaces individual inclusion grants in certain centres with a high percentage of children with diverse needs such as coming from a very low income, transient or single parent family. Eleven centres receive \$75/month/licensed space in block funding.

An enhanced accessibility grant of up to \$2,000/month may 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. There are no waiting lists for funding.

Facilities may receive a training and resource grant of \$100 (\$200 for exceptional needs) per child with diverse needs, as well as a grant of up to \$600 (\$1,200 for exceptional needs) for adapted equipment required to meet the child's needs.

Inclusion grants are approved for a one-year period and then are reviewed; enhanced accessibility grants are approved for a maximum of six months, after which time the facility must reapply for funding.

Funding for inclusive child care is intended to support the centre as a whole and not to provide a worker allocated to a specific child. Parents of children with diverse needs pay for the space but not for the additional supports.

Typically, meetings are held between the referring professional, the parents, the early learning and child care consultant and the child care facility to develop a plan to meet the needs of the child.

Aboriginal 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 of child care on reserve is the responsibility of First Nations.)

The federally funded First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative has resulted in the development of approximately 76 on-reserve child care facilities with 1,044 spaces monitored by First Nations.⁶ There are as well 79 on-reserve Aboriginal Head Start sites and 15 urban/northern Aboriginal Head Start sites.

⁵ Saskatchewan uses the term "children with diverse and intensive needs".

⁶ On-reserve child care spaces are not included in provincial licensed child care space totals as they are not licensed.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
	Full-day	Part-day ^a	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (6 weeks–17 months)	846	–	846
Toddlers (18–29 months)	1,965	–	1,965
Preschool (30 months– kindergarten)	4,640	–	4,640
School-age (Grade 1–12 years)	–	1,158	1,158
Total centre-based spaces	7,451	1,158	8,609
Family child care spaces			
Number of children enrolled in family child care homes			1,264
Number of children enrolled in group family child care homes			975
Total family child care spaces			2,239
Total number of regulated spaces^b			10,848

^a Saskatchewan does not license part-day preschool spaces. However, the Act restricts the number of hours services may be provided.

^b As of March 2010 an additional 26 centres with approximately 1,100 spaces were under development, with funding allocated. Also, this number does not include the approximately 1,100 on-reserve child care spaces in Saskatchewan.

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care
575

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies
3,159

Number of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	222
Part-day	0
Total number of child care centres	222
Family child care	
Total number of family child care providers	269
School-based child care centres	
For preschool-age children	83
For school-age children	n/a
Number of francophone child care centres	7

Sponsorship	
Full-time licensed centre spaces	
Non-profit	8,480
Municipally-operated	129
For-profit	0

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

90 spaces. Maximum of 12 infant spaces

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
Infants	1:3	6
Toddlers	1:5	10
Preschool (30 months – 6 years)	1:10	20
School-age (Grade 1 – 12 years)	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

Non-profit child care centres are administered by parent boards; 51% of the board members must be parents who are using the program. Non-profit organisations with community boards and for-profit child care facilities are required to have parent advisory committees.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Provincial program consultants develop, license, monitor and consult with both centres and family child care homes and conduct a minimum of two visits annually. A provincial program consultant is required to have a background in early childhood education.

A facility may be issued a provisional license to remedy any unmet requirements as long as the health and safety of children are not at risk. If the non-compliance is not corrected within the specified period (to a maximum of six months) the license will be revoked. There is no appeal board but the facility may appeal directly to the Minister of Education.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Family child care homes

Up to eight children (including the provider's own children under 13 years) between six weeks and 12 years. Of the eight children, only five may be younger than six years; of these five, only two may be younger than 30 months.

Group family child care homes

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.

Teen student support family child care homes

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.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Program consultants conduct annual visits to renew licenses in addition to periodic drop-in visits throughout the year.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care⁷

One-time funding

Space development capital grants – centres

\$3,360 per new child care space approved for development.

School-based child care capital

100% up to \$500,000 for school-based child care centres and Ministry support for new school developments to include child care.

Start-up grants

Child care centres (infant, toddler, preschool)	\$615/space
School-age	308/space
Family child care homes	1,800/space
Family child homes (north)	2,250/home
Group family child care homes	2,000/home
Group family child care homes (north)	2,500/home
Conversion homes-group homes	400/home

⁷ Saskatchewan licenses but does not fund for-profit centre-based care.

⁸ Grants are equivalent to \$1,830/month per staff as required by child:staff ratios. Funding is not based on full-day or part-day status, i.e. school-age spaces may be used on a full time basis as required.

Fire, health and safety grant – homes

\$1,200/home

Enriched learning environment grants

For materials and program supplies for new spaces:

- \$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.

Tuition reimbursement

\$150 per class, or \$450 per orientation course per centre staff.

Recurring funding

Early childhood services grants (effective April 1, 2009)⁸

Infant	\$610/space/month
Toddler	366/space/month
Preschool	183/space/month
School-age	122/space/month

Teen support services grants

Centres

- \$810/infant space/month
- 680/toddler space/month

Homes

- \$350/designated space/month (max. three spaces)

Nutrition grants (homes)

- \$40/month/space (\$50/month/space for homes in the Northern Administration District)

Equipment grants

- Family child care homes
\$100/space/year
- Northern centres
100/space/year

Inclusion funding

Individual inclusion

Grants to assist centres and homes with the additional supervision costs associated with caring for a child with diverse needs.

Level I program	\$200/month
Level II program	250/month
Level III program	300/month

Centre Inclusion

This block funding replaces Individual Inclusion grants in eleven centres with a high percentage of children identified as having diverse needs. Centres receive \$75/space/month for the total number of spaces.

Enhanced accessibility

Grants to assist centres and homes with the additional supervision costs associated with the caring for a child with exceptionally high diverse needs whose parents are working or in training – up to \$2,000/month.

Training and resource grant

- \$100/child with diverse needs
(\$200 for exceptionally high needs).

Adapted equipment grant

- \$600/year
(\$1,200 in exceptional circumstances).

Other funding

Physical activity initiative

The Physical Activity Initiative included a one-time grant to the sector in 2009–2010, at an estimated cost of \$500,000. Pre-kindergarten and centre-based programs received between \$1,000 and \$1,250 depending on the size of the program. Family child care providers received \$300 and group family child

care providers received \$450. These allocations were based on a cost analysis of recommended equipment and resources.

Community solutions program

The Community Solutions Program provides funding to community organisations for projects that promote and support inclusion of children and families with special needs; that support labour force attachment; that are workplace-sponsored; or that meet the needs of rural or northern communities. Projects must have an attachment to a regulated child care service.

Child care fee subsidy program

The child care subsidy program is managed by the Ministry of Social Services. Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Subsidy eligibility is dependent on reason for care, full or part-time care, income level, age of children in care, family size and provincial tier.

To be eligible for consideration, parents must be employed or seeking employment, attending school or a training program, require child care due to special needs, or have a child with special needs. If the parent meets one of these criteria, an income test is applied.

Subsidies are available only in non-profit child care centres or licensed family child care homes.

The minimum user fee is 10% of the actual cost of care. Centres and regulated family child care homes may surcharge subsidised parents above the 10% minimum. The average surcharge to a subsidised parent above the subsidy is 30–40% of the fee. The program pays the parent portion of the fees for families who are on social assistance and/or the transitional employment allowance programs. The funding is paid to the centre or licensed family child care provider on behalf of the parent.

Parents may be eligible for subsidy for up to four months while actively looking for work. A two-parent family in which both parents are looking for work is not eligible for a subsidy. A parent who does not secure employment within the four months may not reapply for subsidy for the purpose of looking

for work for one year unless he/she has been in school or a training program for at least four months (social assistance and transitional employment allowance clients excluded).

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Gross Income, 2010)		
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 or 2 parents, 1 infant	19,800	36,720
1 or 2 parents, 2 children (1 infant, 1 preschool)	21,000	72,720

The turning point is the gross income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy rates by age by region (tier)

The maximum income threshold to receive a subsidy is dependent on tier⁹, number of children in child care, fee charged, age of children and hours in care.¹⁰

Care type	Tier 1		Tier 2		Tier 3	
	Full-time (\$)	Part-time (\$)	Full-time (\$)	Part-time (\$)	Full-time (\$)	Part-time (\$)
Child care centres						
Infant	570	400	485	340	410	290
Toddler	440	310	390	275	375	265
Preschool	405	285	350	245	340	240
Kindergarten	–	365	–	325	–	315
School-age: Sept – June 3^a	–	275	–	245	–	230
School-age: July – Aug	385	275	340	245	330	230
Group and family child care homes						
Infant	485	340	415	295	410	290
Toddler	440	310	390	275	375	265
Preschool	405	285	350	245	340	240
Kindergarten	–	365	–	325	–	315
School-age: Sept – June 5^a	–	275	–	245	–	230
School-age: July – Aug	385	275	340	245	330	230

^a For school-age children from September to June, a minimum attendance of 20 hours is required for a part-time subsidy.

⁹ 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, Warman. Tier 3: Other cities, towns and rural areas.

¹⁰ Full-time care is defined as an approved requirement for more than 90 hours of care per month. Part-time is defined as an approved requirement for 90 hours of care or less per month.

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)¹¹

One-time funding	
Start-up grants (centres and homes) and equipment (homes)	\$1,479,235
Capital ^a	5,575,492
Enriched learning environment grants	369,000
Recurring funding	
Early childhood services grants ^b	23,866,418
Teen student child care centre support	2,691,512
Nutrition (family child care homes)	992,105
Early childhood training ^c	697,652
Inclusion grants ^d	3,317,768
Fee subsidies	14,727,000
Total	\$53,716,182
Other funding	
Community Solutions	1,056,300
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	80%
Over six years	20%

^a Includes space development and fire safety.

^b Includes transportation and northern equipment funding.

^c Includes funds paid to licensed child care programs for professional development, educational support and tuition reimbursement.

^d Includes individual inclusion, centre inclusion, enhanced accessibility funding.

Remuneration

Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (2009 – 2010) ^a	
Directors	21.60
Supervisors	16.90
ECE III (2-year diploma)	17.11
	(excluding directors)
	18.33
	(including directors)
Child care worker	13.29
Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005) ^b	
All	19,193
Those with an ECE credential	22,022

^a Source: May 2010 staff summary reports from licensed child care centres conducted by the Early Learning and Child Care Branch.

^b Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

¹¹ The Ministry of Education provides approximately 45% of centre funding. Approximately 22% of centre funding is provided by the child care subsidy program through the Ministry of Social Services.

Fees

Average monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based care (2009–2010) ^a	
Infants (age 0–17 months)	\$603
Toddlers (age 18 months–30 months)	514
Preschool (age 31 months–< K)	473
Kindergarten	436
School-age	339
Average monthly fee in family child care (2009–2010) ^b	
Infants (age 0–17 months)	\$618
Toddlers (age 18 months–30 months)	586
Preschool (age 31 months–< K)	544
Kindergarten (½ day)	487
School-age	361

^a **Source:** Early Learning and Child Care Branch, 2010 fee reporting. The data are based on a small subset.

^b **Source:** Early Learning and Child Care Branch, 2010 fee reporting.

Administration

The Early Learning and Child Care Branch, Ministry of Education administers the legislation and is responsible for initiating child care services, consultation, standards and training. Monitoring, licensing, and consultation are provided through five regional offices.

The Ministry of Social Services is responsible for the child care subsidy program.

Municipal and Other Local Government Roles

Saskatchewan legislation provides for child care centres to be administered by municipalities. In 2009–2010, there were four centres administered under this provision.

The Francophone school division, *Conseil des Écoles Fransaskoises*, provides part-day preschool programming for all three and four year olds with no parent fees.

Related Programs

Services Excluded from Licensing¹²

Unlicensed Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:

Eight, including the caregiver's own children under 13 years. Of the eight, five may be younger than six years; of these five, two may be younger than 30 months.

Nursery Schools

Part-time preschools operating less than three hours/day or three days/week.

School-Aged (in a school)

Programs located in schools and solely for school-aged children.

Child Care Services on Reserve

Services provided on a Reserve as defined in the *Indian Act* (Canada).

Funding for Unlicensed Child Care

Funding is provided to parents on social assistance who are involved in an employment, training or rehabilitation program to pay for the parent portion of regulated care, or the community average cost of unregulated care. Payment is made to the parent and is paid for by the Saskatchewan Assistance Program.

Early Childhood Development

Provincial Responsibility for Early Childhood Development

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The Early Childhood Development Unit has responsibility for the following two programs.

KidsFirst

KidsFirst is an interministerial initiative that supports the capacity of vulnerable families to nurture their children. The program provides an array of prevention and early intervention initiatives that focus on children prenatal to age five and their families, including home visiting, early learning opportunities, mental health and addictions support, food security, family literacy, parenting skill development and links to community supports.

Approximately 1,700 families participate annually, with 1,100 families enrolled at any point in time.

Early Development Instrument

The Early Development Instrument is used to measure children's readiness to learn in the school environment, such as being cooperative, physically healthy, able to communicate with adults and children and ready to benefit from the educational opportunities of school. As of March 2011, all publicly-funded school divisions in the province will have participated in data collection.

¹² Breach of the parameters for exclusion as defined in the legislation results in a requirement to become licensed or to cease provision of services.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009 – 2010

Early Learning and Child Care program initiatives included:

- 1,500 new licensed child care spaces
- Funding to support new space development including:
 - space development capital grants of \$3,360/space
 - Ministry-funded additional school capital up to \$500,000/site for new child care space developments in schools
 - one-time start-up grants
 - early learning environment grants
- \$1.2 million to support training of early childhood educators
- \$375,000 to address increased demand for access to child care for children with exceptionally high diverse needs

As of March 31, 2010, there were 1,152 new child care spaces under development, including approximately 150 infant, 403 toddler, 449 pre-school and 150 school-age spaces. Funding has been allocated to these new spaces.

Alberta

OVERVIEW

Early childhood education and care in Alberta is the responsibility of two ministries. Early Childhood Services (ECS) including kindergarten is under the auspice of Alberta Education while regulated and approved child care falls under Alberta Human Services. In Alberta, kindergarten refers to any education program in the year before Grade 1; other ECS programs may be available for younger preschool-age children with a variety of special needs. Kindergarten is not compulsory. ECS programs including kindergarten are publicly funded and delivered by a variety of operators including public, charter and private schools and private non-profit ECS operators. About half of regulated child care services for children 0-12 years outside school hours are for-profit in Alberta; most of the other half are non-profit, with a small number of publicly-operated programs. Family child care homes, under an agency model, are called approved family day homes in Alberta; group family child care homes are also permitted. Family day homes are governed by Ministry-approved provincial standards. School-age programs, called out-of-school programs in Alberta, are provided for kindergarten and school-age children.



Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	45,300
1	44,100
2	48,100
3	42,200
4	40,400
5	40,100
6	42,600
7	40,600
8	44,500
9	38,200
10	47,000
11	42,500
12	43,700
Total	559,400

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	137,500
3–5	122,700
6–12	299,100
Total	559,400

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	24,000
1	23,800
2	24,500
3	23,200
4	22,000
5	23,000
6	27,600
7	23,400
8	29,700
9	24,900
10	31,700
11	29,400
12	31,100
Total	338,200

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	72,300
3–5	68,200
6–12	197,800
Total	338,200

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	74,200	62.6
3–5	44,700	69.7
6–15	165,700	85.9

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	10,760	7,160	145	130	130	18,330
5–9	11,315	7,495	195	100	220	19,330
10–14	11,610	8,760	175	155	265	20,965
Total	33,685	23,415	515	385	615	58,625

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
5.78%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	2,940	1.5
5–9	9,300	4.7
10–14	12,980	5.9
Total	25,220	4.1

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	173,185	25,945	22,015	3,930
5–9	167,215	32,840	27,220	5,620
10–14	176,895	42,850	34,560	8,290
Total	517,295	101,635	83,790	17,840

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	172,910	1,315	22,625
5–9	176,190	1,420	20,950
10–14	195,310	1,735	22,470
Total	544,410	4,470	66,045

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	24,000	8.6
0–17	49,000	6.1

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	105,000	13.3

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Fifteen weeks.

Parental Leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be taken by one parent or shared between two parents but the total combined leave cannot exceed 37 weeks. The 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

Thirty-seven weeks may be taken by one parent or shared between two parents but the total combined leave cannot exceed 37 weeks.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	52,937
Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.3
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	27,920
Average length of maternity claim	14.6 weeks
Number of parental claims	29,700
Average length of parental claim	30.8 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	230
Average length of adoptive claim	26.2 weeks

Early Childhood Services (Including Kindergarten)

Legislation

Government of Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *School Act*. 2000.

Early Childhood Services Regulation 31/2002.

Private Schools Regulation 190/2000.

Provincial Responsibility for Early Childhood Services (Including Kindergarten)

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Early Childhood Services (Including Kindergarten)

The term Early Childhood Services (ECS) is used in Alberta to refer to a “continuum of programming that is developmentally appropriate and meets the diverse needs of young children and their families.”

ECS is under the authority of Alberta Education. ECS programming may be offered by public schools, Catholic schools, charter schools, private schools, or by approved private ECS operators, which must be a non-profit society or non-profit company.

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

In Alberta, all the school authority types listed above can access public funding for ECS programming. Private ECS operators must submit a Notice of Intent to Operate (see **Monitoring and Assessment** for more information).

In 2009–2010 there were approximately 62 school jurisdictions (public and Catholic), approximately 12 charter schools, and more than 100 private ECS operators. Some of these are located in small remote communities and operate very small ECS programs. Some private operators are located within schools.

ECS enrolment is not compulsory.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is part of ECS in Alberta. Kindergarten refers specifically to the education program for children the year prior to Grade 1.

Attendance is not compulsory. However, 98% of five year olds attend kindergarten.

Age Eligibility

School authorities and private ECS operators can access kindergarten funding for children who are at least four years and six months of age on September 1.

