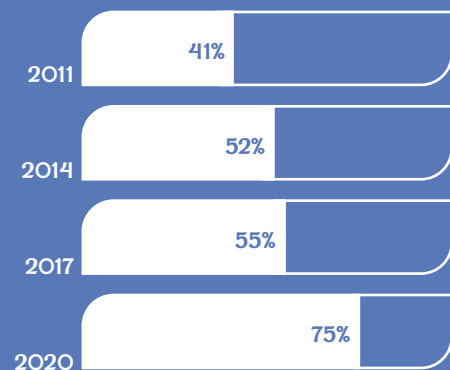


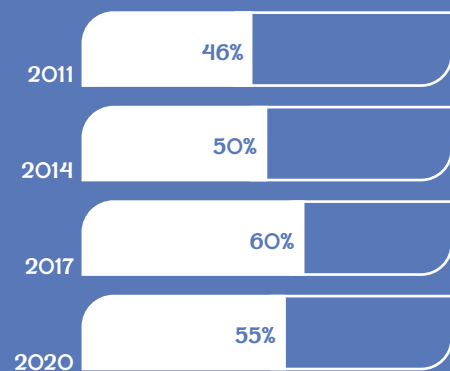
#### CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



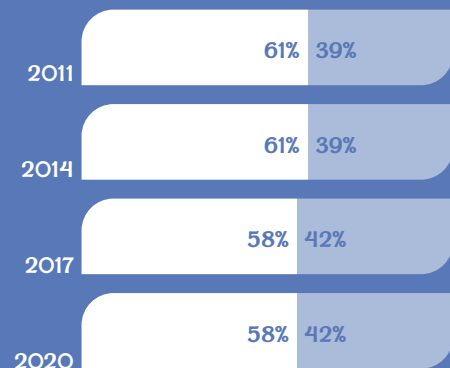
#### PERCENTAGE OF 2- TO 4- YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ATTENDING ECEC



#### ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



#### PERCENTAGE OF FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020



## ABOUT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT BENCHMARKS

The Early Childhood Education Report (ECER) is produced by the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. Twenty-one benchmarks are organized into five equally weighted categories, totalling a score of 15. The benchmarks evaluate governance structures, funding levels, access, quality in early learning environments, and the rigour of accountability mechanisms. Results are populated from detailed provincial and territorial profiles developed by the researchers and reviewed by provincial and territorial officials.

For the Canada-wide overview, a detailed look at the benchmarks, the full methodology, and all federal, provincial, and territorial profiles please visit [ECEReport.ca](https://ecereport.ca).

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This Prince Edward Island profile captures early learning and child care initiatives to March 31, 2020. The New Developments section highlights activities occurring after this date.

In August 2020, *The Education Authority Staffing and Funding Program* was announced for the 2020–2021 school year. The aim of the program is to create equal access to basic educational services, including staff salaries, benefits, and wages.<sup>1</sup>

The government appointed an early years advisor to update the province's *Preschool Excellence Initiative*. New initiatives include universal half-day Pre-K originally scheduled for implementation in September 2020, but delayed as a result of COVID-19. A new start date of September 2021 has been announced.<sup>2</sup> Phase two of the *Preschool Excellence Initiative* is in development. It includes a review and potential expansion of Early Years Centres.

## COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

As COVID-19 became a global pandemic, the government of Prince Edward Island closed all licensed child care on March 15, 2020. Child care was made available for essential workers at no cost to families starting on March 31, 2020. From May 22 to June 26, 2020 child care support was provided to families returning to work at the reduced cost of \$75 per child per week. Most licensed centres re-opened on May 22, 2020 under new guidelines from the Chief Public Health Officer.<sup>3</sup> The government continued to provide financial support to licensed programs as they operated with reduced capacity.<sup>4</sup>

Public health guidelines were put in place for unlicensed child care<sup>5</sup> and providers were required to have a COVID-19 operational plan.<sup>6</sup>



