



Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2022

Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2022 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 is 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 commitments to publishing the progress under the federal-provincial early learning and child care agreements. Most of the data presented in this report was collected between March 2021 and March 2022.

In 2021–22, Ontario's early years and child care system continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and has seen a positive recovery. The number of licensed child care spaces grew by 8,459 to 472,997 spaces, with an increase from all age groups including 4.5% for infants, 4.0% for toddlers, 3.8% for preschool, 0.7% for kindergarten, 0.3% for school age and an increase from 842 to 924 spaces for the family age group. ^[1]

- The number of licensed child care centres increased by 0.7% from 5,506 to 5,545 centres.
- Of the total number of licensed child care centres, 2,996 centres were located in

publicly funded schools, 9 more centres compared to last year.

- The number of home child care agencies increased by 4.3% from 139 to 145. There were 8,731 approved homes affiliated with these agencies, representing a 2.0% increase.

When compared to March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The child care sector has seen an increase of 10,195 spaces in centres, an increase from almost all age groups including 7.8% for infants, 6.2% for toddlers, 4.2% for preschool, and 0.9% for kindergarten. The only exception is the school age spaces which slightly decreased by about 0.3%.
- The number of home child care agencies increased by 10.7% from 131 to 145 since 2020, with a 5.2% increase in the number of approved homes.

Emergency child care

Emergency child care was a key Ministry of Education support program implemented at different times over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the impacts that child care and school closures have had on front-line workers. This program was fully subsidized by the province so as not to financially penalize front-line workers while ensuring their children were in a safe environment while they continued to perform critical functions that Ontarians rely on.

The ECC program was implemented over several iterations. The first iteration ran from mid-March until the end of June 2020. The second iteration ran from January 4 to February 16, 2021. The third iteration, which ran from mid-April to the end of June 2021, at its peak, served over 12,000 children each day across over 700 sites province-wide. The fourth iteration of the ECC ran from January 5 to January 14, 2022 and served up to 8,900 children per day across almost 700 locations.

The Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

In June 2017, following the establishment of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework, Ontario entered into the Early

Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agreement with the federal government.

Priorities

The FPT Multilateral ELCC Framework was designed to underpin ELCC funding of activities that would support an early learning and child care system that is high quality, accessible, affordable, flexible, and inclusive. The federal government invested \$7.5 billion over 11 years in early learning and child care. This agreement was renewed in 2020 for a one-year period.

In August 2021, Canada and Ontario renewed the ELCC agreement for a further four years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2025, with expected funding levels of \$146 million in fiscal year 2021–22 rising to \$211 million in fiscal year 2024–25.

In Ontario, funding under the ELCC agreement is used to support:

- over 11,000 children through subsidized child care spaces and community-based capital projects
- the operation of more than 80 EarlyON Child and Family Centres in 45 locations across the province, providing families with culturally and linguistically appropriate programs
- the workforce by assisting over 2,000 child care staff to obtain their certification (2021 data)
- in fiscal year 2021–22, short-term measures to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on Ontario's early years and child care sector

Implementation activities

In 2021–22, the ELCC funding has supported access to:

- affordable, high quality licensed child care (\$100 million)
- no-cost, high quality early years experiences through EarlyON Child and Family Centres (\$41.7 million)
- High quality training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce (\$5 million)

Ontario's approach for the one-time Early Childhood Workforce funding provides for flexible, multi-faceted strategies recognizing the importance of not only recruiting

new individuals into the profession, but also retaining, supporting, and recognizing the existing child care and early years workforce.

The Early Childhood Workforce Agreement

Priorities

In August 2021, Canada and Ontario also signed the Early Childhood Workforce Agreement (WFA) for \$149.9 million in one-time funding to support the retention and recruitment of a high-quality child care and early years workforce. This funding will support the following objectives:

- sustain the existing child care and early years workforce to ensure a more stable and high-quality early years and child care system
- enhance access to opportunities for the workforce that promote retention and recruitment, including professional development, training, and qualification upgrade programs
- grow the number of qualified staff in the early years and child care workforce to increase access to licensed child care for families
- attract and support the development of an increasingly diverse workforce to reflect the children and families accessing early years and child care programs more effectively

Ontario will utilize the investment to build on the success of existing programs that support the child care and early years workforce, funded by the provincial and federal government, and implemented by Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards (CMSMs/DSSABs), First Nation, Francophone, and other child care and early years partners.

Federal investments will be incremental and will not displace existing Ontario spending in support of the early childhood workforce.

Implementation activities

This funding will help support and retain the current child care and early years workforce, and attract new individuals into the profession. The Ministry of Education

is investing in the following initiatives to achieve this objective:

- Professional Learning and Development Strategy (\$74 million)
- Workforce Capacity and Innovation Fund (\$71.5 million)
- ECE Qualifications Upgrade Program (\$3.0 million)
- Equity-based Communities of Practice (\$1.5 million)

Ontario's CWELCC action plan includes the indicators (<https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/ontario-canada-wide-2021.html#h2.18-h3.04>) for the initiatives under the Early Childhood Workforce Agreement that will be used to measure progress.

The Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

In March 2022, Ontario signed a historic deal with the federal government that will lower licensed child care fees to an average of \$10 a day by September 2025. As a first step, families will see an average 25% reduction in their fees retroactive to April 1, 2022, which will be further reduced to 50% by the end of December 2022.

Priorities

Ontario's action plan under the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement outlines the key principles and priorities for this funding as well as the actions to be taken in the fiscal years 2022–23 and 2023–24 to work towards the goal of implementing CWELCC. The action plan sets targets that align with five priority areas:

- **Lowering fees**
 - by 2025–26, average parent fees for children under six will be \$10/day inclusive of fee subsidies
- **Increasing access**
 - by the end of 2026, 86,000 new licensed child care spaces (above 2019 levels) for children under six are operational
- **Enhancing quality**

- by the end of 2025-26, Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) make up 60% of the workforce in licensed child care

- **Supporting inclusion**

- by 2025-26, more Indigenous and Francophone children, as well as children from vulnerable families, can access high-quality, inclusive child care

- **Strengthening data/reporting**

- by 2025-26, Ontario's data and reporting systems are modernized and upgraded to effectively support implementation and measure success

Implementation activities

The ministry's early implementation activities focussed on enrolling licensed programs into CWELCC, enabling the first fee reduction of 25%, and providing wage floor for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs).

Key milestones in the CWELCC implementation journey included:

- April 2022: The ministry released the funding guidelines, referred to as the Addendum to Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guideline (2022).
- May 2022: The first CWELCC cashflow payment was flowed to service system managers to support implementation.
- July 2022: The ministry established a Minister's Advisory Group of sector partners to engage in roundtable discussions on key priorities.
- August 2022: The ministry released a revised addendum to provide additional clarification to further assist service system managers and licensees in implementing CWELCC across the province.
- December 2022: The ministry released the 2023 CWELCC funding allocations and guidelines and initial space targets to service system managers.

Reporting on progress

Ontario's CWELCC action plan outlines the indicators (<https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/ontario-canada-wide-2021.html#h2.18-h3.04>) that will be used to measure progress and

commits to reporting on the results achieved according to the indicators and targets starting in the fiscal year 2023 to 2024.

As of November 1, 2022:

- 92% of licensed programs have opted-in to the CWELCC system
- 27% of licensed programs that have opted in have provided rebates to parents

In summary

Our early years and child care sector has showed high resilience and has successfully emerged from the COVID pandemic. To our partners: 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 for all you have done throughout the pandemic to keep Ontario's children well cared for and safe. Data in this report demonstrates what we have achieved together.

Looking to the future, we value our early years and child care partners' support, cooperation, and advice in continuing our journey together to implement the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system in the province.

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, 2014* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>), and licenses child care providers across the province. The ministry also conducts inspections and investigates complaints about licensed and unlicensed child care.

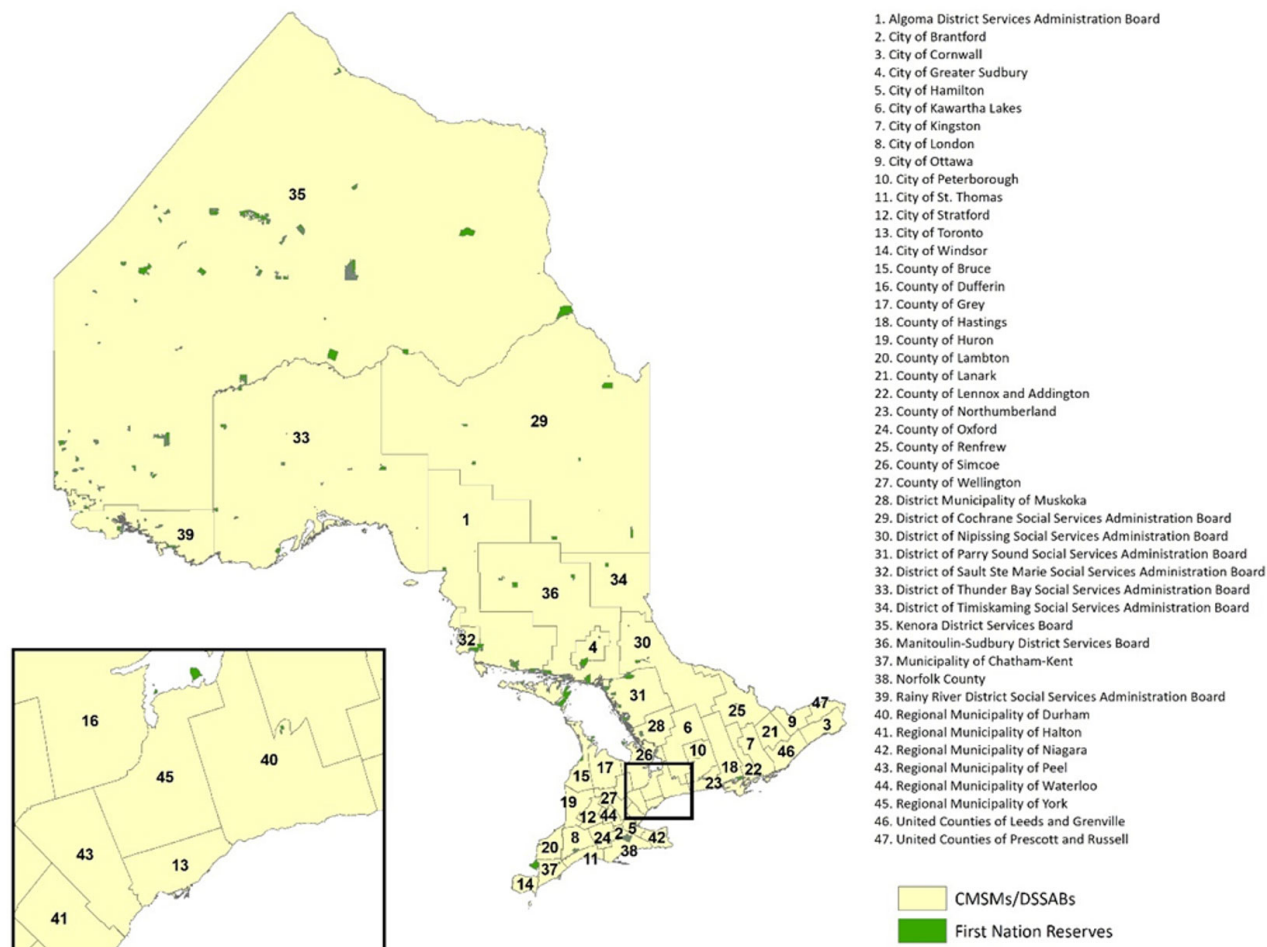
The ministry oversees and licenses two types of child care:

