



Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2021

Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2021 describes the early years and child care system, key data and measures for child care and indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Introduction

We know the integral role that the early years and child care system plays in supporting families and giving every child the best possible start in life. That is why the provincial government remains committed to building a system that is high quality, inclusive and affordable.

To enable a better understanding of Ontario's early years and child care system, this report provides an annual snapshot and year-over-year trends in the sector. In addition, the report supports Ontario's commitment under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (<https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/ontario-2017.html>) to publish its progress.

Most of the data presented in this report was collected between March 2020 and March 2021. In early 2020, COVID-19 arrived in Canada, affecting the lives of all Ontario residents. The pandemic has created significant health and economic hardship for families. It has also had major economic and operational impacts on the child care sector.

Ontario's early years and child care system continues to weather the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 31, 2021:

- The number of licensed child care spaces grew by 1,736 to 464,538 spaces.

Almost all age groups have seen an increase in spaces: a three per cent increase for infants, a two per cent increase for toddlers, a less than 0.4% increase for preschool and kindergarten, and an increase from 692 to 842 spaces for the “family age group”. [1] The only exception is the school age spaces which slightly decreased by about 0.3%.

- The number of licensed child care centres decreased by one per cent from 5,565 to 5,506 centres.
- Of the total number of licensed child care centres, 2,986 centres were located in publicly funded schools, 17 centres fewer compared to last year.
- The number of home child care agencies increased by 6.1% from 131 to 139. There were 8,561 approved homes affiliated with these agencies, representing a 3.2% increase.
- More than 2,000 individuals were approved to receive grants to support them in obtaining an early childhood education diploma or leadership credentials.

Ontario provided a range of supports to assist the child care sector and Ontario families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key activities included:

- funding of \$234.6 million by the Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings
- funding of \$66 million to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards (CMSMs and DSSABs) for reinvestment between the period of January and March 2021 to support increased costs of operating child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres during the COVID-19 pandemic
- establishing emergency child care paid for by the province and at no cost to parents to support frontline workers, over three different time periods between March 2020 and June 2021
- supporting child care centres to reopen once strict health and safety measures had been met, based on guidance documents developed in partnership with provincial health and labour ministries as well as federal, municipal and child care sector partners
- providing more than 6,000 licensed child care programs, EarlyON Child and Family Centres and First Nation child and family programs with personal

protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, face shields and rapid test kits to support the healthy and safe operations of programs

- ensuring continuous funding for EarlyON Child and Family Centres to provide virtual services and other supports to families during closure periods
- prohibiting child care providers from charging child care fees to parents over the past year when the province closed child care and therefore care was not being provided
- helping parents pay for the extra costs associated with school and child care closures during the COVID-19 outbreak with the Support for Families program, by providing a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs up to 21 years of age, from April 2020 to August 2020
- providing the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit in May 2021, where payments to help offset additional learning costs were \$400 per child and \$500 for a child with special needs

A stable and accessible child care system will be crucial in supporting Ontarians through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and in supporting Ontario's recovery afterwards. In 2021-22, the provincial government will continue to support families and the early years and child care system by:

- investing more than \$2 billion in early years and child care funding, including approximately \$390 million annually to support the child care tax credit, with the government providing a 20 per cent one-time top-up for the 2021 tax year
- implementing the new agreement with the federal government on the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system
- implementing the new one-year Canada-Ontario Early Childhood Workforce Funding Agreement to support the recruitment and retention of the early childhood workforce in 2021-22
- continuing to support the early years and child care sector to ensure the health and safety of families and the viability of these critical programs, through the provision of health and safety protocols, PPE, and rapid testing, as we continue to manage through the COVID-19 outbreak

- supporting families in need of fee subsidies and providing funding to municipalities for this purpose
- creating up to 30,000 child care spaces in schools over five years, including up to 10,000 spaces in new schools
- allocating \$203 million to municipalities in 2021 to support wage enhancements for eligible child care professionals

Moreover, Ontario looks forward to the implementation of the National Child Care Plan to ensure parents and children benefit from a high-quality child care system that is affordable, flexible and works for Ontario's families . We continue to work to ensure the necessary resources and protections are in place to help the child care sector through the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that there is still much to be done and will continue to monitor and adapt as the situation evolves.

Finally, to our partners in the early years and child care sector: child care workers, child care operators, First Nation communities, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards - we would like to say thank you. Thank you for all you have done to keep Ontario's children well cared for and safe. Your partnership and unwavering commitment to families has been crucial during this unprecedented time.

Ontario's child care system and COVID response

Since COVID-19 arrived in Canada in early 2020, it has affected the lives of each and every Ontarian. It has resulted in major health impacts and economic challenges for families and the early years and child care sector. As of March 31, 2021, 5,282 (96%) of the 5,506 licensed child care centres and 129 (93%) of the 139 licensed home child care agencies reopened following the emergency closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt by families, businesses, and communities across Ontario. Throughout the pandemic and to mitigate its impact on families and the early years and child care sector, the Ontario government supported:

- children of frontline workers through emergency child care programs that were designed to help frontline workers continue to deliver critical services while

providing a safe environment for their children, at no cost to parents

- mental health and well-being of children and families through the continuation of virtual programs and supports in EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- early years and child care programs by instituting a range of funding approaches to support sustainability, including the direct provision of PPE and funding to support increased costs associated with staffing, cleaning and meeting other health and safety measures
- public health objectives by establishing operational guidance to support child care operators in adhering to evidence-based health and safety protocols
- Ontario families through two support programs (such as Support for Families) which provided one-time direct payments to parents to assist with the costs of supporting their children's early learning needs during the pandemic

Emergency child care for frontline workers

In partnership with CMSMs and DSSABs, First Nation communities and child care licensees, the Ministry of Education implemented the provincial emergency child care program for children of healthcare and other front-line workers during three different periods throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program provided high-quality and safe child care, free of charge, to help mitigate the impact of child care and school closures on the families of front-line workers who were required to perform critical services within their community in-person. This was fully funded by the province during all three periods.

The ministry implemented the first iteration of the emergency child care program (ECC) early in the pandemic from mid-March 2020 to the end of June 2020, as child care centres were permitted to reopen under strict health and safety measures following the province-wide emergency closure period.

The ministry implemented the second iteration of emergency child care program for elementary and school-aged children, from January 4, 2021 to February 16, 2021, when all programs across the province were able to resume regular operations with enhanced health and safety precautions following the remote learning period.

The ministry implemented the third emergency child care program for elementary and school-aged children from April 19, 2021 to the end of June 2021. At its peak,

during the third wave of the pandemic, the emergency child care program served more than 12,000 children per day and operated for 10 weeks. The emergency child care program came to an end on June 30, 2021 when the school year ended and all child care programs across the province were able to resume regular operations with enhanced health and safety precautions.

Implementation of emergency child care was only possible due to the leadership and hard work of our municipal and First Nation partners and dedicated child care supervisors, early childhood educators and program staff.

Ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children, families and staff

Ontario's top priority is the health and safety of children, families and providers and staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education, under the advice of the ministries of Health and Labour, Training and Skills Development, Public Health Ontario and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has established and updated operational guidance that set out evidence-based public health and safety protocols for child care, EarlyON Child and Family Centres and before and after school programs. Separate guidance was also developed for First Nation communities who operate licensed child care and child and family programs. The guidance includes information related to health and safety requirements such as the use of PPE, cleaning protocols, pre-program considerations such as staff training and in-program considerations such as equipment and toy usage and space set-up.

To support the safe reopening of licensed child care and early years programs, the Ontario government delivered PPE approved by Health Canada, free of charge, to staff working in these settings. These programs, including licensed centres, licensed home child care agencies, emergency child care sites and early years programs, when open, are provided a monthly supply of PPE.

To date, more than 6,000 licensed child care programs, EarlyON Child and Family Centres and First Nation child and family programs across the province have received PPE.

The ministry also released Building on how does learning happen: pedagogical approaches to re-opening early years and child care programs in Ontario (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-does-learning-happen-ontarios-pedagogy-early-years>) to support the operation of early years and child care programs in Ontario during the

COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides information on how early years settings can provide safe and healthy environments and support the social and emotional health and well-being of children and families.

Funding support for early years and child care programs

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government instituted a range of funding approaches to support sustainability and recovery of the early years and child care sector in the province. During the closure and reopening periods, provincial funding was provided to support all child care operators (with fixed overhead costs while closed and other expenses related to reopening such as vacancies, enhanced cleaning and PPE).

The province continued to fund child care providers and EarlyON Child and Family Centres through service system managers, as the sector recovered during this time. In 2020-21, the government invested over \$2 billion in early years and child care, including approximately \$303 million for the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit.

In addition, the Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, provided \$234.6 million in funding to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings. This funding helped to support enhanced cleaning costs as well as health and safety requirements set out to support the reopening of licensed child care and early years programs. This funding was in addition to the Ontario government's continued commitment to stabilize the child care sector.

The ministry also made \$66 million available to CMSMs and DSSABs for reinvestment between January and March 2021 to support the increased costs of operating child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In summary, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the child care sector and although it has to a large extent weathered the storm, we recognize that the sector is fragile. The ministry is supporting the operations of child care by putting the health and safety of children and families first and ensuring its sustainability. To that end, Ontario will continue to engage with the sector and monitor and support it. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, child care settings have largely remained open to support Ontario families. Child care operators and educators have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of children in care, while balancing the need to provide a healthy and caring learning environment.

Part 1: Overview of the early years and child care system

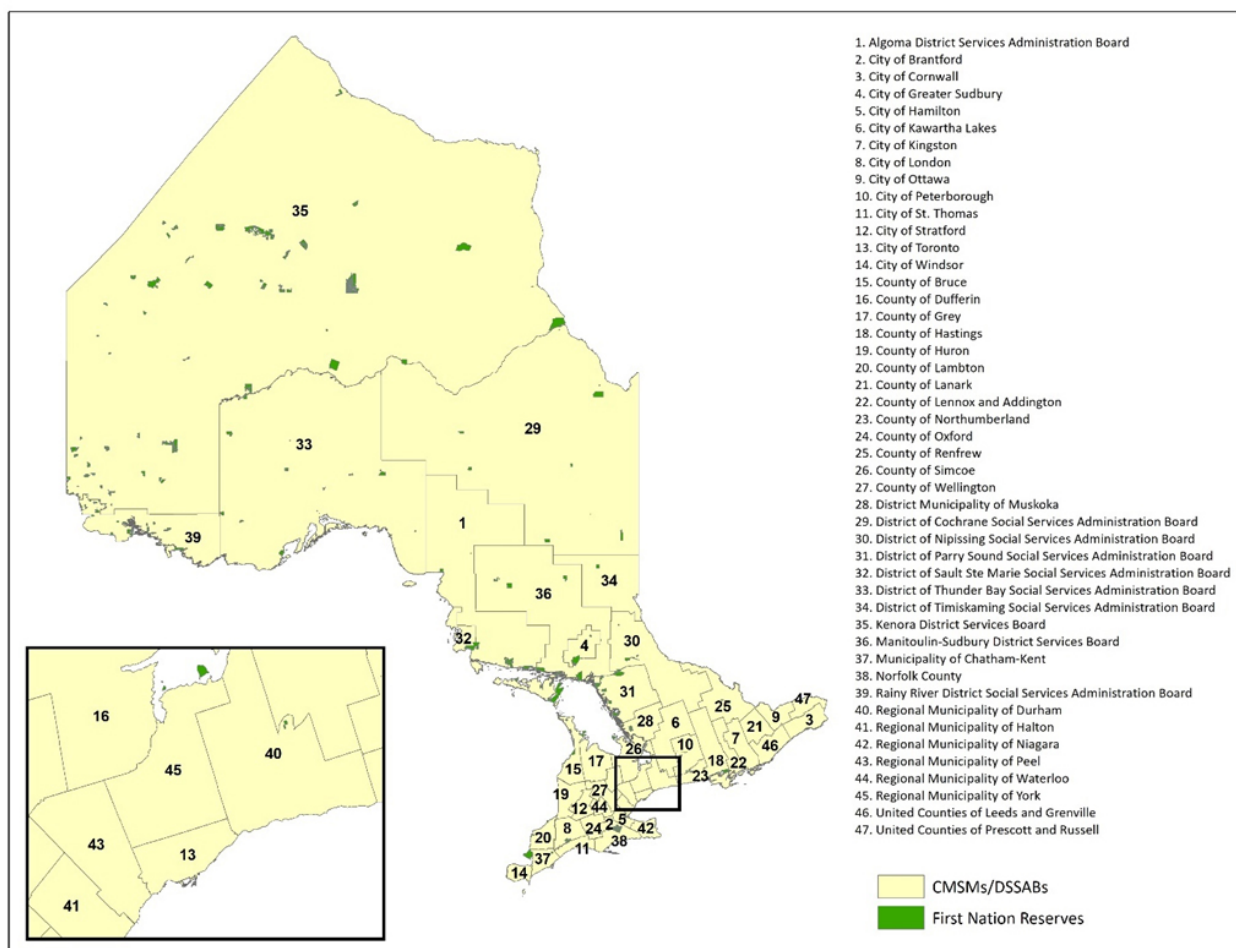
The Ministry of Education sets overall policy, legislation, and regulations for the child care and early years sector, under the authority of the *Child Care and Early Years Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>), 2014, and licenses child care providers across the province. The ministry also conducts inspections and investigates complaints about licensed and unlicensed child care.

The ministry oversees and licenses two types of child care:

- licensed child care centres
- home child care agencies, that contract with home child care providers

The provincial government provides funding to 47 local service system managers, known as Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), to support licensed child care and child and family programs in the province (see Figure 1). These service system managers have the authority to determine funding priorities within their local systems, provided they comply with provincial legislation, policies and guidelines.

