

BRITISH COLUMBIA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

Governance structure early childhood education	
Lead ministry/ department	Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Ministry of Education
Related departments	Ministries of Health and Advanced Education
Policy framework	No policy framework for integrated early childhood education
Legislation	<p><i>School Act</i> [R.S.B.C 1996] c.412. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/</p> <p><i>Child Care BC Act</i> (2001) http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_01004_01;</p> <p><i>Community Care and Assisted Living Act</i> (2002) includes licensing regulations http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_02075_01</p> <p>Child Care Licensing Regulation (2010) http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/12_332_2007</p> <p><i>Child Care Subsidy Act</i> (2008) http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/10_74_97</p> <p>Child Care Subsidy Regulation (2011) http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/10_74_97</p>
Related legislation	<i>Independent School Act</i> [R.S.B.C. 1996] c. 216. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/
Public oversight/ advisory	No province-wide body
Local service delivery	Kindergarten: 60 school districts; independent schools StrongStart BC early learning programs: located in 59 school districts Licensed child care: 5 Regional Health Authorities

Department organization

The Early Years Team (Learning Division) of the Ministry of Education is responsible for developing and establishing policies, standards and tools to support effective program delivery and evaluation mechanisms to support the early years (birth to age 8) across the province.

The Community Care Licensing Branch of the Ministry of Health develops child care licensing legislation, policy and guidelines.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is responsible for the development and administration of legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines pertaining to funding for child care programs and services and for Early Childhood Development programs targeted at families with children aged 0-6 years. MCFD administers the Child Care Subsidy Program, Child Care Operating Funding Program, Child Care Capital Program, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

MCFD administers the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry and is responsible for the licensure and investigation of ECEs and ECE Assistants, as well as for approving, monitoring and investigating ECE training programs at post-secondary institutions. MCFD is also responsible for

the sections of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and the Child Care Licensing Regulation that pertain to the functions of the ECE Registry.

Service design

- *Kindergarten*: All children who turn age 5 years by December 31 are entitled to a full day kindergarten program delivered by schools during the school year. Enrolment is voluntary.
- *Early learning*: StrongStart BC offers free school-based early learning programs for adults and their young children, aged birth to five, to assist in the physical, social, emotional, language, and cognitive development of children.
- *Child care*: Any person who provides care to 3 or more children not related to them by blood or marriage is required to obtain a community care facility license under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act, Child Care Licensing Regulation.

Public oversight/delivery

MCFD provides funding for community partnership initiatives including Success by 6 and Children First. Both initiatives promote community cross-sector collaboration to mobilize local resources for investment in early childhood and family services.

Local service delivery

Full-day kindergarten and Strong Start are administered through 60 school districts. Kindergarten may be offered in independent schools.

Regional Health Authorities are responsible for licensing and monitoring child care and preschool programs. Medical Health Officers delegate duties to Licensing Officers.

Licensed child care: Regional Health Authorities licensure and monitoring administered through Regional Health Authorities, and Medical Health Officers (delegate duties to Licensing Officers).

FUNDING

British Columbia: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011-2012	
Kindergarten ¹	327,320,000
StrongStart ²	10,400,000
Regulated child care ³	231,000,000
Total ECE spending	558,320,000
Provincial budget 2011-12 ⁴	41,912,999,000
ECE as % of provincial budget	1.36%
1. Ministry of Education, 2011	
2. Ministry of Education, 2011	
3. Ministry of Child and Family Development, 2011 (Note: Estimated additional \$46 million allocated to fee subsidies for unregulated child care.)	
4. http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2011/bfp/2011_Budget_Fiscal_Plan.pdf	

British Columbia: Regulated child care spending breakdown¹	%
Parent fee subsidies	45
Program funding	30
Special needs (Supported Child Development)	25
1. http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2011/bfp/2011_Budget_Fiscal_Plan.pdf and Ministry of Child and Family Development, 2011 and Beach (2009) ECEC in Canada 2008. http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-in-canada	

ACCESS

Child population 0-5 years 2010¹	
Child population 0-5 years	267,330
Total population	4,530,960
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	5.9%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

British Columbia Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5 –year-old kindergarten ¹	41,240
Child population 5 –years-old ²	43,671
% of 5-year-old population attending kindergarten	94.4%
1. Student Statistics. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/student_stats/prov.pdf	
2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

British Columbia: Early childhood education 2–to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-2009¹	
Children attending licensed child care/preschool centres	
Children whose parents work or study	31,600
Children whose parent not working	10,900
Children attending public school programs (StrongStartBC) ²	11,500
Total children attending ECE program	54,500
Child population 2 – 4 years	131,800
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	41%
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation (unless otherwise indicated). NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.	
2. Ministry of Education, 2011	

British Columbia: Number of child care spaces 2009-2010¹	
Centre-based child care	
• Group child care (under 3)	5,864
• Group child care (3 – school age)	23,068
• Group Multi-Age	1,205
• Preschool (nursery school)	20,577
Total centre spaces 0-5 years	
• School age	30,305
• Family home care spaces	16,047
• Emergency care	23
• Special needs	81
Total Licensed Capacity	97,170
1. Ministry of Child and Family Development, March 2011	

British Columbia: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	73,600	72.4%
Children ages 3 to 5	56,500	66.6%
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	130,100	69%
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	58,400	30.9%
Total mothers with child less than 6 years	188,500	100%
1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages		

Inclusion

- *Special needs supports in Kindergarten: Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines* (2010) emphasize equality of access.
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/ppandg.htm>
- *Special needs support in child care*: The Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) provides families of children with special needs with supports so that the child can participate in regular child care. Parents with children with special needs who are in receipt of child care subsidy are also eligible to receive the Special Needs Supplement. The Special Needs Supplement provides up to an additional \$150 per month towards the child care space fee.