Funding is also available to school authorities and private ECS operators to provide educational programming for children as young as 2.5 years of age on September 1 who have been diagnosed with a severe disability/delay, and for children who are at least 3.5 years of age on September 1 if the child has a mild or moderate disability/delay, is learning English as a new language or has been formally assessed and identified as gifted and talented.

Class Size

There is no class size limit in Alberta. However, Alberta Education has begun providing funding to school jurisdictions to support the implementation

of the class size initiative to support smaller class sizes in Grades K-3. In addition, the department has established class size guidelines and a requirement for school jurisdictions to report their class sizes in their annual results report.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Alberta's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/special.aspx>

Alberta Education developed *Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education*, which outlines for school authorities the standards for education programming and services for eligible children with special education needs. The standards included in this document promote consistent, quality education practices within Alberta with the idea that in all locations, ECS children with special education needs can access appropriate programming and services in a manner that serves the best interest of the child. Compliance is monitored by the Early Learning Branch.

Enrolment (2009–2010)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten and other ECS programs: 49,035³

Early Childhood Services Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten and other ECS programs in Alberta. Information on teacher certification requirements in Alberta is available at:

<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/certification/requirements.aspx>

In 2009–2010 there were approximately 2,850 certified teachers teaching in ECS programs.

³ The total includes children attending ECS programs offered by public, separate, francophone, charter, private school and private ECS operators. Because Alberta Education provides funding to school authorities for the provision of educational programming for children who are less than kindergarten age, this number reflects the total number of children registered in ECS programs.

Classroom Assistants

In Alberta, classroom assistants are known as teacher assistants or education assistants. There are no provincial qualification requirements, and assistants are hired at the discretion of the school authority. All work is done under the supervision of an Alberta certified teacher.

Curriculum

A provincial Program of Study for Kindergarten is outlined in the *Kindergarten Program Statement (2008)*. It consists of ten guiding principles that provide a framework for kindergarten programming. It provides learner expectations in seven learning areas: early literacy, early numeracy, citizenship and identity, environment and community awareness, personal and social responsibility, physical skills and well-being, and creative expression.

The *Kindergarten Program Statement's* guiding principles apply to all ECS programs while the learning expectations apply only to kindergarten.

Monitoring and Assessment

ECS programs that are part of a public school authority are regularly monitored by school principals and often visited by other central office personnel. Private ECS programs are visited by Alberta Education liaison personnel and provided with necessary documentation upon complaint.

New programs are reviewed in their first year of operation.

Private ECS programs must submit annual information on a Notice of Intent to Operate form, which is formally reviewed and approved by Alberta Education Field Service liaison managers. This review includes society information, authority and school information, certified teacher information, hours of instruction and safety certificates (fire and health). Budget reports are submitted by all private ECS programs and audited financial reports are submitted to School Finance when revenue is over \$100,000 per year.

Sources of Funding for Early Childhood Services and Kindergarten

Funding for all ECS programs including kindergarten is allocated according to a different funding schedule than the one used for Grades 1–12. All school authorities must provide access to at least 475 hours of educational programming at no charge to parents. School authorities may only charge a fee to parents of funded children in a 475-hour program to offset non-instructional costs such as supplies, snacks and field trips.

Public Spending on Early Childhood Services and Kindergarten

Funding is provided to all school authorities (including private operators) that offer ECS programs on a per child basis to deliver the program. Private ECS programs access the same public funding as public ECS programs, although private schools for Grades 1–12 access less public funding than public schools.

Per Capita Spending (Base Funding per Child in all ECS Programs 2009–2010)

\$2,993.50

Recent Developments in Early Childhood Services and Kindergarten

2008

February

The mandate letter from the Premier to the Minister of Education stated that one of the roles of the Education Minister was to "...continue to improve broad-based supports and early intervention initiatives for at-risk children to improve their learning outcomes."

2009

The Ministries of Education, Children and Youth Services, and Health and Wellness embarked on the Early Child Development Mapping Initiative, a province-wide, five-year project looking at factors that may influence healthy child development.

Regulated and Approved Child Care

Legislation

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Licensing Act*.

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Licensing Regulation, 143/2008.

Alberta. Family Day Home Standards Manual.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

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Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

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 the program is provided.

Preschool program

Child care provided to preschool and kindergarten children for less than four hours per child in each day the program is provided.

Innovative program

A child care program approved by the director that is designed to meet the unique needs of the community in which the program is provided.

Out-of-school care program

A child care program provided to kindergarten children and school-aged children under 13 in any or all of the following periods: before and after-school; during the lunch hour; when schools are closed.

Family day home program

A program in which a child and family services authority has entered into an agreement to coordinate and monitor the provision of child care in the private residence of one or more child care providers, and to not more than six children in each private residence.

Group family child care program

A child care program provided in the private residence of the license holder to a maximum of 10 children, including infants, preschool, kindergarten and school-aged children. No more than two infants or three children under three are permitted. Group family child care programs must have two providers on record, and when more than seven children are in attendance, there must be two providers on the premises.

Children with Special Needs

The Inclusive Child Care Program in Alberta provides for inclusion of children with special needs. Funding varies depending on the special needs of the child, the type of service required and the Child and Family Services Authority. Funds are 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 typically have an early childhood education credential. Children with special needs may receive ECS program unit funding, and may receive care and education in a child care centre or a preschool.

Aboriginal Child Care

Child care centres on reserve are not required to meet provincial legislation. On-reserve child care programs are eligible for federal government funding equivalent to parent subsidies when programs request and receive documentation showing that provincial licensing standards are met.

As of March 31, 2010 there were 35 approved child care centres on reserve with a capacity of 1,451 spaces.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces ^a			
	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Centre-based			
Infants (under 12 months)	1,298	–	1,298
Infants (13 – 19 months)	2,815	–	2,815
Toddlers (19 months to < 3 years)	10,400	1,629	12,029
Preschool (3 years – 4.5 years)	9,679	15,810	25,489
Out-of-school (kindergarten to 4.5 years and attending an approved ECS program)	5,055	4,706	9,761
Out-of-school (Grades 1 to 6)	–	19,070	19,070
Total centre-based spaces	29,247	41,215	70,462
Family child care			
Total approved family day home spaces^b			11,588
Total number of regulated/ approved spaces			82,050

^a The age categories of children in centre-based child care changed in 2008 and so are not necessarily comparable to 2008 figures.

^b Spaces in family group child care are included in centre-based figures.

Children with Special Needs Receiving Support in Regulated/Approved Child Care

Information not available.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies

Infants (under 19 months)	1,376
Toddlers (19 months – 3 years)	3,817
Preschool (3 – 4.5 years)	4,605
Kindergarten	4,494
School-age (Grades 1 – 6)	4,355
Total number of children receiving fee subsidies	18,647

Number of Centres and Family Child Care Agencies

Day care	607
Innovative	9
Group family child care	3
Out-of-school care	637
Preschool	721
Family child care agencies	92
Total number of programs	2,069

Sponsorship

Regulated program spaces	
Non-profit and public	41,506
For-profit	40,835
Family day home agencies	
Non-profit	46
For-profit	46

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

No cap on program size.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
Day care programs		
Infants (< 12 months)	1:3	6
Infants (12 months to < 19 months)	1:4	8
19 months to < 3 years	1:6	12
3 to < 4.5 years	1:8	16
4.5 years or over	1:10	20
Group family child care		
No more than ten children. Minimum of two staff, one of whom is the license holder.		
Out-of-school care programs		
Kindergarten children	1:10	20
Children attending Grades 1 and higher	1:15	30
Preschool programs		
19 months to < 3 years	1:10	None
3 years and older	1:12	None

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

An applicant for a license to operate a child care program must describe how parents are involved in the program.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

All licensed child care programs receive a minimum of two inspections per year to determine compliance to the legislation. Programs may receive additional inspection resulting from complaints, reports of incidents, or as a follow-up to an enforcement action.

Inspections and monitoring are carried out by staff working in the Ministry's ten Child and Family Services Authorities. Licensing staff come from a variety of backgrounds, including family studies and early childhood education.

If a program is not in compliance with the legislation, the Act provides the authority to issue enforcement action including: an order to remedy, conditions on a license, variance to a license, suspension of a license, and issuance of a three month probationary license and cancellation of a license.

The Child Care Licensing Appeal Panel can hear appeals regarding the following decisions of the statutory director: the decision to issue or renew a license subject to conditions; a decision to refuse to issue or renew a license (except for innovative programs); a decision to vary the provision of a license; the decision to refuse to vary a provision of a license; the decision to impose conditions on a license; the decision to issue an order; the decision to suspend a license and issue a probationary license; the decision to refuse to reinstate a license that has been suspended; the decision to cancel a license.

Approved Family Day Homes

Regulation

There are no regulations for family day homes. Family day homes are approved under contract with family day home agencies that approve and monitor providers according to provincial standards. Agencies contract with individual care providers.

Maximum capacity

Up to six children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12 years) with a maximum of three children under three years old and no more than two children under two years old.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Monitoring and enforcement

Agency staff (home visitors) visit family day homes at least six times per year to ensure providers are operating according to the *Family Day Home Manual*. Provincial staff monitor agencies and homes on a regular basis. The minimum Ministry-wide requirement is once annually.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

One-time funding

Making Space for Children: Space Creation Innovation Fund

Grant funding is available to individuals or organisations of up to \$1,500 for each new licensed and approved child care space created. Funding can be used to help off-set the costs of creating a new space. Eligible expenses include: non-capital renovations, staff time to help establish the spaces, materials, supplies and equipment. This funding program is available from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011.

Child care modular initiative

Funding is available to school boards to help purchase and install custom modular buildings. The moduls must be located near a school and used for a licensed child care program. This funding program is available from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011. The province covers the capital cost incurred by school boards for the modular facilities.

Recurring funding

Accreditation funding

Day Care Programs		
Type of funding	Pre-accredited centres	Accredited centres
Quality Funding <i>(This funding is paid quarterly)</i>	\$4,000/yr	\$7,500
Staff Support Funding (SSF)^a <i>(This funding is paid monthly)</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^b <i>(This funding is paid monthly)</i>	16% of SSF 16% of Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance	16% of SSF 16% of Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance
Professional Development Grant^c	Up to \$1000/yr/staff	Up to \$1000/yr/staff
Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance^d	Either \$2,500 or \$5,000	

^a Full-time (80 hours or more per month) certified staff working in Fort McMurray and area will receive an additional \$1,040 per month.

^b The Benefit Contribution Grant increased to 16% upon processing of the April 2008 monthly claim and onwards. The new rate takes into consideration general holiday pay and vacation pay rates for employees in accordance to the Alberta Employment Standards Code.

^c Conditions apply regarding minimum hours worked with children and certification level. For eligible for staff certified as Child Development Assistants and Child Development Workers.

^d Conditions apply regarding minimum hours worked with children and certification level. Newly hired staff that do not have six months of child care experience and are certified as Child Development Workers or Child Development Supervisors are eligible for a maximum of \$2,500 after working full-time (80 hrs/month) for 12 continuous months. Eligible staff will receive \$2,500 after having completed 12 months of continuous service (to a maximum of \$5,000 over two years for staff certified as Child Development Workers (Level 2) and Child Development Supervisors (Level 3)). Day care programs are responsible to transfer the allowance to the employee with required vacation and holiday pay in accordance to the Alberta Employment Standards Code.

Out-of-School Care Programs		
Type of funding	Pre-accredited programs	Accredited programs
Quality Funding Grant	\$2,000/yr	\$3,750/yr
Staff Support Funding ^a		
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	16% of Staff Support Funding 16% of Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance	
Professional Development Grant ^b	up to \$600/yr/staff	
Child Care Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance ^c		
New Staff	\$2,500	
Returning Staff	up to \$5,000	

^a Based on direct child care hours claimed up to 100 hours per month, inclusive of programming/accreditation planning. For the months of July and August, the maximum is 181 direct child care hours per month.

^b Available for staff certified as Child Development Assistants and Child Development Workers.

^c Available for staff certified as Child Development Workers and Child Development Supervisors.

Contracted Family Day Home Agencies		
Type of funding	Pre-accredited agencies	Accredited agencies
Quality Funding^a	\$4,000/yr	\$7,500/yr
Family Child Care Consultant and Coordinator Funding^b certified as:		
Child Development Assistant or Child Development Worker or meet the family day home training standards	\$2.70/hr	\$4.05/hr
Child Development Supervisor	\$4.42/hr	\$6.62/hr
Benefit Contribution Grant^c	16% of FCC	16% of FCC
Professional Development^d	Up to \$1000/yr/FCC Staff	Up to \$1000/yr/FCC Staff
Provider Support Funding^e for providers certified as:		
Child Development Assistant or meet the family day home training standards	\$1.44/hr	\$2.14/hr
Child Development Worker	\$2.70/hr	\$4.05/hr
Child Development Supervisor	\$4.42/hr	\$6.62/hr
Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance^f	Either \$2,500 or \$5,000	

^a This funding is paid quarterly.

^b Family Child Care Consultant Funding is paid to family day home agency staff members who actively provide support functions with providers to ensure quality child care services on behalf of the family day home agency. Funding is paid to a maximum of 181 hours per month which include eight hours of programming time.

^c The Benefit Contribution Grant increased to 16% upon processing of the April 2008 monthly claim and onwards. The new rate takes into consideration general holiday pay and vacation pay rates for employees in accordance to the Alberta Employment Standards Code. This funding is paid monthly.

^d Conditions apply regarding minimum hours worked with children and staff certification level.

^e Approved family day home providers are paid this rate to a maximum of 181 hours per month. Direct Care Family Day Home providers working in Fort McMurray and area receive an additional \$208/month. This funding is paid monthly.

^f Newly hired staff/providers that do not have six months of child care experience and are certified as Child Development Workers or Child Development Supervisors are eligible for a maximum of \$2,500 after working full-time (80 hrs/month) for 12 continuous months. Contracted Family Day Home Agencies are responsible to transfer the allowance to the employee with required vacation and holiday pay in accordance to the Alberta Employment Standards Code. Eligible staff/providers will receive \$2,500 after having completed 12 months of continuous service (to a maximum of \$5,000 over two years for staff certified as Child Development Workers and Child Development Supervisors. Contracted Family Day Home Agencies are responsible to transfer the allowance to the employee with required vacation and holiday pay in accordance to the Alberta Employment Standards Code. Conditions apply regarding minimum hours worked with children and staff certification level.

Inclusive child care

Funding is provided to assist in the inclusion of children with special needs and may be used for specialised resource staff or for consultation and training services. Funding varies depending on the special needs of the child, the type of service required and the Child and Family Services Authority; funds are paid to licence holders and contracted agencies on behalf of eligible children.

The program is administered differently in different regions of Alberta. Both for-profit and not-for-profit programs are eligible to apply for inclusive child care funding.

Respite care

Respite funding provides funding for short-term child care placements in regulated child care to support identified families in need of support in their child rearing role. It also assists families of children with disabilities in need of relief care. Child and Family Services Authority staff fund and work with child care providers to make a number of child care spaces available in their program on a daily basis. This program enables families to participate in counselling or treatment programs that they need, and benefits the children of these families through placement in a child care program.

Infant care incentive

Licensed day care programs and approved family day home agencies are eligible to receive a grant of \$150 per month for each infant under 19 months of age who attends the program for eight or more hours in the month.

Subsidy transaction fee

Licensed child care, out-of-school care programs and approved family day home agencies are eligible to receive \$12 each month for each subsidised child that attends their program. The funding is intended to help off-set the costs of administering the subsidy program for child care programs.

Child care bursary program

For those training for a leadership position (executive director, director, assistant director, program director, program supervisor, owner/operator), who have direct contact with children and families, up to \$10,000 per person for:

- tuition for courses at accredited post-secondary institutions;
- costs for required books and course material; and
- a maximum of \$500 per year towards travel costs.

Applicants must work for a licensed child care program (day care centre, preschool, out-of-school care), an approved family day home or contracted day home agency in Alberta.

Stay-at-home subsidy program

This program provides assistance with child care costs for families which have one parent who stays at home to care for preschool children, while the other works or studies. The subsidy provides a maximum of \$1,200 each year to an eligible family that uses a licensed preschool or approved early childhood development program.

The gross income thresholds for stay-at-home subsidy are:

	Break-even point (\$)
1 parent, 1 infant	54,900
2 parents, 1 infant, 1 preschool child	77,400

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Subsidised children may be enrolled in non-profit or for-profit licensed day care, group family child care, preschool, out-of-school care programs, approved early childhood development programs and approved family day homes. Subsidy is also available to eligible parents who use a non-custodial relative to care for their child (Kin Care).

There is a two-step eligibility process. Parents must first demonstrate need for subsidised child care such as being employed or enrolled in a training program, or a parent's or child's special need. An income test is then applied.

There is no minimum user fee for subsidised parents. Child care programs and family day home agencies may surcharge above the subsidy rates. There is no cap on the number of subsidies in any licensed or approved program. Parents must secure a space before applying for subsidy. Application for subsidy may be made either by mail, in person, or online.

Eligibility For Fee Subsidy (Gross Income, 2009 – 2010)			
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)	
		Day care/ Out-of-school care	Family day home/ Group family child care
1 parent, 1 infant	35,100	56,808	55,920
2 parents, 1 infant, 1 preschool child	39,600	80,964	73,152

The turning point is the gross income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, after which subsidy ceases.

Maximum Subsidy/Child/Month^a (2009 – 2010)

Age group and setting	Max. \$/month
Infants in child care centres	628
Other ages in child care centres	546
Other ages in family day homes/group family child care	520
Grades 1 to 6 in all settings	310
Infants to kindergarten – Kin Child Care	400
Grades 1 to 6 in Kin Child Care	200
Preschool programs	\$1,200 per year maximum
Approved Early Childhood Programs	\$1,200 per year maximum ^b

^a Parents whose children are in care outside the regular business hours of Monday to Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. may qualify for an additional subsidy up to a maximum of \$100/month.

^b Programs approved through the Stay at Home subsidy.

Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding	\$22,528,000
Recurring funding	
Accreditation	68,501,300
Family Day Home Agency Contracts	6,327,300
Inclusive Child Care	2,914,000
Infant Care Incentive	5,766,300
Stay-At-Home	850,900
Fee subsidies	83,738,705
Total^a	\$190,626,505
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	90%
Over six years	10%

^a In the Annual Report 2009 – 2010 the authorised budget for child care was identified as \$205,815,000.

Remuneration

Average staff wage working in child care programs (June 2010) ^a			
	Employer paid wages June 2010 (not including SSF)	Average wage with staff support funding pre-accreditation	Average wage with staff support funding accreditation
Child Development Assistant	\$11.94	\$13.38	\$14.08
Child Development Worker	\$13.34	\$16.04	\$17.39
Child Development Supervisor	\$15.72	\$20.14	\$22.34
Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005) ^b			
All		18,774	
Those with an ECE credential		22,009	

^a Source: Reporting from operators.

^b Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Average Monthly Fee ^a	
Approved or regulated child care (day care program)	726
Out-of-school care	371
Family day home	580

^a Source: Reporting from operators – actual fees paid.

Administration

The province provides funding to each of 10 Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSAs), which allocate funds for local services and are accountable to the Minister of Children and Youth Services for the use of public funds.

Responsibility for setting standards, subsidy policy, strategic policy, services for children with special needs, and staff qualifications remains with the department. Department staff of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services provide resources, support and programming advice to the CFSAs.

The work of the CFSAs is overseen by community-based boards appointed by the Minister. CFSAs oversee planning and development, and administration of children's services, including child care.

Staff in CFSAs, including child care specialists (licensing officers) and subsidy workers, are hired by the authorities but remain provincial government employees.

Children and Youth Services and Education work collaboratively on a variety of initiatives related to child care (e.g. the Child Care Modular Initiative), children with special needs and disabilities (e.g. Inclusive Child Care) and a number of cross-ministry early childhood development priorities.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

Funding for some preschool programs is currently available to municipalities and Métis settlements through the Family and Community Support Services Program. Each municipality or Métis settlement

receiving funding determines how the dollars should be allocated to best meet the needs of their community.

School boards are eligible to apply for a license to operate a child care program under the *Child Care Licensing Act*. There are boards that are operating licensed preschool programs, day care programs and out-of-school programs.

Municipalities may operate licensed child care programs; several currently do.

In September 2008, the province assumed responsibility for the provision of out-of-school care including subsidy from municipalities.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:

Six not including the caregiver's own children under the age of 13 years.

Funding

Number of children receiving subsidy in unregulated care: 1,284 receiving the Kin Child Care subsidy.

Family Resource Programs

Number of family resource centres: 46 Parent Link Centres funded by Alberta Children and Youth Services. Spending in 2009–2010 was \$15,811,000.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

April

The out-of-school care accreditation program and related funding was made available to licensed out-of-school care programs.

May

The province announced that over 9,400 spaces had been created under the *Creating Child Care Choices Plan*.

Women's shelters opened licensed innovative child care programs for women and their children who were using the services of the shelter.

June

Child care programs were able to access Child Care Ventures, a business support service funded by Children and Youth Services. Programs could access training, consulting and mentoring services if they were at-risk of a possible closure.

2010

February

The Government of Alberta announced that 18,461 spaces had been created through the *Creating Child Care Choices Plan*.

2011

July

The province implemented on-line access for parents to summaries of inspection reports for licensed and approved child care programs.

The provincial standards governing Alberta's Family Child Care Program were enhanced to further strengthen the training and monitoring requirements for Child and Family Services Authorities, contracted family day home agencies and their providers.

September

Amendments to the Child Care Licensing Regulation and Family Day Home Standards were implemented related to the identification, response and management of children who are ill.

October

The new Ministry of Human Services was created to bring together programming for children and families in need. Human Services is made up of the former ministries of Children and Youth Services, Employment and Immigration, the homelessness portfolio from Housing and Urban Affairs, and Alberta Supports (formerly housed under Seniors and Community Supports). The creation of the new ministry provides great opportunities to build on the Ministry's strengths and find new ways to achieve even better outcomes for Albertans.

The scope of the Ministry is wide, with clients that include children, families, caregivers, foster parents, workers, employers, immigrants, job seekers and people in financial need. The Ministry deals with topics that vary widely and addresses many of the issues people may face during their lives.

British Columbia

OVERVIEW

Early childhood education and care in British Columbia is the responsibility of three ministries, kindergarten under the Ministry of Education, and regulated child care under the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Children and Family Development is responsible for child care programs and services that provide funding and support to children, families and child care operators, while the Ministry of Health is responsible for the licensing, monitoring and inspection of child care facilities.



British Columbia began phasing in full-day kindergarten for five year olds in 2010; all public schools were required to provide full-day kindergarten by September 2011. Another program under the Ministry of Education is StrongStart BC, a school board operated early learning program for children younger than kindergarten age, who must be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver when attending. StrongStart BC is offered in almost all school districts.

Regulated child care in BC includes children 0–12 years old outside of school hours (for school-aged children). Full-day child care programs are approximately half privately operated and half non-profit; there are no publicly-operated child care programs.

Unregulated family child care providers are termed “license not required” (LNR) or, if they are registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Program, are termed “registered license not required” (RLNR).

Provincial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	42,800
1	43,700
2	41,400
3	45,000
4	42,900
5	41,200
6	44,800
7	41,600
8	41,500
9	44,200
10	45,600
11	47,900
12	48,400
Total	570,900

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	127,900
3–5	129,100
6–12	314,000
Total	570,900

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	23,400
1	23,100
2	25,700
3	27,800
4	26,100
5	24,800
6	27,800
7	27,200
8	24,700
9	28,300
10	29,700
11	31,000
12	30,800
Total	350,400

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	72,200
3–5	78,700
6–12	199,500
Total	350,400

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2009 Rounded Estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0–2	75,800	66.2
3–5	57,000	74.8
6–15	179,700	79.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	11,780	3,905	45	125	340	16,195
5–9	12,295	5,155	75	150	325	18,005
10–14	14,020	6,390	115	150	380	21,050
Total	38,095	15,450	235	425	1,045	55,250

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
4.81%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	3,980	2.0
5–9	9,460	4.4
10–14	13,080	5.2
Total	26,520	4.0

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	172,825	27,100	22,940	4,160
5–9	178,395	39,845	33,130	6,720
10–14	197,290	55,520	45,030	10,495
Total	548,515	122,470	101,105	21,365

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	159,185	905	33,640
5–9	176,415	920	34,430
10–14	205,610	1,140	41,295
Total	541,210	2,965	109,365

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the LICO (Post-Tax, 2010)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–5	n/a	10.2
0–17	87,000	10.5

Number and Percentage of Children in Low Income Families According to the Market Basket Measure (2009)		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0–17	116,000	13.9

Family-Related Leave²

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 for the other parent. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care. Thirty-seven weeks if the birth mother has not taken maternity 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.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	44,497
Birth rate per 1,000 population	9.9
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	26,170
Average length of maternity claim	14.7 weeks
Number of parental claims	29,040
Average length of parental claim	29.6 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	380
Average length of adoptive claim	30.7 weeks

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Kindergarten

Legislation

School Act [R.S.B.C 1996] c.412.

Independent School Act [R.S.B.C. 1996] c. 216.

Provincial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

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Director

Early Years

Ministry of Education

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Telephone: 250-516-4589

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered in public and independent (private) schools. Independent schools are funded at different rates depending on their classification.

British Columbia began phasing in full-day kindergarten in September 2010. By September 2011, full school-day kindergarten had become available to all children of kindergarten age. Public schools are required to provide full-day kindergarten; funded independent schools can choose full or part-day.

Access to kindergarten is a legislated entitlement.

Age Eligibility

Five years old on or before December 31.

Class Size

A provincial class size limit is specified in the *School Act*, which sets the maximum average aggregate size for kindergarten at 19 students; no class can exceed 22 students.

Average kindergarten class size in public schools (2009 – 2010): 17.8

Children with Special Needs

Information on British Columbia's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/>

A policy manual covers educational services for children with special needs in British Columbia schools. Boards of Education are responsible for providing facilities that allow equality of access to educational programs.

School districts are advised to co-ordinate the entry of the child to school and the planning of the kindergarten program with programs that have been offered in the preschool years. In some cases, school districts may elect to contract for services through a preschool or child development centre for some portion of the child's educational program in the kindergarten year but the board of education is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the *School Act* are met with respect to that child's program.

Children with special needs are typically included in regular kindergarten. Learning assistance teachers typically provide the major link with support services available at the district level. Some schools combine learning assistance with other special education services to create a resource teacher model. Instruction and learning resources are provided in accordance with the student's identified needs in the individual education plan. In some instances,

teachers' assistants are employed by boards to assist teachers in providing education programs for kindergarten students with special needs.

Number of kindergarten children with identified special needs in public schools (2009 – 2010)³: 999

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)⁴

Children enrolled in public schools	35,738
Children enrolled in independent schools	5,502
Total enrolment	41,240

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in British Columbia. Information on teacher certification requirements in British Columbia is available at:

<http://www.bcct.ca/Teacher/BecomingATeacherOverview.aspx>

Average salary 2009 – 2010 (K-12):
\$71,571 (not including benefits).

Classroom Assistants

In British Columbia, classroom assistants are known as education assistants. Roles and qualification requirements are established by local boards of education.

Average salary for 2009 – 2010:
\$36,370 (not including benefits).

Curriculum

There is a specific provincial curriculum for kindergarten with specific kindergarten learning outcomes.

Monitoring and Assessment

Curriculum documents offer some guidance to assessment. Districts and teachers use a variety of tools and strategies to assess children's learning in kindergarten. The British Columbia performance standards for reading, writing, numeracy and social responsibility are tools to monitor, assess and evaluate student performance in Grades K-10.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Funding is provided by the province through a funding formula that is largely enrolment-driven based on a per pupil allotment. Districts may increase funding by increasing property tax, but only through referenda (*School Act* [R.S.B.C 1996] c.112 and 137).

Funding for independent (private) schools: Publicly-funded independent schools get partial funding (50% or 35% of the full time equivalent student grant of the public school district in which the independent school is located) and must follow the provincial curriculum. (Additional funding comes from school tuition and fundraising.)

Independent schools that do not follow the curriculum or are for-profit are not funded.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Average Spending for Each Kindergarten Student⁵

Full-time equivalent: \$5,851 (base allocation only – does not include supplemental funding)

Part-time: 2,926 (base allocation only – does not include supplemental funding)

An additional \$1,014 is spent for Aboriginal students in full-time kindergarten and an additional \$507 for Aboriginal students in half-day programs.

³ This figure is for public schools only and includes children diagnosed as gifted, physically disabled and with chronic health impairments, intellectually disabled, behavioural needs, physically dependent, deaf-blind, deaf or hard of hearing, visual-impaired and with autism spectrum disorder.

⁴ See **Recent Developments** for information about full-time kindergarten.

⁵ Figures do not include spending on capital, transportation, special needs, Aboriginal education, or ESL.

Provincial Spending on Kindergarten

Total spending on half-day kindergarten:

\$94.5 million – base plus all student-level supplements
(*\$86.9 million base allocation only*)

Total spending on full-day kindergarten:

\$47.5 million – base plus all student-level supplements
(*\$35.3 million base allocation only*)

Total provincial spending on kindergarten:

\$142.0 million – base plus all student-level supplements
(*\$122.2 million base allocation only*)

Special Features

CommunityLINK

The Ministry of Education's CommunityLINK program provides funding to boards of education for programs that support the academic and social functioning of vulnerable students, including kindergarten students. Typically, boards of education use CommunityLINK money to fund nutrition programs, school-based support workers, CommunityLINK schools, and school grants for vulnerable students.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements

There are several kindergarten or pre-kindergarten initiatives specific to Aboriginal children begun as a result of Aboriginal education enhancement agreements. These are working agreements between a school district, local Aboriginal communities, and the Ministry of Education. These agreements are designed to enhance the educational achievement of Aboriginal students. More than ¾ of school districts in British Columbia have signed agreements.

StrongStart BC Early Learning Programs

StrongStart BC early learning programs provide school-based early childhood programs, operated by school boards, for children younger than kindergarten age. Children must be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver. Qualified early childhood educators lead learning activities, including stories, music, and art intended to support all domains of children's development and support their success in kindergarten.

Also available are StrongStart BC Outreach Programs, providing early learning experiences for children in rural and remote communities where a StrongStart BC centre would not be viable. Outreach programs operate on a reduced schedule to accommodate the many remote locations they serve. Similar to centres, the outreach programs are facilitated by qualified early childhood educators.

In 2009–2010, more than 300 StrongStart BC programs were operating across British Columbia. Fifty-eight of the 60 boards of education offered StrongStart BC early learning programs. Where they are available, any family with young children may participate in a StrongStart BC program. Children are registered attendees.

Child Care and Education

The Ministry of Education has an Early Years team whose mandate is to both support boards of education in their work regarding early learning, and to develop and carry out strategic early learning initiatives (for example, the expansion of kindergarten to full school day).

Recent Developments in Kindergarten

2008

Between April and December of 2008, the Early Childhood Learning Agency carried out a study of the feasibility of full-day kindergarten for five year olds and the possibility of future full-day pre-kindergarten programs for four year olds and

three year olds. The Government announced in August 2010 that full-day kindergarten would begin in September 2010.

The province developed the *British Columbia Early Learning Framework* which describes the vision, pedagogical principles, and key areas of learning for children birth to five years (before school entry). The Ministry of Education led the development of the framework in partnership with the Ministries of Children and Family Development and Health. The document was designed to be applicable to all early learning environments, including child care, StrongStart BC programs, and any other preschool and early childhood development or child health program. The framework encourages in-depth reflection on program environment, interactions, and practices to support the development of children.

2009

The Ministry developed a new resource for schools called the *Full Day Kindergarten Program Guide*, to assist schools with the implementation of full school day kindergarten programs.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/fdk/professional/resources.htm

2010

A series of Ministry of Education videos covering important concepts in full-day kindergarten became available at:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/fdk/exemplar_videos.htm

The first phase of full-day kindergarten began at the start of the school year.

2011

Full-day kindergarten became available to all five year olds in British Columbia.

Regulated Child Care

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.

Provincial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Programs and Services Contact

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Executive Director

Child Care Programs and Services

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Child Care Licensing Contact

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Director of Licensing

Community Care Facilities

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Email: Sue.Bedford@gov.bc.ca

Website: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/ccf/>

Child Care Services

Regulated Child Care

Group child care (under 36 months)

Group care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 12 children from birth to 36 months.

Group child care (30 months to school-age)

Group care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 25 children, age 30 months to school-age.

Preschool (30 months to school-age)

Group programs that provide child care to preschool-age children for no more than four hours/day per child for no more than 20 children, age 30 months to school-age.

Group child care (school-age)

Care outside school hours, including during school vacations, for children attending school for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 25 children (if kindergarten or Grade 1 children are present) and no more than 30 children (if all children are in Grade 2 and higher).

Family child care

Care in a private home for no more than seven children, aged birth to 12 years, including the provider's own children under the age of 12. See **Maximum Capacity** section for details on restrictions of number of children by age group.

Occasional child care

Occasional or short-term care for children who are at least 18 months old for no more than 40 hours in a calendar month to each 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.

Multi-age child care

Group 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.

In-home multi-age child care

Care by an early childhood educator to no more than eight children in the educator's personal residence. No more than three children may be under 36 months, and no more than one child may be younger than 12 months.

Children with Special Needs

The Supported Child Development (SCD) program is a family-centred, community-based program that assists families and child care providers to fully include children needing extra support in typical child care settings. The program serves children from birth to 12 years old, with services for youth 13–19 years old available in some communities. Services include individualised planning, training, information and resources, referrals to other specialised services and when required, staffing supports.

In 2009–2010, 55 community agencies provided SCD Consultant Services for families and extra support staff for children in child care settings. In addition, there are 19 Aboriginal SCD programs, another five Aboriginal SCD programs embedded within SCD agencies and a further 18 Aboriginal SCD initiatives under development.

Participation is voluntary and SCD services are provided at no charge to parents; however, parents are responsible for child care fees. Additionally, the Ministry of Children and Family Development provides a special needs supplement of up to \$150 per month to assist families eligible for the child care subsidy program, who have a child with a designated special need, with the costs of child care.

Supported Child Development website is available at:
http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/scd.htm

Aboriginal Child Care

British Columbia funds and licenses Aboriginal on-reserve and off-reserve child care through the same programs available to other (non-Aboriginal) facilities, parents and providers. There are approximately 122 licensed child care facilities located on reserve, with approximately 3,500 spaces.⁶ There are 12 Aboriginal off-reserve Head Start programs in the province.

A number of post-secondary educational institutions have developed training for Aboriginal early childhood educators. The provincial government provides funding to the British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society to provide training and workshops, resource and referral services to Aboriginal child care providers.

A number of Aboriginal communities work with the SCD program to improve access to the program and to build capacity for SCD programs administered by Aboriginal communities.

There are 23 family resource programs that serve Aboriginal populations.

Space Statistics (2009 – 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces ^a			
	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Centre-based			
Group child care (under 3 years)	5,864	–	5,864
Group child care (30 months – school-age)	23,068	–	23,068
Preschool (nursery school)	–	20,577	20,577
School-age	–	30,305	30,305
Emergency care	–	23	23
Special needs	81	–	81
Group multi-age child care	1,205	–	1,205
Total centre-based spaces	30,218	50,905	81,123
Family child care spaces			
Total family child care spaces			16,047
Total number of regulated funded spaces			97,170

^a The number of regulated child care spaces in both centres and family child care homes noted above are those that receive Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF). Information on the number of 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 operating funding.

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care

9,700

⁶ The number of Aboriginal child care facilities is estimated using information from the Annual Child Care Provider Profile Survey; full data is not available.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies in Regulated Child Care (March 2010)	
Under 3 years	4,333
3 – 5 years	11,998
School-age	4,744
Total number of children receiving fee subsidies in regulated care^a	20,977

^a British Columbia provides fee subsidies for children in both regulated and unregulated child care. See **Unregulated Child Care** section for information on the number of children receiving fee subsidies in unregulated care.