- 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

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

Location name	Type
	Administration Boards
City of Ottawa	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services 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

Location name	Type
County of Dufferin	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
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

Location name	Type
	Administration Boards
County of Oxford	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services 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

Location name	Type
District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
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

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

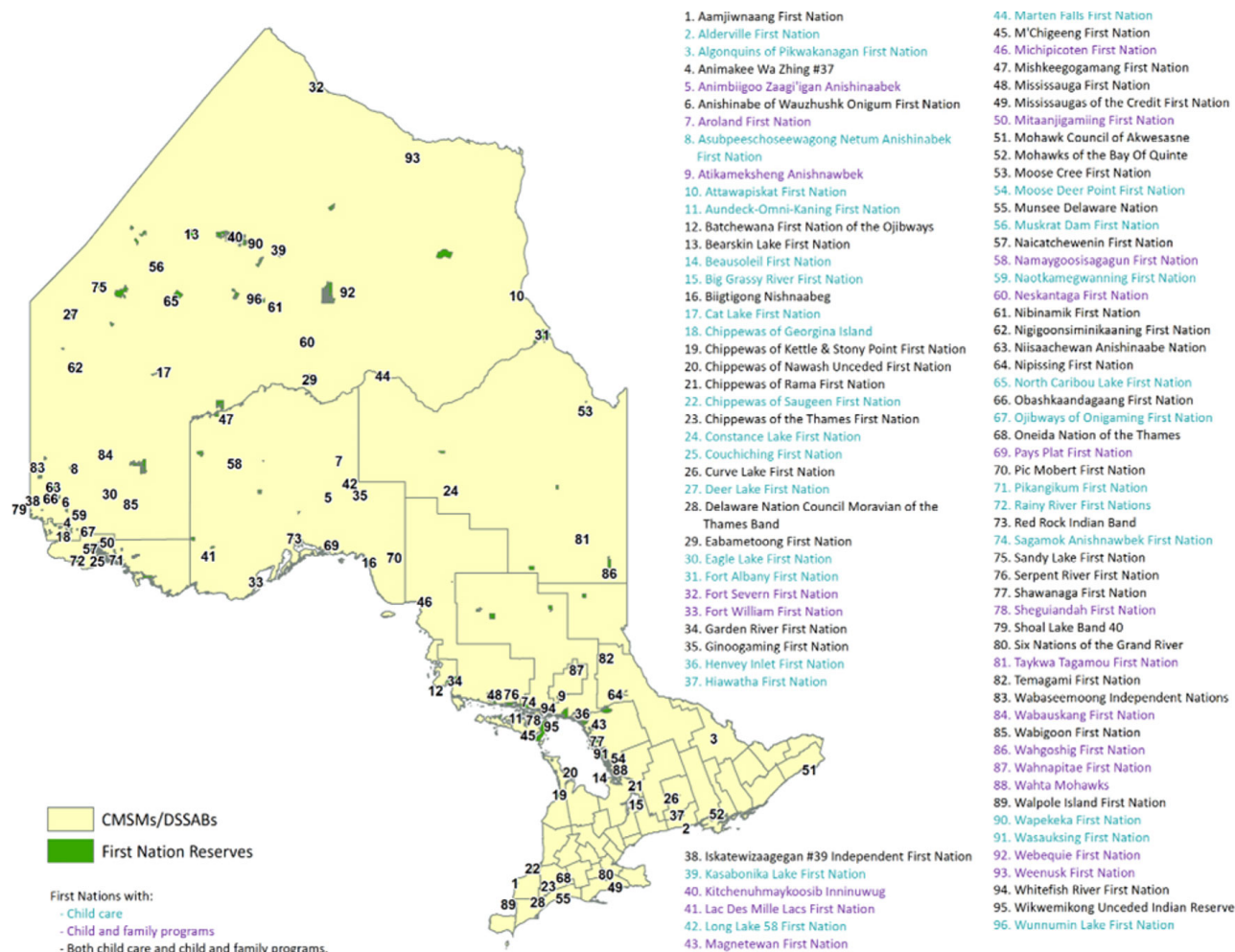
Location name	Type
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education and Statistics Canada.