Figure 1: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards in Ontario



Map of Ontario showing the locations of Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards, which are as follows:

Location name	Type
Algoma District Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

Location name	Type
City of Brantford	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Cornwall	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Greater Sudbury	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Hamilton	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Kawartha Lakes	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Kingston	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of London	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Ottawa	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services

Location name	Type
	Administration Boards
City of Peterborough	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of St. Thomas	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Stratford	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Toronto	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
City of Windsor	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Bruce	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Dufferin	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

Location name	Type
County of Grey	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Hastings	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Huron	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Lambton	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Lanark	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Lennox & Addington	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Northumberland	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Oxford	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services

Location name	Type
	Administration Boards
County of Renfrew	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Simcoe	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
County of Wellington	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
District Municipality of Muskoka	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
District of Cochrane Social Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

Location name	Type
District of Sault Ste Marie Social Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
District of Timiskaming Social Services Administrations Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Kenora District Services Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Norfolk County	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Rainy River District Social Services Administration	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services

Location name	Type
Board	Administration Boards
Regional Municipality of Durham	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Regional Municipality of Halton	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Regional Municipality of Niagara	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Regional Municipality of Peel	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Regional Municipality of Waterloo	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
Regional Municipality of York	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

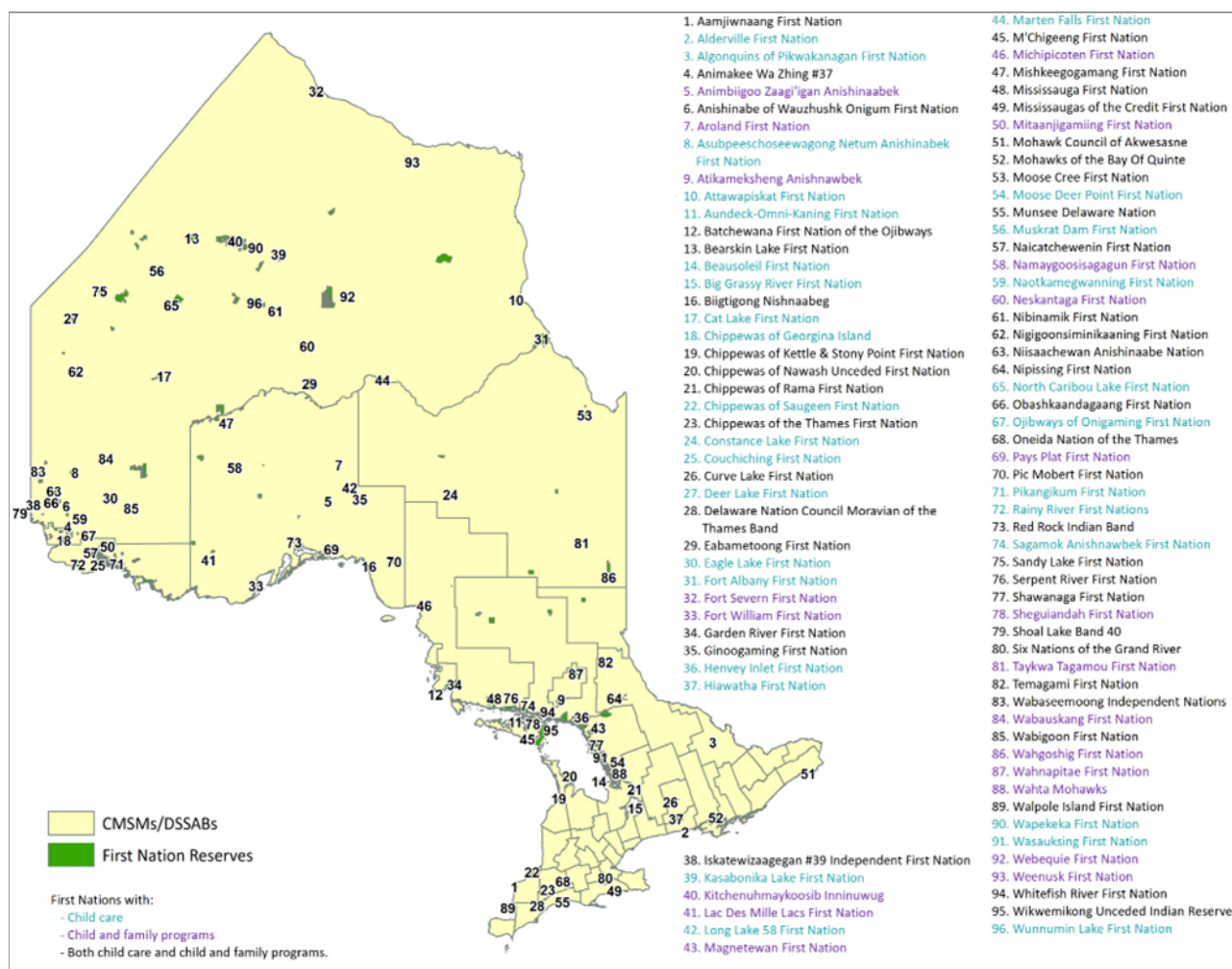
Location name	Type
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education and Statistics Canada.

As of March 31, 2021, the province was funding 96 First Nations to support child care and/or child and family programs on reserve (see Figure 2), of which:

- 31 received funding for child care only
- 21 received funding for child and family programs only
- 44 received funding for child care and child and family programs

Figure 2: Ontario First Nations receiving provincial funding for child care and/or child and family programs



Map of Ontario showing the locations of Ontario First Nations Receiving Provincial Funding for Child Care and/or Child and Family Programs

Location name	Type	Key
Aamjiwnaang First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Alderville First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Animakee Wa Zhing #37	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Anishinabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Aroland First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care

Location name	Type	Key
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Attawapiskat First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Aundeck-Omni-Kaning First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Batchewana First Nation of the Ojibways	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Bearskin Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Beausoleil First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Big Grassy River First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg	First Nation	Received provincial funding for child care and child and

Location name	Type	Key
	Reserves	family programs
Cat Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Chippewas of Georgina Island	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Chippewas of Rama First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Constance Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Couchiching First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Curve Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Deer Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Delaware Nation Council Moravian of the Thames Band	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Eabametoong First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Eagle Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care

Location name	Type	Key
Fort Albany First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Fort Severn First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Fort William First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Garden River First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Ginoogaming First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Henvey Inlet First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Hiawatha First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First	First Nation	Received provincial funding for child care and child and

Location name	Type	Key
Nation	Reserves	family programs
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Long Lake 58 First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Magnetewan First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Marten Falls First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
M'Chigeeng First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Michipicoten First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Mississauga First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Mitaanjigamiing First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Moose Cree First Nation	First Nation	Received provincial funding for child care and child and

Location name	Type	Key
	Reserves	family programs
Moose Deer Point First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Munsee Delaware Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Muskrat Dam First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Naicatchewenin First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Namaygoosisagagun First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Naotkamegwanning First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Neskantaga First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Nibinamik First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Nipissing First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
North Caribou Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Obashkaandagaang First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care

Location name	Type	Key
Oneida Nation of the Thames	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Pays Plat First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Pic Mobert First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Pikangikum First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Rainy River First Nations	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Red Rock Indian Band	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Sandy Lake First Nation	First Nation	Received provincial funding for child care and child and

Location name	Type	Key
	Reserves	family programs
Serpent River First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Shawanaga First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Sheguiandah First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Shoal Lake Band 40	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Six Nations of the Grand River	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Taykwa Tagamou First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Temagami First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Wabauskang First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Wabigoon First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Wahgoshig First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Wahnapitae First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Wahta Mohawks	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Walpole Island First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Wapekeka First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Wasauksing First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care
Webequie First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Weenusk First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child and family programs
Whitefish River First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education and Statistics Canada.

Part 2: Early years and child care key data and measures

Licensed child care

In Ontario, licensed child care is provided in centres and homes, and is delivered by a mix of not-for-profit and for-profit organizations as well as municipalities, school boards and First Nations. As of March 31, 2021, there were 5,506 licensed child care centres in Ontario. The total number of spaces in licensed centres was 464,538, which included:

- 35,463 spaces in centres that provide services in French
- 7,237 spaces in centres that provide bilingual services
- 3,306 spaces in centres in First Nations communities

As of March 31, 2021, a total of 139 licensed home child care agencies were in operation in the province. These agencies were permitted to contract with a maximum of 8,561 approved homes.^[2] Two home child care agencies were operated by First Nations, with a maximum of 31 approved homes. In 2021, the most recent year for which there is data available, a total of 3,210^[3] homes were deemed to be “active homes”.^[4]

Overall trends in licensed child care

Overall, Ontario's licensed child care sector continues to grow despite the slight decrease in the number of centres over the past year. Since 2011-12 (see Figure 3 and Table 1):

- The number of licensed child care centres increased by 12%, from 4,922 to 5,506. Licensed spaces have increased by 68%, from 275,873 to 464,538.
- The number of spaces has grown across all age groups, including kindergarten (230%), school age (77%), toddler (62%), infant (58%) and preschool (12%).

Figure 3: Number of licensed child care centres, 2011–12 to 2020–21

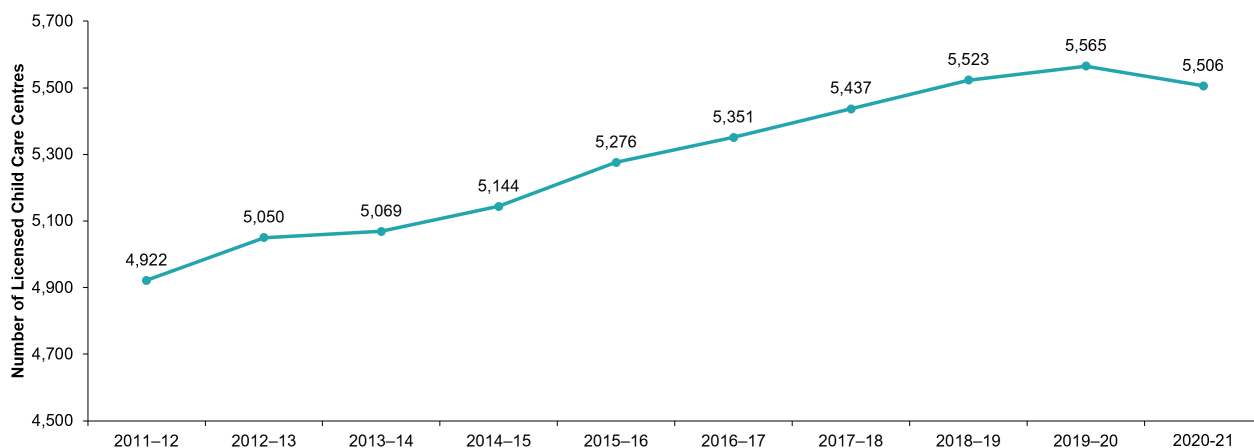


Figure 3: Number of Licensed Child Care Centres, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of Centres	4,922	5,050	5,069	5,144	5,276	5,351	5,437	5,523	5,565	5,506

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Table 1: Spaces in licensed child care centres by age group, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of Spaces ^[5]	275,873	294,400	317,808	335,015	338,266	403,505	420,302	446,596	462,202	466,348
Infant	926,900	963,400	1,025,000	1,012,500	1,075,900	1,123,100	1,175,500	1,236,600	1,251,100	1,244,200
Toddler	308,670	325,780	347,720	373,300	411,100	429,000	445,200	468,600	488,800	493,300
Pre sch	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	101

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
ool	3474	2731	2133	2380	402	595	835	242	511	541
Kinder garten	32,547	40,796	52,168	64,40	85,14	90,35	93,10	13,308	13,260	13,453
School age	99,743	108,795	118,55	132,23	146,00	153,74	162,91	173,37	178,40	177,7
Famil y age gro	–	–	–	–	–	–	162	418	692	842

Ye ar	2 0 1 1- 1 2	2 0 1 2- 1 3	2 0 1 3- 1 4	2 0 1 4- 1 5	2 0 1 5- 1 6	2 0 1 6- 1 7	2 0 1 7- 1 8	2 0 1 8- 1 9	2 0 1 9- 2 0	2 0 2 0- 2 1
up										

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Overall, the number of approved homes has increased by 39% since 2011-12, from 6,142 to 8,561 (see the line in Figure 4a), and the number of licensed home child care agencies has increased by 5%, from 132 to 139 (see the bars in Figure 4b).