Number of Centres and Homes ^a	
Centres	
Full-day (0 – 3 years; 3 – 5 years)	1,488
Part-day nursery schools/preschools (30 months – school entry)	1,085
After-school programs	1,114
Other (emergency, specialised)	7
Multi-age	138
Total^b	2,792
Family child care	
Number of Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF) funded and licensed family child care providers	2,254
School-based child care centres	
For children younger than school-age	472
For school-age children	503

^a Represents number of licensed centres and family homes in receipt of CCOF.

^b The total number of centres is less than the sum of individual categories as facilities may be licensed for more than one type of child care. In 2008, the total number of centres reported was the sum of the individual categories and is not comparable to the 2010 numbers.

Sponsorship		
Regulated centre spaces	Full-day	Part-day
Non-profit		
Group child care (under 36 months)	3,549	–
Group child care (30 months – school-age)	11,359	–
Preschool	–	11,788
School-age	–	18,847
Emergency care	–	21
Special needs	81	–
Group multi-age child care	311	–
Total centre-based non-profit spaces	15,300	30,656
Private		
Group child care (under 36 months)	2,315	–
Group child care (30 months – school-age)	11,709	–
Preschool	–	8,809
School-age	–	11,538
Emergency care	–	2
Special needs	0	–
Group multi-age child care	894	–
Total centre-based private spaces	14,918	20,349

Standards and Regulations

Licensed Centres

Maximum centre size

Not specified.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
0 – 3 years	1:4	12
30 months – school-age	1:8	25
Preschool	1:10	20
School-age	1:10 or 1:15	20 – 25
Occasional	1:4 or 1:8	16 – 20
Multi-age	1:8	8

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, p. 76) is available at:

http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf

Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

Not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA) and the Child Care Licensing Regulation, and has overall responsibility for licensing and monitoring child care facilities, and related legislation,

regulations and policies. The Director of Licensing has statutory powers under the CCALA; however, day-to-day monitoring and inspection functions are carried out by delegated licensing officers in the regional health authorities. Medical health officers have a statutory obligation to investigate all complaints about community care facilities.

The Health Authority Community Care Licensing program issues licences and assists licensees who are in the process of obtaining a community care licence. Where a licensee does not meet the standards of the Act or the regulation, licensing officers support the licensee to come into compliance. If needed, licensing officers can use progressive enforcement mechanisms such as attaching terms and conditions or they can recommend to the Medical Health Officer to amend, suspend or cancel licences. There is no legislated minimum or maximum frequency for monitoring inspections; the frequency of inspections is based on the level of risk to persons in care. Licensing officers generally inspect facilities on an annual basis.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Individually licensed in accordance with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, Child Care Licensing Regulation.

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 and, of those three, no more than one child 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, and of those four, no more than two children younger than 24 months old.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Most facilities have an annual licensing inspection. An initial inspection by the fire marshal's office may be required when a new licensed family child care facility opens.

Registered License-not-Required Provider (RLNR)

See **Unregulated Child Care** section.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

One-time funding

Minor capital funding for emergency repair, replacement and relocation grant

Up to \$2,000 to child care facilities to upgrade or repair facilities to comply with licensing requirements, and to assist with costs when a facility moves.

Recurring funding

Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF)

Available to non-profit and private licensed group and licensed family child care providers. Funding is based on enrolment and the age of the child and is available for all regulated care types except Occasional Child Care.

Group Child Care		
Age group	Daily rates (\$)	
	4 hours or less	More than 4 hours
0 – 35 months	6.00	12.00
3 years – kindergarten	2.74	5.48
Grade 1 – 12 years	1.40	2.80
Preschool	1.37	–

Family Child Care Providers		
Age group	Daily rates (\$)	
	4 hours or less	More than 4 hours
0 – 35 months	1.85	3.70
3 years – kindergarten	1.41	2.82
Grade 1 – 12 years	0.73	1.46

Supported Child Development Program

Funds to assist and cover consultation, training and extra staffing. In some communities, program funding is targeted to improving access for Aboriginal families.

Child Care Subsidy Program

Fee subsidies may be used in private, non-profit, regulated or unregulated child care and preschool. Families who use in-own-home child care may be eligible for subsidy when the caregiver is not a relative who resides with the family.

Child care subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents except when child care is provided in the child's own home. In this case, the subsidy is paid to the parent who assumes the role of the employer, and is responsible for any required employment-related contributions, such as workers' compensation, Canada Pension Plan and employment insurance contributions, and taxes.

Eligibility is based on income, family size, age of children and the type of care chosen. In most cases, the family must qualify under the income test and each parent must qualify under one social criterion. The parent(s) must be employed or self-employed, looking for work, attending school, taking part in an employment-related training program, have a medical condition that interferes with the parent's ability to care for his or her child; have child care recommended by the Ministry under the *Child Family and Community Service Act*; or if the child is attending a licensed preschool, subsidy may be provided to support this arrangement. In two-parent families any combination of social criteria is acceptable, except that both parents cannot be looking for work. The number of subsidies provided to families is not capped.

Child care providers may charge subsidised parents above the maximum subsidy rates, up to the cost of care. These surcharges may be paid by the government on behalf of the parent if child care is arranged or recommended as part of a risk assessment and written risk reduction plan under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, or the child care is recommended under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* for a parent participating in a Ministry-designated Young Parent Program.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income 2009 – 2010) ^a				
	Child care centres		Family child care	
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 parent, 1 child	30,984	48,984	30,984	45,384
2 parents, 2 children	35,016	53,016	35,016	49,416

^a The turning point and break-even point depend on the type of child care and the age of the child(ren). These figures are for illustrative purposes only. Group child care thresholds are based on rates for group child care for children younger than 19 months, while family child care thresholds are based on rates for licensed family child care for children under 19 months. Subsidy thresholds are approximates and will change depending on family size and composition, age of the child, type of care chosen, etc.

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum Subsidy by Age of Child (2009 – 2010)		
Type of care	Part-day monthly (4 hrs or less/day, unless both before and after-school care provided) (\$)	Full-day monthly (more than 4 hrs/ day or both before and after-school care provided) (\$)
Centre-based		
0 – 18 months	375	750
19 – 36 months	317.50	635
37 – 72 months	275	550
Kindergarten	272	340
Six years and over	207.50	415
Care surrounding school day	170	200
Preschool	225	–
Licensed family child care and registered license-not-required child care		
0 – 18 months	300	600
19 – 36 months	300	600
37 – 72 months	275	550
Six years and over	207.50	415
License-not-required		
0 – 18 months	219	438
19 – 36 months	202	404
Over 36 months	177	354
In child's home		
First child (0 – 18 months)	197	394
First child (over 18 months)	159	318
Second child (0 – 18 months)	99	198
Each additional child	73.50	147

Other funding

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Programs

The CCRR program provides support, resources and referral services for child care providers and parents in all communities in the province. For more information see **Related Programs** section.

Regional CCRR Coordinators

The Regional Coordinator's role is to support the CCRR programs, enhance communication among CCRR staff, ensure appropriate standards are maintained and consistent across the province, and provide coordination and sharing of information related to child care by maintaining a presence at regional tables related to early childhood education and the early years. The Regional Coordinator positions also oversee the professional development training dollars which allow the CCRR programs to offer and/or support training courses, workshops and conferences to all communities in British Columbia.

British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society

The British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society CCRR provincial program is contracted with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide Aboriginal-focused training and resources to CCRR programs and other Aboriginal-serving organisations. The Society develops culturally focused training and resources for use by CCRR programs. It also promotes early childhood education as an education and employment strategy for Aboriginal child care providers.

The Society provides and supports culturally focused training, resources and programs to Aboriginal parents and child care providers across the province.

Provincial Expenditure for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

Recurring funding	
Major and minor capital	\$1,186,000
Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)	\$65,743,000
Supported Child Development Program (SCDP)	\$57,280,000
Child care fee subsidies in regulated child care	\$103,291,000
Total	\$227,500,000
Other funding	
Child Care Resource and Referral	\$9,640,000
Percentage of the subsidy budget spent on children	
Under six years	76%
Over six years	24%

Remuneration

Median gross hourly wage for group child care staff by position type (full- and part-time staff combined) (2009 – 2010)^a

Owner/operator	18.00
Administrator	20.00
Program supervisor	18.00
Senior caregiver	17.00
Caregiver	15.00
Supported child development worker	15.00
Assistant	13.80
Other	16.00

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)^b

All	24,987
Those with an ECE credential	26,145

^a **Source:** 2009 – 2010 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Survey, Government of British Columbia.

^b **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Median monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based child care (2009 – 2010) ^a	
Infant	884
Toddler	850
3 – 5 years	650
Kindergarten	500
Out-of-school Grade 1 and over (a.m. and p.m.)	325
Preschool (three times/week)	144
Median monthly rates for full-time family child care (2009 – 2010) ^a	
Infant	735
Toddler	700
3 – 5 years	700
Kindergarten (before and after)	600
School-age (before and after)	400

^a Source: 2009 – 2010 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Survey, Government of British Columbia.

Administration

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has responsibility for child care policy and programs, the child care subsidy program, the registration of early childhood educators, and approving early childhood training programs. In partnership with other child-serving ministries, the Minister works to increase supports available for child care, early childhood development and early learning programs. The Community Care Licensing Branch (in the Ministry of Health) is responsible for the development and implementation of legislation, policy and guidelines for licensed child care facilities. Medical Health and Licensing Officers are responsible for licensing and monitoring through five regional health authorities across the province.

Municipal and Other Local Government Role

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role.

The City of Vancouver and several other municipalities play a role in planning and developing child care.

Some school boards operate licensed preschools and out-of-school programs; the number is not known.

British Columbia Health Authorities carry out the monitoring, licensing and inspection of child care facilities under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and Child Care Licensing Regulation.

Related Programs

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 often referred to as “license-not-required” (LNR).

A registered license-not-required (RLNR) provider is registered with a CCRR program and must meet specific registration requirement criteria established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. RLNR child care is not included in the Child Care Licensing Regulation.

There were 839 RLNR providers in 2009–2010, each with a maximum capacity of two children, or a sibling group.

Estimated number of children in registered license-not-required as of March 31, 2010: 1,700

Number of children in unregulated child care receiving a fee subsidy (March 31, 2010)	
Under 3 years	2,433
3 – 5 years	2,908
School-age	6,535
Total	11,876

Expenditures on fee subsidies for unregulated child care (estimated): \$44,455,000

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

CCRR programs assist parents to find child care and make informed choices regarding quality child care. CCRRs also offer professional development training, resources and other support services to licensed and RLNR child care providers. Services offered in communities throughout British Columbia include: a registry of child care providers and a referral service for families looking for licensed and RLNR child care, workshops, courses, conferences, networking opportunities, home visits and access to child care resources (equipment, toys, library materials). The registry includes RLNR child care providers who have met the conditions for registration with a CCRR. There are 38 contracted service agencies in 41 locations (that serve over 400 communities) across the province, including one provincial Aboriginal service. The British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society provides support to CCRR programs with culturally-focused training and resources for parents and child care providers.

Family Resource Programs

There are 276 family resource programs across British Columbia that provide community-based services intended to support the healthy development of children and families and build family and community connections. Key components include a parent-child drop-in, parent education, health screening, community kitchens, nutrition education, toy libraries, clothing exchanges, peer counselling, family literacy projects and English as a Second Language for parents. Aboriginal families have access to culturally appropriate family support services and resources through the 26 family resource programs both on and off reserve.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

May

The maximum funding amount for minor capital grants was reduced from \$5,000 per license care type to \$2,000 per facility.

July

The ECE loan assistance pilot program, which assisted early childhood education graduates from approved training institutions in British Columbia with their student loan debt, was fully expended and discontinued in July 2009.

2010

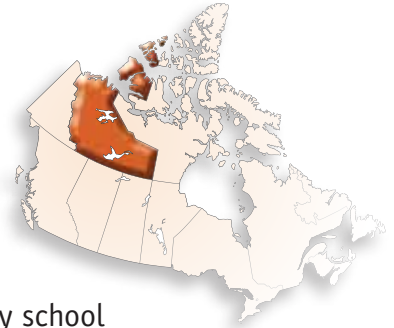
June

The Child Care Licensing Regulation was amended to increase the maximum capacity for group school-age child care facilities. The new capacity limits are dependent on the age of the school-age children enrolled. Group school-age child care facilities that have any kindergarten and Grade 1 students enrolled are now allowed to care for up to 24 children, an increase of four children. Group school-age child care facilities that do not have any kindergarten or Grade 1 children enrolled are allowed to care for up to 30 children, an increase of five children. This was prompted by the anticipation of an increased need for before- and after-school care resulting from the implementation of full-day kindergarten in September 2011, as more kindergarten children go to a full school day and more parents decide to return to the workforce full-time.

Northwest Territories

OVERVIEW

Kindergarten and regulated child care in the Northwest Territories are both under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (Early Childhood and School Services). Kindergarten may be full or part-day; most are full-day. All regulated child care is non-profit with several part-day programs operated by school boards. Regulated family child care homes are termed regulated day homes.



Territorial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	722
1	696
2	634
3	679
4	676
5	641
6	596
7	601
8	657
9	595
10	567
11	554
12	602
Total	8,220

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	2,052
3–5	1,996
6–12	4,172
Total	8,220

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	1,100
3–5	1,000
6–12	2,500
Total	4,600

Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2006)		
	Number of mothers in the labour force	Participation rate (%)
Females with children at home	5,385	75.6
Children under 6 years only	895	66.3
At least one child under 2 years	445	61.4
Children 2–5 years only	455	72.8
Children under 6 years as well as children 6 years and over	950	72.2
Children 6 years and over only	3,540	79.5
Youngest child 6–14 years	2,050	84.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	1,170	250	425	25	10	1,870
5–9	1,250	300	375	10	10	1,950
10–14	1,385	405	510	25	20	2,350
Total	3,805	955	1,310	60	40	6,170

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
50.27%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	50	1.6
5–9	80	2.6
10–14	150	4.2
Total	280	2.9

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	2,455	715	565	145
5–9	2,345	665	525	145
10–14	2,605	885	680	200
Total	7,410	2,260	1,770	490

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	2,820	35	305
5–9	2,770	40	245
10–14	3,210	35	300
Total	8,800	110	850

**Number and Percentage of Children
in Low Income Families**

Information not available.

Family-Related Leave²

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.

Adoption Leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	739
Birth rate per 1,000 population	16.9
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	280
Average length of maternity claim	14.1 weeks
Number of parental claims	370
Average length of parental claim	24.5 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	0
Average length of adoptive claim	not applicable

Kindergarten

Legislation

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, R.S.N.W.T. 1995, c. 28.

The legislation applies to public and private schools.

There is a departmental directive that provides additional guidelines (funding and reporting, administration, monitoring and education program) for private schools.

Territorial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

Angela James

Director

Early Childhood and School Services

Department of Education, Culture and Employment

PO Box 1320

Yellowknife, NT

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Telephone: 867-920-3491

Facsimile: 867-873-0109

Email: Angela.James@gov.nt.ca

Website: www.ece.gov.nt.ca

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

The Northwest Territories delivers and funds denominational education. Kindergarten can be delivered and funded in public and private schools (there are currently no private schools in the Northwest Territories).

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Kindergarten programs can be half-time or full-time; approximately 90% of children are enrolled in full-day kindergarten. To qualify for full-time funding, a kindergarten program must be offered in a school for a minimum of 780 hours per year. The choice of full-day or half-day programming is made by the Divisional Education Council or delegated to the District Education Authority, based upon the needs of students and wishes of the parents in the community.

A jurisdiction can choose to offer either a full-day or a half-day program, or both. The language of instruction in kindergarten must be one of the official languages of the Northwest Territories.

Kindergarten enrolment is not compulsory. Access is a legislated entitlement.

Age Eligibility

Five years old by December 31.

Class Size

There is no class size limit.

Children with Special Needs

Information on the Northwest Territories' approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/>

(click on "Kindergarten – Grade 12," then "Student Support").

Enrolment (2009 – 2010)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten: 590

Students attending full day: 537

Students attending half day: 53

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification or one of the following three levels of education and experience is required to teach kindergarten in the Northwest Territories:

- **Interim kindergarten teaching certificate:** two-year diploma in early childhood education plus 25 hours of teacher training;
- **Standard kindergarten teaching certificate:** interim certificate and has completed two academic years of teaching; or
- **Kindergarten specialist certificate:** standard certificate and has successfully completed a one-year teacher training program approved by the registrar.

Information on teacher certification requirements in the Northwest Territories is available at:

http://www.nwtta.nt.ca/en/Certification_42/

Classroom Assistants

Classroom assistants are known as education assistants in the Northwest Territories. No specific qualifications are required. Funding is provided to school boards based on student numbers, and roles and responsibilities are determined by local school boards.

Curriculum

The approved kindergarten curriculum is *Children First: A Curriculum Guide for Kindergarten* (1994, Saskatchewan).

Monitoring and Assessment

Kindergarten programs are monitored by school principals and the Superintendent of Schools as part of teacher evaluation.

The Northwest Territories is planning to implement the Early Development Instrument as a child development assessment tool with children at five years of age beginning in 2012.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

The territorial government provides block funding to boards according to a formula. There is some additional targeted/dedicated funding for Aboriginal languages.

There is a provision for fees for programs offered outside of the regular curriculum, but schools have chosen not to charge any fees.

Both public and Catholic school boards are publicly funded.

Private schools receive some funding (40% of the adjusted school funding formula for the district).

In 2009–2010, there were no private schools in the Northwest Territories.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009–2010)³

Average Spending

\$17,500 per full time equivalent K-12 student.

Estimated Territorial Spending for Kindergarten

\$10,000,000

Special Features

Aboriginal languages are recognised as official languages alongside English and French. There are 11 official languages in the Northwest Territories.