As of March 31, 2022, 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
Animakee Wa Zhing #37	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Anishinabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
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
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
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

Location name	Type	Key
Chippewas of Rama First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Curve Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
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
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
Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First	First Nation	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family

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

Location name	Type	Key
Munsee Delaware Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Naicatchewenin First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
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
Obashkaandagaang First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Oneida Nation of the Thames	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Pic Mobert First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Red Rock Indian Band	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Sandy Lake First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and 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
Shoal Lake Band 40	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs

Location name	Type	Key
Six Nations of the Grand River	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Temagami First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Wabigoon First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and child and family programs
Walpole Island First Nation	First Nation Reserves	Received provincial funding for child care and 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

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education and Statistics Canada.

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

Child care is foundational to supporting early childhood development and student success. It is also a key enabler of workforce participation, particularly for women, both as parents and providers. Over the years, Ontario has advanced many initiatives to strengthen its early years and child care system, including:

- **Full-day kindergarten:** Universal full-day kindergarten provides a full-day of free high-quality programming for all children aged 4 to 5 years in the publicly funded school system across the province.
- **Fee subsidies for low-income families:** Ontario's child care fee subsidy system supports low-income families to access child care.
- **Operator subsidies:** Ontario invests in operator subsidies to help offset costs that would otherwise result in higher child care fees. Support is provided for general operating costs, as well as wage enhancements for qualified staff.
- **Ontario child care access and relief from expense (CARE) tax credit:** introduced in 2019, this tax credit helps an estimated 300,000 families each year with up to 75% of their eligible child care expenses so they can work, run a business or study to acquire new skills.
- **Child care spaces in schools:** Ontario has committed up to \$1 billion over 5 years (beginning in 2019) to create up to 30,000 new child care spaces in schools.
- **Wage enhancement grant/home child care enhancement grants:** Since 2015, Ontario has supported recruitment and retention of early childhood educators in child care through the Ontario Wage Enhancement Grant.
- **Ontario's college of early childhood educators:** Ontario values the important role of child care and early years professionals. The College is the self-regulatory body for the early childhood education profession in the province, the only regulatory college for early childhood educators in Canada.
- **Modern legislative framework and quality standards:** the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>) (CCEYA) is the legislation that governs child care in Ontario. The legislation requires that programming in licensed spaces is aligned with the provincial pedagogy, *How does learning happen* (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-does-learning-happen-ontarios-pedagogy->

early-years) , which sets out a vision, values, foundations, and approaches to guide practice for high quality experiences in licensed child care and early years settings.

- **Licensing and enforcement:** Ontario has a modern regulatory framework. The Ministry of Education issues child care licences under the CCEYA and is responsible for enforcement of that legislation.
- **Annual data collection:** Ontario has conducted an annual data collection of child care program operations from licensed child care centres and home child care agencies since 2012 and has been reporting on the Early Development Instrument (EDI) indicators since 2003.
- **EarlyON Child and Family Centres:** in addition to Ontario's robust child care system, Ontario also has offered EarlyON Child and Family Centres to provide key supports to caregivers and children

These initiatives continue to shape Ontario's early years and child care system and benefiting children and families in the province. A stable and accessible child care system will be crucial in supporting Ontarians continued recovery from the pandemic and moving forward with the work on the Canada-wide early learning and child care system.

In 2022–23, the government will continue to support families and the early years and child care system by:

- investing more than \$3.9 billion in funding to early years and child care funding, including supporting parents through the Ontario CARE Tax Credit
- 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
- supporting families in need of fee subsidies and providing funding to CMSMs and DSSABs for this purpose
- allocating funding to CMSMs and DSSABs to support continued provincial wage enhancements for eligible child care professionals
- continuing with the provinces commitment to create up to 30,000 child care spaces in schools

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, municipalities, school boards and First Nations. As of March 31, 2022, there were 5,545 licensed child care centres in Ontario. The total number of spaces in licensed centres was 472,997, which included:

- 35,783 spaces in centres that provide services in French
- 7,479 spaces in centres that provide bilingual services
- 3,290 spaces in centres in First Nations communities

As of March 31, 2022, a total of 145 licensed home child care agencies were in operation in the province. These agencies were permitted to contract with a maximum of 8,731 approved homes. ^[2] Two home child care agencies were operated by First Nations, with a maximum of 31 approved homes. In 2022, the most recent year for which there is data available, a total of 3,193 ^[3] homes were deemed to be “active homes”.^[4]

Overall trends in licensed child care

Overall, Ontario's licensed child care sector continued to grow over the past year. Since 2012–13 (see Figure 3 and Table 1):

- The number of licensed child care centres increased by 9.8%, from 5,050 to 5,545. Licensed spaces have increased by 60.6%, from 294,490 to 472,997.
- The number of spaces has grown across all age groups, including kindergarten (165.3%), school age (62.5%), toddler (59.3%), infant (58.4%) and preschool (16.7%).