Figure 4a: Approved homes, 2011-12 to 2020-21

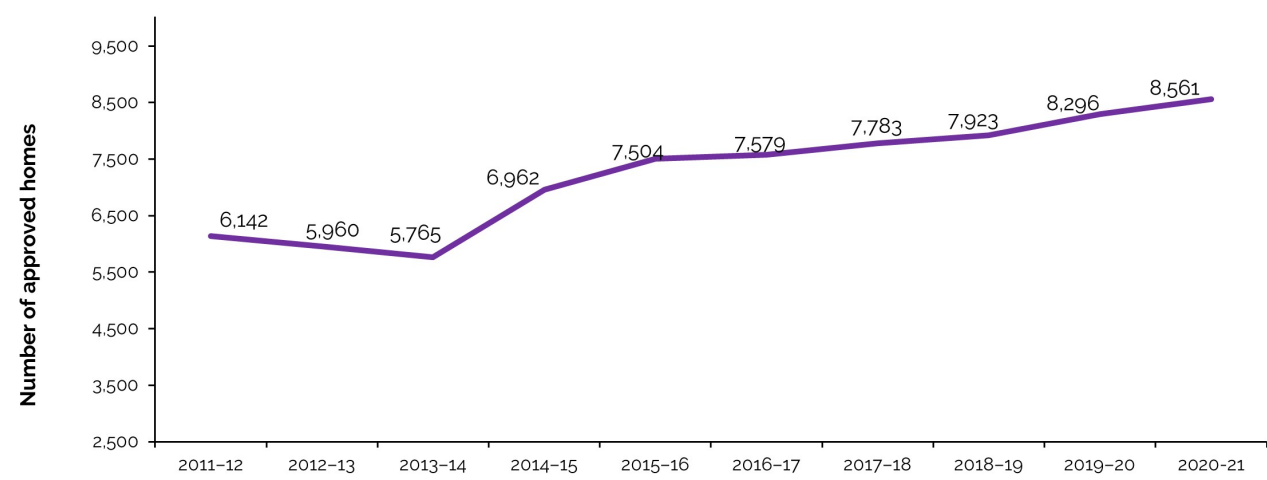
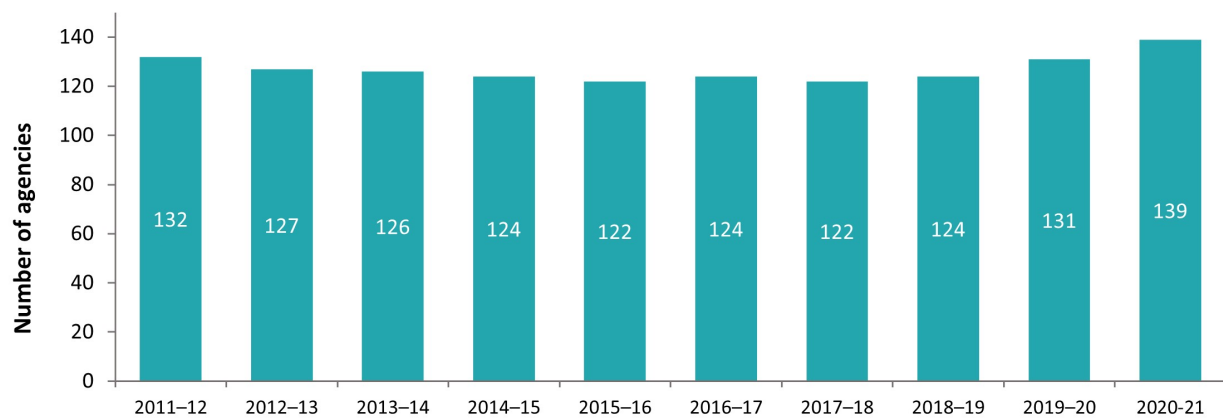


Figure 4b: Licensed home child care agencies, 2011-12 to 2020-21



Number of approved homes and licensed home child care agencies, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Ye ar	2 0 1 1 - 1 2	2 0 1 2 - 1 3	2 0 1 3 - 1 4	2 0 1 4 - 1 5	2 0 1 5 - 1 6	2 0 1 6 - 1 7	2 0 1 7 - 1 8	2 0 1 8 - 1 9	2 0 1 9 - 2 0	2 0 2 0 - 2 1
Nu mb er of app rov ed ho me s	6 , 1 4 2	5 , 9 6 0	5 , 7 6 5	6 , 9 6 2	7 , 5 0 4	7 , 5 7 9	7 , 7 8 3	7 , 9 2 3	8 , 2 9 6	8 , 5 6 1
Nu mb	1 3	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of agencies	2	7	6	4	2	4	2	4	1	9

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Child care by type of auspice^[6]

As of March 31, 2021:

- 75.2% of licensed child care centres were not-for-profit (operated by not-for-profit organizations and First Nations) and 24.8% were for-profit
- 78.9% of child care spaces were in not-for-profit centres and 21.1% were in for-profit centres
- 76.3% of licensed home child care agencies were not-for-profit and 23.7% were for-profit
- 85.3% of approved child care homes were affiliated with not-for-profit agencies and 14.7% were affiliated with for-profit agencies

For more detailed data and a look at changes over time, see Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2: Licensed child care centres and spaces in licensed child care centres by auspice, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Ye ar	2 0 1 1 - 1 2	2 0 1 2 - 1 3	2 0 1 3 - 1 4	2 0 1 4 - 1 5	2 0 1 5 - 1 6	2 0 1 6 - 1 7	2 0 1 7 - 1 8	2 0 1 8 - 1 9	2 0 1 9 - 2 0	2 0 2 0 - 2 1
Nu m be r of ce ntr es	4 , 9 2 2	5 , 0 5 0	5 , 0 6 9	5 , 1 4 4	5 , 2 7 6	5 , 3 5 1	5 , 4 3 7	5 , 5 2 3	5 , 5 6 5	5 , 5 0 6
No t- for - pr ofit	3 , 7 3 3	3 , 8 5 9	3 , 8 4 7	3 , 9 4 2	4 , 0 0 7	4 , 0 5 3	4 , 1 2 8	4 , 1 8 6	4 , 1 8 7	4 , 1 3 8
For - pr ofit	1 , 1 8 9	1 , 1 9 1	1 , 2 2 2	1 , 2 0 2	1 , 2 6 9	1 , 2 9 8	1 , 3 0 9	1 , 3 3 7	1 , 3 7 8	1 , 3 6 8
Nu m be	2 7 5	2 9 4	3 1 7	3 5 0	3 8 9	4 0 6	4 2 7	4 4 6	4 6 2	4 6 4

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of spaces	73,873	79,400	78,608	78,011	82,606	83,955	80,322	85,966	88,022	85,388
Not-for-profit	205,777	202,875	204,871	207,991	230,179	231,608	233,888	235,949	236,533	236,609
For-profit	70,079	71,136	76,908	77,019	83,966	86,777	88,911	93,766	97,711	99,679

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Table 3: Licensed home child care agencies and approved homes by auspice, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of agencies	132	127	126	124	122	124	122	124	131	139
Not-for-profit	118	116	113	111	108	109	105	104	105	106
For-profit	14	11	13	13	14	15	17	20	26	33
Number of approved ho	61,422	59,600	57,655	60,962	70,044	70,799	70,783	70,923	82,966	83,561

Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
measures										
Not-for-profit	5,812	5,640	5,403	6,500	6,902	7,017	7,148	7,184	7,320	7,305
For-profit	330	320	362	462	512	562	699	755	966	1,256

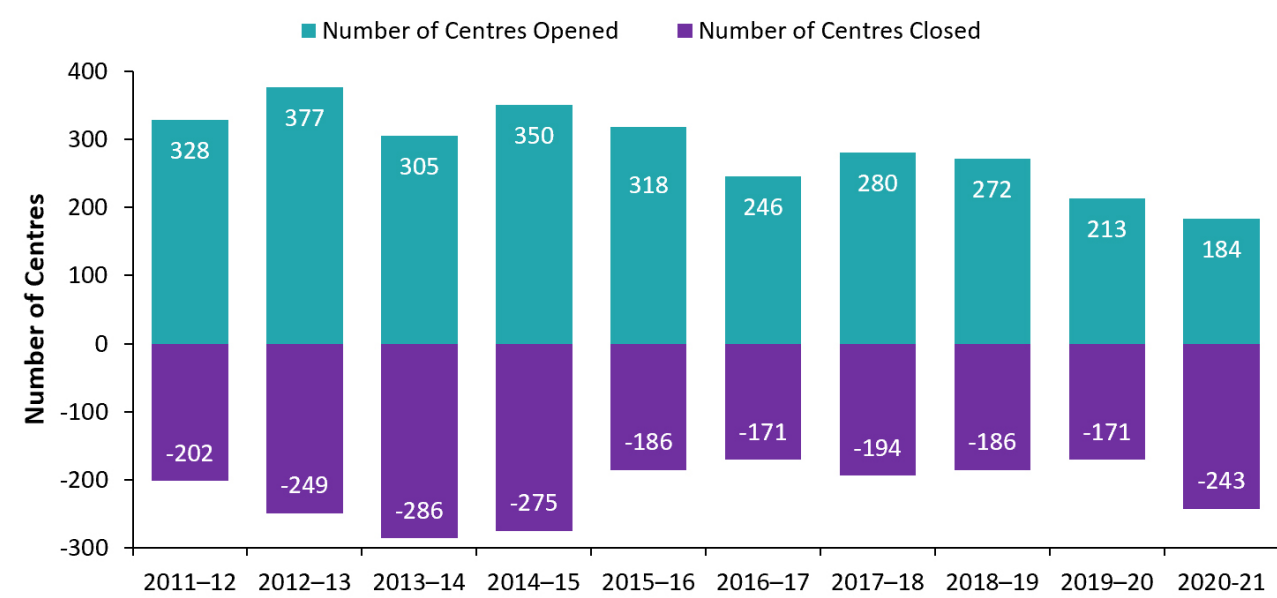
Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Licensed child care centres – openings and closures

Licensed child care centres open and close on a regular basis (that is, not related to the COVID-19 pandemic) with more centres opening than closing in most years. Child care centres open for reasons such as the expansion of an existing program, a desire to provide a child care service in a community or local planning efforts by municipalities to address an increase in the need for child care. Centres that close typically do so due to low enrolment.

In 2020-21, 184 child care centres opened and 243 closed. On average, there has been an annual net increase of 71 centres per year for the past 10 years (see Figure 5). 584 more child care centres were in operation over the past ten years.

Figure 5: Licensed child care centre openings and closures, 2011-12 to 2020-21



Number of licensed child care centre openings and closures, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Ye ar	2 0 1 1 - 1 2	2 0 1 2 - 1 3	2 0 1 3 - 1 4	2 0 1 4 - 1 5	2 0 1 5 - 1 6	2 0 1 6 - 1 7	2 0 1 7 - 1 8	2 0 1 8 - 1 9	2 0 1 9 - 2 0	2 0 2 0 - 2 1
Nu mb	3 2	3 7	3 0	3 5	3 1	2 4	2 8	2 7	2 1	1 8

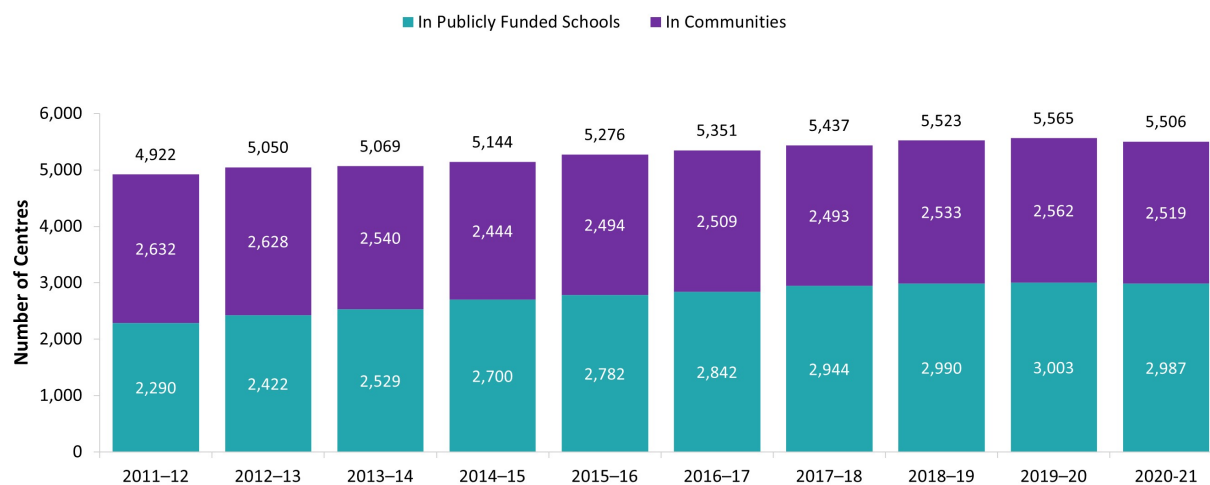
Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of centres opened	8	7	5	0	8	6	0	2	3	4
Number of centres closed	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
	0	4	8	7	8	7	9	8	7	4
	2	9	6	5	6	1	4	6	1	3

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Licensed child care in publicly funded schools and in communities

As of March 31, 2021, 54% of child care centres and 64% of child care spaces were in publicly funded schools. The remaining 46% of child care centres and 36% of child care spaces were located elsewhere in the community. The number of licensed child care centres located in publicly funded schools decreased by 0.6% in 2020-21 compared to the previous year and spaces increased by 0.5% in the same period. Since 2011-12, the number of child care centres located in publicly funded schools has increased by 30% (see Figure 6), and spaces have increased by 137% (see

Figure 7).