TABLE 1.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

<b>Lead Ministry/ Department</b>	Department of Education and Lifelong Learning <sup>a</sup> (formerly the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture)
<b>Related Ministry/ Department</b>	Department of Social Development and Housing <sup>b</sup>
<b>ECE Supervisory Unit</b>	Early Childhood Development Division <sup>c</sup>
<b>Policy Framework</b>	<i>Moving Forward: The Early Years in PEI</i> <sup>d</sup>
<b>Legislation</b>	<i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i> (Current as of 2019) <sup>e</sup>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	n/a
<b>Local Service Delivery</b>	Early Learning and Child Care Board  1 Public Schools Branch and 1 French Language School Board – La Commission Scolaire de Langue Française (CSLF) <sup>f</sup>
<b>Community/Sector Oversight</b>	Early Years Advisory Committee <sup>g</sup>

a Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education-and-lifelong-learning>

b Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Social Development and Housing. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/social-development-and-housing>

c Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. *The Early Childhood Development Division*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/early-childhood-development>

d Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Moving Forward: The Early Years in PEI*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/early\\_years\\_feasibility\\_study.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/early_years_feasibility_study.pdf)

e Government of Prince Edward Island. *Chapter E-.01. Early Learning and Child Care Act*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf)

f Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. *Public Schools*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/public-schools>

g Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. *Early Learning and Child Care Investments*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/early-learning-and-childcare-investments>

## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Innovation, Education, Programs/Services and Early Childhood Development Divisions, within the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning, are accountable for the development and implementation of programs and curriculum in both English and French for children from birth to Grade 12.

The Early Child Development Division provides curriculum, program development, and support to Early Years and Family Resource Centres, child care centres, and for Early Years Autism

services. The division delivers the direct funding program, the special needs funding program, the Best Start program, parenting support, and the Early Learning and Child Care Registry, and is responsible for healthy child development. It is also responsible for the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*, including the certification of early childhood educators and the licensing and inspection of early childhood programs. In addition, it provides resources and support to the Early Learning and Child Care Board.



The Early Learning and Child Care Board is responsible for monitoring the operation of licensed centres, including licensing and licence renewal of child care programs and the certification of early childhood educators. The board advises the minister on all aspects of services under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. It consists of nine members who represent the Early Childhood Development Association, community agencies, government officials, and the public.<sup>7</sup>

Responsibility for Kindergarten lies with the Public Schools Branch of the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Early years autism specialists provide Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) and personalized instruction for preschoolers and Kindergarten children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Diagnostic services are available through Health PEI<sup>8</sup> with intervention services provided by the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning.<sup>9</sup>

The Department of Social Development and Housing administers child care fee subsidies.<sup>10</sup>

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

*Securing the Future for Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative Phase 2* is in development and is part of the ongoing action plan that is a component of the work of the Early Years Advisor. To inform the process, a review of standards in existing Early Years Centres, the feasibility of adding new centres, and exploring an expanded role for Family Resource Centres was completed in 2018.<sup>11</sup>

In August 2017, the governments of Prince Edward Island and Canada signed the *Canada – Prince Edward Island Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2017-2020*. The agreement allocated \$10.5 million, over three years to the province for early learning and child care investments.<sup>12</sup> New investments outlined in the *PEI Action Plan* included:<sup>13</sup>

- More spaces for infants and pre-schoolers – \$3.6 million
- More access for children who are most vulnerable – \$2.5 million

- More supports for children with unique needs – \$1.5 million
- More support for parents who work non-standard hours – \$1.5 million
- More supports for the Acadian and Francophone communities – \$180,000
- More supports for newcomer families – \$72,000
- Training for early childhood educators – \$215,000
- Monitoring of access and quality – \$882,000

## SERVICE DESIGN

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**KINDERGARTEN:** Schools offer full-day Kindergarten for all children who turn 5 years of age by December 31.<sup>14</sup> Enrolment can be delayed by one year at parents' discretion.<sup>15</sup>

### THE WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

**PROGRAM:** This program is designed for parents/caregivers and their children who are entering Kindergarten in September. All 37 public schools with Kindergarten offer the program. Families receive early literacy resources and learning strategies to prepare their child for school entry. The program was modified in 2020 in response to COVID-19 concerns.<sup>16</sup>

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

**EARLY YEARS CENTRES:** The centres are part of a network of programs for children from birth to school entry that meet a strict set of criteria including, but not limited to, standards for staff training; adherence to a wage and fee scale and the provincial early years curriculum; and provisions for transparent accounting for funding.<sup>17</sup>