Figure 3: Number of licensed child care centres, 2012–13 to 2021–22

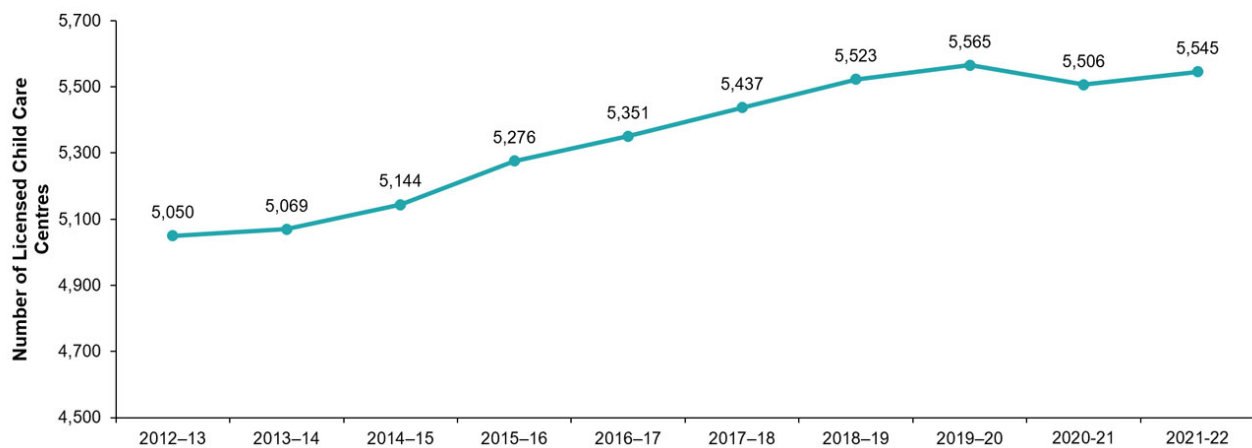


Figure 3: Number of licensed child care centres, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Centres	5,050	5,069	5,144	5,276	5,351	5,437	5,523	5,565	5,506	5,545

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

Table 1: Number of spaces in licensed child care centres by age group, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of Spaces ^[5]	294,900	317,868	350,011	382,606	409,515	427,302	446,605	462,802	466,388	477,707
Infant	963,400	1,025,005	1,072,259	1,117,509	1,162,311	1,206,755	1,250,866	1,294,611	1,338,022	1,381,100

Year	2021-2023	2021-2024	2021-2025	2021-2026	2021-2027	2021-2028	2021-2029	2021-2030	2021-2031	2021-2032
Toddler	32,578	34,772	37,318	41,101	42,900	44,509	46,165	47,888	49,633	51,408
Preschool	102,731	100,213	97,800	94,408	91,055	87,743	84,480	81,265	78,103	75,006
Kindergarten	40,796	52,168	64,300	80,414	92,305	99,310	106,338	113,390	120,463	127,567
School	108	118	135	146	153	162	170	177	184	191

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Age	7 9 5	5 4 5	2 2 3	5 0 0	2 7 4	9 0 1	3 3 7	8 4 0	3 2 7	8 3 2
Family age	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	1 6 2	4 1 8	6 9 2	8 4 2	9 2 4

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 46.5% since 2021-23, from 5,960 to 8,731 (see the line in Figure 4a), and the number of licensed home child care agencies has increased by 14.2%, from 127 to 145 (see the bars in Figure 4b).