Recent Developments in Kindergarten

2011–2012

A revised draft kindergarten curriculum, reflecting both the full- and half-day options, is under development. It will be piloted in September 2012, with full implementation expected in the 2013 school year.

³ Figures exclude capital.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act* and the Child Day Care Standards and Regulations 1988.

Territorial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

Director

Early Childhood and School Services
Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Lahm Ridge Tower, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Telephone: 867-920-3491

Facsimile: 867-873-0109

Early Childhood Contact

Gillian Moir

Telephone: 867-920-8973

Email: Gillian_moir@gov.nt.ca

Website: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/Divisions/Early_Childhood/index.htm

Child Care Services

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

Programs for children under six years of age for four consecutive hours or less a day.

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age, not exceeding five hours outside the required school program. There are no regulated after-school care programs that operate during the summer months.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

Children with Special Needs

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. Care providers are funded to provide extra support to children with special needs, through higher operating grants, funded at the infant rate. Parents may be eligible for fee subsidies for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. They must meet the same financial eligibility requirements as other parents receiving subsidy, and have a medical referral from a recognised health care official for the child to be in developmental care. Children may be placed on waiting lists for service.

Aboriginal Child Care

The Northwest Territories is composed of Inuit and Dene communities outside the capital city of Yellowknife. The majority of community-based programs are available to all children equally. The Aboriginal Head Start programs are the only programs targeted specifically to Aboriginal children. However, they may include non-Aboriginal children if capacity allows. There are seven Aboriginal Head Start programs in the Northwest Territories.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces	
Centre-based	
Infant (0 – 2 years)	126
Preschool (2 – 5 years) ^a	803
After-school (6 – 12 years)	456
Total centre-based spaces	1,385
Family child care	
Infant (0 – 2 years)	98
Preschool (2 – 5 years)	204
After-school (6 – 12 years)	98
Total family child care spaces	400
Total number of regulated spaces	1,785

^a All centres are licensed for full-time spaces even though many operate as part-day nursery schools/playschools. Of the 803 preschool spaces for children age 2 – 5, 321 operate as part-day spaces

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care

Information not available.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies

Information not available.

Numbers of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	26
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	20
Stand-alone school-age programs	13
Total	59
Family child care	
Individually licensed family child care providers	49
School-based child care centres	
For preschool-age children	14
For school-age children	10
Number of francophone child care centres	6

Sponsorship
Regulated spaces
All centres are currently non-profit and family day homes are considered to be non-profit.

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

Not specified.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
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

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

The legislation requires non-profit programs to have boards of directors with at least 51% parent members. If there are for-profit programs, they are required to establish and confirm in writing with the Director of Child Day Care Services a plan for involving the parents or guardians of children attending the centre in the operation of the program.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Licenses may be granted for 3 – 5 years, often issued in conjunction with annual inspections. All licensed child care centres are inspected annually by an early childhood consultant from the Early Childhood Program, a representative from the Public Health Department, and Fire Marshall's office. The early childhood consultant is required to have a background in early childhood education, either an ECE credential and four years' experience at the supervisory level in a child care centre, or a teaching credential and six years' front-line child care experience.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

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 five years

or under, no more than three children may be under three years, and no more than two children may be under two years.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

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 Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office. Licenses are usually issued in conjunction with annual inspections.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

One-time funding

Start-up funding

Available to non-profit licensed centres and family day homes, including part-time, infant, after-school and special needs spaces. Funding ranges from \$1,560 – \$4,446/space. There are ten different rates based on the cost of living in different parts of the territory.

Recurring funding

Operating funding

Available to non-profit, licensed centres and family day homes from \$3.00 – \$29.80/occupied space/day, depending on the age of the child and the location of the program. For example, in Yellowknife an infant space receives \$15.60/day and a preschool space \$10.40; in Aklavik the rates are \$23.40 and \$15.60 respectively; and in Paulatuk they are \$29.60 and \$19.80. Family child care homes and centres receive the same amounts in operating grants.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to the parents unless the parent requests that the regulated child care service is paid directly. In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent based on an invoice signed by the child care provider.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work, take part in a training program or be at school. Eligibility is determined by an income test that takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income.

Subsidies are payable to any regulated for-profit or non-profit service or for an unregulated arrangement. This program is the responsibility of the Government's Income Security Division.

Eligibility for fee subsidy

Eligibility varies according to the number of family members, actual shelter costs, community of residence, and eligibility for enhanced benefits such as disability allowance and educational expenses. These needs are based on Income Assistance Program schedules.

The lower of the maximum monthly entitlement or the actual monthly child care cost is used when calculating the monthly entitlement.

Maximum child care subsidy rates

Type of care	Max. \$/month	Max. \$/day
Full-time		
Regulated centre	700	32
Regulated day home	600	28
Part-time		
Regulated centre	350	16
Regulated day home	300	14
After-school	145	7

Territorial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding	
Start-up and operating grants ^a	1,500,000
Fee subsidies ^b	1,042,000
Total^c	\$2,542,000

^a Breakdown between one-time start-up and ongoing operating grants is not available.

^b The fee subsidy budget includes spending on both regulated and unregulated child care.

^c The budget allocations for fee subsidies and operating grants remain unchanged from 2004 – 2005. However, in 2004 – 2005 both budgets were underspent. In 2005 – 2006 the expenditures for the operating grants came close to the amount allocated.

Remuneration

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005) ^a	
All	30,017
Those with an ECE credential	n/a

^a **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants

Fees

Average monthly parent fees in centre-based full-time care ^a	
Infants	900
Preschool	600
Average monthly parent fees in family child care ^a	
Infant	1,000
Preschool	700

^a **Source:** Reported by territorial officials.

Administration

The Early Childhood Program of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is responsible for the development of standards, the regulation of child care services, fee subsidy administration, contributions and program development support to child care programs.

Municipal or Other Local Government Role

School boards operate five part-day preschool programs and one Aboriginal Head Start Program. All are licensed as child care.

Related Programs

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:
four including the caregiver's own children
up to 12 years.

Funding

Fee subsidies are available for unregulated care and are paid directly to parents. The maximum monthly rate is \$500 for full-time care, and \$250 for part-time care.

Healthy Children Initiative

The Government provides communities with funding through the Healthy Children Initiative to enhance existing early childhood programs and services. This funding is provided to each community using a population formula, and interested non-profit groups may submit proposals to regional management committees for review.

Family Resource Programs

Number of family resource programs:
three. One Community Action Program for Children program is operated by the school board, but is not housed in a school.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2010

A new information system is under development; upon completion it will enable child care licensing, inspection and payment information to be better tracked.

2011 – 2012

The Early Development Instrument will be implemented in kindergarten.

Nunavut

OVERVIEW

In Nunavut, kindergarten and regulated child care are both under 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. Family child care homes are called family day homes in Nunavut, although there were none in operation in the period covered by this report.



Territorial Context¹

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	779
1	753
2	703
3	642
4	689
5	716
6	672
7	642
8	679
9	706
10	674
11	677
12	657
Total	8,989

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0 – 2	2,235
3 – 5	2,047
6 – 12	4,707
Total	8,989

Number of Children 0 – 12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force	
Information not available.	

Workforce Participation of Women by Age of Youngest Child (2006)		
	Number of mothers in the labour force	Participation rate (%)
Females with children at home	3,560	64.8
Children under 6 years only	600	54.3
At least one child under 2 years	285	46.7
Children 2 – 5 years only	320	64.0
Children under 6 years as well as children 6 years and over	1,050	62.7
Children 6 years and over only	1,905	70.2
Youngest child 6 – 14 years	1,360	74.5

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	10	0	3,180	0	0	3,195
5–9	10	15	3,100	10	10	3,135
10–14	0	10	3,055	10	0	3,075
Total	20	25	9,335	20	10	9,405

Percentage of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
84.96%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	70	2.0
5–9	90	2.7
10–14	110	3.4
Total	260	2.6

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	2,565	835	650	185
5–9	2,530	735	590	145
10–14	2,445	730	570	155
Total	7,535	2,300	1,815	485

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	935	10	2,425
5–9	935	10	2,335
10–14	870	20	2,325
Total	2,740	40	7,085

**Number and Percentage of Children
in Low Income Families**

Information not available.

Family-Related Leave²

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.

Adoption Leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	816
Birth rate per 1,000 population	25.0
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	240
Average length of maternity claim	14.6 weeks
Number of parental claims	270
Average length of parental claim	26.1 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	40
Average length of adoptive claim	5.0 weeks

Kindergarten

Legislation

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. 2008.

Territorial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

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Director

Curriculum and School Services

Department of Education

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Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under regional school operations. It is available to all five year olds in Nunavut on a half-day basis. There is a requirement for no fewer than 485 and no more than 570 instructional hours per year and no more than six hours/day. The District Education Authorities in each community determine hours of attendance within these parameters.

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Nunavut. However, most students attend. Access is legislated and it is an entitlement. School attendance is required under the new *Education Act* at age six.

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Age Eligibility

Five years old by December 31.

Class Size

There is no class size limit.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Nunavut's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.edu.gov.nu.ca/apps/authoring/dspPage.aspx?page=48>

Enrolment

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten: 723

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification or certification as a kindergarten teacher is required to teach kindergarten in Nunavut.

Information on teacher certification requirements in Nunavut is available at:

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/teacher/tcert/index.htm>

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 teacher training; or
- a letter of authority which requires a one-year ECE program or some coursework towards a Bachelor of Education and must be renewed annually.

Most kindergarten teachers have a Bachelor of Education or letter of authority as a language specialist, which means that they speak an Inuit language. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires bilingual education; all but five kindergarten classes are in Inuit language. A kindergarten teacher with only a language specialist qualification must be participating in teacher training.

Salaries (2009–2010) vary by type of certification as follows:

Certified as teacher	\$54,047–96,533
Certified as kindergarten teacher	54,047–68,338
Granted letter of authority	51,272–61,882

Classroom Assistants

Nunavut has student support assistants who support children with special needs in programs with their peers. They have access to a 10-course certificate program, offered in the community as an on-the-job series of courses. The courses are linked to the teacher education program. Many assistants are included in school professional development activities. In addition to student support assistants, language specialists may work as classroom assistants in cases where the kindergarten teacher is not bilingual.

The starting salary for student support assistants was \$54,054–61,347 as of April 1, 2010. Information on language specialists is not available.

Curriculum

An Elders Advisory Committee in Nunavut works with educators to define knowledge, skills and values from an Inuit perspective to be taught in Nunavut schools at all levels. This information is combined with curriculum frameworks from the Western and Northern Curriculum Protocol partnership. Input from elders is being used to develop teaching resources and learning materials for kindergarten classes in Nunavut schools.

Monitoring and Assessment

Kindergarten programs are monitored by school principals and the Superintendent of Schools as part of teacher evaluation.

The Department implemented a new kindergarten language screening tool in 2010. Children are screened prior to kindergarten entry to determine language proficiency in Inuktitut. The screening is used for classroom planning purposes and not individual program planning.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

Sources of funding for school boards:
Government of Nunavut.

The French District Education Authority has access to federal funding.

There are no private schools in Nunavut.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009 – 2010)

Estimated Expenditure per Kindergarten Student

\$7,189 (50% of the per capita expenditure for K-12 students of \$14,377.93)

Special Features

Instruction in Inuktitut is provided from kindergarten to Grade 3. There is bilingual instruction according to a variety of models chosen by the community; this continues from Grade 3 on (95% of children have a first language other than English or French).

Language of instruction policy: The goal is to graduate functionally bilingual (Inuktitut/English) students. Communities have chosen the bilingual instruction model; work to provide staffing to ensure that Inuktitut is taught throughout the system is ongoing.

Recent Developments in Kindergarten

2008

The *Education Act* was passed by the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

2009

On July 1st the *Education Act* came into force.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act and Child Day Care Standards and Regulations*, 1994.

Territorial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

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Early Childhood Contact

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Early Childhood Development Manager
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Child Care Services

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

Programs for children under six years of age for four consecutive hours or less a day, including Aboriginal Head Start Programs.

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

Children with Special Needs

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs.

Care providers are funded to provide extra support for children with special needs through the daily operating grants, 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 is required for the centre to receive the additional funding for a child. In addition, centres may apply for funding to the Healthy Children's Initiative for adaptive equipment or for a one-on-one worker if necessary.

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 to be applied and parents must have a medical referral from a recognised health care professional for the child to be in developmental care.

Aboriginal Child Care

Since 1996, the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) has provided capital and start-up funding for the development of approximately 20 centres in what is now Nunavut. There is an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training

Strategy (ASETS) regional office in each of Nunavut's three regions. Each ASETS office has the responsibility for the delivery and administration of the Inuit child care program in their region, established with FNICCI funding.

In addition to providing capital funding for new child care centres, all child care centres, with the exception of the seven Aboriginal Head Start programs, may receive block funding from ASETS, which 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 land claim beneficiary parents that is 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.

FNICCI spends approximately \$3 million/year on child care in Nunavut.

Space Statistics (March 2010)

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces			
Centre-based			
	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Infant (< 2 years)	156	–	156
Preschool (2 years – school entry)	503	219	722
School-age (kindergarten – 12 years)	–	137	137
Total centre-based spaces^a	659	356	1,015
Total number of regulated spaces			1,015

^a There are currently no family child care spaces.

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care

Information not available.

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies

The number of children is not available; however, 107 families received subsidies through the Daycare User Subsidy and 58 families (62 children) received subsidies through the Young Parents Stay Learning program.

Number of Centres and Homes

Child care centres

Full-day	30
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	11
Stand-alone after-school programs	6
Total	47

Family child care homes

0

School-based child care centres

For preschool-age children	14
For school-age children	4

Number of francophone child care centres

2

Sponsorship

Regulated centre-based spaces

Non-profit^a	1,015
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^a All child care centres in Nunavut are non-profit.
Family day homes are considered to be non-profit.

Standards and Regulations

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

Not specified.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes for mixed age groupings³

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
0 – 24 months	1:4	8
2 – 5 years	1:8	16
5 – 11 years	1:10	20

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes for individual age groups

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
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

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

³ Most centres in Nunavut have mixed age groups.

Parent involvement

The legislation requires non-profit programs whose boards of directors do not have a minimum of 51% parent members, to have a parent committee with a minimum of 51% parent members.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Licenses are granted for one year. Annual inspections of all regulated child care centres are conducted by an early childhood officer from the Department of Education, the Public Health Department, and the Fire Marshall's office. It is recommended that the early childhood officer have a background in early childhood education.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Maximum of eight children under 12 years (including the provider's children). No more than six of the eight children may be five years or under, no more than three children may be under three years, and no more than two children may be under two years.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

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 Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

One-time funding

Start-up funding

Available to non-profit, regulated centres and family day 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 children served.

Recurring funding

Operating funding

\$2.42 – \$17.25/occupied space/day (depending on the age of the child and the location of the program) is available to non-profit regulated centres and family day homes.

Child care fee subsidy program

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. Parents may apply for subsidy in person, by mail or fax.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work or take part in a training program. Eligibility is determined by a needs assessment, which takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income. An unregulated provider may be a relative of a parent of the child being subsidised.

Eligibility for fee subsidy

Eligibility varies with clients' actual housing, utility and child care costs, plus social assistance rates for food and clothing. To be eligible for a fee subsidy, parents must be working, attending school or a training program, or have a child with a special need,

for whom child care is recommended by a recognised health care professional.

As a needs assessment is applied, there is no set break-even point.

Maximum subsidy rates are set for the type of care.

Maximum Subsidy/Child/Month (2009 – 2010)		
Type of care	Max. monthly full-time (\$)	Max. monthly part-time (\$)
Licensed centre	700	350
Licensed family day home	600	300
After-school care	–	145

There is no minimum user fee and programs may surcharge subsidised parents.

Other funding

Young Parents Stay Learning Program (an early childhood program)

Since June 2009, all parents, regardless of age, who are working toward a high school diploma may be eligible for this child care subsidy. Students under 18 who are attending a post secondary institution within Nunavut may also be eligible. Eligibility 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 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 fax.

Territorial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (as of April 1st 2010)

Recurring funding	
Start-up and operating grants ^a	\$2,150,000
Fee subsidies	
Daycare user subsidy ^b	\$ 590,000
Young Parents Stay Learning ^c	35,000
Total^d	\$2,775,000

^a A breakdown between one-time start-up and ongoing operating grants is not available.

^b The fee subsidy budget includes spending on both regulated and unregulated child care.

^c The allocation for the Young Parents Stay Learning program is not comparable to previous years due to changes in parameters. In 2009–2010 the actual spending was considerably higher than the allocation.

^d The Healthy Children's Initiative spends approximately \$266,000 for supportive services for children with special needs. There is no breakdown of how much of the funding is spent in regulated child care.

Remuneration

Gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time staff combined) (2008 – 2009) ^a	
Teachers	19.12
Assistant teachers	15.71
Directors/managers	26.23
Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005) ^b	
All	25,008
Those with an ECE credential	23,168

^a **Source:** Information collected in 2009 by territorial officials from the annual Operating and Maintenance Grant application forms. This does not include data from the Aboriginal Head Start Programs. Most centres do not have assistant teachers.

^b **Source:** Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Median daily parent fees for centre-based care ^a		
Age group	Full-time fees (\$)	Part-time fees (\$) ^b
Infants	29.94	18.67
Preschool	29.48	17.19
School-age	–	17.90

^a **Source:** Information collected in 2009 by territorial officials from the annual Operating and Maintenance Grant application forms.

^b The four part-day preschool programs, seven Head Start programs and one after-school program are provided at no cost to parents.

Administration

The Adult Education, Career and Early Childhood Services Division of the Department of Education is responsible for the development of standards, the regulation of child care services, contributions to child care programs and the development of a territorial child care system. Four early childhood officers within the three regions of Nunavut are responsible for licensing and monitoring child care programs. The Income Support Division of the Department of Education is responsible for the administration of fee subsidy. Early childhood officers are required to have an ECE diploma and experience working in a child care centre, or equivalent qualifications. In practice, however, filling the positions with qualified staff is often not possible.