Affordability

Fees (2009/10):

- Median monthly parent fee (infants/toddlers):
 - \$ 850 (Group)
 - \$ 700 (Family)
- Median monthly parent fee (preschool):
 - \$650 (3-5 yr. full day group)
 - \$700 (3-5 yr. full day family)
 - \$144 (preschool, 3 half-days per week)

Children receiving fee subsidies: 35,301 in regulated care and 23,052 in unregulated care in 2009/2010.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

British Columbia: Curriculum	
<i>Kindergarten Curriculum Package</i> (2010)	Kindergarten Curriculum Package compiles all Prescribed Learning Outcomes and Suggested Achievement Indicators from within each subject-based Integrated Resource Package (IRP) into one comprehensive document. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/grkcurric_req.pdf
<i>Full Day Kindergarten Program Guide</i> (2010)	In the spring of 2010, the Ministry of Education published the <i>Full Day Kindergarten Program Guide</i> , to assist schools with the implementation of full school day programs. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/fdk/professional/resources.htm Video exemplars demonstrate important concepts regarding full day kindergarten to support the implementation. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/fdk/exemplar_videos.htm
<i>Making Linkages: How</i>	Aligns the British Columbia Early Learning Framework with the

<i>the British Columbia Early Learning Framework Links to the Primary Program: A Framework for Teaching (2009).</i>	Kindergarten learning outcomes. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/making_linkages.htm
<i>British Columbia Early Learning Framework (2008)</i>	Describes the vision, pedagogical principles, and key areas of learning for children birth to five years (before school entry). The Early Learning Framework is mandatory in StrongStartBC centres, and is available as a resource for child care programs. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/early_learning_framework.htm

Transition to School

Ready, Set, Learn - Participating schools offer parents or caregivers and their three- and four-year-olds activities and resources to support children's development and school readiness.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsf/

Working environment

Kindergarten class size: A maximum average aggregate size for kindergarten at 19 students; no class can exceed 22 students.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/>

Child care program size:

- Family Child Care: 7 children
- In-Home Multi-Age Child Care: 8 children
- Multi-Age Child Care: 8 children
- Group Child Care, under 36 months: 12 children
- Group Child Care, 30 months to school age: 25 children for children
- Group Child Care, School age: 20 if children in Kindergarten and Grade One are enrolled, 25 if Grade Two or above only
- Licensed Preschool: 20 children.

Educators

British Columbia: Educator qualifications	
Kindergarten teachers	B.Ed. or Bachelor's degree plus a post-degree teacher training
Early childhood educators	<p>Early childhood educator certificate: must have successfully completed a basic Early Childhood Education training program (minimum 910 hours, including practicum) through an approved educational institution, and have completed at least 500 hours of additional work experience relevant to early childhood education, or the equivalent.</p> <p>Special needs early childhood educator certificate: must qualify for the early childhood educator certificate and have successfully completed a Special Needs Early Childhood Educator training program through an approved educational institution.</p> <p>Infant and toddler educator certificate: must qualify for the Early Childhood Educator certificate and have successfully completed an infant and toddler educator training program through an approved educational institution.</p> <p>Early childhood educator assistant certificate: must have successfully completed a minimum of one course of a basic Early Childhood Education training program in child development, guidance, or health and safety, and nutrition through an approved educational institution. http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/12_332_2007</p>

British Columbia: Teacher and early childhood educator average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008-09 ¹	Early childhood educator ²	ECE % of Teacher
76,315	34,590	45%
<p>1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i>. Statistics Canada; http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm; (2010);</p> <p>2. Calculated at \$16.63/hour (Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Employed employees and average weekly for NOCS 2006 occupations E217-Early Childhood Educators and Assistants by highest level of educational attainment. Canada and the provinces, 2009 and 2010 two years averages. Special tabulation.) x 40 hours x 52 weeks.</p>		

British Columbia: Professional requirements for educators		
	Recognition requirement	Professional Development
Kindergarten teachers	Professional standards are established and enforced by the BC College of Teachers. (Note: a new certification process is under development). http://www.bcct.ca/Standards/StandardsDevelopment.aspx	
Early childhood educators	Licence to practice: ECE Registry in Ministry of Child and Family Development http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece/	Minimum 40 hours every 5 years

ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual reports: The Early Childhood Development Agreement (ECDA) and Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care contained commitments from its signatories to publicly post annual reports on the initiatives and investments in early childhood. British Columbia's most recent report was in 2009/2010.

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood/pdf/EarlyYearsAnnualReport2010.pdf

Population monitoring: Early Development Instrument (EDI) is collected in kindergarten classrooms on an annual or biannual basis (at the discretion of the school district). The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) is a consortium of five BC universities contributing to new knowledge in early childhood development through interdisciplinary research. MCFD formed a partnership with HELP in 2002/2003 to take a key research and leadership role in advancing early childhood development and enhancing the quality of children's early years. In 2008/2009 the Ministries of Education and Health joined this partnership, strengthening provincial support for early childhood development research initiatives in BC. Community maps, mapping summaries and reports from the EDI are presented to communities and are publicly accessible on HELP's web site. HELP's ECD Mapping Portal enables users to create maps of BC communities or regions to gain information for local planning and other activities.

<http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/research/initiatives/early-development-instrument/>

Achievement Contracts: Boards of Education's public commitment to improving student achievement. They are based on consideration of aggregated student performance information at the classroom, school, district and provincial level. Achievement Contracts reflect the unique characteristics, priorities and needs of each district. The Contracts are part of an accountability cycle for schools, school districts, and for the Ministry of Education.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools/sdinfo/acc_contracts/