Figure 4a: Number of approved homes, 2012-13 to 2021-22

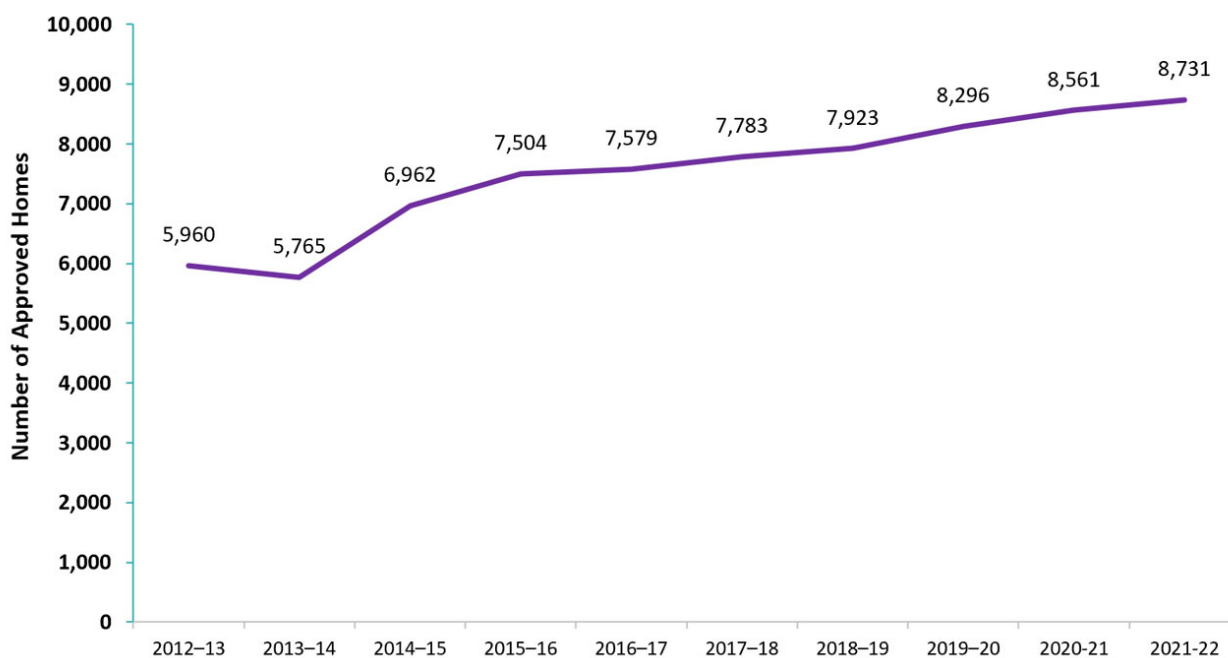
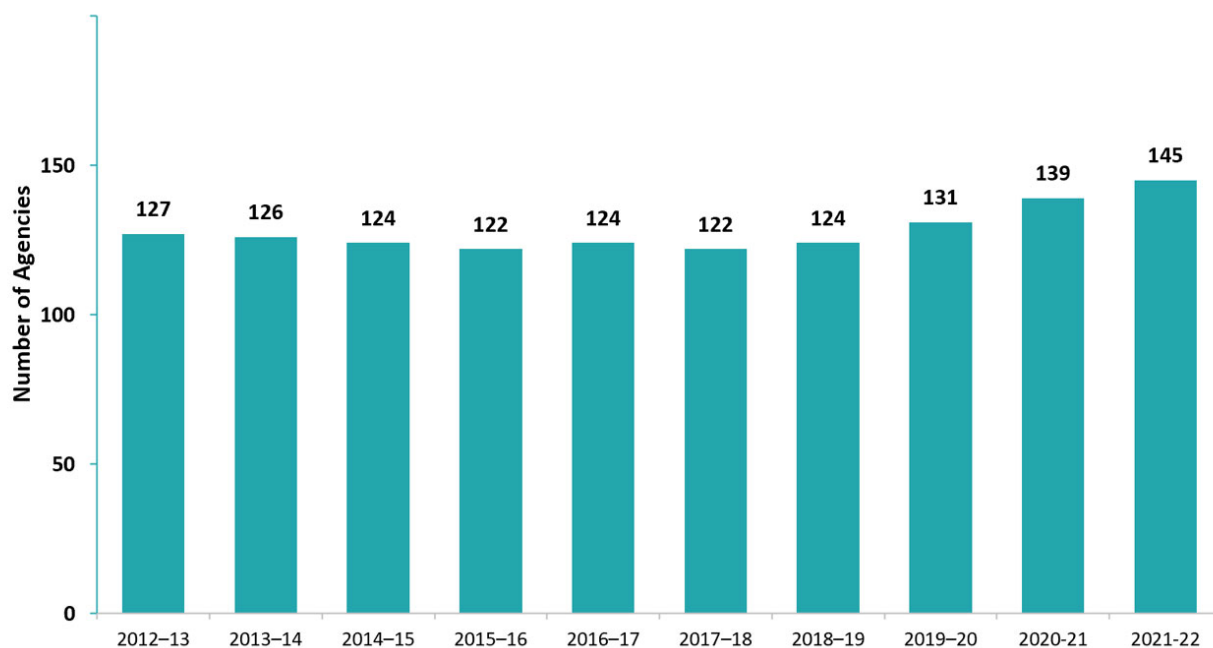


Figure 4b: Number of licensed home child care agencies, 2012-13 to 2021-22



Number of approved homes and licensed home child care agencies, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2022	2022
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2
Number of approved homes	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	8 , 7 3 1
Number of agencies	1 2 7	1 2 6	1 2 4	1 2 2	1 2 4	1 2 2	1 2 4	1 3 1	1 3 9	1 4 5

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, 2022:

- 74.5 of licensed child care centres were not-for-profit (operated by not-for-profit organizations and First Nations) and 25.5% were for-profit
- 78.3% of child care spaces were in not-for-profit centres and 21.7% were in for-profit centres

- 75.2% of licensed home child care agencies were not-for-profit and 24.8% were for-profit
- 84.8% of approved child care homes were affiliated with not-for-profit agencies and 15.2% 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: Number of centres and spaces in licensed child care centres by auspice, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of centres	505	569	544	576	551	537	523	555	506	545