Municipal and Other Local Government Role

Child care programs may be under the auspice of the Hamlets or District Education Authorities who may hold the license. The Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut operates a licensed school-age program at their school.

One District Education Authority operates a preschool and three Aboriginal Head Start programs. The programs are all licensed.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted: Four, including the caregiver's own children up to 12 years.

Funding

Fee subsidies are available for unlicensed care and are paid directly to parents. The maximum monthly rate is \$500 for full-time care, and \$250 for part-time care.

Family Resource Programs

There is one family resource centre and a number of smaller drop-in and literacy programs and parenting workshops.

Some District Education Authorities also offer parent-child drop-in/family resource type programs with funding they receive from the Department of Education's Healthy Children Initiative (which funds family-centred early childhood services and programs for young children 0–6 and their families, as well as programs and services for individual children 0–6 requiring extra supports).

Child Care and Education

The K-12 division will have an ECE section to support the development of language and culture resources for all ECE programs as part of the implementation of bilingual education in the K-12 school system as required under the new *Education Act*.

Before 2010, there was no formal relationship between kindergarten and child care. It was up to each school and childcare facility to develop their own relationships – supported and encouraged by the Department of Education's Early Childhood Program. With the implementation of the *Education Act*, the Department of Education hopes that the informal relationship will grow into a more formal relationship so that there is an easier transition for children attending licensed early childhood programs and kindergarten.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

Effective July 1st, the criteria for the Young Parents Stay Learning Program were changed to remove the age barrier for students working towards a high school diploma and to include unlicensed care when appropriate licensed care is not available.

2010

Effective April 1st the operating and maintenance program contribution funding was increased by 10%. The funding allocation also changed to 75% for licensed spaces and 25% will be based on actual attendance instead of on the previous 50% for licensed spaces and 50% for actual attendance.

Effective April 1st 2010, the Early Childhood Program has an annual budget of \$200,000 for supporting the cost of post-secondary courses in early childhood education within Nunavut. This funding will go to the post-secondary institutions to help ensure that ECE courses are offered annually within Nunavut.

2010–2011

Effective July 1st 2011, the *Education Act* states that District Education Authorities (DEAs) shall provide early childhood programs that promote fluency in the Inuit language and knowledge of the Inuit culture. DEAs are currently able to access funding (2010–2011) to support existing early childhood programs in promoting the Inuit language and culture. Up to \$40,000 is available to DEAs, with larger communities eligible to receive more, to develop resources that promote fluency of language and culture. This requirement is modified with regard to programs falling under the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut to refer to promotion of French language and francophone culture.

2011

The Department has hired two new coordinators to help develop language and culture supports and resources for ECE programs and parents with children 0–5 years.

Funding is available in 2011 and 2012 for DEAs to help existing ECE programs to support language and culture initiatives.

An early childhood education conference was held March 5 and 6, 2011. This first ever territorial ECE conference focused on language and culture in early childhood education, and included participants from across the territory and featured speakers from Greenland.

Yukon

OVERVIEW

Yukon kindergarten is under the aegis of the Department of Education while child care is the responsibility of Yukon Health and Social Services. Kindergarten may be part-day or full-day; it is offered to all five year olds and part-day to a small number of four year olds, depending on the configuration of services in their local community.

Regulated child care for 0–12 year olds is non-profit and for-profit; there are no publicly operated programs. Regulated family child care homes are called family day homes in Yukon.



Territorial Context¹

Number of Children 0–12 Years (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	371
1	377
2	388
3	380
4	352
5	388
6	363
7	382
8	351
9	379
10	364
11	364
12	388
Total	4,847

Number of Children 0–12 Years, Aggregated (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	1,136
3–5	1,120
6–12	2,591
Total	4,847

Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force (2009 Rounded Estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0–2	700
3–5	600
6–12	1,600
Total	3,000

Workforce Participation of Women by Age of Youngest Child (2006)		
	Number of mothers in the labour force	Participation rate (%)
Females with children at home	3,985	82.6
Children under 6 years only	650	71.0
At least one child under 2 years	315	64.9
Children 2–5 years only	335	77.9
Children under 6 years as well as children 6 years and over	480	82.1
Children 6 years and over only	2,850	85.6
Youngest child 6–14 years	1,525	90.0

¹ For sources of demographic information see **Explanatory Notes and Data Sources** section.

Number of Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (2006)						
Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0–4	515	60	35	10	15	640
5–9	565	60	15	10	35	685
10–14	615	65	30	10	15	735
Total	1,695	185	80	30	65	2,060

Percent of Population Identifying with an Aboriginal Group (All Ages, All Aboriginal Groups) (2006)	
25.10%	

Number and Percentage of Children 0–14 Years with Disabilities (2006)		
Age ^a	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0–4	n/a	n/a
5–9	100	5.6
10–14	100	4.7
Total	220	3.9

^a **Note:** Sufficient data for all age breakdowns not available.

Number of Children by Marital Status of Families (2006)				
Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0–4	1,300	400	315	80
5–9	1,320	480	370	115
10–14	1,505	600	430	175
Total	4,125	1,480	1,115	360

Number of Children by Mother Tongue (2006)			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0–4	1,555	50	100
5–9	1,695	40	70
10–14	2,000	55	70
Total	5,250	145	240

**Number and Percentage of Children
in Low Income Families**

Information not available.

Family-Related Leave²

Maternity Leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental Leave

Thirty-seven weeks. Parents who share a parental leave cannot normally take their leave at the same time, whether or not they work for the same employer.

Adoption Leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Births and EI Maternity and Parental Claims (2009)

Number of births	366
Birth rate per 1,000 population	10.7
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	200
Average length of maternity claim	14.5 weeks
Number of parental claims	250
Average length of parental claim	29.2 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	0
Average length of adoptive claim	not applicable

Kindergarten

Legislation

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly.
Education Act, 1990. S.Y. c.25.

Territorial Responsibility for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Contact

Jeanette McCrie
Coordinator of Primary Programs
Department of Education
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 2C6

Telephone: 867-667-5186

Email: dawna.davey@gov.yk.ca

Website: www.education.gov.yk.ca/psb/index.html

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under the Department of Education.

There are 29 kindergarten programs; these include full-day, half-day and those combined with primary. Of these, 20 are full-day every day programs. Sixteen of the full-day kindergarten programs are in Whitehorse, three in rural communities and the francophone school board has one full-day kindergarten program.

All five year olds have access to kindergarten; it is not compulsory.

Rural communities offer kindergarten for four year olds, with 11 offering half-day combined kindergarten programs for four and five year olds.

² Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. Under the Employment Insurance program, the federal government may provide up to 15 weeks of maternity benefits and 35 weeks of parental benefits for eligible parents (maximum \$468/week in 2011). See **Federal Government** (Transfers to Individuals and Tax Expenditures) section for more information.

Where four year olds are involved, the Child Development Centre may provide assistance for particular students (see **Children with Special Needs** in the child care section). Two rural communities with small school populations combine kindergarten students with their primary classes; in these, kindergarten students attend half-day.

Full-day programs offer 950 instructional hours. Half-day programs offer 475 instructional hours. Hours of attendance are determined by Yukon Department of Education (there are no school boards).

Age Eligibility

Four years and eight months as of September 1 for five year old kindergarten.

Three years and eight months as of September 1 for four year old kindergarten.

Class Size

Full-day classes are capped at 18–20 students. Part-day programs are not large enough to require a class size cap.

Average/mean class size in 2009–2010: 15

There is considerable variation between small rural schools where class size is 5–10 kindergarten students and large urban schools where there are 16–21 kindergarten students.

Children with Special Needs

Information on Yukon's approach to children with special needs in the education system is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/specialprograms/>

Number of kindergarten children with special needs in 2009–2010: 39

Enrolment (2009–2010)

Number of children enrolled in five year old kindergarten: 367

Number of children enrolled in four year old kindergarten: 41 (rural communities) and 26 francophone children in Whitehorse

Kindergarten Teachers

Teacher certification is required to teach kindergarten in Yukon. Information on teacher certification requirements in Yukon is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/employment/certification.html>

The average salary of a full-time kindergarten teacher in 2009–2010 was \$88,056. There were 24.5 full time equivalent kindergarten teachers (21 full time, seven half time), and two combined with Primary.

Classroom Assistants

In Yukon, there are two types of classroom assistants: educational assistants (who assist with the implementation of individualised education plans for students with special needs), and remedial tutors (who provide assistance to students who require more support to master basic skills, but do not require an individualised education plan). Grade 12 is the minimum qualification for both positions; post-secondary coursework or training is desirable. Based on a referral process, special programs staff and school-based teams determine the needs of individual students. Principals make requests for staff to their regional superintendent.

In 2009–2010, the average full-time salary was \$38,624.

Curriculum

Yukon uses the British Columbia kindergarten curriculum. The focus is child-centred with a balance between play-oriented centres and group instruction. In some schools, First Nations language time is included. The focus is on pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills as well as language and social development.

Monitoring and Assessment

The coordinator of primary programs, Department of Education, monitors kindergarten programs through visits several times throughout the year.

Since 2004–2005 an electronic database has been used at the end of each year to collect information from every class for a kindergarten screening profile, the aim of which is to assist in identifying students at risk. A report is issued to teachers, administrators and superintendents.

Sources of Funding for Kindergarten

There are no school boards other than the francophone board.

Funding to the Department of Education is part of a block transfer of federal dollars.

Yukon funds and delivers denominational education. Both public and Catholic school boards are publicly funded.

The francophone board receives additional federal funds.

There are no parent fees for any part of kindergarten programs.

Public Spending on Kindergarten (2009–2010)

Per Capita Spending

\$16,359 per student K-12, excluding capital. Schools are funded according to size.

Spending on Kindergarten Programs

Classroom programs are funded as part of individual school budgets. In 2009–2010, \$150,000.00 was allocated to projects such as the Early Development Instrument, the Learning Together pilot and kindergarten orientation.

Special Features

Eleven rural schools admit four year olds into the regular kindergarten program. These targeted communities are mainly First Nations with many children determined to be at risk. The focus is on language development, social skills, pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills.

The Child Development Centre (see **Children with Special Needs** in child care section) works with some children in kindergarten, with four year olds and provides an outreach worker to some schools.

Developments in Kindergarten

2009–2010

The Early Development Instrument was used to collect data on all kindergartens. The University of British Columbia Human Early Learning Partnership provided data analysis and a report. Individual school reports were sent out in the fall. The purpose is to generate support for community services that will benefit young children and their families. The survey was repeated in May 2010–2011.

2010

May

A pilot program, “Learning Together” was started in one downtown Whitehorse school. Children aged 3–5 years attend with their parents. The program runs for two hour sessions, four days a week; attendance is on a drop-in basis. The focus is on learning to learn for the children with the parents becoming active participants in their child’s learning. The program continued during the 2010–2011 year, with registration opened to families across the city. Fifty families were registered for the 2010–2011 school year.

Regulated Child Care

Legislation

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.

Territorial Responsibility for Child Care

Child Care Contact

Child Care Services
Child Care Services Unit
Yukon Health and Social Services
Government of the Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 2C6

Telephone: 867-667-5635

Facsimile: 867-393-7140

Website: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/childcareunit.php>

Child Care Services

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.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of eight children (including the providers' own children under six). Four school-age children in addition to the number of preschool-age children may be included with additional staff.

Children with Special Needs

Child care regulations state that children with special needs in mainstream child care programs must be integrated to the fullest extent possible. A child is designated special needs on the assessment of a child care professional. An individual program plan must be developed for the child in consultation with staff, parents and professionals in the community, which outlines goals and objectives for the child.

There are no segregated child care programs. The Whitehorse Child Development Centre provides special needs programming and supports across the Yukon. It operates an integrated preschool program licensed for 25 children as well as unlicensed preschool programs. It provides early intervention supports and resources to families of children with special needs. It operates a mobile outreach unit that serves every community in the territory for support and resource provision.

Funding is also available for centres and family day homes through a supported child care fund and is based on the individual need of the child. Funding may be provided for adaptive equipment, transportation, programming support and additional staff.

Parents who meet the financial eligibility criteria receive a fee subsidy for their child with special needs to attend a child care program whether or not the parent is in the paid labour force. Parents who are not eligible for a subsidy pay for the child care space but not for the additional supports.

Aboriginal Child Care

There are no reserves for First Nations people in the Yukon. First Nations receive the same start-up and operating grants from the Yukon government as other licensed child care centres and family day

homes. They also receive funding from the federal First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative, which is administered by the Council for Yukon First Nations. The Council for Yukon First Nations also provides financial support to one additional child care centre operated by a child care society, and a number of family day homes that serve First Nations children.

In total there are approximately 279 regulated spaces operated or supported by First Nations in nine centres and four Aboriginal Head Start programs. Parents who use regulated centres and family child care homes are eligible for fee subsidies.

Space Statistics (March 2010)³

Number of Regulated Child Care Spaces	
Centre-based	
Total centre-based spaces	1,151
Family child care	
Total family child care spaces	280
Total number of regulated spaces	1,431

Number of Occupied Centre-Based Spaces	
Infants (to 18 months)	64
Toddlers (18–36 months)	211
Preschool (36 months – school-age)	354
School-age	205
Total number of occupied centre-based spaces	834

Number of Occupied Family Child Care Spaces	
Infants	21
Toddlers	55
Preschool	72
School-age	53
Total number of occupied family child care spaces	201

Children with Special Needs in Regulated Child Care
50 (est.)

Children Receiving Fee Subsidies
541

Number of Centres and Homes	
Child care centres	
Full-day	34
Stand-alone after-school programs	5
Total	39
Family child care	
Individual family child care providers	35
School-based child care centres	
For preschool-age children	n/a
For school-age children	1
Number of francophone child care centres	1

Sponsorship	
Regulated centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	639
For-profit	512

³ The breakdown of regulated spaces by age group is not available. Age breakdowns are available for occupied spaces only. All spaces are considered to be full-time.

Standards and Regulations⁴

Regulated Centres

Maximum centre size

64 spaces.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratio	Max. group size
0 – 18 months	1:4	8
18 months – 2 years	1:6	12
3 – 6 years	1:8	16
6 – 12 years	1:12	24

Staff qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on staffing requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated centre-based programs (Table 5, page 70) and regulated school-age programs (Table 7, page 76) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

Parent involvement

The operator of the centre must ensure that open communication is maintained with parents and guardians on all matters affecting their child. Parents and guardians must also have reasonable access to the program, inspection reports, written policies, menus, log of injuries, the *Child Care Act*, and the regulation and guidelines, and the child care subsidy regulation.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

A government child care inspector is required to conduct an annual inspection and two to four unannounced visits per year to each child care centre. Centres are also required to have an annual fire and environmental health inspection. Inspectors are required to have a background in early childhood education.

A centre not in compliance with the regulations is given an order to comply. If it does not come into compliance within the time frame stated in the order, the license may be suspended or revoked, or the direct operating grant frozen. A centre can appeal a suspension or revocation to the Yukon Child Care Board, which is composed of community members appointed by the Minister for a two-year term. Its decision is binding.

Regulated Family Child Care

Regulation

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Up to eight children (including the provider's own preschool but not school-aged children). There may be no more than three infants if there are also three children who are preschoolers or school-age already enrolled.

If there is an additional caregiver, there may be four additional school-age children.

Provider qualification requirements

In 2009, the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council released a report on credentialing, with information on provider requirements in each province and territory as of December 2009. Information on regulated family child care (Table 6, page 74) is available at: http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/uploads/ENGPathways_Credentialing.pdf. Consult the websites of individual provinces and territories for further information.

⁴ The current Act and Regulations cover special needs children up to age 16.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family child care homes are regulated by the *Child Care Act* and family day home regulations. They receive one annual inspection and two to four unannounced spot checks per year to monitor for compliance with the regulations.

Funding

Public Funding for Regulated Child Care

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. Start-up funding is also available to child care centres to a maximum of \$10,000.

Capital development funding is available to child care programs to meet the health and safety requirements of the regulations; centres and family day homes are eligible. Grant amounts are based on the applications.

Recurring funding

Operating grants

Operating grants have three components: unit funding, training, and building costs. All regulated non-profit and for-profit child care programs receive 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 is allocated as follows:

Infant unit

One staff/4 infants = \$720/month

Toddler unit

One staff/6 toddlers = \$795/month

Preschool unit

One staff/8 preschoolers = \$820/month

School-age unit

One staff/12 school-age children = \$1,010/month

Training funding

Training funds are allocated on hours worked, to a maximum of 40 hours per week per staff. The hourly rates are as follows:

Level I	\$1.85
Level IA	3.50
Level II	4.75
Level IIA	6.95
Level III	9.00

Building/costs

Each \$50/month spent on rent and utilities is worth one point which is multiplied by \$16.00 per point.

Centres and family day homes that provide a hot lunch and two snacks a day receive additional funding included in the unit funding to assist with the costs. Child care centres receive an extra amount per unit as follows:

Infant unit	\$40
Toddler unit	60
Preschool unit	80
School-age unit	120

Family day homes receive an extra \$10.00 per month per child.

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined through an income test.

Subsidies may be used for part-time child care.

To be eligible, parents must be gainfully employed, actively seeking employment, attending/preparing to attend an educational institution, undertaking medical treatment or involved in a rehabilitation program. Parents seeking employment may be eligible for part-time child care for two months. 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.

Subsidy is an entitlement for all eligible families and there is no cap on the number of subsidised spaces.

There is no minimum user fee. Centre-based programs and family day care homes may surcharge subsidised parents fees above the maximum subsidy rate.

Subsidies may be used in any regulated for-profit or non-profit service.

Eligibility for Fee Subsidy (Net Income)		
	Turning point (\$)	Break-even point (\$)
1 parent, 1 child	22,262	35,211
2 parents, 2 children	32,765	56,270

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum Subsidy/Child/Month (2009 – 2010)	
Age group	Max. \$/month
Infant	625
Toddler	565
Preschool	525
School-age	275
Children with special needs	625

Other funding

The Whitehorse Child Development Centre received \$1,484,189 from the Government of Yukon to provide a range of services in regulated and unregulated child care.