Figure 6: Licensed child care centres in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2011-12 to 2020-21

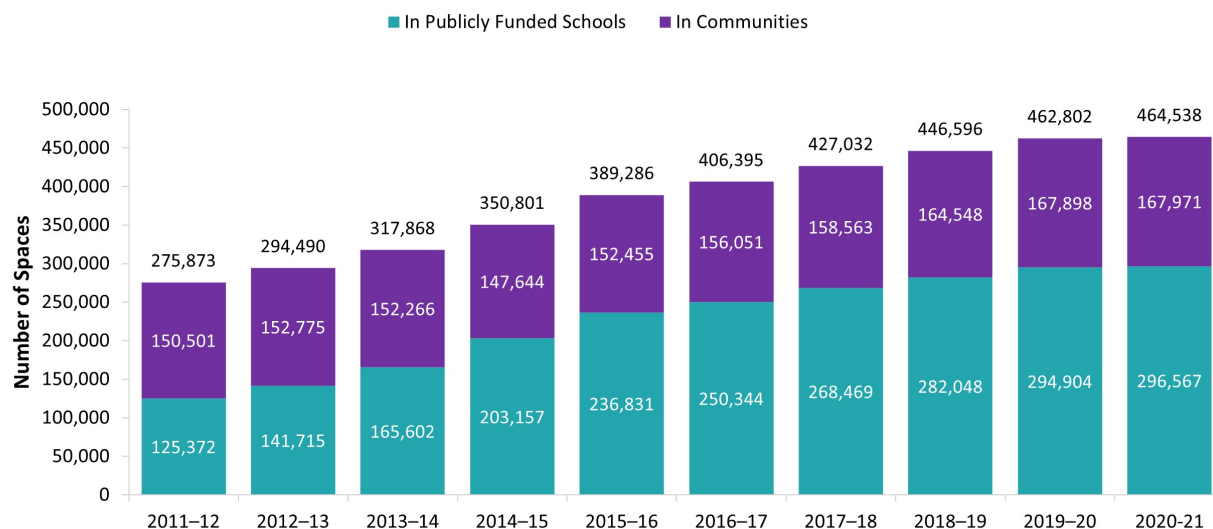
Number of licensed child care centres in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
In Publicly Funded Schools	2,290	2,422	2,529	2,700	2,782	2,842	2,944	2,990	3,003	2,987
In Communities	2,632	2,628	2,540	2,444	2,494	2,509	2,493	2,533	2,562	2,519
Total	4,922	5,050	5,069	5,144	5,276	5,351	5,437	5,523	5,565	5,506

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
In public ly funded schools	2,900	2,420	2,509	2,700	2,802	2,842	2,944	2,900	3,003	2,907
In communities	2,632	2,608	2,540	2,444	2,944	2,509	2,903	2,503	2,562	2,519
Total	4,922	5,055	5,049	5,144	5,746	5,351	5,847	5,403	5,565	5,426

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Figure 7: Licensed child care spaces in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2011-12 to 2020-21



Number of licensed child care spaces in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
In Publicly Funded Schools	125,372	141,715	165,602	203,157	236,831	250,344	268,469	282,048	294,904	296,567
In Communities	150,501	152,775	152,266	147,644	152,455	156,051	158,563	164,548	167,898	167,971
Total	275,873	294,490	317,868	350,801	389,286	406,395	427,032	446,596	462,802	464,538

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
In public ly funded schools	125,372	147,152	166,602	203,577	236,311	254,404	268,909	284,808	294,404	299,677
In communities	150,511	152,707	152,606	147,404	155,505	166,551	185,603	194,408	199,808	197,101
Total	275,883	299,859	319,208	351,001	391,816	420,955	454,512	479,216	494,212	496,778

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

First Nations licensed child care on reserve

As of March 31, 2021, 74 licensed child care centres were operating on 59 First Nations in Ontario. The number of licensed child care spaces on reserve has increased by 5% since 2011-12 (see Table 4).

Table 4: First Nations licensed child care centres and spaces by age group, 2011-12 to 2020-21

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of centres	76	76	74	75	76	76	76	75	75	74
Total number of spaces	31,433	32,111	33,911	34,400	36,099	37,755	38,215	39,899	41,324	43,066

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
S										
Infant	223	232	254	270	296	290	290	290	309	309
Toddler	682	692	702	727	727	727	731	717	747	747
Pre school	1,602	1,622	1,620	1,658	1,641	1,653	1,651	1,629	1,684	1,688
Kin	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Total number of spaces	3,413	3,411	3,491	3,440	3,609	3,675	3,615	3,519	3,742	3,706

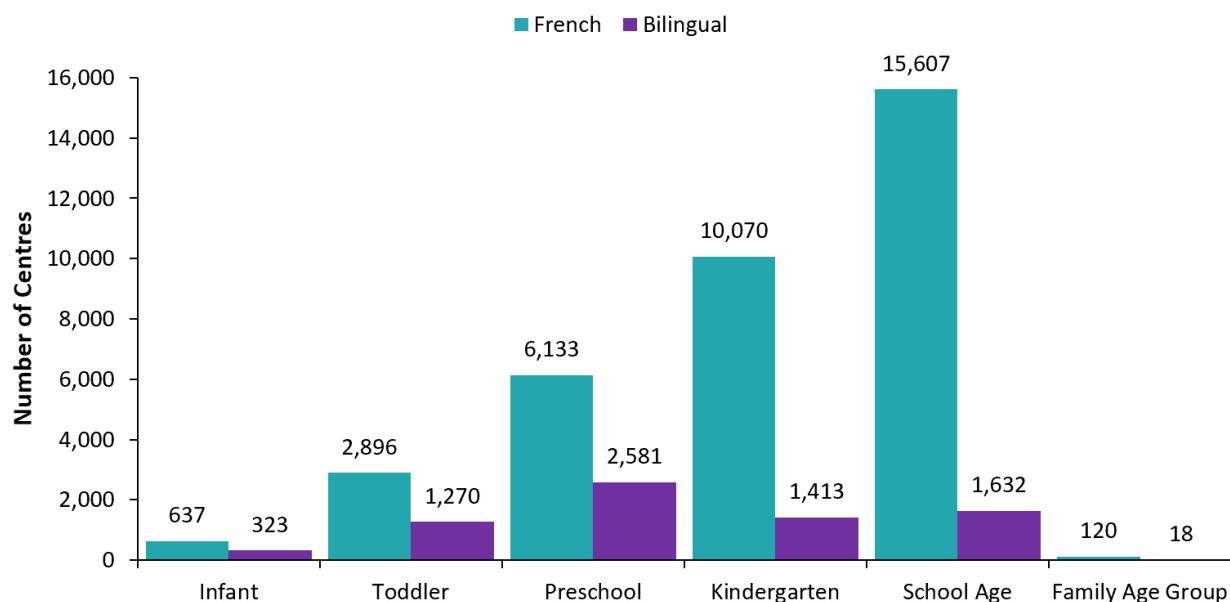
Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
dergarten	97	05	72	77	92	92	27	25	28	08
Schoolage	439	458	443	398	413	413	416	413	459	459
Familyage	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	15	15
Total number of spaces	3,143	3,211	3,191	3,140	3,169	3,175	3,215	3,189	3,342	3,306

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

French-language and bilingual licensed child care

Some licensed child care centres offer services in French or in both English and French (bilingual). In 2020-21, of the 5,506 licensed child care centres, 307 (6%) offered programs in French and 97 (2%) offered bilingual programs. Of the 464,538 licensed child care spaces, 35,463 (8%) were for programs in French and 7,237 (2%) were for bilingual programs. For further details about how these spaces are distributed by age, see Figure 8.

Figure 8: Licensed child care spaces in French-language and bilingual child care by age group, 2020-21



Licensed child care spaces in French-language and bilingual child care by age group

Age	French	Bilingual
Infant	637	323
Toddler	2,896	1,270

Age	French	Bilingual
Preschool	6,133	2,581
Kindergarten	10,070	1,413
School age	15,607	1,632
Family age group	120	18

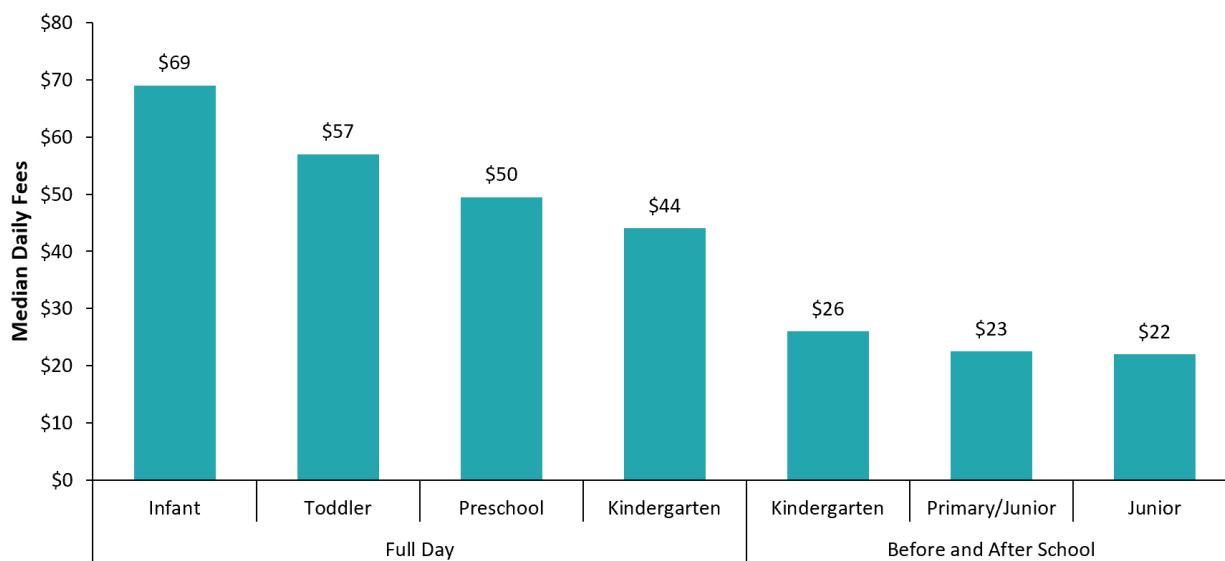
Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Parent fees by age group

In 2021, the most recent year for which data is available, median parent fees among licensed child care centres ranged from \$69 per day for infants to \$22 per day for school-aged children. Median parent fees among licensed home child care agencies ranged from \$47 per day for children under two years of age to \$25 per day for children aged six to 12 years.

Licensed child care continues to be more expensive for younger children than it is for older children. In general, daily parent fees for younger children were higher among licensed child care centres than home child care agencies. Fees for older children were lower in licensed child care centres compared to home child care agencies (see Figures 9 and 10).^[7]

Figure 9: Median daily fees by age group among licensed child care centres, 2021



Median daily fees by age group among licensed child care centres, 2021: Full day

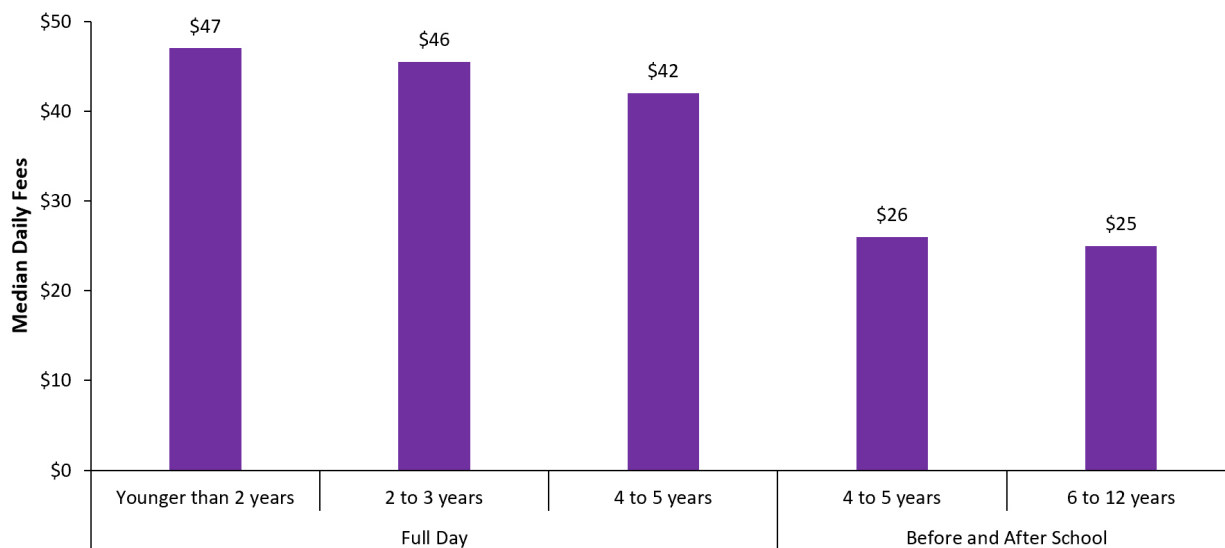
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Kindergarten
\$ 6 9	\$ 5 7	\$ 5 0	\$ 4 4

Median daily fees by age group among licensed child care centres, 2021: Before and after school

Kindergarten	Primary/junior	Junior
\$ 2 6	\$ 2 3	\$ 2 2

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).

Figure 10: Median daily fees by age group among licensed home child care agencies, 2021



**Median daily fees by age group among licensed home child care agencies, 2021:
Full day**

Younger than 2 years	2 to 3 years	4 to 5 years
\$47	\$46	\$42

**Median daily fees by
age group among
licensed home child
care agencies, 2021:
Before and after school**

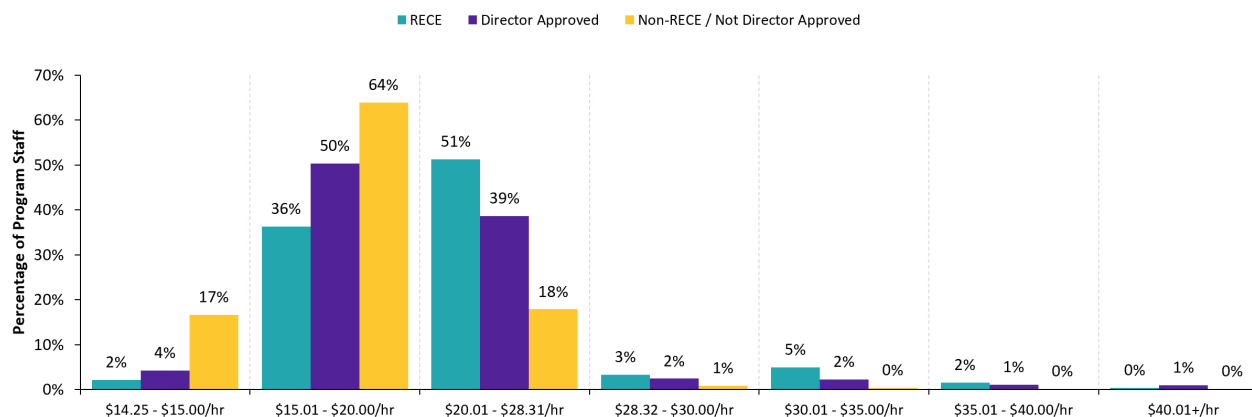
4 to 5 years	6 to 12 years
\$ 2 6	\$ 2 5

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).