Year	2021-2023	2021-2024	2021-2025	2021-2026	2021-2027	2021-2028	2021-2029	2021-2030	2021-2031	2021-2032
Not-for-profit	3,859	3,847	3,842	4,077	4,053	4,188	4,186	4,187	4,183	4,183
For-profit	1,191	1,222	1,202	1,269	1,298	1,309	1,337	1,378	1,388	1,422
Number of spaces	294,490	317,868	350,811	382,966	406,359	427,032	445,966	462,802	465,388	472,977
Not-for-profit	222	240	272	305	319	337	352	365	366	370

Ye ar	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	2 0 2 1 - 2 2
- pr ofi t	, 8 5 1	, 8 8 1	, 8 9 9	, 3 1 7	, 6 0 8	, 3 1 8	, 9 4 9	, 6 5 3	, 6 0 9	, 2 2 2
Fo r- pr ofi t	7 1 , 6 3 9	7 6 , 9 8 7	7 7 , 9 0 2	8 3 , 9 6 9	8 6 , 7 8 7	8 9 , 7 1 4	9 3 , 6 4 7	9 7 , 1 4 9	9 7 , 2 9 9	1 0 2 , 7 7 5

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

Table 3: Number of licensed home child care agencies and approved homes by auspice, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Ye ar	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	2 0 2 1 - 2 2
------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2
Number of agencies	1 2 7	1 2 6	1 2 4	1 2 2	1 2 4	1 2 2	1 2 4	1 3 1	1 3 9	1 4 5
Not-for-profit	1 1 6	1 1 3	1 1 1	1 0 8	1 0 9	1 0 5	1 0 4	1 0 5	1 0 6	1 0 9
For-profit	1 1	1 3	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 7	2 0	2 6	3 3	3 6
Number of approved homes	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	8 , 7 3 1
Not-	5 ,	5 ,	6 ,	6 ,	7 ,	7 ,	7 ,	7 ,	7 ,	7 ,

for-profit	6 4 0	4 0 3	5 0 0	9 9 2	0 1 7	1 1 4	1 4 8	3 2 0	3 0 5	4 0 5
For-profit	3 2 0	3 6 2	4 6 2	5 1 2	5 6 2	6 6 9	7 7 5	9 7 6	1 , 2 5 6	1 , 3 2 6

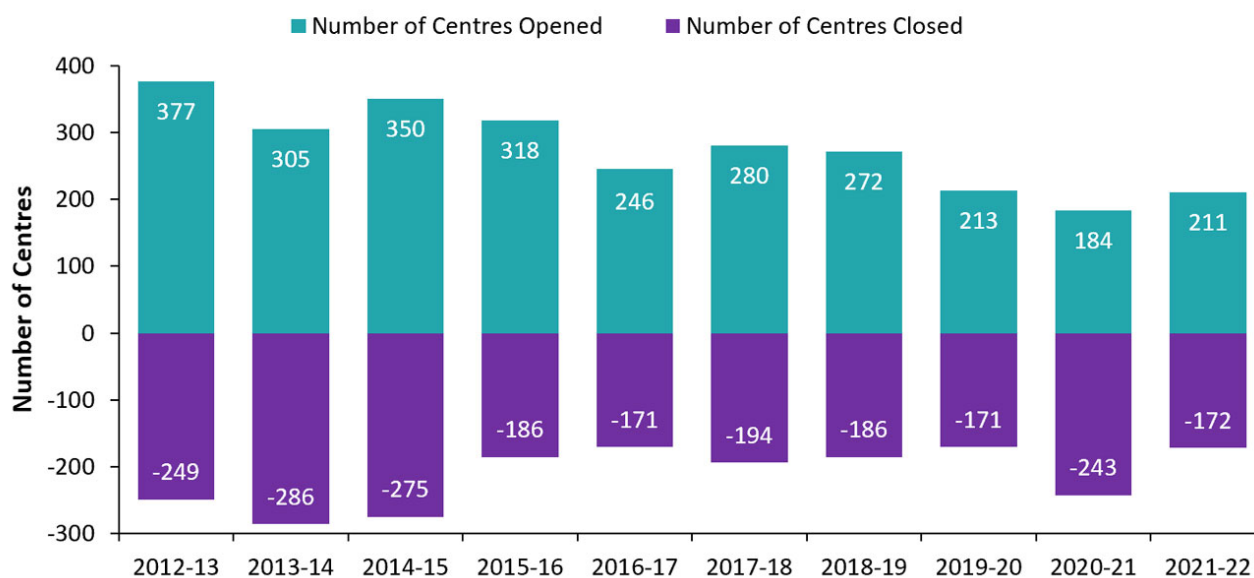
Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

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 CMSMs and DSSABs to address an increase in the need for child care. Centres that close typically do so due to low enrolment.

In 2021–22, 211 child care centres opened and 172 closed. On average, there has been an annual net increase of 62 centres per year for the past 10 years (see Figure 5). 495 more child care centres were in operation over the past ten years.

