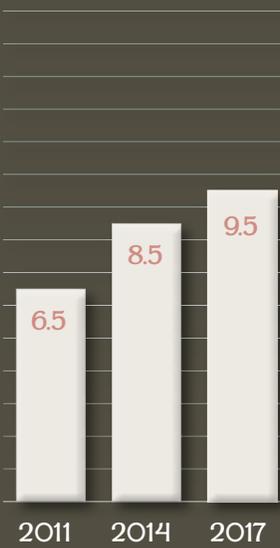


ONTARIO PROFILE 2017

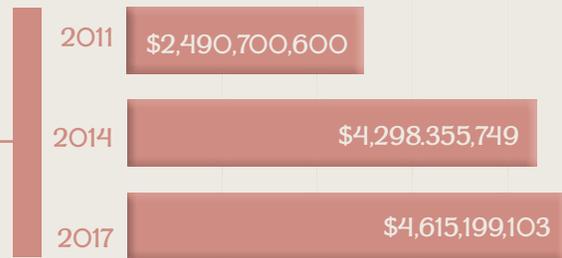


TRENDS IN ECEC FROM 2011-2017

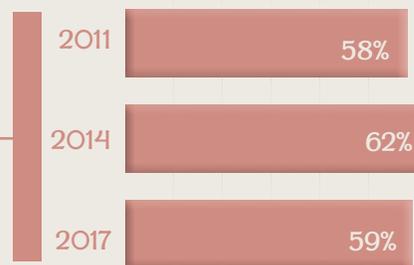
ECE REPORT BENCHMARKS



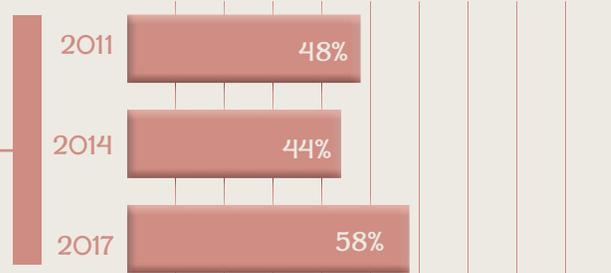
CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 2-4 YEARS ATTENDING ECEC



ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



PERCENTAGE OF FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



1. GOVERNANCE

Table 1.1 Ontario Governance Structure for Early Childhood Education	
Lead Ministry/Department	Ministry of Education
Related Ministry/Department	
Policy Framework	<i>Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework (2017)</i> ¹
Common ECE Supervisory Unit	Early Years and Child Care Division ²
Legislation	<p><i>Child Care and Early Years Act (2014)</i>³</p> <p>O. Reg 137/15 (General)⁴</p> <p>O. Reg 138/15 (Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance)⁵</p> <p><i>Education Act (amended 2017)</i>⁶</p> <p>O. Reg 221/11 (Extended Day and Third Party Programs)⁷</p> <p>Reg. 224/10: Full-Day Junior Kindergarten</p> <p><i>Early Childhood Educators Act (2007)</i>⁸</p>
Related Legislation	
Local Service Delivery	<p>47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) or District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) manage child care and related early years services.⁹ First Nations may establish, administer, operate and fund child care and early years programs and services.</p> <p>31 English Public School Boards; 29 English Catholic; 4 French Public; 8 French Catholic; 10 School Authorities consisting of 4 geographically-isolated boards and 6 hospital-based school authorities. In addition there is one Provincial Schools Authority¹⁰</p>
Community/Sector Oversight	

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The province announced a five-year plan to help 100,000 more children aged 0–4 years access licensed child care.¹¹

A renewed policy framework released in 2017 includes a set of initiatives to build an accessible, affordable, responsive and high quality early years and child care system for children aged 0–12 years, including increasing access, addressing affordability, establishing a workforce strategy, determining a provincial definition of quality, developing an approach to promoting inclusion, creating an outcomes and measurement strategy, and increasing public awareness of the early years and child care system.

The *Child Care and Early Years Act (2014)* provides a legislative framework to increase access and oversight in Ontario's child care sector. The Act includes regulations related to policies and procedures, building and accommodation, equipment and furnishings, playgrounds, records, staffing and group sizes, nutrition, programming, and health and medical issues in licensed child care programs. The Act also extends responsibility to municipal/regional service system managers for the local planning of early years and child care services in accordance with provincial legislation, policies and guidelines. Section 51 and 52 of the Act identify the content of the child care and early years programs and services plans, as well as other requirements for consultation and cooperation in plan development.

Beginning 2018, existing child and family programs that are funded by the Ontario government will be integrated under Early ON Child and Family Centres, with oversight transferred to municipal/regional services managers.