### NON-DESIGNATED CHILD CARE CENTRES:

These privately-operated centres meet licensing standards but set their own curriculum, parent fees, and staff wages.<sup>18</sup>

**PRESCHOOL CENTRES:** These centres provide services for less than four consecutive hours per day to children who are 3 years of age or over, but not yet attending school.<sup>19</sup>

**SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE:** This service operates outside of school hours for children attending Kindergarten up to and including 11 years of age.<sup>20</sup>

**LICENSED FAMILY HOME CENTRES:** These facilities are located in private residences and provide care for up to eight children at any one time as long as staff-to-child ratios are met. This includes the children of the operator who are age 10 years and under. Families are eligible to apply for fee subsidies. Providers are eligible to apply for grant funding. Operators are required to complete, at a minimum, a 30-hour Family Home Child Care Provider certificate course. Upon completion of the course, operators may apply for certification.<sup>21</sup>

**UNREGULATED CHILD CARE UNLICENSED DAYCARE HOMES:** A person may operate a centre without a licence with the following maximum capacity guidelines:<sup>22</sup>

- Five children, including those of the operator, where the group includes an infant or infants, provided that the group does not contain more than two infants;
- Six children, including those of the operator, where the group consists solely of preschool children or a combination of preschool children and school-age children;
- Seven children, including those of the operator, where the group consists solely of school-age children.

The maximum number of children allowed in an unlicensed premise is seven, regardless of the number of adults on site.

## **CHILD/FAMILY SERVICES**

**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES:** Eight centres offer programs and resources for children and

families. These include parent education and support groups, parent resources, prenatal nutrition programs, drop-in play, toy-lending libraries, and outreach for smaller Island communities.<sup>23</sup>

**BEST START HOME VISITING PROGRAM:** The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning and Health PEI support this voluntary in-home visiting program. The program identifies and delivers services to families who face challenges. Best Start workers follow families until the child's third birthday to provide parenting supports, early education, and parent-child activities.<sup>24</sup>

## **LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY**

The Early Childhood Development Association maintains the online child care registry, which enables parents to search and register for licensed programs. In addition to providing convenience to parents, the registry supports the government and sector in assessing service demands.<sup>25</sup>

The Public Schools Branch oversees Kindergarten to Grade 12 education. It is governed by a three-person board of directors appointed by the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning. La Commission scolaire de langue française oversees Francophone education. In addition, three of the five private schools in the province offer Kindergarten.<sup>26</sup>

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ OVERSIGHT**

The Early Years Advisory Committee provides advice on Phase 2 of the PEI Preschool Excellence Initiative.<sup>27</sup>





TABLE 2.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ALLOCATION FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020<sup>a</sup>

Child care fee subsidies	\$3,906,000
Early years operating funds	\$18,178,000
Early years autism	\$1,435,700
<b>Total regulated child care<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>\$23,519,700</b>

a Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. January 21, 2021.

b Includes 2019-2020 funding allocated through the bilateral agreement.

TABLE 2.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ALLOCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/ CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020<sup>a</sup>

Kindergarten <sup>b</sup>	\$18,324,000
Regulated child care	\$23,519,700
<b>Total ECEC spending<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>\$41,843,700</b>
Total provincial budget spending estimate	\$2,465,605,800
<b>ECEC as a % of provincial budget</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

a Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. January 21, 2021.

b Government of Prince Edward Island. *Prince Edward Island Estimates 2020-2021*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/budget\\_estimate\\_book\\_2020-2021\\_web.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/budget_estimate_book_2020-2021_web.pdf)

c Does not include federal funding to Indigenous communities through Inuit, Métis, and First Nations agreements.

In September 2017, the province increased the child care subsidy program budget by \$300,000. This increase benefited more than 1,600 children. Rates for before- and after-

school child care and private sitters increased, and the monthly subsidy increased by \$120 for eligible families whose income is below a particular level.<sup>28</sup>

TABLE 3.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CHILD POPULATION 0 TO 5 YEARS (2019)

Child population 0 to 5 years	9,071
0 to <24 months	2,851
24 months to <5 years	4,604
5 years	1,616
Total population of Prince Edward Island	156,947
Children 0 to 5 years as % of total population	5.8%

Statistics Canada. Table 17100005; Formerly Table 051-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2019, Canada, provinces and territories (Accessed: May 25, 2020).