Staff wages by category

Program staff fall into one of three categories: Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs), staff approved by a ministry director^[8] and staff who are not RECEs and have not been director-approved. Among full-time RECEs employed by licensed child care centres, 36% earned between \$15 and \$20 per hour and 51% earned between \$20 and \$28 per hour. For the majority of full-time program staff in the other two categories, wages ranged between \$15 and \$20 per hour (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Hourly wages of full-time program staff in licensed child care centres, 2021



Hourly wages of full-time program staff in licensed child care centres, 2021

Wage range	RECE	Director approved	Non-RECE/not director approved
\$14.25-\$15.00	2%	4%	17%
\$15.01-\$20.00	36%	50%	64%
\$20.01-\$28.31	51%	39%	18%
\$28.32-\$30.00	3%	2%	1%
\$30.01-\$35.00	5%	2%	0%

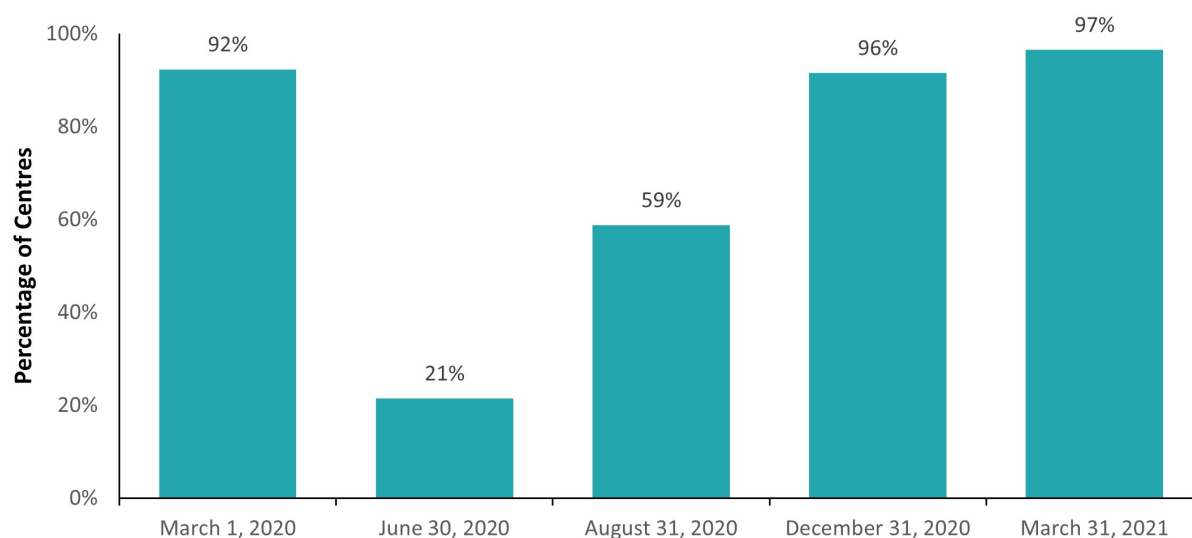
Wage range	REC E	Director approved	Non-RECE/not director approved
\$35.01–\$40.00	2%	1%	0%
\$40.01+	0%	1%	0%

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).

COVID and licensed child care ^[9]

On March 1, 2020, 92% of licensed child care centres reported that they were providing care to children. This percentage declined to 21% on June 30, 2020 and later increased to 59% on August 31, 2020, 96% on December 31, 2020 and 97% the following year on March 31, 2021 (see Figure 12). For licensed home child care agencies, around 90% reported that care was being provided to children on March 1, 2020, August 31, 2020, December 31, 2020, and the following year on March 31, 2021. The percentage was 69% on June 30, 2020 (see Figure 13).

Figure 12: Percentage of licensed child care centres providing care in 2020-2021

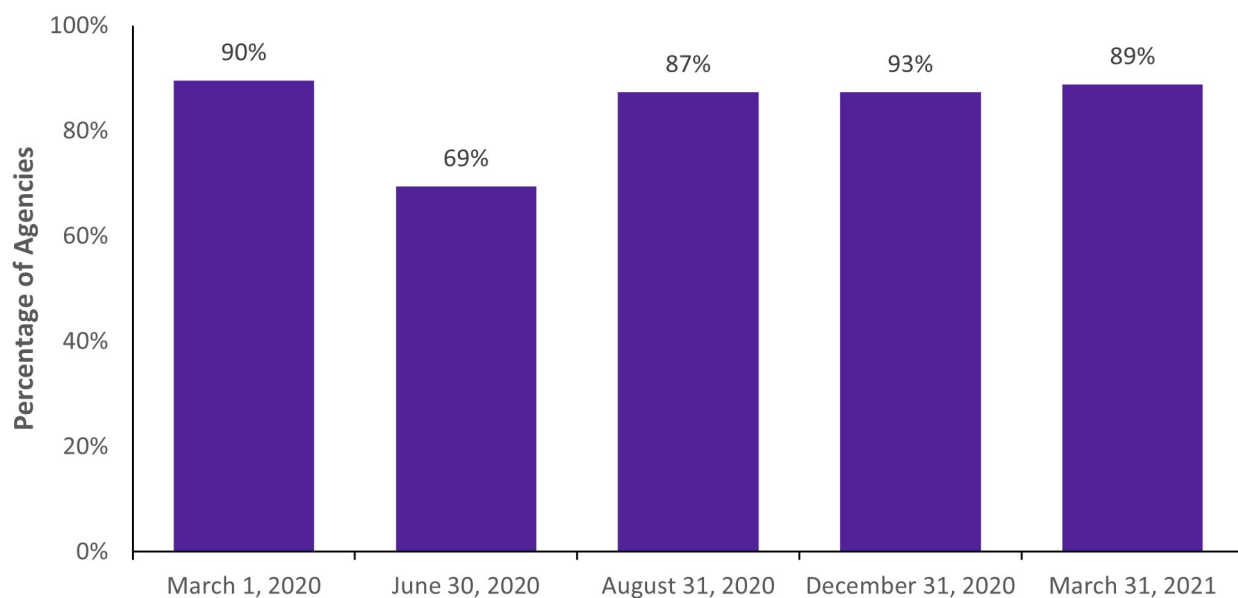


Percentage of licensed child care centres providing care in 2020-2021

	March 2020	June 2020	August 2020	December 2020	March 2021
Percentage of Centres	92%	21%	59%	96%	97%

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education and Child Care Licensing System.

Figure 13: Percentage of home child care agencies providing care in 2020-2021



Percentage of home child care agencies providing care in 2020-2021

	Marc h 2020	June 2020	Augus t 2020	Decem ber 2020	Marc h 2021
Percentage of Agencies	90%	69%	87%	93%	89%

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education and Child Care Licensing System.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer free drop-in programs for caregivers and children from birth to six years old. The centres are open to all families in Ontario and offer a range of services:

- activities such as reading, storytelling, games and sing-alongs
- advice from professionals trained in early childhood development
- information about other family services in the community
- opportunities to connect with other families with young children

The ministry's EarlyON Child and Family Centre web page (<https://www.ontario.ca/earlyon>) allows parents and caregivers to find child and family programs in their communities.

The CMSMs and DSSABs assumed responsibility for EarlyON Child and Family Centres in January 2018. These service system managers are responsible for the local management of EarlyON centres as part of their responsibility for the management of child care and other human services.

As of March 2021, there were 1,083 EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations across

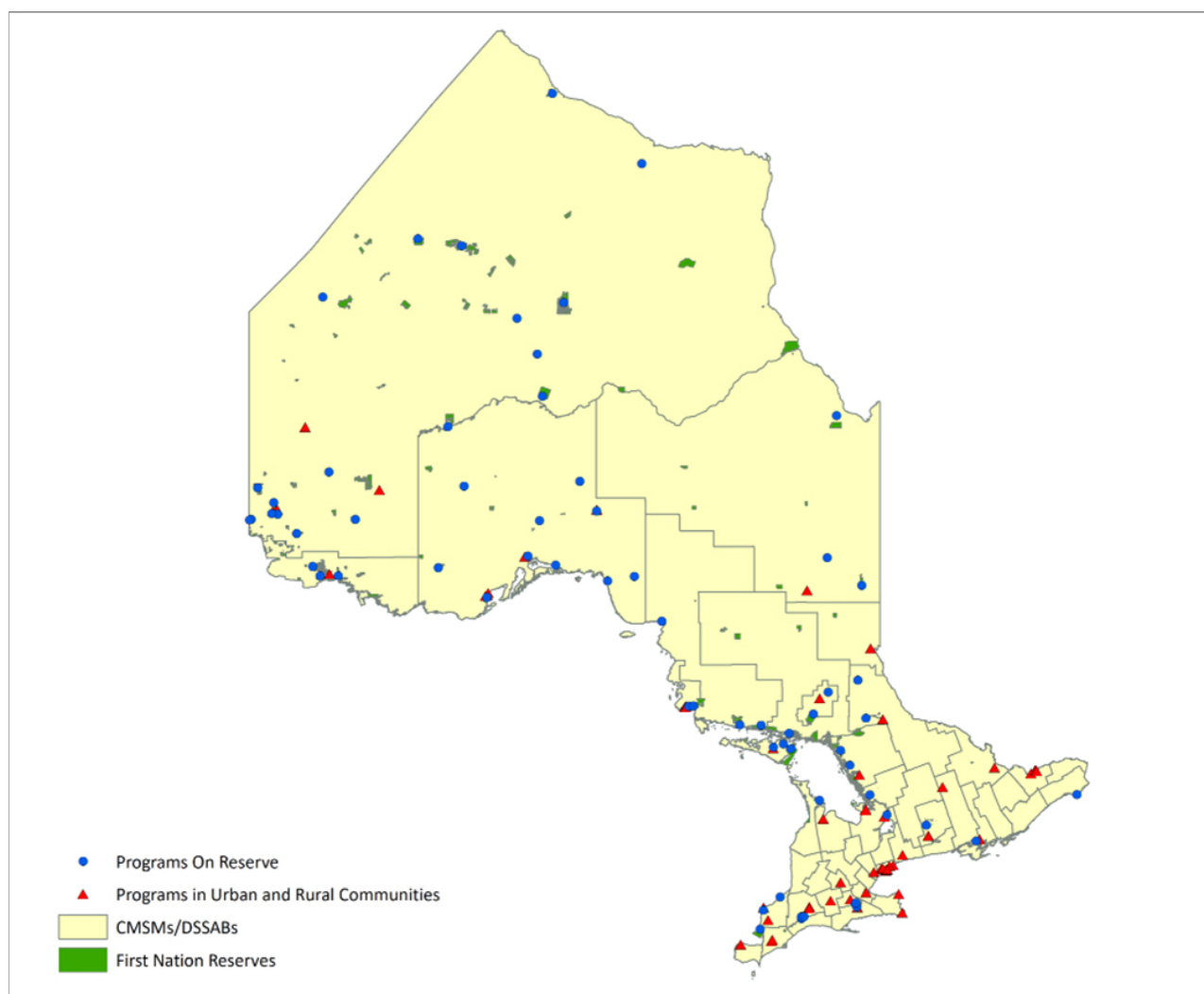
Ontario, of which 419 were main EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations and 664 were mobile/satellite EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations. In addition, there were 198 EarlyON Child and Family Centres offering virtual services and supports to meet the needs of families across the province.

Of the total number of EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations, 381 offer non-standard hours, 132 offer French-language programming, and 176 offer Indigenous programming.^[10]

Indigenous-led programs and programs on reserve

As part of Ontario's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the ministry established or enhanced 65 programs in First Nation communities (five enhanced and 60 new child and family programs) and 61 programs in urban and rural communities (10 child care programs, 14 joint child care and child and family programs, and 37 child and family programs). See Figure 14.

Figure 14: Indigenous-led child care and child and family programs



Map of Ontario showing the locations of Indigenous-led child care and child and family programs.