New licensing options allow for a family age grouping that will allow the placement of children of different ages in the same group. Other amendments require school boards to ensure that before- and after-school care is available for children aged 6–12 years, where there is sufficient demand, in addition to that already offered to 4- and 5-year-olds. In addition, regulatory amendments prohibit licensees from charging or collecting a wait list fee or deposit.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Early Years and Child Care Division in the Ministry of Education is responsible for early years and child care and child and family programs, including the development of legislation, regulations and policy; program implementation; child care quality assurance; licensing; and program assessment. It also investigates and responds to complaints regarding licensed and unlicensed child care.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework (2017) provides strategic direction for services for children from birth to age 12, including the expansion plan commitment to help 100,000 more children aged 0–4 years access licensed child care over five years. The renewed framework includes the following initiatives: increasing access; addressing affordability; establishing a workforce strategy; determining a provincial definition of quality; developing an approach to promoting inclusion; creating an outcomes and measurement strategy; and increasing public awareness of the early years and child care system.

SERVICE DESIGN

Educational Programs

Kindergarten: Kindergarten is a two-year, full-day, non-mandatory program offered by district school boards to all children who turn 4 years old by December 31. Educator teams of certified teachers and registered early childhood educators teach kindergarten.

Before- and after-school care: School boards provide before- and after-school programming for children aged 4–12 years when there is sufficient parent demand. Programs for 6–12-year-olds may be directly operated by a school board, delivered by a licensed child care centre, or delivered by an authorized recreational and skill building program. Programs for 4- and 5-year-olds must be board-operated or delivered by a licensed child care operator.

Regulated Child Care

Regulated child care: The ministry licenses child care programs serving infants to children under 13 years of age. Care may be provided in child care centres (including nursery schools, full-day child care and before- and after-school programs) or by home child care providers contracted by a licensed agency. Licences may be held by an individual, band/band councils, or for-profit or non-profit corporations including Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), school boards, post-secondary institutions and parent cooperatives.

Home child care: Home child care agencies hold licences and contract with individual home-based child care providers. A licensed home child care provider may care for up to six children under the age of 13 years including their own children under the age of 6 years, and no more than two children under the age of 2 years.¹²

Unregulated Child Care

An unlicensed child care provider can care for a maximum of five children under the age of 13 years including the provider's own children under 6 years of age. No more than two children may be under the age of 2 years. Providers must inform parents that their home is not licensed.¹³ A licence is not required for circumstances that are considered exempt under the Act, such as care operated when the child's parents are on-site at all times, care that is provided in the child's home, camps that only care for children aged 4 years and over, programs with a primary purpose of academic or skill-based recreation, and private schools that only care for children aged 4 years and over.

Child/Family Services

The province currently funds four different child and family programs:

- Ontario Early Years Centres provide parent and child drop-in, resources and referral services.
- School-located and -operated Parenting and Family Literacy Centre drop-in programs are designed to support children's early learning and development and transition children into school.
- Community-based Child Care Resource Centres provide child care information and resources to parents and caregivers.
- Better Beginnings Better Futures programs provide support for children and their families in high needs communities.

Beginning in 2018, these programs will be consolidated and operated as Early ON Child and Family Centres with a common mandate, identity and core set of expectations.¹⁴

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

School boards deliver kindergarten, oversee before- and after-school programming, and administer/oversee Parenting and Family Literacy Programs and special needs interventions.

A total of 47 CMSMs and DSSABs plan early years services and administer parent fee subsidies and operating funding for child care programs, child care special needs services and Early ON Child and Family Centres (beginning in 2018). Some CMSMs and DSSABs directly deliver child care and related early years programs. Some have developed their own quality assurance systems and child care registries.

Ontario licenses on-reserve child care. Ontario cost-shares some 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 funding (wage subsidies, special needs resourcing, transformation, health and safety, supervisor network capacity building, and child and family programs). First Nations manage the fee subsidy system in their communities. The federal government reimburses Ontario for a portion of the fee subsidies.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT

The Early Years and Child Care Division convenes stakeholder tables, but there is no legislated or policy requirement for advisory bodies.

CMSMs and DSSABs may sponsor local stakeholder tables as part of their service management and planning functions.

The *Education Act* requires parent councils in every school. School boards with large Aboriginal student populations generally have Aboriginal advisory committees.