Territorial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2009 – 2010)

One-time funding	\$50,000
Recurring funding	
Unit funding	4,039,000
Supports to children with special needs	470,000
Fee subsidies	2,800,000
Total	\$7,359,000
Other funding	
Whitehorse Child Development Centre	1,484,189

Remuneration

Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time staff combined, 2009 – 2010) ^a	
Level I	16.41
Level II	18.80
Level III	20.58
Director	25.94
Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005) ^b	
All	29,122
Those with an ECE credential	45,063

^a Source: Information provided by territorial officials from centre direct operating grant reporting forms.

^b Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Fees

Average monthly parent fees for centre-based full-time care (2009 – 2010) ^a	
Infants (0 – 17 months)	690
Toddlers (18 months – 3 years)	630
Preschoolers (3 years – 5.11 years)	600
School-age	314

^a **Source:** Information provided by territorial officials.

Average daily fee in family child care

Approximately the same as in centre-based care.

Administration

Under the Department of Health and Social Services, the Child Care Services Unit is responsible for licensing and monitoring child care, and for fee subsidy administration.

Municipal and Other Local Government Role

The legislation permits municipalities to hold licenses to directly operate child care programs although none does so at this time.

Related Programs

Unregulated Child Care

Unregulated Family Child Care

Maximum number of children permitted:

Three, not including the caregiver's own children under age six years.

Preschools

Preschool programs for children aged 3 – 6 years that operate for less than three consecutive hours are not required to be licensed.

Funding

Some funding from the social assistance budget is spent on child care. This includes covering the cost of parent surcharges above the subsidy rates and up to \$3/hour in unregulated care if regulated care is not available.

Recent Developments in Child Care and Other ECEC Services

2009

There was an additional 35% increase to funding for child care wages.

Funding was increased to the supported child care program.

Funding was given to Yukon College to support early childhood educators to obtain training.

Comparative Tables on Key Topics



Most Recent Data

TABLE 1 — Number of Children 0–12 Years, 2009 (Rounded Estimate)

P/T	0–2 yrs	3–5 yrs	6–12 yrs	Total 0–12 yrs ^a
NL	13,900	14,400	36,000	64,400
PE	4,300	4,100	11,300	19,600
NS	26,600	25,900	65,100	117,500
NB	22,400	21,500	51,900	95,900
QC	233,200	222,200	559,800	1,015,300
ON	410,500	417,800	1,031,500	1,859,700
MB	39,600	37,800	97,900	175,200
SK	37,600	33,100	80,100	150,900
AB	137,500	122,700	299,100	559,400
BC	127,900	129,100	314,000	570,900
NT	2,052	1,996	4,172	8,220
NU	2,235	2,047	4,707	8,989
YT	1,136	1,120	2,591	4,847
CA ^a	1,058,923	1,033,763	2,558,170	4,650,856

Source: Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2009 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

^a Totals may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 2 — Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force, 2009 (Rounded Estimate)

P/T	0–2 yrs	3–5 yrs	6–12 yrs	Total 0–12 yrs ^a
NL	7,300	7,800	23,200	38,100
PE	2,800	2,800	7,900	13,600
NS	15,400	16,300	44,100	75,700
NB	15,000	14,800	36,500	66,300
QC	156,900	147,700	388,800	693,300
ON	245,900	254,400	688,400	1,188,800
MB	20,800	21,000	62,700	104,500
SK	23,300	21,200	58,300	103,100
AB	72,300	68,200	197,800	338,200
BC	72,200	78,700	199,500	350,400
NT	1,100	1,000	2,500	4,600
NU	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
YT	700	600	1,600	3,000
CA ^a	633,700	634,500	1,711,300	2,979,600

Source: Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2009 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

^a Totals may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 3 — Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child, 2009 (Rounded Estimate)

P/T	Youngest child 0 – 2 yrs		Youngest child 3 – 5 yrs		Youngest child 6 – 15 yrs	
	# mothers/ labour force	(%)	# mothers/ labour force	(%)	# mothers/ labour force	(%)
NL	8,300	68	6,700	73	22,000	83
PE	2,900	76	2,000	83	7,100	88
NS	15,900	68	12,700	83	40,000	84
NB	14,900	76	9,900	81	32,500	84
QC	153,800	73	104,300	78	343,200	86
ON	250,900	69	183,400	75	601,400	83
MB	21,000	62	13,700	71	51,700	86
SK	22,000	70	13,300	77	44,600	89
AB	74,200	63	44,700	70	165,700	86
BC	75,800	66	57,000	75	179,700	80
NT ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NU ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
YT ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
CA	639,700	69	447,700	75	1,487,000	84

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour force historical review, 2009, [CD2T04AN](#).

^a Equivalent information is not available for the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, or Yukon. The territories collect this information using different age categories. See territorial sections for more information.

TABLE 4 — Regulated Child Care Spaces, Percentage of Children 0–12 Years for Whom There Is a Regulated Child Care Space and Percentage of Children 0–5 Years for Whom There Is a Regulated Full or Part-Time Centre-Based Space, 2010

P/T	Centre-based full- and part-day child care for 0–5	School-age child care	Regulated family child care	Total regulated spaces 0–12	Children 0–12 for whom there is a regulated child care space (%)	Children 0–5 for whom there is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space (%)
NL	5,072	724	404	6,200	9.6	17.9
PE	3,491 ^a	875	28	5,084	25.9	41.6
NS	11,829	3,039	427	15,295	13.0	22.6
NB	9,256	8,994	535	18,785	19.6	21.1
QC	129,585	162,992 ^b	86,809	379,386	37.4	28.5
ON ^c	167,359	90,233	18,953	276,410	14.9	19.7
MB	17,639	8,406	3,337	29,382	16.8	22.8
SK	7,451	1,158	2,239	10,848	7.2	10.5
AB	51,392	19,070	11,588	82,050	14.7	19.8
BC	50,818	30,305	16,047	97,170	17.0	19.8
NT	929	456	400	1,785	21.7	22.9
NU	878	137	0	1,015	11.3	20.5
YT ^d	629	205	280	1,431	29.5	27.9
CA	456,328	326,594	141,047	921,841	19.9	21.8

^a For the purpose of comparison with other provinces, part-day kindergarten spaces as of March 2010 are excluded from the calculations for Prince Edward Island. As of September 2010, kindergarten moved to the education system.

^b The total number of school-age spaces is from 2008. More recent information is not available.

^c The total regulated spaces is not the sum of the categories listed. This figure is an estimated licensed capacity based on capacity in child care centres and enrolment in family child care.

^d Yukon provided total occupied spaces and total regulated spaces, but breakdown by type of service only for occupied spaces. Thus, the sum of centre-based, school-age and family child care do not equal the total regulated spaces above. Total regulated spaces have been used in the Canada total and in calculating coverage 0–12; occupied spaces was used for calculating coverage 0–5.

TABLE 5 — Sponsorship of Regulated Centre-Based Spaces for Children 0 – 12 Years, 2010			
P/T	Not-for-profit and publicly-operated ^a	For-profit	Percentage for-profit (%)
NL	1,615	4,181	72
PE	2,126	2,958	58
NS	7,194	7,674	52
NB ^b	7,065	11,720	62
QC	242,539	50,038	17
ON	192,256	65,201	25
MB	24,871	1,174	5
SK	8,609	0	0
AB	41,506	40,835	50
BC	45,956	35,267	43
NT	1,385	0	0
NU	1,015	0	0
YT	639	512	44
CA	576,776	219,560	28

^a Full- and part-time spaces are included in these figures because some provinces cannot provide break-downs.

^b Estimate provided by provincial officials.

TABLE 6 — Child Care Centres on Reserve and in Self-Government Regions,^a 2010

P/T	# centres on reserve or self government regions	Regulated by province/territory	Provincial/territorial funding
NL	8 ^b	On request	Yes
PE	2	No	No
NS	13	No	No
NB	8	On request	No
QC	49	Yes	Yes
ON	74	Yes	Yes
MB	64	On request	No ^c
SK	76	No	No
AB	35	No	No
BC	122 (est.) ^d	Yes	Yes
NT ^e	59	Yes	Yes
NU ^e	47	Yes	Yes
YT ^f	9	Yes	Yes

^a Off-reserve child care centres and family child care agencies serving Aboriginal families are available in some provinces/territories. Refer to **Aboriginal Child Care** section of each province/territory for details. In addition, see **Federal Contributions to Aboriginal ECEC**.

^b There are two child care centres on Miawpukek First Nation reserve in Conne River. In addition, there are six provincially licensed centres operating in the Nunatsiavut self-government region.

^c One of the 64 centres that has chosen to be licensed receives provincial funding but not federal funding.

^d This figure represents an estimate by provincial officials.

^e Northwest Territories (outside Yellowknife) and Nunavut are made up of Dene and Inuit communities. These figures represent all centres in the two territories.

^f There are no reserves in Yukon; information refers to child care operated by Aboriginal communities.

TABLE 7 — Total Provincial/Territorial Allocation for Regulated Child Care, Allocation for Each Regulated Child Care Space and Allocation for Each Child 0–12 Years, 2009–2010 (Rounded)

P/T	Dollars (\$)		
	Allocation to regulated child care per child 0–12 ^a	Allocation per regulated child care space ^b	Total provincial allocation for regulated child care
NL	319	3,310	20,523,355
PE	328	1,265	6,431,500
NS	332	2,552	39,032,889
NB	302	1,540	28,936,200
QC	1,969	5,268	1,998,720,000 ^c
ON	431	2,901	801,800,000
MB	665	3,967	116,551,000
SK	356	4,952	53,716,182
AB	341	2,323	190,626,505
BC	399	2,341	227,500,000
NT	309	1,424	2,542,000
NU	309	2,734	2,775,000
YT	1,518	5,143	7,359,000
CA	752	3,792	3,496,527,631

^a Estimates based on total provincial allocation for regulated child care and total number of children 0–12 years.

^b Estimates based on total provincial allocation for regulated child care and total regulated spaces.

^c This figure includes funding for school-age child care from 2008. More recent information was not available.

TABLE 8 — Net Income Eligibility Levels for Full and Partial Child Care Fee Subsidies, 2010

P/T	Family size	Full subsidy up to (\$)	Partial subsidy up to (\$)
NL	1 parent, 1 child	27,500	43,320
	2 parents, 1 child	27,840	43,680
PE	1 parent, 1 child	15,400	27,400
	2 parents, 2 children	21,200	53,040
NS	1 child	20,883	62,731
	2 children	20,883	62,731
NB	1 child, 2 years or older	22,000	41,000
	1 child, under 2 years old	22,000	41,000
QC	not applicable ^a	not applicable	not applicable
ON	All families	20,000	not applicable ^b
MB	1 parent, 1 child	15,593	27,796
	2 parents, 2 children	21,371	45,777
SK^c	1 or 2 parents, 1 infant	19,800 (gross income)	36,720 (gross income)
	1 or 2 parents, 2 children (1 infant, 1 preschool)	21,000 (gross income)	72,720 (gross income)
AB^d	1 parent, 1 infant	35,100 (gross income)	56,808 (gross income)
	2 parents, 1 infant, 1 preschool child	39,600 (gross income)	80,964 (gross income)
BC	1 parent, 1 child	30,984	48,984
	2 parents, 2 children	35,016	53,016
NT	not applicable ^e	not applicable	not applicable
NU	not applicable ^e	not applicable	not applicable
YT	1 parent, 1 child	22,262	35,211
	2 parents, 2 children	32,765	56,270

^a Quebec provides publicly-funded services rather than providing subsidies to selected families.

^b Depends on cost of child care. See **Ontario** section for details.

^c Saskatchewan uses gross income level to determine eligibility; not directly comparable to other jurisdictions.

^d Alberta uses gross income to determine eligibility; not directly comparable to other jurisdictions.

^e Eligibility for subsidy varies according to number of family members, actual shelter costs, community of residence and eligibility for enhanced benefits such as disability allowance, educational expenses. These needs are based on income assistance program schedules.

TABLE 9 — Median Full-Time, Full-Year Employment Income for Centre-Based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants, 2005^a

P/T	Dollars (\$)	
	All	Those with an ECE credential
NL	15,884	18,608
PE	19,616	21,970
NS	20,060	20,945
NB	17,429	17,942
QC	26,240	27,298
ON	27,199	29,298
MB	21,126	27,420
SK	19,193	22,022
AB	18,774	22,009
BC	24,987	26,145
NT	30,017	n/a
NU	25,008	23,168
YT	\$29,112	45,063
CA	\$25,100	\$27,366

Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

^a May include those working in unregulated settings.

TABLE 10 — Maximum Staff:Child Ratios and Maximum Group Sizes in Full-Day Centre-Based Child Care by Age,^a 2010

P/T	At 12 months		At 36 months		At 60 months	
	Ratio	Group size	Ratio	Group size	Ratio	Group size
NL	1:3	6	1:5	10	1:12	24
PE	1:3	6	1:10	not specified	1:12	not specified
NS	1:4	10	1:8	not specified	1:15	30
NB	1:3	9	1:7	14	1:12	24
QC	1:5	not specified	1:8	not specified	1:20	not specified
ON	3:10	10	1:8	16	1:12	24
MB	1:4	8	1:8	16	1:10	20
SK	1:3	6	1:10	20	1:10	20
AB	1:4	8	1:8	16	1:10	20
BC	1:4	12	1:8	25	1:10	20
NT	1:3	6	1:8	16	1:10	20
NU	1:3	6	1:8	16	1:10	20
YT	1:4	8	1:8	16	1:8	16

^a In some provinces an age may fall into more than one age range. The ratios in this table represent a choice of the older age range in these cases.

**TABLE 11 — Maximum Number of Children Permitted
in Unregulated Family Child Care, 2010^a**

P/T	Maximum number of children	Includes provider's children?	Are there further age restrictions? ^a
NL	4	Yes	Yes
PE	5	Yes	Yes
NS	6	Yes	Yes
NB	5	Yes	Yes
QC	6	Yes	No
ON	5	No	No
MB	4	Yes	Yes
SK	8	Yes	Yes
AB	6	No	Yes
BC	2, or a sibling group	No	No
NT	4	Yes	Yes
NU	4	Yes	Yes
YT	3	No	Yes

^a Further age restrictions vary by province. Refer to individual provinces, many of which have further age restrictions.

Longitudinal Data

TABLE 12 — Number of Children 0–12 Years (Rounded Estimates in 1000s)^a

P/T	1992		1995		1998		2001		2003		2005		2007		2009	
	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
PE	12	14	11	14	10	14	10	13	9	13	8	12	9	12	8	11
NS	74	86	70	86	64	89	61	80	55	77	51	75	49	69	53	65
NB	57	72	56	70	51	68	49	63	46	63	44	58	40	56	44	52
QC	502	655	565	627	527	646	460	656	443	634	435	604	468	554	455	560
ON	848	964	899	1,024	875	1,098	844	1,100	832	1,097	822	1,097	812	1,071	828	1,032
MB	98	111	92	106	87	108	79	107	76	104	77	102	78	97	77	98
SK	94	112	85	107	77	106	76	93	69	91	67	81	64	81	71	80
AB	250	279	242	289	231	301	233	289	218	298	228	284	246	295	260	299
BC	266	312	286	338	289	351	248	353	255	329	233	341	244	324	257	314
NT	9	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5
YT	2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3
CA^b	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

Source: Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2009 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

^a Further age breakdowns are available in each provincial/territorial chapter.

^b Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**TABLE 13 — Number of Children 0–12 Years with Mothers in the Paid Labour Force
(Rounded Estimate in 1000s)^a**

P/T	1992		1995		1998		2001		2003		2005		2007		2009	
	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	26	33	22	33	19	30	18	31	17	25	15	23	16	23	15	23
PE	8	9	8	10	8	11	7	10	6	10	6	9	6	8	6	8
NS	44	49	40	53	38	59	40	57	35	51	33	51	30	47	32	44
NB	33	38	30	43	31	44	32	45	28	41	28	39	26	39	30	37
QC	315	305	325	400	325	424	304	469	286	424	291	409	320	395	305	389
ON	539	556	539	711	546	774	538	787	495	730	508	742	504	725	500	688
MB	51	59	55	76	54	79	49	79	46	72	45	70	47	67	42	63
SK	59	67	55	80	47	77	47	66	43	64	41	57	39	57	45	58
AB	149	158	154	211	138	207	135	206	118	198	127	187	140	202	141	198
BC	154	182	162	245	168	234	147	241	148	210	139	223	144	215	151	200
NT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.4	3.2	2.3	3	2.6	3	2.1	2.5
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
YT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.9	1.8	1.1	1.8	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.6
CA ^b	1,378	1,456	1,390	1,862	1,375	1,939	1,317	1,991	1,224	1,829	1,236	1,815	1,275	1,783	1,268	1,711

Source: Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2009 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

^a Further age breakdowns are available in each provincial/territorial chapter.

^b Totals may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 14 — Workforce Participation Rate of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (% , Rounded Estimate)

P/T	1995			1998			2001			2003			2005			2007			2009		
	0–2	3–5	6–15	0–2	3–5	6–15	0–2	3–5	6–15	0–2	3–5	6–15	0–2	3–5	6–15	0–2	3–5	6–15	0–2	3–5	6–15
NL	55	62	63	58	63	64	64	66	74	71	67	78	66	71	77	66	74	80	68	73	83
PE	n/a	n/a	82	81	83	83	77	79	85	78	82	87	81	84	87	78	85	86	76	83	88
NS	63	64	72	63	70	73	71	72	78	71	77	81	76	77	82	70	78	83	68	83	84
NB	59	64	72	64	69	74	67	74	79	70	75	79	71	80	82	76	77	83	76	81	84
QC	61	67	75	65	67	75	67	75	79	73	77	83	74	79	83	74	80	85	73	78	86
ON	64	68	78	65	72	79	67	74	82	68	74	83	69	76	84	68	79	84	69	75	83
MB	62	73	82	62	76	83	66	75	86	68	77	86	64	76	85	66	76	88	62	71	86
SK	61	74	82	65	73	84	65	74	82	67	77	86	67	77	87	69	77	87	70	77	89
AB	62	74	82	64	71	84	60	71	84	59	71	86	63	69	81	61	73	84	63	70	86
BC	58	66	77	62	67	77	63	69	77	67	74	79	64	76	79	65	71	81	66	75	80
NT ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	64	75	84	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NU ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	51	69	73	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
YT ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	74	81	92	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
CA	61	68	76	65	71	78	66	73	81	69	75	82	69	76	83	69	77	84	69	75	84

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour force historical review, 2009, [CD2T04AN](#).