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-88.5161254 7	52.7455149 3
Program on reserve	-88.0114418 8	52.2045840 8

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-94.5434400 8	49.8924476 1
Program on reserve	-82.4933591 2	42.5919342 5
Program on reserve	-92.9405316 7	48.7109575
Program on reserve	-80.0721157 6	46.9731954 4
Program on reserve	-85.4210138 4	55.0087808 8
Program on reserve	-80.8329786 6	49.0029129 9
Program on reserve	-81.7760262 3	46.0661638 8
Program on reserve	-79.7773826 3	44.9946850 3
Program on reserve	-94.4464281 3	49.7077206 4

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-84.9271644 8	47.961158
Program on reserve	-90.2297474 5	51.0918339 1
Program on reserve	-90.4693148 4	48.8388966 2
Program on reserve	-94.9431542 8	50.1299166 4
Program on reserve	-87.8880625 6	51.5588981 8
Program on reserve	-79.8738611 6	46.3234159
Program on reserve	-88.2453226 9	49.0289079 4
Program on reserve	-77.1414052 6	44.1857301 7
Program on reserve	-79.9743632	48.5500959 7

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-80.8112365 2	46.7729605 4
Program on reserve	-80.0951481	43.0000181 3
Program on reserve	-87.5572374 5	48.8831669 6
Program on reserve	-82.4681282	46.2020659 9
Program on reserve	-92.5215155 7	49.6254756 2
Program on reserve	-87.6347388 6	55.9906618 2
Program on reserve	-86.9575084 7	50.2321911 9
Program on reserve	-84.2615243 1	46.5285047 4
Program on reserve	-81.4683008 2	42.7879923 3

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-81.4733878 3	42.8189833 4
Program on reserve	-93.1764617 9	50.3795143 4
Program on reserve	-80.1356987 4	43.0551821 8
Program on reserve	-87.9590584 9	49.6026150 4
Program on reserve	-81.9155736 8	45.8833198
Program on reserve	-84.1502000 2	46.5368493 3
Program on reserve	-90.9721470 7	53.9240385 8
Program on reserve	-82.4160557	42.9359950 4
Program on reserve	-95.0993102 5	49.6256471 3

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-80.2734522 2	45.5139842 7
Program on reserve	-80.5007567 9	45.7694078 9
Program on reserve	-93.3861826 4	48.711037
Program on reserve	-85.6087404 6	48.6979907 1
Program on reserve	-80.6005164 8	51.2626327 2
Program on reserve	-93.5732235 5	48.8613828 8
Program on reserve	-74.6454136 6	44.9997492 1
Program on reserve	-94.5871444 2	49.7145092
Program on reserve	-81.4097598 1	42.8194253 4

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-81.7280896 2	45.7975417 3
Program on reserve	-93.9729611 9	49.3947138 5
Program on reserve	-86.5442422 6	49.7579201 5
Program on reserve	-89.884895	53.823251
Program on reserve	-82.1618173 3	45.8254718 2
Program on reserve	-78.3753068 6	44.4625316 2
Program on reserve	-80.1175150 7	43.0704071 1
Program on reserve	-89.2626760 4	48.3543357 1
Program on reserve	-81.0268228 7	44.9030317 2
Program on reserve	-81.9988149 9	43.1783918 1

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-82.9986283 6	46.2083466 2
Program on reserve	-81.1787602 3	46.3979790 2
Program on reserve	-79.35127	44.6466580 3
Program on reserve	-86.2690078 5	48.6260545
Program on reserve	-87.3603034 2	52.9840515 6
Program on reserve	-93.3276570 9	53.0630880 5
Program on reserve	-95.1357447 5	49.6139933 8
Program on reserve	-89.4499914 2	50.2833521 8
Program in urban and rural community	-93.3983222 7	48.6113280 4

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-78.9635041 8	43.9353371 6
Program in urban and rural community	-80.9276522 1	44.5764110 4
Program in urban and rural community	-79.8758892 6	44.7438920 3
Program in urban and rural community	-79.4180381 9	44.6129161 7
Program in urban and rural community	-79.8858152 5	44.7276951 8
Program in urban and rural community	-80.7431942 5	43.1130951 4
Program in urban and rural community	-82.4085761 5	42.9894422 5
Program in urban and rural community	-80.4926170 5	43.4475230 2
Program in urban and rural community	-82.2089270 3	42.3803010 9

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-82.1858692 4	42.4042230 1
Program in urban and rural community	-81.2679470 2	43.0057972 5
Program in urban and rural community	-75.6861820 5	45.4264782 4
Program in urban and rural community	-75.7792330 3	45.3732502 1
Program in urban and rural community	-75.6602570 3	45.4312842 5
Program in urban and rural community	-75.659067	45.4371690 6
Program in urban and rural community	-76.6892240 5	45.4727550 9
Program in urban and rural community	-77.0565151 6	44.2178271 2
Program in urban and rural community	-77.9736660 6	45.140287

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-81.3301941 2	48.4708322 4
Program in urban and rural community	-82.1636270 9	45.8116882 3
Program in urban and rural community	-84.3569800 2	46.5204320 2
Program in urban and rural community	-81.0163070 9	46.6671110 8
Program in urban and rural community	-79.4489390 4	46.3071652 3
Program in urban and rural community	-94.4860459 9	49.7657008 7
Program in urban and rural community	-88.3139008 4	49.0253668 5
Program in urban and rural community	-86.5349377 5	49.7815039
Program in urban and rural community	-89.2483248	48.3944310 4

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-89.2902109 9	48.3809461 1
Program in urban and rural community	-94.5588778 7	49.7559169 6
Program in urban and rural community	-79.3794942	43.6532731 8
Program in urban and rural community	-79.1909611	43.7511480 6
Program in urban and rural community	-79.3698212 5	43.6691550 2
Program in urban and rural community	-79.2880610 3	43.7386081 5
Program in urban and rural community	-79.4908921 2	43.6865740 4
Program in urban and rural community	-79.4484332 1	43.6915851 3
Program in urban and rural community	-79.3358950 4	43.6792272 3

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-78.3263361 3	44.2783501 1
Program in urban and rural community	-78.3221702 5	44.2776651 3
Program in urban and rural community	-79.8672531 2	43.2627521 2
Program in urban and rural community	-78.9703080 9	42.8985050 6
Program in urban and rural community	-80.0832800 5	42.9940460 3
Program in urban and rural community	-82.9751002 5	42.3150112 4
Program in urban and rural community	-80.2577041 7	43.1389771 2
Program in urban and rural community	-79.0609831 6	43.2381532 5
Program in urban and rural community	-81.2757102 1	42.9813051 9

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-79.7490940 6	47.5082341 3
Program in urban and rural community	-94.5588778 7	49.7559169 6
Program in urban and rural community	-93.7591629 3	51.0864828 6
Program in urban and rural community	-79.6746630 3	43.6305060 2
Program in urban and rural community	-79.8751801 7	44.7496091
Program in urban and rural community	-82.2961730 6	42.7631040 6
Program in urban and rural community	-75.6404320 2	45.4105502 5
Program in urban and rural community	-80.0347862 1	45.3490060 1
Program in urban and rural community	-84.3195290 8	46.5326971 1

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-84.3292741	46.51159521
Program in urban and rural community	-79.44893904	46.30716523
Program in urban and rural community	-94.45251774	49.78325394
Program in urban and rural community	-91.92008182	50.098065
Program in urban and rural community	-89.22810985	48.43004015
Program in urban and rural community	-80.942178	44.568058

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education; Statistics Canada.

Early years developmental health and well-being

Information on children's developmental health and well-being prior to Grade 1 is collected throughout the province using the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI is a questionnaire that teachers complete about the skills and abilities of each of their Year 2 (senior) kindergarten students. It measures developmental health and well-being across five domains:

- physical health and well-being
- social competence

- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive development
- communication skills and general knowledge

The EDI is used as a population measure (such as, a measure of whole populations based on geographical or administrative boundaries) by the ministry, municipalities, school boards, and community organizations to inform decision-making and plan early years programs and services. The ministry uses the EDI as a key indicator to monitor the state of young children in Ontario.

Since 2004, the EDI has been collected across the province in three-year cycles:

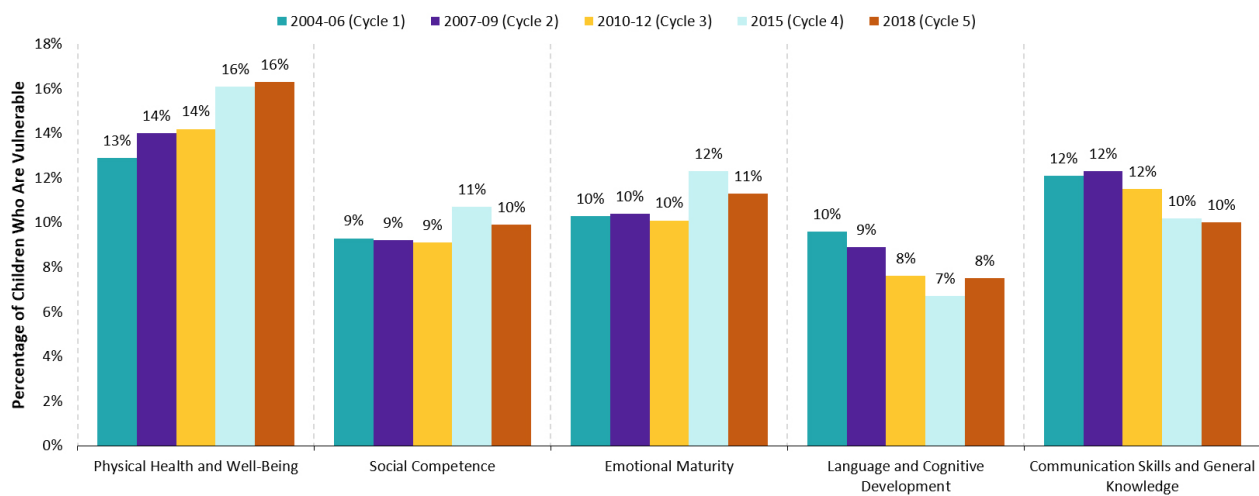
- over a three-year period for Cycle 1 (2004-06), Cycle 2 (2007-09) and Cycle 3 (2010-12)
- in a single year, every three years, for Cycle 4 (2015) and Cycle 5 (2018)^[11]

EDI results can be compared over time to get a sense of how young children's developmental health and well-being is changing in Ontario. Examining the percentage of vulnerable children^[12] by domain is a way of monitoring areas where children's level of difficulty in meeting age appropriate developmental expectations may change over time (see Figure 15). The results can also be combined to look at all those who are vulnerable in **one or more** of the five domains (see Figure 16). Combining domains in this way provides a fuller picture and captures those children who may be vulnerable in single domains or in multiple domains.

Overall, results remained relatively stable between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5. In 2018, 70.4% of children were considered developmentally ready when they entered Grade 1, compared to 70.6% in 2015.

Additional information about the EDI is available from the Offord Centre for Child Studies (<https://edi.offordcentre.com/>) at McMaster University.

Figure 15: Percentage of vulnerable children by EDI domain, 2004-18



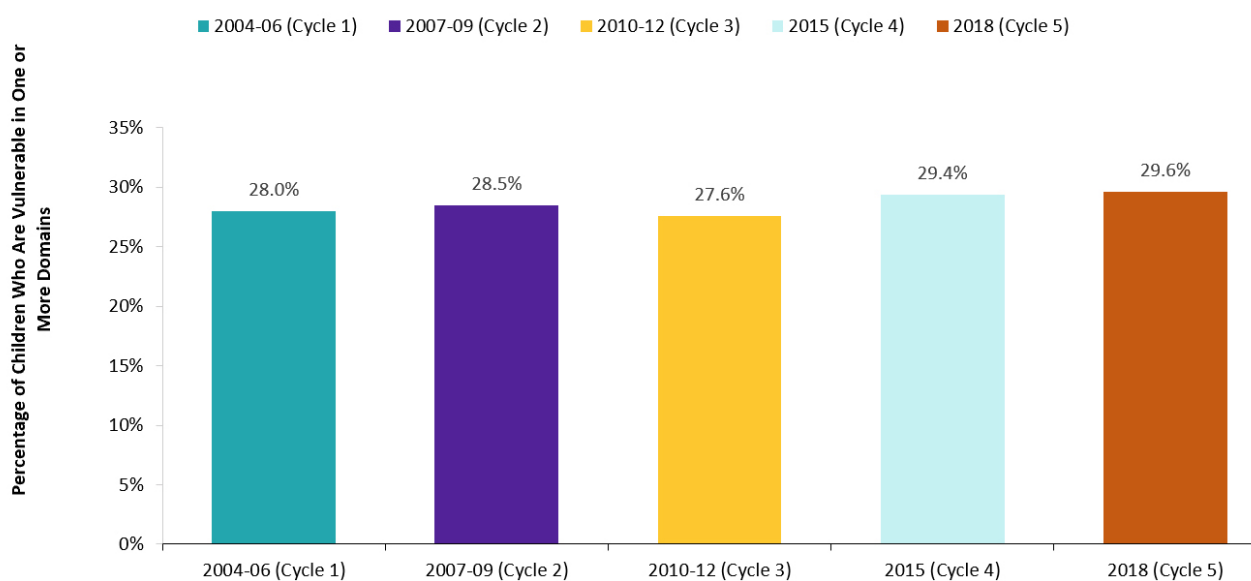
Percentage of vulnerable children by EDI domain, 2004-18

Cycle	2004-06 (Cycle 1)	2007-09 (Cycle 2)	2010-12 (Cycle 3)	2015 (Cycle 4)	2018 (Cycle 5)
Physical health and well-being	13%	14%	14%	16%	16%
Social competence	9%	9%	9%	11%	10%
Emotional maturity	10%	10%	10%	12%	11%
Language and cognitive development	10%	9%	8%	7%	8%

Cycle	2004-06 (Cycle 1)	2007-09 (Cycle 2)	2010-12 (Cycle 3)	2015 (Cycle 4)	2018 (Cycle 5)
Communication skills and general knowledge	12%	12%	12%	10%	10%

Data source: Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University.

Figure 16: Percentage of children who are vulnerable in one or more EDI domains, 2004-18



Percentage of children who are vulnerable in one or more EDI domains, 2004-18

Cycle	Percentage of children vulnerable in one or more domains
2004-06 (Cycle 1)	28.0%
2007-09 (Cycle 2)	28.5%
2010-12 (Cycle 3)	27.6%
2015 (Cycle 4)	29.4%
2018 (Cycle 5)	29.6%

Data source: Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University.

Part 3: Indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

The federal government committed \$400 million in their 2016 budget, and an additional \$7 billion over 10 years in their 2017 budget, to establish a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/early-learning-child-care/reports/2017-multilateral-framework.html>) with provinces and territories. Under the framework, the federal government and these provinces and territories agreed to work together over time to

achieve broad long-term goals for early learning and child care systems that are high quality, accessible, affordable, flexible, and inclusive. These provinces and territories also agreed to report annually on progress made in relation to the framework and on the impact of federal funding, while reflecting the priorities of each jurisdiction in early learning and child care.

On June 12, 2017, Ontario was the first province to sign an agreement under the framework, known as the three-year Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (<https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/ontario-2017.html>) . Under the agreement, the federal government agreed to allocate \$439 million to Ontario over three years (that is, 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20).^[13] Annual investments include:^[14]

- \$100 million to support access for children and families to child care
- \$40 million to support access to EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- \$6 million to support innovative approaches that provide access to high quality training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce

In July 2020, the federal and provincial governments agreed on a one-year extension of the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, which allocated nearly \$147 million in 2020-21 for early learning and child care investments. In August 2021, the federal and provincial governments agreed on a four-year renewal of the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Under the renewal, Ontario will receive nearly \$147 million in federal funding in 2021-22 to continue early learning and child care investments in the province, and the annual funding will gradually increase to \$211 million in 2023-24.

