

YUKON TERRITORIES

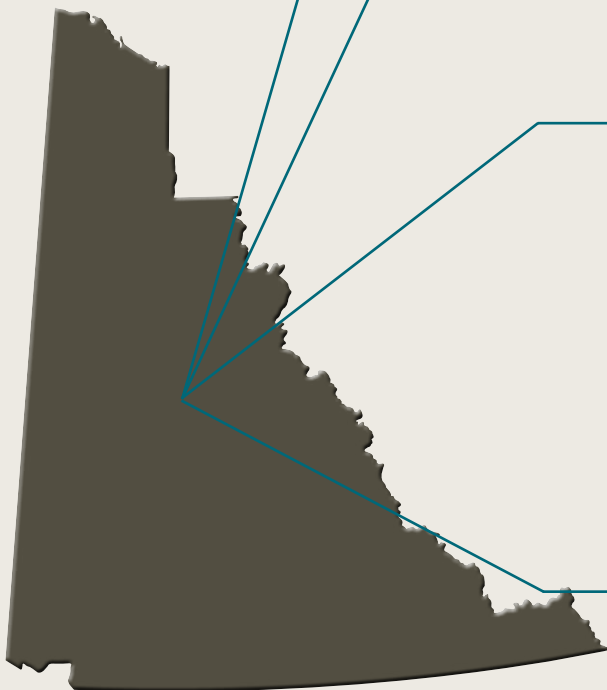
PROFILE 2017

TRENDS IN ECEC

ECE REPORT BENCHMARKS

5.5

2017



ECEC SPENDING

2017

\$18,711,088

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 2-4 YEARS ATTENDING ECEC

2017

50%

ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES

2017

62%

PERCENTAGE OF FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)

2017

35%

1. GOVERNANCE

Table 1.1 Yukon Governance Structure for Early Childhood Education	
Lead Ministry/ Department	Department of Health and Social Services
Related Ministries	Department of Education
Supervisory units	Early Childhood, Prevention and Support Services, Child Care Services Unit Public Schools Branch of Department of Education
Policy Framework	
Legislation	<i>Education Act</i> , RSY 2002, c.61 ¹ <i>Child Care Act</i> , RSY 2002, c.30 (1995) ²
Related Legislation	<i>Child Care Act Regulation (complete)</i> O.I.C. 1995/87 (1995) <i>Child Care Centre Program Regulation</i> O.I.C. 1995/87 (1995) <i>Child Care Subsidy Regulation</i> O.I.C. 1995/87 (1995) <i>Family Day Home Program Regulation</i> O.I.C. 1995/87 (1995) <i>School Age Program Regulation</i> O.I.C. 1995/87 (1995) <i>Yukon Child Care Board Remuneration Regulation</i> O.I.C. 2009/205 (2009) <i>Child Care Act Exemption Regulation</i> O.I.C. 2012/95 (2012)
Local Service Delivery	22 elementary schools Child Care Services Unit
Community/Sector Oversight	School councils Yukon Child Care Board

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for programs and services supporting health, persons with disabilities, income and family support programs. The Child Care Services Unit is under the Director of Family and Children's Services as part of Early Childhood, Prevention and Support Services.³ The Child Care Services Unit provides administrative, consultative and support services, and licenses child care facilities to ensure they follow legislated standards.⁴ Offices for the Child Care Services Unit are located in Whitehorse.

The Public Schools Branch of the Department of Education is responsible for kindergarten to grade 12 and continuing education. French language schools are overseen by the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon. Kindergarten is delivered in 22 elementary schools.

SERVICE DESIGN

Education Programs

Kindergarten⁵ is a full-day program delivered in Whitehorse schools and available for all children who turn 5 years of age by December 31. École Émilie-Tremblay also provides K4, a full-day program for 4-year-old francophone language students.⁶ Attendance is not mandatory.

In rural Yukon there are two enrolment points: K4 for children who turn 4 years old by December 31 and K5 for children who turn 5 years old by December 31. Kindergarten may be a half- or full-day program, depending on the school. Some rural schools include kindergarten in blended-grade classrooms.

Regulated Child Care⁷

Programs licensed and monitored by the Child Care Services Unit for children 0–12 years old and include:

- **Child care centres** are group facilities caring for four or more children outside the home.
- **Preschools/nursery schools** are group programs for children under 6 years of age for up to four consecutive hours a day.
- **After-school care** operates outside of school hours for school-aged children up to and including 12 years of age.
- **Family day homes** provide care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years of age, including the provider's own children. Four additional school-aged children are permitted if there is an additional caregiver. The provider's school-age children are not included. Caregivers are individually licensed by the Child Care Services Unit.

Unregulated Child Care

A licence is not required when caring for three or fewer children, not including the provider's own children.