2. FUNDING

Table 2.1 Ontario Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care to March 31, 2016^a

One time funding	
Capital for communities	\$8,274,822
Capital for schools ^b	\$828,645
French language schools ^c	\$4,321,084
Recurring funding	
Operating Funding	\$305,597,980
Special Needs Resourcing	\$104,374,241

continued on next page

Table 2.1 Ontario Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care to March 31, 2016^a

Child care fee subsidies ^d	\$739,911,506
CMSM/DSSAB ^e	\$222,385,704
Other funding ^f	\$6,476,621
Total	\$1,392,170,603

- a All operating and capital for communities funding: The reported expenditures include all operating and capital funding and are an estimate of the provincial portion of CMSM/DSSAB expenditures for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- b The capital for schools amount represents school boards actual expenditures per Public Accounts for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- c Official Languages in Education 2015-16 Actuals.
- d The child care fee subsidies is an approximate figure as the amount of fee subsidy funding provided to each CMSM/DSSAB is not possible to determine due to the introduction of flexible reporting under the child care funding formula. The fiscal year figure was obtained by taking 75% of CMSM/DSSAB 2015 Financial Statement entitlement and 25% of the 2016 Revised Estimates submissions (which includes both actuals and projections).
- e Ontario requires CMSM/DSSAB to cost share child care services. Estimate based on a survey of CMSM/DSSAB 2015-16 budget.
- f Other funding includes Small Water Works, Territory Without Municipal Organization, and Qualifications Upgrade Program.

Table 2.2 Ontario Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care to March 31, 2017¹⁵

Kindergarten, junior kindergarten ^a	\$3,122,586,500
Total regulated child care	\$1,392,170,603
Other ECE spending (for family support)	\$100,362,000
Total ECE spending	\$4,615,199,103
Total provincial budget ¹⁶	\$134,891,000,000
ECE as a percentage of provincial budget	3.4%

- a Estimate based on 2016 enrolment of 258,065¹⁷ children @ \$12,100 per pupil spending.

3. ACCESS

Table 3.1 Ontario Child Population 0-5 Years (2016)¹⁸

Child population 0-5 years	877,029
0-1 year	294,070
2-4 years	437,606
5 years	145,353
Total population of Ontario	13,982,984 ¹⁹
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	6.3%

Table 3.2 Ontario Labour Force Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2016)

	Number of mothers in labour force (OOOs) by age of youngest child	Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child ^b
0-1 year	165.4	68.3%
2-3 years	196.0	73.5%
4-5 years	57.2	77.9%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0-5 years	419.5	
Average labour force participation rate of mothers with youngest child 0-5 years		73.2%

a Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_29 Table 1.ivt.

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O717_O4 Table 1.ivt.

Table 3.3 Ontario ECE School Programs^a

Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten	132,438
% of 5-year-old children attending kindergarten	91%
Children attending 4-year-old kindergarten	125,627
% of 4-year-old children attending junior kindergarten	86%

a Elementary school enrolment in publically-funded elementary schools 2015/16. Retrieved from. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html>

Does not include private school enrolment or children attending licensed child care. Not all First Nations schools report their enrolment numbers to provincial authorities.

Table 3.4 Ontario Licensed Child Care Programs to March 31, 2017^a

Spaces by age group in centre-based programs	
Infant	12,231
Toddler	42,900
Preschool	105,955
Kindergarten	92,035
School age	153,274
Total spaces centre-based programs	406,395
Number of home child care agencies	124
Number of approved homes	7,579

a Ontario Ministry of Education, November 26, 2017.

Table 3.5 Ontario Percentage of Children Attending ECE Programs by Age Group

Child Ages	Number of children ^a	Child care spaces	Junior kindergarten / Kindergarten enrolment ^b	Other ECE programs ^c	% children attending ECE program
0-1 year	294,070	33,681 ^d			11%
2-4 years	437,606	127,405 ^e	125,627 ^f	4,776	59%
5 years	145,353		132,438		91%

- a Statistics Canada. Table O51-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons unless otherwise noted). (Accessed: April 24, 2017).
- b 2015-16. Retrieved from <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html> Children attending kindergarten may also attend licenced child care.
- c Estimated attendance in 172 parent and family literacy centres (4,128), 14 Aboriginal Head Start programs in urban and northern communities, and 13 Aboriginal Head Start Reserve programs (648). Does not reflect children between the ages of 0-6 who are served at Ontario Early Years Centres and other child and family programs.
- d Includes children from 0-18 months (12,231) and children up to 24 months (21,450).
- e Includes preschool children, and children from 24-29 months (21,450).
- f junior kindergarten

AFFORDABILITY

Parental fees can range widely depending on the community. A 2016 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report²⁰ shows monthly child care fees in Toronto, Kitchener, Vaughan, Markham, Ottawa, Mississauga and London are among the highest in the country. Median monthly fees for infants (\$1,649), toddlers (\$1,375) and preschoolers (\$1,150) in Toronto are the highest in Canada.

A report by Cleveland and colleagues²¹ revealed that expansion of child care spaces will be hindered unless and until affordability is addressed.

Subsidies are determined by an income test. Full subsidies are available. According to a 2015 survey of child care providers, about one-third of children under 4 years of age attending child care centres received a fee subsidy. In contrast, 60 percent of children under 4 years of age enrolled in home child care received a subsidy. The full report is available at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/ChildCareSurveyReport.html>.