TABLE 3.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF MOTHERS BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (2019)

	<b>Number of mothers in labour force by age of youngest child</b>	<b>Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child</b>
0 to <24 months	1,800	75%
24 months to <5 years	2,400	77.4%
5 years	700	77.8%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0 to 5 years	4,900	
Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0 to 5 years		76.6%

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. 0620\_13 Table 3 - Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of mothers by age of youngest child, Canada, provinces, territories, annual average, 2019.

TABLE 3.3 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ECE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (2019-2020)

Children attending 5-year-old Pre-Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	1,527
5-year-old child population <sup>b</sup>	1,616
% of children attending Pre-Kindergarten	94%

a Government of Prince Edward Island. *Student Enrolment, K-12, 2019-2020*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell\\_k-12\\_enrolment\\_2019\\_2020.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell_k-12_enrolment_2019_2020.pdf)

b Statistics Canada. Population Estimates July 1, 2020. Table 17-10-0005-01 (Accessed: April 30, 2020).



TABLE 3.4 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020

<b>Spaces by age group<sup>a</sup></b>	
Infant (0 to 22 months)	407
Toddler (23 months to <36 months)	400
Preschool-aged (36 months to <5 years) <sup>b</sup>	3,081
School-aged (stand alone)	2,325
Total capacity regulated child care centres	6,213
Family child care/home and group	19
Total capacity regulated child care	6,232
<b>Facilities by type<sup>a</sup></b>	
Early Years Centres (6 French + 43 English)	49
Private child care centres (30 ECC + 10 Stand Alone Pre-K)	40
School-aged centres (English)	54
School-aged centres (French)	5
Family day homes	3
Kindergarten (English-language schools) <sup>c</sup>	37
Kindergarten (French-language schools) <sup>c</sup>	6
Kindergarten (private schools) <sup>d</sup>	3
Facilities by auspice	
Non-profit	62
For-profit	86
<p>a Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. January 21, 2021.</p> <p>b Some of the spaces may be dedicated to school-age children for some of the centres when space is available.</p> <p>c Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Public Schools</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/public-schools">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/public-schools</a></p> <p>d Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Private Schools</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/private-schools">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/private-schools</a></p>	

TABLE 3.5 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ATTENDING ECE PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP

Child Ages	Number of Children <sup>a</sup>	Child Care/Preschool <sup>b</sup>	Kindergarten <sup>c</sup>	Other ECE Programs <sup>d</sup>	% Children Attending ECEC Program
0 to <24 months	2,851	443			15.5%
24 months to <5 years	4,604	3,445		25	<b>75%</b>
5 years	1,616		1,527		94%
<p>a Statistics Canada. Population Estimates July 1, 2020. Table 17-10-0005-01 (Accessed: April 30, 2020).</p> <p>b Participation is estimated. Child care age groupings do not match the age groupings in the report. Please see Methodology for calculation details.</p> <p>c Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Student Enrolment, K-12, 2019-2020</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell_k-12_enrolment_2019_2020.pdf">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell_k-12_enrolment_2019_2020.pdf</a></p> <p>d Estimate based on attendance at Aboriginal Head Start in Charlottetown. See Methodology for detailed calculation. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.dnb.com/business-directory/company-information.nonprofit-institutions.ca.prince_edward_island.html?page=1">https://www.dnb.com/business-directory/company-information.nonprofit-institutions.ca.prince_edward_island.html?page=1</a></p>					

## AFFORDABILITY

**TABLE 3.6 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CHILD CARE SUBSIDY**

Early Years Centres <sup>a</sup>	
Infant (0 to 22 months)	\$34/day
Toddler (22 months to 3 years)	\$28/day
Preschool (3 years to school entry)	\$27/day
School age	Set own fees
Private centres	Set own fees
Regulated Centres <sup>b</sup>	
Infants	\$34
2-year-olds	\$28
3- to 5-year-olds	\$27
School-aged children (full day)	\$30
Before- and after-school care	\$15

a Chances. Early Years Centre. Retrieved from: <https://chancesfamily.ca/early-years-center/>. The parents fee schedule is outlined in the Early Years Center funding contracts.

b Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. October 17, 2020.