^a Territorial information for 1995, 1998, 2003 and 2005 is not available. Information is available for 2007 and 2009, but due to the use of different age categories, the information is not equivalent to other provinces, thus it is not included here. For the most recent information for these territories, see individual territorial sections.

TABLE 15 — Total Regulated Child Care Spaces

P/T	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2007	2008	2010
NL	3,568	4,202	4,275	4,226	4,921	5,642	5,868	5,972	6,200
PE ^a	4,123	3,888	3,717	4,270	4,100	4,051	4,293	4,424	5,084
NS	10,826	10,645	11,163	11,464	12,759	12,982	13,247	13,711	15,295
NB	7,162	7,952	9,204	11,086	11,897	13,163	14,170	15,506	18,785
QC ^b	78,388	111,452	175,002	234,905	321,732	361,533 ^c	364,572	368,909	379,386
ON	145,545	147,853	167,090 ^d	173,135 ^d	206,743	229,875	242,488	256,748 ^e	276,410
MB	18,977	18,846	20,490	23,022	25,634	25,984	26,375	27,189	29,382
SK	6,418	7,266	7,124	7,166	7,910	8,712	8,850	9,173	10,848
AB	51,656	51,088	47,033	47,693	63,351 (46,238) ^f	66,288 (47,587) ^f	71,177 (52,528) ^f	73,981 (54,499) ^f	82,050 (62,980) ^f
BC ^g	42,927	59,794	68,978	72,949	71,124	79,031	82,347	87,538	97,170
NT	963	1,286	1,351	1,234	1,219	1,525	1,703	1,768	1,785
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	932	1,014	987	970	1,013	1,015
YT	1,020	1,060	1,307	1,348	1,369	1,330	1,293	1,262	1,431
CA	371,573	425,332	516,734	593,430	745,925	811,262	837,392	867,194	921,841

^a Publicly-funded kindergarten was part of the regulated child care system in PEI between 2000 and September 2010. For the purpose of comparison with other provinces, part-day kindergarten spaces have not been included in these space figures.

^b Quebec's figures include school-age spaces which are under the Ministry of Education.

^c In 2006 a figure for school-age spaces in Quebec was not available. An estimate was calculated based on data in *ECEC in Canada 2004* (Childcare Resource and Research Unit), i.e. 141,977 school-age spaces, which was expanded using the same percentage increase as the increase in total centre-based spaces for children aged 0-4 from 2004-2006 (13.7%).

^d Ontario's figures for total regulated spaces may not be comparable from year to year. In some years, Ontario was not able to determine whether regulated family child care spaces were or were not included in total regulated spaces.

^e The total does not equal the sum of the age groups shown because some rooms are used for different age groups at different times. The total represents the estimated licensed capacity in centres and enrolment in family child care. See **Ontario** section for further information.

^f School-age child care in Alberta became regulated for the first time in 2004. For purpose of comparison with previous years, the 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010 figures include total number of spaces with and without school-age care.

^g The number of regulated child care spaces listed for BC in both centres and family child care homes noted above includes those that receive Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF). Information on the number of spaces that do not receive CCOF is not available and is not included in the totals. Most receive operating funding.

TABLE 16 — Percentage of Children 0–12 Years^a for Whom There Is a Regulated Child Care Space

P/T	Percentage (%)							
	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
NL	3.3	4.3	5.0	5.5	6.8	8.3	9.2	9.6
PE ^b	16.2	15.5	15.4	14.0	18.9	20.0	22.2	25.9
NS	6.8	6.8	7.3	8.1	9.6	10.3	11.6	13.0
NB	5.5	6.3	7.7	9.9	11.0	12.9	16.2	19.6
QC ^{c,d}	6.8	9.4	14.9	21.1 ^e	29.9	34.8	36.1	37.4
ON	8.1	7.7	8.5 ^f	8.9 ^f	10.7 ^f	12.0	13.6	14.9
MB	9.1	9.5	10.5	12.4	14.3	14.5	15.5	16.8
SK ^c	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.9	5.9	6.3	7.2
AB	9.7	9.6	8.8	9.1	12.3 (8.9) ^g	12.9 (9.3) ^g	13.7 (10.1) ^g	14.7 (11.3) ^g
BC	7.4	9.6	10.8	12.1	13.7	13.8	15.4	17.0
NT	5.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.1	17.5	20.5	21.7
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.6	10.9	11.2	11.3
YT ^c	16.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.2	28.4	27.9	29.5
CA	7.5	8.4	10.0	12.1	15.5	17.2	18.6	19.9

^a Note the drop in population of children 0–12 years over the decade when compared to the gradual increase in percentage of regulated child care spaces.

^b PEI introduced publicly-funded part-day kindergarten in September 2000 within the regulated child care system. In September 2010 kindergarten moved to the public education system. For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions, the number of children attending part-day kindergarten only has not been included in totals. Therefore, PEI's figures for 2001, 2004, and 2006, 2008 and 2010 are not comparable to those of previous years.

^c Nursery schools (part-time) are not regulated in Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory, and so are not included in these figures.

^d Quebec's figures include school-age spaces which are under the aegis of the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*.

^e By 2000, all regulated child care spaces that are part of CPEs became primarily publicly funded. See **Quebec** section for more information.

^f These percentages may not be comparable to those of previous years due to uncertainties about the data.

^g School-age child care in Alberta became regulated for the first time in 2004. For purpose of comparison, the 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 figures include total number of spaces with and without school-age care.

TABLE 17 — Percentage of Children 0–5 Years for Whom There Is a Regulated Full or Part-Time Centre-Based Child Care Space

P/T	Percentage (%)							
	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
NL	7.0	9.0	10.8	11.9	13.1	16.5	17.3	17.9
PE ^a	29.9	29.4	31.0	38.1	38.2	42.2	41.0	41.6
NS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.2	22.1	22.6
NB	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.9	n/a	18.1 ^b	19.9	21.1
QC ^{c,d}	9.2	9.4	11.5	16.8	22.0	25.6	25.0	28.5
ON	12.4	n/a ^e	12.4 (est.)	14.0 (est.)	14.9	16.9	19.6	19.7
MB	12.5	13.6	15.0	17.9	20.2	20.0	20.6	22.8
SK ^c	3.6	4.4	5.2	5.4	6.7	8.1	9.1	10.5
AB	17.5	17.9	17.5	17.6	18.9	17.9	17.4	19.8
BC	9.9	11.0	12.2	14.6	15.6	17.1	18.3	19.8
NT	10.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.7	21.0	23.3	22.9
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.8	20.5	20.2	20.5
YT ^c	25.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	35.9	26.4	28.3	27.8
CA	11.5	11.5	12.6	14.9	17.1	19.1 ^f	20.3	21.8

^a See footnote b, Table 16.

^b This figure is inconsistent with data in *ECEC in Canada 2006* (Childcare Resource and Research Unit), which was reported in error as 29.4% due to the inclusion of school-age spaces.

^c See footnote c, Table 16.

^d See footnote d, Table 16.

^e Neither an age breakdown nor an estimate is available for Ontario for 1995. The 1992 figure is used in calculating the totals.

^f This figure has been amended to include the new information for New Brunswick.

TABLE 18 — Child Care Centres on Reserve and in Self-Government Regions^a

P/T	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
NL	2	2	2	8 ^b	8 ^c
PE	1	1	1	2	2
NS	11	13	13	13	13
NB	3	6	7	7	8
QC	25	41	43	43	49
ON	67	64	64	64	74
MB	60	62	62	62	64
SK	45	45	76	76	76
AB	22	24	31	35	35
BC ^d	65	65	92 (est.)	98 (est.)	122 (est.)
NT ^e	49	49	51	67	59
NU ^e	42	46	45	45	47
YT ^f	9	7	7	7	9

^a See footnote a, Table 6.

^b This figure includes six centres operating in Nunatsiavut self-government region. Thus, 2001–2006 and 2008 figures are not comparable.

^c See footnote b, Table 6.

^d The 2001 and 2004 figures represent the number of Aboriginal communities operating child care programs, which could include more than one centre. The 2006 and 2008 figures represent total centres operating (estimated). Thus, 2001 and 2004 figures are not comparable to 2006 and 2008.

^e See footnote e, Table 6.

^f See footnote f, Table 6.

TABLE 19 — Percentage of Regulated Centre-Based Spaces that Are For-Profit

P/T	Percentage (%)							
	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
NL	78	66	61	64	73	69	70	72
PE	35	32	42	46	70 ^a	56 ^a	58 ^a	58 ^a
NS	40	40	43	43	45	46	50	52
NB	43	40	n/a	n/a	70 ^b	64 ^b	67 ^b	62 ^b
QC ^c	18	18	14	14	12	13	14	17
ON	24	20	17	17	22	23	24	25
MB	10	12	13	8	8	6	5	5
SK	6	2	1	1	0	0.6	0	0
AB	65	62	59	56	54	49	51	50
BC	39	39	40	42	n/a ^d	n/a ^d	42	43
NT	18	8	3	0	0	0	0	0
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
YT	14	25	76	27	26	31	36	44
CA	30	28	24	23	20 ^e	21 ^e	25	28

^a For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is in the public education system, this figure does not include part-day kindergarten. As of September 2010, kindergarten moved to the education system.

^b Percentage estimate provided by provincial officials. See **New Brunswick** section for details.

^c Quebec's figures have been calculated including school-age child care spaces which are under the aegis of the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*.

^d Information not available.

^e Total percentage for 2004 and 2006 does not include British Columbia or New Brunswick.

TABLE 20 — Total Allocations in Actual Dollars for Regulated Child Care (Rounded)

P/T	1992	1995	1998	2001	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2009–2010
NL	1,668,000	2,980,000	3,300,000	7,753,000	9,636,000	12,322,000 ^a	19,844,000	20,523,000
PE ^b	2,766,000	1,683,000	2,578,000	4,230,000	4,682,000	4,725,000	6,227,000	6,432,000
NS	11,421,000	11,844,000	15,685,000	12,892,000	19,768,000	23,695,000	37,150,000	39,033,000
NB	3,646,000	3,200,000	5,523,000	11,823,000	13,900,000	22,475,000	26,236,000	28,936,000
QC	140,726,000	203,695,000	299,860,000	1,092,428,000	1,560,000,000 ^c	1,678,879,000	1,730,574,000	1,998,720,000 ^d
ON	420,140,000	541,800,000	470,500,000	451,500,000	497,400,000	(534,100,000) ^e 830,100,000	780,400,000 ^e	801,800,000 ^e
MB	42,152,000	45,204,000	45,189,000	62,876,400	73,004,000	86,327,000	105,983,000	116,551,000
SK	12,307,000	12,714,000	15,746,000	16,388,000	19,639,000	22,773,000	47,134,000	53,716,000
AB	66,613,000	67,623,000	54,297,000	57,500,000	53,600,000	72,470,000	105,733,000	190,627,000
BC ^f	55,798,000	98,681,000	128,865,000	164,563,000	140,725,000	176,108,000	216,740,000	227,500,000
NT	2,286,000	1,708,000	2,271,000	1,602,000	2,542,000	2,542,000	2,542,000	2,542,000
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,865,000	1,786,000	2,315,000	2,470,000	2,775,000
YT	2,438,000	4,148,000	4,764,000	4,440,000	5,197,000	5,409,000	6,409,000	7,359,000
CA	761,959,000	995,279,000	1,048,579,000	1,889,804,000	2,401,879,000	2,940,140,000	3,087,443,000	3,496,528,000

^a This is an estimated expenditure provided by provincial officials.

^b Between 2000 and September 2010, PEI's kindergartens were part of the child care system. For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions, this calculation does not include PEI's spending on part-day kindergarten between 2000 and 2010. See **Prince Edward Island** section for more detail.

^c Estimate.

^d This figure includes spending on school-age child care from 2008; more recent information not available.

^e Information on Ontario's total allocation for 2005–2006 in *ECEC in Canada 2006* (Childcare Resource and Research Unit) did not include \$296 million in the form of grants provided to municipalities under Best Start to support child care capital expansion and operating costs. Municipalities were to spend the funds for capital, fee subsidies, special needs resourcing, wage subsidies and wage improvement. Information was not available to identify how or in what year these funds were spent. These funds have been added to the total in the *ECEC in Canada* previous total; the previous total allocation figure is in parentheses. Note that the 2007–2008 and 2009–2010 total allocations include a similar fund. (See **Ontario** section for further explanation).

^f Subsidies in British Columbia may be used in both regulated and unregulated care, and no breakdown is available. At the suggestion of provincial officials, these figures have been estimated using 60% of the subsidy allocation in 1992, 55% in 1995, and 50% in 1998 (2007–2008).

TABLE 21 — Allocation in Actual Dollars for Each Regulated Child Care Space ^a								
P/T	1992	1995	1998	2001	2003 – 2004	2005 – 2006	2007 – 2008	2009 – 2010
NL	468	709	772	1,835	1,958	2,183	3,323	3,310
PE	671	433	694	1,334 ^b	1,137 ^b	1,166 ^b	1,407 ^b	1,265 ^b
NS	1,055	1,113	1,405	1,125	1,549	1,825	2,710	2,552
NB	509	402	600	1,066	1,168	1,707	1,692	1,540
QC ^c	1,795	1,828	1,713	4,651	4,849	4,644	4,691	5,268
ON	2,887	3,664	2,816	2,608	2,406	3,611 ^d (2,323)	3,040 ^d	2,901 ^d
MB	2,221	2,399	2,205	2,731	2,848	3,322	3,898	3,967
SK	1,918	1,750	2,210	2,279	2,483	2,614	5,138	4,952
AB	1,290	1,324	1,154	1,206	846	1,093	1,429	2,323
BC ^e	1,300	1,650	1,868	2,256	1,754	2,224	2,476	2,341
NT	2,374	1,328	1,681	1,298	2,085	1,666	1,438	1,424
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,001	1,091	2,345	2,438	2,733
YT	2,390	3,914	3,645	4,086	3,796	4,067	5,079	5,143
CA	2,051	2,340	2,029	3,185	3,223	3,259	3,560	3,792

^a Figures based on total provincial allocations and total number of child care spaces.

^b 2001, 2003 – 2004, 2005 – 2006, 2007 – 2008 and 2009 – 2010 figures for PEI do not include part-day kindergarten expenditure or spaces for the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions.

^c Quebec figures include expenditure on school-age care from the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*.

^d See footnote e, Table 20.

^e British Columbia's figures represent an estimate for provincial allocation for subsidies because British Columbia allows subsidies to be used in unregulated care.

TABLE 22 — Allocation in Actual Dollars on Regulated Child Care for Each Child Aged 0–12 Years^a

P/T	1992	1995	1998	2001	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2010
NL	15	30	38	101	133	181	304	319
PE	109	67	107	187	216	233	313	328
NS	71	76	103	91	149	189	313	332
NB	28	25	46	105	129	221	274	302
QC	122	171	256	980	1,448	1,617	1,694	1,969
ON	232	282	238	232	258	432 ^b (278)	414 ^b	431 ^b
MB	202	228	231	338	407	481	606	665
SK	59	66	86	97	123	154	326	356
AB	126	128	102	110	104	141	195	341
BC ^c	96	158	201	274	241	307	382	399
NT	136 ^d	82 ^d	n/a	n/a	273	292	294	309
NU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	205	255	272	309
YT	400 ^d	519 ^d	n/a	n/a	1,109	1,120	1,415	1,518
CA	154	197	207	386	500	561	663	752

^a Estimates based on total provincial allocations and total number of children 0–12 years. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

^b See footnote e, Table 20.

^c See footnote e, Table 21.

^d 1992 and 1995 figures for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are based on estimated numbers of children 0–12 years of age, and therefore are not directly comparable to the figures given for other provinces.

TABLE 23 — Net Income Eligibility Levels for Full Child Care Subsidy for One-Parent, One-Child Family ^a								
P/T	Dollars (\$)							
	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
NL	9,960	9,960	10,520	14,160	14,160	25,000	27,500	27,500
PE	10,080	10,080	13,440	13,440	13,440	13,440	15,400	15,400
NS	16,500	16,812	16,812	16,812	16,800	16,800	16,800	20,883
NB	11,664	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
QC ^b	12,000	12,000	12,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ON ^c	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,000	20,000
MB	13,787	13,787	13,787	13,787	13,787	13,787	15,593	15,593
SK ^d	19,668	19,668	19,668	19,668	19,800	19,800	19,800	19,800
AB	18,710	18,710	20,520	20,520	28,080	35,100 ^e	35,100 ^e	35,100 ^e
BC	18,756	18,984	18,984	18,984	16,764	30,984	30,984	30,984
NT ^f	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NU ^g	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
YT	17,772	17,772	17,772	20,424	20,424	20,424	22,262	22,262

^a This table provides information for one family type; see each province for further details.

^b As of 2001, Quebec provides publicly-funded services rather than providing subsidies to selected families.

^c Ontario used a needs test until January 2007, when a province-wide income test was introduced.

^d Saskatchewan determines eligibility for subsidies based on gross income.

^e Effective November 2005, Alberta determines eligibility based on gross income, so figures for 2006, 2008 and 2010 cannot be compared to previous years.

^f In the Northwest Territories, a needs test is used in which income is only one factor.

^g In Nunavut, a needs test is used in which income is only one factor.