This section highlights Ontario's progress in working towards increasing quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusion in early learning and child care under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. For more about the indicators that are being used to measure Ontario's progress, see Appendix: List of Indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Expenditures and actions

Under the agreement, Ontario received \$146.7 million in federal funding in the 2020-21 fiscal year and \$8.5 million was carried forwarded from the 2019-20 fiscal

year. Ontario's actual expenditures in the 2020-21 fiscal year were \$155 million.^[15]

The 2020-21 funding supported the following three action areas:

- increasing access to affordable, high quality licensed child care
- increasing access to EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- innovative approaches to providing access to high quality training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce

Table 5: Canada-Ontario early learning and child care agreement expenditures and actions for 2020-21

Are as	Federal allocations	Actions	Ac tu al ex pe nd itu res [16]
Lice nse d chil d car e	Ontario allocated \$100 million of the federal funding for increased subsidies and access to licensed child care in Ontario. ^[17] There are two components to this investment, including \$80 million for children aged 0-6, and \$20 million to support access to affordable	The federal funding was provided to service system managers through provincial-municipal service agreements. In December 2020, service system managers received consolidated 2021 service agreement and funding guidelines for licensed child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres, including funding under the Canada-	\$1 11. 5 mil lio n

	child care across the system based on local priorities.	Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.	
EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Ontario allocated \$40.3 million of the federal funding to support EarlyON Child and Family Programs across the province.	The federal funding was provided to service system managers to support 1,083 EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations across Ontario.	\$40.3 million
Professional development	Ontario allocated \$2 million of the federal funding to increase the number of students supported through the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program.	The federal funding was provided through grants that were made available for 2020-21 to support individuals working in eligible early years and child care settings to obtain an early childhood education diploma and/or leadership certification.	\$2.0 million
Professional development	Ontario allocated \$1.5 million of the federal funding to support professional learning for the early years and child care workforce.	This funding supports culturally relevant professional learning strategies for Francophone and First Nation, Metis, Inuit and Indigenous staff.	\$1.5 million

Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education

Licensed child care indicators

The indicators reported in this section are reflective of the areas of investment under the agreement for increasing quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusion in licensed child care (see Appendix: List of Indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement).

Quality

Staff qualifications

Ontario Regulation 137/15 under the Child Care and Early Years Act (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>), 2014 sets out the minimum requirements for staff qualifications in licensed child care centres and home child care agencies, including requirements for the ratio of employees to children, the maximum number of children in a group, and the proportions of employees that must be qualified employees in licensed child care centres, which varies for different age groups (see Table 6). The minimum requirements are as follows:

A **supervisor** shall be a person who:

- is a member in good standing of the College of Early Childhood Educators, has at least two years of experience providing licensed child care and is approved by a ministry director
- in the opinion of a director, is capable of planning and directing the program of a child care centre, being in charge of children and overseeing staff

A **qualified employee** for any licensed age group shall be a person who is:

- an employee who is a member in good standing of the College of Early Childhood Educators
- an employee who is otherwise approved by a director

With respect to a licensed junior school age group or a licensed primary/junior school age group that includes only children who are junior school age, the following are also qualified employees:

- an employee who has a diploma or degree in child and youth care

- an employee who has a diploma or degree in recreation and leisure services
- an employee who is a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers

A **home child care visitor** is an employee of a home child care agency who monitors and provides support at licensed home child care locations. A home child care visitor shall be a person who:

- is a member in good standing of the College of Early Childhood Educators, has at least two years of experience working with children under 13 years old, and is approved by a director
- is, in the opinion of a director, capable of providing support and supervision at a home child care premises

Table 6: Staff/child ratios, group sizes and proportion of employees that must be qualified employees for different age categories in licensed child centre-based care

Age categories	Age range	Ratio of employees to children	Maximum number of children in group	Proportion of employees that must be qualified employees
Infant	Younger than 18 months	3 to 10	10	1/3
Toddler	18 months or older but younger than	1 to 5	15	1/3

Age categories	Age range	Ratio of employees to children	Maximum number of children in group	Proportion of employees that must be qualified employees
	30 months			
Preschool	30 months or older but younger than 6 years	1 to 8	24	2/3
Kindergarten	44 months or older but younger than 7 years	1 to 13	26	1/2
Primary/junior school age	68 months or older but younger than 13 years	1 to 15	30	1/2

Age categories	Age range	Ratio of employees to children	Maximum number of children in group	Proportion of employees that must be qualified employees
Junior school age	9 years or older but younger than 13 years	1 to 20	20	1/1

Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education

For further information about child care rules in Ontario see Child Care Rules in Ontario. (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-rules-ontario>)

The ministry monitors and enforces staff qualification requirements in all licensed child care centres and home child care agencies. Centres and agencies meet the requirements by employing supervisors, staff and home child care visitors who are RECEs, or through director approvals as described above. It is estimated that:^[18]

- 80% of licensed child care centres employed RECEs for supervisor positions
- 96% of licensed home child care agencies employed RECEs for all home child care visitor positions

In 2021, the most recent year for which there is data available, there were 28,412 full-time program staff employed by licensed child care centres of which 17,470 (61%) were RECEs.^[19]

Pedagogical framework

How does learning happen: Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, 2014

(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-does-learning-happen-ontarios-pedagogy-early-years>) is a professional learning resource for those working in child care and child and family programs. It supports pedagogy and program development in early years settings that is shaped by views about children, educators, and families, and the relationships among them. Additional regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>) , 2014 are also in place to help child care licensees embed How does learning happen into practice.

As of March 31, 2021, all licensed child care centres and home child care agencies had achieved compliance with the requirements regarding the development and implementation of a program statement that is consistent with How does learning happen either before their licence was first issued or before it was renewed. The ministry continues to support the implementation of the How does learning happen pedagogy in licensed child care programs in the province.

In 2020, the ministry released Building on how does learning happen: pedagogical approaches to re-opening early years and child care programs in Ontario (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-does-learning-happen-ontarios-pedagogy-early-years>) to support providers and staff in engaging with children and families while adhering to health and safety measures.

Access

As of March 31, 2021, there were 464,538 licensed child care spaces in centres across the province, with 1,736 spaces added to the system over the previous year (see Table 7). It is estimated that there are enough spaces in licensed child care centres for 24% of children in the province.^[20]

Table 7: Ontario child population, licensed spaces and percentage of children with access to licensed child care, 2016-17 to 2020-21

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Child population	1,970,000	1,970,000	1,970,000	1,970,000	1,970,000

	201 6-17	201 7-18	201 8-19	201 9-20	202 0-21
aged 0-12	39 , 255	50 , 021	58 , 652	62 , 683	62 , 250
Spaces in licensed child care centres	406 , 39 5	427 , 03 2	446 , 59 6	462 , 80 2	464 , 53 8
Percentage of children aged 0-12 for whom there are licensed child care spaces ^[21]	21 . 0%	21 . 9%	22 . 8%	23 . 6%	23 . 7%

Data source: Child population data from Spring 2021 population projections, Ontario Ministry of Finance, and space data from Child Care Licensing System (CCLS), Ontario Ministry of Education.

Affordability

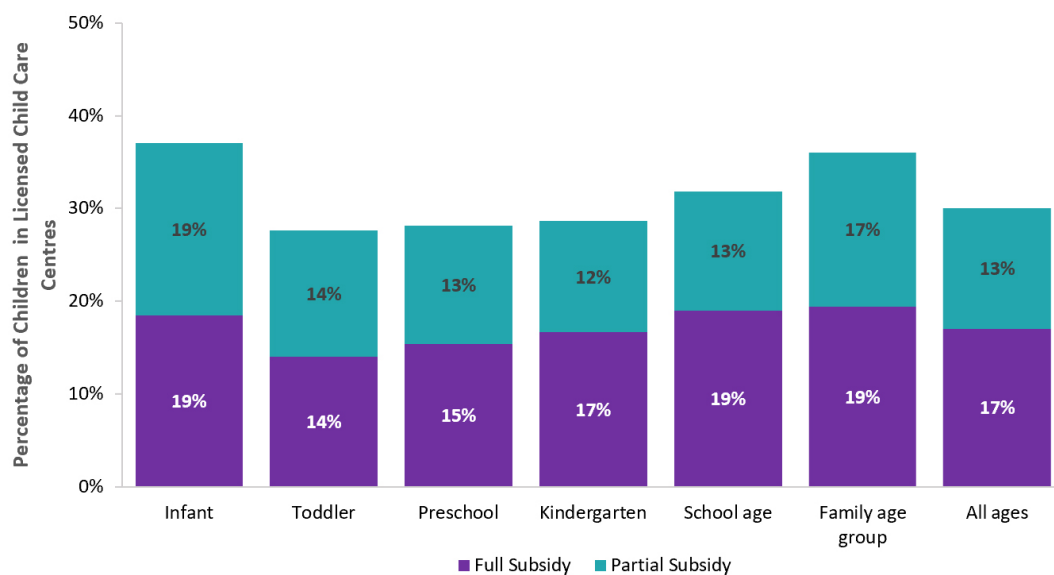
The funding under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement supports new full and/or partial fee subsidies and increased access through the following priorities:

- supporting children aged 0–6 years through additional fee subsidies, increased access, broadly reducing licensed child care fees and by increasing affordability and/or not-for-profit community-based capital projects (excluding capital projects for child care programs that run during school hours for kindergarten and school age children)
- supporting children aged 0–12 years through additional fee subsidies, increased access and/or broadly reducing licensed child care fees and by increasing affordability

In 2021, the most recent year for which there is data available, approximately 30% of

children in licensed child care centres received a subsidy (see Figure 17), as did 54% of children in licensed home child care (see Figure 18).

Figure 17: Percentage of children in licensed child care centres receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2021



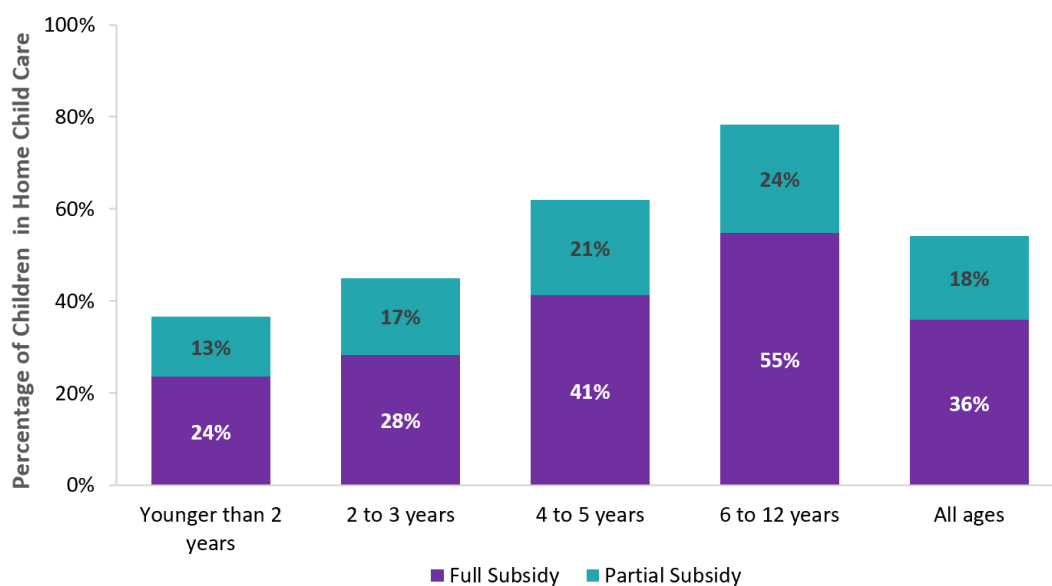
Percentage of children in licensed child care centres receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2021

Subsidy type	Full subsidy	Partial subsidy
Infant	19%	19%
Toddler	14%	14%
Preschool	15%	13%

Subsidy type	Full subsidy	Partial subsidy
Kindergarten	17%	12%
School age	19%	13%
Family age group	19%	17%
All ages	17%	13%

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).

Figure 18: Percentage of children in licensed home child care receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2021



Percentage of children in licensed home child care receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2021

Subsidy type	Full subsidy	Partial subsidy
Younger than 2 years	24%	13%
2 to 3 years	28%	17%
4 to 5 years	41%	21%
6 to 12 years	55%	24%
All ages	36%	18%

Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).

In 2019, the most recent year for which there is data available, 150,474 children in Ontario received fee subsidies.^[22] A total of 9,480 children were supported through funding distributed to meet the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement priorities of increased access, increased affordability, fee subsidies, and community-based capital projects.^[23]

It is estimated that 72% of children who receive fee subsidies live in families with incomes of \$40,000 and below (see Table 8).

Table 8: Percentage of children receiving fee subsidies by family income, 2019^[24]

Family income	Percentage
\$20,000 and below	38%
\$20,001 - \$40,000	34%
\$40,001 - \$60,000	18%
\$60,001 - \$80,000	6%
\$80,001 - \$100,000	2%
\$100,000 and above	1%
Total	100%

Data source: Education Finance Information System (estimated percentages), Ontario Ministry of Education.