**FEE SUBSIDIES:** The Child Care Subsidy Program is administered by the Department of Social Development and Housing to assist low-to-moderate income families with the cost of child care. Subsidies are determined by a needs test. Maximum daily subsidy rates match the government-established fees for Early Years Centres.<sup>29</sup> The child care subsidy policies were reviewed in 2020.<sup>30</sup>

**ELIGIBILITY:** There are six categories of eligibility: parents who are employed/working, parents in a training or education program, parents with medical needs, children with special needs, children in need of child protection, and children in alternative care.

Calculation of the Child Care Subsidy Program amount and the parent share is based on a formula that considers the family's monthly net income, family size, as well as the Market Basket Measure (MBM) thresholds for different family sizes. MBM is a measure of low income based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing

a modest, basic standard of living. MBM is determined by Statistics Canada and is updated periodically.<sup>31</sup>

- All eligible families with incomes at or below MBM receive full subsidy.
- The cut-off point for eligibility is set at MBM + 50%.
- An online calculator is available for families requesting the Child Care Subsidy Program.<sup>32</sup>

Prince Edward Island does not track parental fees. Parental fees range depending on the community. A 2019 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report<sup>33</sup> shows monthly child care fees in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Median monthly fees for infants (\$738) and toddlers (\$608) are amongst the lowest in the country. However, note that the majority of Charlottetown centres are Early Years Centres where fees are regulated by the government.

## INCLUSION

The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning provides support services to students with special educational needs based on the philosophy of inclusion.<sup>34</sup> A child with special needs is defined as a person who is under the age of 12 years, has a diagnosed disability, and requires additional types of care to meet developmental goals. The Minister's Directive on Special Education is a framework for special education services in the public school system, including Kindergarten for children with autism spectrum disorder.<sup>35</sup>

Early Years Centres are required to accommodate children with special needs. Special Needs Grants are provided to support children with various special needs (e.g., medical, developmental delays, in the care of the province, family violence situations, severe behavioural issues, etc.) to attend early childhood centres. Grants may provide up to \$14.25/hour for an additional staff person based on their training and experience (increased from \$13.25 as of October 1, 2020). The purpose of the grant is to lower ratios, enabling more successful inclusion into early childhood settings.<sup>36</sup> Families may be eligible for a fee subsidy if their child has a disability regardless of the parents' employment status.<sup>37</sup>

TABLE 4.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten	<i>The PEI Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum<sup>a</sup></i>
Child Care	<i>PEI Early Learning Framework – Relationships, Environments, Experiences. The Curriculum Framework of the Preschool Excellence Initiative<sup>b,c</sup></i>

a Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. *Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum*. 2008. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eelc\\_kindergarten.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eelc_kindergarten.pdf)

b Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. *PEI Early Learning Framework: Relationships, Environments, and Experiences. The Curriculum Framework of the Preschool Excellence Initiative (2011)*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eedc\\_eyfrwrk\\_full.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eedc_eyfrwrk_full.pdf)

c Required in all Early Years Centres. A companion document is currently being finalized that will contain examples of best practices to support educators in implementation of the framework.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

TABLE 4.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND STAFF/CHILD RATIO AND GROUP SIZE IN LICENSED CHILD CARE<sup>a</sup>

Age	Staff:Child Indoor Ratios	Staff:Child Outdoor Ratios	Max. Group Size
Infant (0 to 22 months)	1:3	1:3	6
Preschool (22 months to 3 years)	1:5	1:7	Not specified in legislation
Preschool (3 years to school entry)	1:10	1:15	Not specified in legislation
School age	1:15	1:22	Not specified in legislation
LICENSED HOME CENTRES <sup>b</sup>			
	Staff: Child Indoor Ratio	Staff: Child Outdoor Ratio	
Infant (0 to 22 months)	1:3	1:3	
Preschool (22 months to 3 years)	1:5	1:7	
Preschool (3 years to school entry)	1:10	1:15	
School age	1:15	1:22	

a Government of Prince Edward Island. *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-01-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf)

b Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. *Family Home Centre*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-home-centre-frequently-asked-questions>