INCLUSION

Special needs support in kindergarten: School boards must develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for every identified student from kindergarten to grade 12. School boards also have the discretion to develop an IEP for students who have not been formally identified as exceptional but who are receiving special education programs and/or special education services. In 2014-2015, more than 178,500 students were identified by an IPRC as exceptional pupils. A further 162,000 students who were not formally identified were provided with special education programs and services.²²

Special needs support in child care: CMSMs/DSSABs are required to spend a minimum of 4.1 percent of their total child care allocation on special needs resourcing (SNR).²³ SNR funding supports the inclusion of children with special needs in regulated child care settings, summer day camps and authorized recreation programs at no additional cost to parents/guardians.

4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Program	Framework Documents
Kindergarten ²⁴	<i>The Kindergarten Program (2016)</i> ²⁵ is mandated for use in 4- and 5-year-old kindergarten.
Child Care and Child and Family Programs (beginning in January 2018)	<i>How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014)</i> ²⁶

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Kindergarten class size: Budget 2017 caps kindergarten class size at 30 with two educators, falling to 29 students in 2018/2019. Schools may have only one kindergarten class with a teacher and no designated early childhood educator if there are fewer than 15 pupils enrolled; dual track French immersion schools may have one such class per language track.²⁷

Child care: A child care provider may operate an unlimited number of licensed child care programs, but must have a licence for each location where care is provided. Limits on licensed capacity are set out in the licence of the child care centre.

Age	Staff : Child Ratio	Maximum Number of Children per Group	Proportion of Qualified Staff to Non-qualified Staff
Infants (0-18 months)	3 : 10	10	1 : 3
Toddlers (18 months-30 months)	1 : 5	15	1 : 3
Preschool (30 months-6 years)	1 : 8	24	2 : 3
Kindergarten (44 months-7 years)	1 : 13	26	1 : 2
Primary/junior school age (68 months-13 years)	1 : 15	30	1 : 2
Junior school age (9 years-13 years)	1 : 20	20	1 : 1

To accommodate the number of programs servicing children prior to kindergarten, a new schedule allows for extended age groupings to reduce the number of transitions for children.

EDUCATORS

Table 4.3 Ontario Educator Qualifications

Kindergarten Teachers	Early Childhood Educators
<p>A Bachelor of Education degree or undergraduate degree and two years teacher education is required. French boards require language proficiency. Catholic boards often require proof of religious practice.</p> <p>Individuals must also be in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers.</p>	<p>Diploma in Early Childhood Education from an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology (OCAAT) or a diploma/degree from a program listed on the College of Early Childhood Educators' Approved Post-Secondary Programs List is required.</p> <p>Individuals must also be registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators.</p>

Table 4.4 Ontario Professional Requirement and Development

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECEs
Professional Requirement	Ontario Teachers Certificate from the Ontario College of Teachers ²⁹	Certificate of Registration with the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario ³⁰
Professional Development	Professional development is offered through school boards.	Registered Early Childhood Educators must annually fulfill the requirements of the Continuous Professional Learning Program through the College of Early Childhood Educators. ³¹

Table 4.5 Ontario Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres

Two-thirds of staff in preschool programs must be qualified.

Table 4.6 Ontario Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries^a

Teachers	Early Childhood Educators	ECE Salary as % of Teacher Salary
\$67,408	\$38,875	58%

a Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_31 Table 1.ivt.

ECE pay varies depending on the employer. A wage survey by the Association of Early Childhood Educators, Ontario calculated the median hourly wage for an ECE in an urban centre at \$18.35. Staff in publicly-operated programs (municipal and post-secondary institutions) earned between \$27.20 and \$36.26 per hour. An entry-level ECE working in a full-day kindergarten classroom in a school board earns over \$20 per hour, plus benefits, which continues to increase as the ECE moves through a salary grid.³²

The province provides \$2 per hour for front line child care staff working in licensed child care centres, child care centres managed by First Nations and home child care agencies. The maximum hourly wage was increased to be eligible for the wage enhancement, an increase of 1.5 percent to \$26.68 per hour. For home child care providers, the daily fees maximum is \$266.80 per day.³³

5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress Reports: *Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2017*³⁴

Program Standards: In place for licensed child care.

Kindergarten classrooms within schools

- While there are no standards on kindergarten space set by the Ministry of Education, typically purpose-built kindergarten rooms are larger than regular classrooms, have separate entrances, and have washrooms located within or close-by the classroom and storage areas.
- There is no standard kindergarten room size or regular classroom sizes required by the Ministry of Education. Each school board determines the size of the kindergarten and regular classrooms it builds in their new schools. School boards typically build regular classrooms between 700 sq. ft and 800 sq.ft, and purpose-built kindergarten rooms between 1,050 sq.ft. to 1,250 sq.ft.

Population Monitoring: The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is collected in three-year cycles. All publicly-funded schools participate. EDI data was last collected in 2014-15.³⁵

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