Child/Family Services

Child Development Centre Yukon⁸ is a not-for-profit organization funded by the Yukon Government to provide therapeutic services and support for the developmental needs of children from birth to kindergarten. Services may take place on site at the centre, in homes or in child care programs, and are offered in Whitehorse and in all rural communities.

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

The Public Schools Branch of the Department of Education oversees Yukon schools. École Émilie Tremblay and Académie Parhémie, the French first language schools, are run by a school board, the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY).

Licensed child care is overseen by the Child Care Services Unit.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT

School Councils⁹ are legislated bodies made up of locally elected and appointed members of the community, including representation for First Nations who have students attending the school.

The Yukon Child Care Board¹⁰ is a legislated body consisting of at least seven members nominated by Yukon First Nations, child care groups, licensed child care services and parents. The board provides support to child care services, advises the minister, reviews policies and procedures and hears appeals under the Child Care Act.

2. FUNDING

Table 2.1 Yukon Budgeted Allocations for Regulated Child Care to March 31, 2017 ¹¹	
Child care fee subsidies	\$2,551,000
Operating grant	\$3,984,000
Supported child care program	\$470,000
Total regulated child care	\$7,005,000

Table 2.2 Yukon Budgeted Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care ¹²	
Kindergarten ^a	\$9,362,088
Regulated child care	\$7,005,000
Yukon Child Development Centre	\$2,404,000
Total ECE spending	\$18,771,088
Total Yukon budgeted operating expenses	\$1,440,000,000
ECE as a percentage of Yukon budget	1.3%

a Kindergarten funding estimate based on March 31, 2017 enrolment of 448 FT (K5) and 78 PT (K4)¹³ kindergarten students @ \$19,224 per pupil spending (Budget 2017-18).¹⁴

3. ACCESS

Table 3.1 Yukon Child Population 0-5 Years	
Child population 0-5 years	2,797
0-1 year	901
2-4 years	1,441

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Table 3.1 Yukon Child Population 0-5 Years (continued)

5 years	455
Total population of Yukon	35,874
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	7.8%

Statistics Canada. Table O51-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group for July 1, 2016 Canada, provinces and territories.

Table 3.2 Yukon Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child 0-5 Years (2016)

Total mothers in labour force with child 0-5 years ^a	Labour force participation rate of mothers with youngest child 0-5 years ^b
1,500	83%

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

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O717_04 Table 1.ivt.

Table 3.3 Yukon ECE School Program Enrolment^a

Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten	448
% of children attending 5-year-old kindergarten	98%
Children attending 4-year-old kindergarten	80
% of children attending 4-year-old kindergarten	9%

a As of March 31, 2017.¹⁵

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

Total spaces in centre-based programs	1,232
Total spaces in family day home	206
Total spaces in licensed child care	1,438
Total number of child care facilities	59
Facilities by auspice	
Not-for-profit child care centres	12
For-profit child care centres	24
Aboriginal Head Start (not licensed)	4
Family day homes	23

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Table 3.4 Yukon Licensed Child Care to March 31, 2017^a (continued)

Facilities by language	
English	57
French	2

a Ministry of Health and Social Services.

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

Child ages	Number of children ^a	Child care ^b	Kindergarten/ K4 enrolment	Other ECE programs ^d	% children participating in ECE program
0-1 year	901	162			18%
2-4 years	1,441	542	80	100	50%
Kindergarten ^c	455	81	448		98%
Grade 1 and up		156			

a Statistics Canada, July 1, 2016.

b Represents actual occupancy in Yukon licensed child care programs. Participation is estimated. Yukon child care age groupings do not match the age groupings in the report.

c Enrolment as of March 31, 2017. It is assumed that children attending child care also attend kindergarten.

d Estimated enrolment in four unlicensed Aboriginal Head Start programs.

AFFORDABILITY

The Yukon Child Care Subsidy¹⁶ is available to offset the costs of full-time and part-time licensed child care for children to age 12 years, or to age 16 years for children with special needs. Rates are calculated based on family income, family size and geography. Subsidies are available to families where parents are working, studying/training or have health or family needs where care is needed. An estimated 438 subsidies were provided in 2016-2017.

Maximum subsidy rates and income threshold rates increased 5% in December 2015.

Subsidies may not cover the entire cost of care. Parents are responsible for any surcharges.