**KINDERGARTEN:** Class sizes range from 15 to a maximum of 18.

**CHILD CARE PROGRAM:** The maximum capacity per facility is 80 spaces per licence.

Early Years Centres must have a minimum of 40 spaces including space for infants and children with special needs. Allowances are made for smaller centres in rural areas.<sup>38</sup>



## EDUCATORS

TABLE 4.3 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Kindergarten Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Teachers must hold a bachelor of education with a concentration in primary education.
Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup>	<p><b>Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level I:</b> 30-hour course, approved by the board in each of the following subject areas: child growth and development, child guidance, early childhood pedagogy</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level II:</b> One-year post-secondary certificate program in early childhood care and education</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level III:</b> Two-year post-secondary diploma program or a degree program in early childhood care and education</p>
<p>a Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Education Act Teacher Certification and Standards Regulations</i> Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.02-11doc-teacher_certification_and_standards_regulations.pdf">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.02-11doc-teacher_certification_and_standards_regulations.pdf</a></p> <p>b Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf</a></p>	

TABLE 4.4 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Teachers		ECEs
Professional Recognition	Teacher certification, Department of Education, and Lifelong Learning <sup>a</sup>	<p>All program staff in Early Years Centres must be certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board at one of the certification levels.</p> <p>Non-designated centres must have one staff certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board at ECE supervisors' level and the second staff at minimum of ECE II or higher.</p> <p>Family child care providers must have a Family Home Child Care Provider Certificate as a minimum.<sup>b</sup></p>
Professional Development	As determined by school boards	Minimum 45 hours every 3 years to maintain certification <sup>b</sup>
<p>a Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education, Education and Lifelong Learning. <i>Prince Edward Island Teacher's Certification Application</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/prince-edward-island-teachers-certificate-application">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/prince-edward-island-teachers-certificate-application</a></p> <p>b Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf</a></p>		

TABLE 4.5 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DENSITY OF QUALIFIED STAFF IN CHILD CARE CENTRES

In Early Years Centres, two thirds of staff must have ECE II or ECEC III qualifications. In all centres the minimum qualification is ECE I.
Government of Prince Edward Island. <i>Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations</i> . Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf</a>

TABLE 4.6 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TEACHERS AND ECES ANNUAL SALARIES 2019

Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup>	ECE Salary as % of Teacher's Salary
\$77,506	\$42,765 <sup>c</sup>	55%

a British Columbia's Teacher's Federation. *Teacher Salaries Across Canada: How Does BC Compare?* Retrieved from: <https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Research/Reports/Cross-Canada%20teacher%20salaries.pdf>

b Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. October 17, 2020. ECE Level III, step 5.

c As of October 1, 2020, ECE average salary is \$45,884.80.

In March 2019, a report titled, *PEI Workforce Strategy Project*<sup>39</sup> concluded that the recruitment and retention challenges faced by child care centres resulted from a complex and dynamic interaction of several contributing factors. The authors noted that in order to solve the recruitment and retention issues in child care, a multi-prolonged

approach was necessary. This approach would address: the need to moderate the stress of the job; compensation (wages, benefits, and working conditions); the accessibility of early childhood educator training; and the current low level of public respect for the job.





**PROGRESS REPORT:** The *Canada-Prince Edward Island Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - 2017-2020* requires the province to publicly report, no later than October 1 of each year of the agreement, on results and expenditures for the previous fiscal year. The report should include the number of children benefiting from subsidies, and the number of licensed early learning and child care spaces broken down by age of child and type of setting. The report should show separately the results attributable to the funding provided by Canada under the Agreement. The most recent report is the *Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture Annual Report 2018-2019*,<sup>40</sup> which provides public reporting on investments and initiatives in early childhood education.

**PROGRAM STANDARDS:** Child care programs must meet facilities licensing requirements. Facility standards are not available for Kindergarten.

**POPULATION MONITORING:** Children are screened using the Early Years Evaluation - Direct Assessment (EYE-DA) as part of their orientation to Kindergarten. Results are shared with parents. Kindergarten teachers use the tool for program planning. The department uses the findings to direct resources as required. Data collection takes place annually. Children complete the EYE-DA in April before they start school in September. They complete the EYE-DA at the school they are registered to attend.<sup>41</sup> The Early Development Instrument (EDI) has also been collected in the province since 2014,<sup>42</sup> with the last round collected in 2019.





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