Flexibility and inclusion

Non-standard hours

Flexibility in child care service delivery is important for meeting the needs of parents and caregivers who work non-standard schedules. In Ontario, a small proportion of licensed child care centres and home child care providers offer care during non-standard hours. ^[25] Approximately:

- 9% of child care centres reported the availability of weekend care and less than 1% reported the availability of care during the evening or overnight
- 10% of home child care providers reported the availability of weekend care,

11% reported the availability of evening care and 6% reported the availability of overnight care

Special needs resourcing

The province provides Special Needs Resourcing funding to service system managers and First Nations to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings, including home child care, camps, and authorized recreation programs, at no additional cost to parents/guardians. Under *Ontario Regulation 138/15*, a “child with special needs” means a child whose cognitive, physical, social, emotional, or communicative needs, or whose needs relating to overall development, are of such a nature that additional supports are required for the child. A total of 37,508 children were funded through Special Needs Resourcing between January 1 and December 31, 2019, the most recent year for which there is data available. ^[26]

Indigenous-led child care centres

A total of 22 licensed child care centres reported that they were Indigenous-led organizations operating in urban and rural communities. ^[27]

French-language and bilingual child care

As of March 31, 2021, a total of 307 centres offered French-language programs and 97 centres offered bilingual programs.

Children in licensed child care by income

The ministry does not collect income data from families that enroll their children in licensed child care. This indicator is estimated using the number of licensed child care spaces in the province and data on the distribution of families across income levels from Statistics Canada.

As of March 31, 2021, there were 464,538 licensed child care spaces for children aged 0–12 years in Ontario. Approximately 21.6% of families with children in the province earned a family income below \$40,000, 39.7% earned between \$40,000 and \$100,000, and 38.7% earned above \$100,000. ^[28]

It is estimated, based on the income distribution, that:

- more than 100,000 spaces are used by children from families with income below \$40,000
- about 185,000 spaces are used by children from families with income between \$40,000 and \$100,000
- about 180,000 are used by children from families with income above \$100,000

EarlyON Child and Family Centres indicators

The indicators reported in this section are reflective of the areas of investment under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for increasing quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusion in child and family centres (see Appendix: List of Indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement).

Quality

Staff qualifications

Experiences in EarlyON Child and Family Centres are designed to foster positive outcomes and support nurturing relationships for children and their parents and caregivers based on the latest evidence and research. Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) play a key role in delivering high quality early years programs because they have specialized knowledge and expertise in child development and in play- and inquiry-based learning.

Every EarlyON Child and Family Centre should employ at least one RECE, who oversees all mandatory core services related to supporting early learning and development. If an EarlyON Child and Family Centre is unable to recruit at least one RECE to deliver these core services, the service system manager may grant an exemption from the requirement but must report the number of exemptions to the ministry.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres must ensure that they have at least one RECE on staff by January 1, 2023. However, EarlyON staff who are not RECEs but have more than 10 years of experience in relevant programs can be employed to meet this staffing requirement through a new grandparenting provision.

Pedagogical framework

EarlyON Child and Family Centres are expected to provide programs that reflect the view of children, parents and caregivers, and educators as competent, capable, curious, and rich in potential and experience. Guided by *How does learning happen: Ontario's pedagogy for the early years*, EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer an environment that engages parents and caregivers as co-learners and leaders in influencing positive child, family, and community experiences and outcomes.

Access, affordability, flexibility, and inclusion

As of March 2021, there were 1,083 EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations across Ontario, of which 419 were main EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations and 664 were mobile/satellite EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations. In addition, there were approximately 198 EarlyON Child and Family Centres offering virtual services supports to meet the needs of families across the province.

Of the total number of locations, 381 locations offered non-standard hours, 132 offered French-language programming and 176 offered Indigenous programming.

As of Summer 2020, 81 new EarlyON Child and Family rooms in 45 locations were either complete or in the process of being established. These capital projects were initially approved in 2017-18 through the Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program, with the EarlyON Child and Family Centre portion of the capital projects funded under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

The ministry is also monitoring EarlyON expansion supported through operating funding under the agreement. In 2018-19, the ministry allocated approximately \$8.6 million to service system managers for community-based EarlyON Child and Family Centre funding needs, including:

- capital costs associated with previously approved projects
- first-time equipping
- minor capital renovations
- supplies to support the delivery and daily operation of programs
- maintenance

In 2019, the most recent year for which there is data available, 384,851 children were served by child and family programs at EarlyON centres,^[29] or approximately 38% of children in the province aged 0-6 years.^[30] In the same year, there were 2,590,151 visits made by children to EarlyON centres, and 2,105,538 visits made by parents and caregivers.^[31]

Table 9: Number of children served and visits to child and family programs, 2018 to 2019

Item	2018	2019	Per cent change
Number of children served	401,116	384,851	-4.1%
Number of visits by children	2,733,002	2,590,151	-5.2%
Number of visits by parents or caregivers	2,083,118	2,105,538	1.1%

Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education.

Professional learning indicators

The indicators reported in this section are reflective of the area of investment under the agreement for innovative approaches to providing access to high quality training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce (see Appendix: List of Indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement).

Early childhood educators qualifications upgrade program

This program enables individuals working in eligible child care and early years

settings to apply for grants to support them in obtaining an early childhood education diploma and becoming eligible to apply for membership with the College of Early Childhood Educators. The program also provides opportunities for leadership development, targeted to those who are working in supervisory roles or who aspire to do so, and who are already RECEs. In addition, the program prioritizes funding for Francophone and First Nations, Métis and Inuit applicants, as well as individuals working under director approvals or Letters of Permission.

Financial support is available to eligible applicants in the form of education grants, travel grants, and training allowances.

In 2020-21, the ministry allocated \$3.5 million in provincial funding and \$2 million in federal funding for the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program. The ministry continues to work towards expanding access to the program to increase the number of RECEs in child care and early years programs. For example, part-time students (in addition to full-time students) are now eligible for direct sponsorship, where the grant program pays the school directly for the cost of tuition fees rather than requiring the students to pay up front and be reimbursed. In 2020-21, a total of 2,036 applications were approved under the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program, an increase of 30% from 2018-19.^[32]

Professional learning strategy for Francophone and Indigenous professionals

Given that the professional learning needs are often heightened in Francophone and Indigenous communities and fewer supports are available, focused professional learning opportunities have been provided to better meet needs through more targeted, differentiated cultural and regional approaches.

In 2020-2021, the ministry allocated \$1.5 million in federal funding to three organizations to support three professional learning for Francophone and Indigenous professionals in the early years and child care sector. This funding was allocated to the following organizations:

- Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (AFÉSEO) for early years and child care professionals working in francophone settings
- FIREFLY for early years and child care professionals in First Nations communities on-reserve

- Ontario Aboriginal Head Start Association (OAHS) for early years and child care professionals working with First Nation, Metis, Inuit or Indigenous off-reserve settings

Funds provided to these organizations aim to enhance culturally relevant programming and the delivery of high-quality child care and early years programs, in alignment with How does learning happen. The organizations also create linkages to and/or develop professional learning resources that are responsive to the needs of the sector.

Appendix: List of indicators under the Agreement

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment ^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
High quality child care			
High quality	Number and percentage of providers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification	Number and percentage of program staff who are Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) Percentage of licensed child care centres employing only RECEs for the positions	See "Staff Qualifications" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment ^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
		requiring qualified employees	
High quality	Number and percentage of programs adopting Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, How does learning happen	Number of affirmations confirming programming alignment with How does learning happen	See "Pedagogical Framework" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number and percentage of children who have access to licensed child care	Percentage of children aged 0-12 years for whom there are licensed child care spaces	See "Access" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number and percentage of children receiving subsidies	Number and percentage of children receiving child care fee subsidies	See "Affordability" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Accessible	Number and percentage of	Number and percentage of	See "Flexibility and Inclusion"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
affordable and flexible	licensed child care programs that offer flexible hours	programs providing care during non-standard hours	under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number of additional licensed child care spaces created	Number of additional licensed child care spaces created in licensed centres	See "Access" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number of children receiving subsidy by family income	Number and percentage of children receiving child care fee subsidies by family income	See "Affordability" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Inclusive	Number of child care programs designed to serve French linguistic minority communities and Indigenous People off-reserve	Number of French-language licensed child care centres	See "French-language and Bilingual Child Care" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
Inclusive	Number of child care programs designed to serve French linguistic minority communities and Indigenous People off-reserve	Number of Indigenous-led centres in urban and rural communities	See "Indigenous-led Child Care Centres" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Inclusive	Number of children with additional support needs participating in child care programs	Number of children funded through Special Needs Resourcing	See "Special Needs Resourcing" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
Inclusive	Number and proportion of children from low-income and middle class families participating in early learning and child care programs	Number and percentage of children for whom a licensed space is available by income	See "Children in Licensed Child Care by Income" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment ^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
High quality early learning^[34]			
High quality	Number and percentage of providers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification	Qualification requirements for program staff working in child and family centres	See "Staff Qualifications" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
High quality	Number and percentage of programs adopting Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, How does learning happen	Service guideline requires programming alignment with How does learning happen	See "Pedagogical Framework" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number of new EarlyON Child and Family Centres (including full and part-time locations)	Number of EarlyON Child and Family programs offering full- and part-time hours	See "Access, Affordability, Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number of child and family visits to early learning programs	Number of child and family visits to EarlyON Child and Family Centres	See "Access, Affordability, Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number and percentage of children who have access to early learning programs	Number and percentage of children served by EarlyON Child and Family Centres	See "Access, Affordability, Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number and percentage of early learning programs that offer flexible hours	Number and percentage of EarlyON Child and Family programs that offer programming during non-standard hours	See "Access, Affordability, Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
Inclusive	Number of early learning programs designed to serve French linguistic minority communities and Indigenous People off-reserve	Number of child and family centres that offer culturally relevant programming for Indigenous children and families	See "Access, Affordability, Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
Inclusive	Number of early learning programs designed to serve French linguistic minority communities and Indigenous People off-reserve	Number of child and family centres that offer French-language programming for Francophone children and families	See "Access, Affordability, Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
Professional learning			
Early Childhood Educators' qualifications	Number of individuals supported through the Early Childhood Educators	Number of individuals supported through the Early Childhood Educators	See "Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[33]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
tions upgrade program	Qualifications Upgrade Program per annum	Qualifications Upgrade Program	under "Professional Learning Indicators"
Innovative service delivery	Innovative service delivery to support professional learning	Number of professional learning initiatives supported	See "Professional Learning Strategy for Francophone and Indigenous Professionals"

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Footnotes

- [1] ^ The "family age group" designation allows children of different ages in the same family to be placed in the same group in a play activity room, as long as they are between the ages of 0-12 years. This designation is used by licensed child care centres and came into effect on September 1, 2017.
- [2] ^ "Approved homes" refers to the maximum number of homes that an agency is permitted to contract with.
- [3] ^ Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education. All licensed child care centres and home child care agencies that were operating as of March 31, 2021, were asked to complete the 2021 survey, and more than 97% did so.
- [4] ^ "Active homes" refers to the number of home child care providers that have a contract/agreement with an agency.
- [5] ^ In years prior to 2013-14, the total number of spaces may not be equal to the sum of the spaces, due to the exclusion of alternate capacity from the totals up to that point. Alternate capacity refers to spaces that are licensed for different age groups to be used at different times.
- [6] ^ "Auspice" refers to the ownership and operation of a service. In this report, licensed child care centres are categorized into two types of auspice: not-for-profit and for-profit.
- [7] ^ Different sets of age categories were used to collect data for licensed child care centres and licensed home child care agencies. Age categories used for licensed child care centres are in accordance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. These age categories do not apply to licensed home child care.
- [8] ^ Ontario Regulation 137/15 sets out rules under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* governing staff in licensed child care centres. For each group of children in licensed child care centres, the licensee is required to employ at least one program staff member who is listed on the College of Early Childhood Educators' Public Register as a member in good standing or who has been otherwise approved by a director. For more information, see "Staff Qualifications" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators".
- [9] ^ The percentages stated for March 1, 2020, June 30, 2020, August 31, 2020 and March 31, 2021 are based on data from the 2021 Licensed Child Care Survey.

The percentages stated for December 31, 2020 are based on data from the Child Care Licensing System.

- [10] ^ Data source: EarlyON web page on Ontario.ca, Ontario Ministry of Education.
- [11] ^ 113,323 EDI questionnaires were analysed for Cycle 1; 110,916 for Cycle 2; 119,494 for Cycle 3; 125,858 for Cycle 4; and 123,912 for Cycle 5.
- [12] ^ "Vulnerable" describes children who score below the 10th percentile of the Ontario EDI baseline population scores. This indicates that they are struggling in comparison to the baseline population.
- [13] ^ Actual allocations may vary according to the latest population estimates.
- [14] ^ Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- [15] ^ Figure is subject to change upon the completion of the 2020-21 audit.
- [16] ^ Final expenditures are subject to change pending the 2020-21 audit.
- [17] ^ Includes carry-forward funding from 2019-20 to 2020-21.
- [18] ^ Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education, as of March 31, 2021.
- [19] ^ Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).
- [20] ^ The estimation does not account for children cared for in homes contracted with licensed home child care agencies.
- [21] ^ All the percentages of children aged 0-12 years for whom there are licensed child care spaces have been updated with the Spring 2021 population projection data.
- [22] ^ Data source: Education Finance Information System, Ontario Ministry of Education. The total number includes federal, provincial, and municipal funding sources.
- [23] ^ Data source: Education Finance Information System, Ontario Ministry of Education.
- [24] ^ The percentage of children receiving subsidy by family income does not add up due to rounding.

- [25] ^ Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).
- [26] ^ Data source: Education Finance Information System, Ontario Ministry of Education. The total number includes federal, provincial, and municipal funding sources.
- [27] ^ Data source: 2021 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2021).
- [28] ^ Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016104.
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- [29] ^ Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education.
- [30] ^ Percentage is an estimate based on the number of children served and the total population of children in the province aged 0-6 years.
- [31] ^ Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education. Based on the most recent year of data available.
- [32] ^ Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education. The 2020-21 total is based on an annual report submitted by the program administrator. The total number includes federal and provincial funding sources.
- [33] ^ This column lists the indicators outlined in the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.
- [34] ^ "Early learning" under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement refers to EarlyON Child and Family Centres within the context of Ontario.