Table 3.6 Child Care Subsidies by Age of Child and Amount

Category	Age of Child	Monthly hours in care	Maximum subsidy
Infant	0-18 months	100 or more hours	\$688
Toddler	19-36 months	100 or more hours	\$622
Preschool (including half-time kindergarten)	37-59 months (or 71 months if half-day kindergarten)	100 or more hours	\$578

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Table 3.6 Child Care Subsidies by Age of Child and Amount			(continued)
Category	Age of Child	Monthly hours in care	Maximum subsidy
Special Needs (infant to age 16 years) ^a	0-16 years	100 or more hours	\$688
Kindergarten (full-day)	60 months +	Less than 80 hours	\$330
Kindergarten – Summer months	60 months +	100 or more hours	\$578
School age	72 months +	Less than 80 hours	\$303
School age – Summer months	72 months +	100 or more hours	\$550

a Children with special needs aged 16 years or younger are eligible for a maximum subsidy of \$688 while attending over 100 hours per month; \$517 while attending 80-100 hours per month; and \$347 while attending less than 80 hours per month.

INCLUSION

The Student Support Services Division provides a range of supports for children with unique physical, psychological or health needs to assist with their participation in school and achieving their goals.¹⁷

The Supported Child Care Program¹⁸ provides additional support for children with special needs in child care settings, including additional staff and staff training, materials, fees and transportation where needed.

4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1 Yukon Curriculum Frameworks	
Program	Framework document
Kindergarten	Curriculum: ¹⁹ Beginning in 2017/18, Yukon adopted the new British Columbia school curriculum, with additions and adjustments to reflect the Yukon context and Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing and doing. The new model is organized around three elements: what students are expected to know, what they are expected to do and what they are expected to understand.
Regulated child care	

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Kindergarten class sizes: Class size allocation for K4 and K5 is 17.1 students.²⁰ Full-day classes are capped at 18 students as per the collective agreement with Yukon Teacher's Association.²¹

Child care program size: A regulated child care centre may have a maximum of 64 spaces per approval.

Age	Staff : Child Ratio	Class Size
0-18 months	1 : 4	8
18 months-3 years	1 : 6	12
3 years-kindergarten	1 : 8	16
Grade 1 and up	1 : 12	24

Family day home programs: Family day homes are individually licensed under the Child Care Act. Providers receive at least one annual inspection and three spot checks per year to monitor for compliance with the regulations.

A licensed family day home may care for:

- Up to four children if all are infants under 18 months;
- Up to six preschool children when no more than three are infants; or
- Up to eight preschool children were none are infants.

The caregiver's own preschool children are included in these numbers. The number of children is also based on available space. The provider must provide at least 4 square metres per child. If there is an additional adult, the family day home may provide care for up to four school-age children in addition to the number of preschool children permitted.

Kindergarten Teachers ²³	Early Childhood Educators ²⁴
<p>Teachers in Yukon require a Bachelor of Education Degree or equivalent and proof of teaching provincially/territorially assigned curriculum in an accredited school.</p> <p>There are no ECE requirements for kindergarten teachers.</p>	<p>All staff working in centre-based programs who are included in the child-to-staff ratio must hold Child Care Worker certification. There are three levels of certification outlined in the Yukon <i>Child Care Act</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Worker I: A 60-hour introduction to an Early Childhood Development course or equivalent • Child Care Worker II: One year of training in Early Childhood Development or equivalent • Child Care Worker III: Two or more years of training in Early Childhood Development or equivalent <p>Department policy also recognizes Child Care Worker IA and II A as persons working toward the designation.</p>

Table 4.4 Yukon Professional Recognition and Development

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECEs
Profession Recognition	Teacher certification is required to work in Yukon's school system. ²⁵	Yukon Health and Social Services provides certification for Child Care Workers. ²⁶
Professional Development	Yukon Education provides in-service training. In addition, it funds professional development administered through the Yukon Teachers' Association. ²⁷	Not required.

Table 4.5 Yukon Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres

In centre-based programs, 20 percent of staff must meet or exceed Child Care Worker III qualifications, an additional 30 percent must meet or exceed Child Care Worker II qualifications, and the rest must meet or exceed Child Care Worker I qualifications.²⁸

Table 4.6 Yukon Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries

Teachers ^a	Early Childhood Educators ^b	ECE Salary as a % of Teacher Salary
\$ 90,575	\$56,409	62%

a Level 5, Year 5 Teacher Pay Grid, effective July 1, 2016.²⁹

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_31 Table 1.ivt 2016 FTE @ \$27.12/hour.

The Direct Operating Grant³⁰ is paid quarterly based on a formula that takes into account child enrolment, building costs, meals and staff training levels. Funding to supplement staff wages is provided to a maximum of 40 hours per week per staff member.

Table 4.7 Yukon Wage Enhancement Funding

Level	Hourly rate
Level I	\$1.85
Level IA	\$3.50
Level II	\$4.75
Level IIA	\$6.95
Level III	\$9.00

5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress Reports: The Health and Social Services³¹ report provides an overview of child care funding and coverage.

Program Standards: There are no program standards beyond child care licensing and regulations.

Population Monitoring: Yukon kindergarten students are assessed using the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) and Boehm Test of Basic Concepts.³²

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