Figure 5: Number of licensed child care centre openings and closures, 2012–13 to 2021–22



Number of licensed child care centre openings and closures, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of centres opened	377	305	350	318	246	280	272	213	184	211
Number of centres closed	249	286	275	186	171	194	186	171	243	172

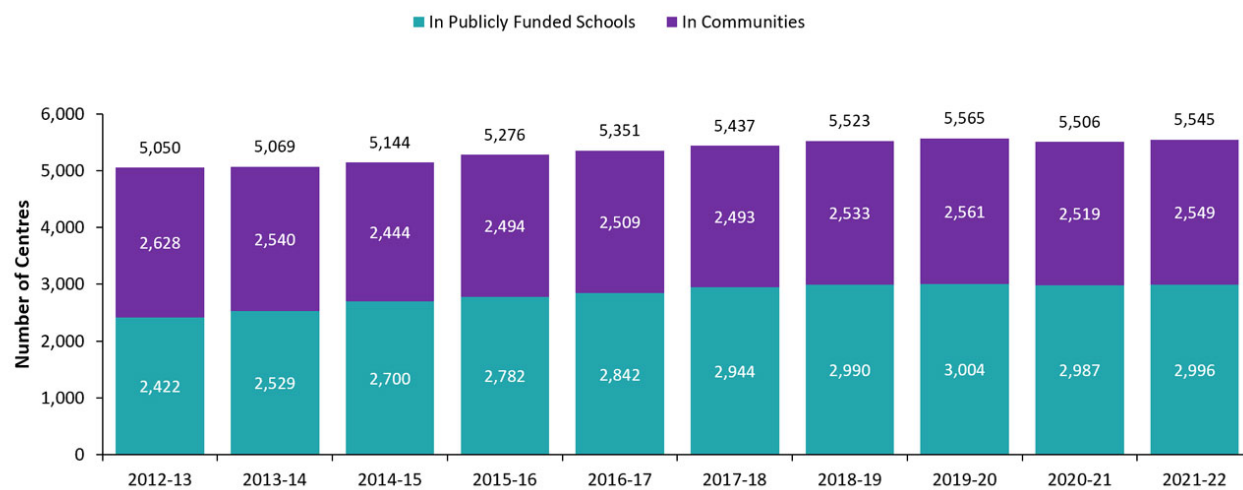
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
d										
Number of centres closed	– 2 4 9	– 2 8 6	– 2 7 5	– 1 8 6	– 1 7 1	– 1 9 4	– 1 8 6	– 1 7 1	– 2 4 3	– 1 7 2

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, 2022, 54.0% of child care centres and 63.5% of child care spaces were in publicly funded schools. The remaining 46.0% of child care centres and 36.5% of child care spaces were located elsewhere in the community. The number of licensed child care centres located in publicly funded schools increased by 0.3% in 2021–22 compared to the previous year and spaces increased by 1.3% in the same period. Since 2012–13, the number of child care centres located in publicly funded schools has increased by 23.7% (see Figure 6), and spaces have increased by 111.9% (see Figure 7).

Figure 6: Number of licensed child care centres in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2012–13 to 2021–22



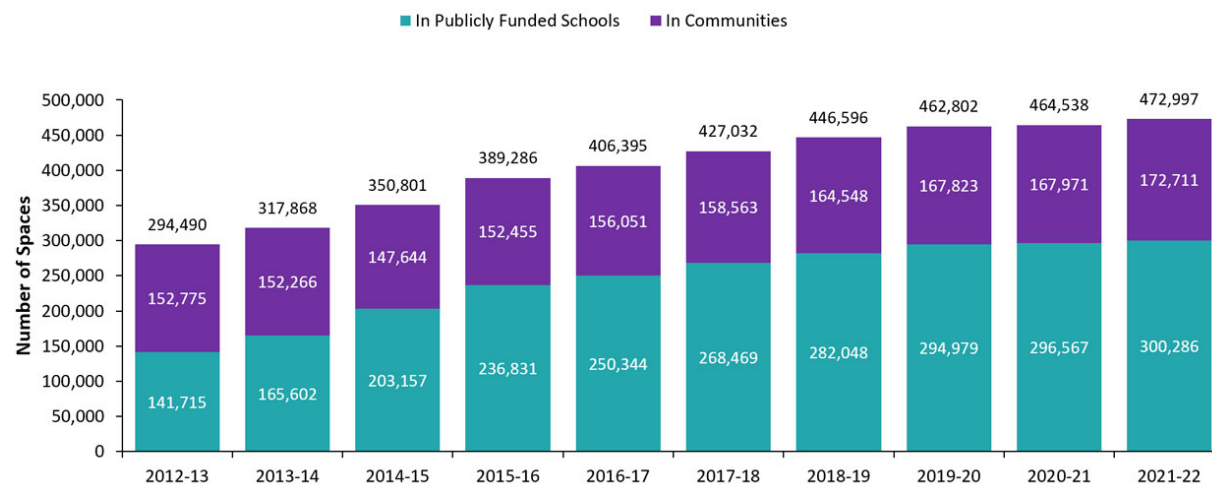
Number of licensed child care centres in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total	5,050	5,069	5,144	5,276	5,351	5,437	5,523	5,565	5,506	5,545
In Publicly Funded Schools	2,422	2,529	2,700	2,782	2,842	2,944	2,990	3,004	2,987	2,996
In Communities	2,628	2,540	2,444	2,494	2,509	2,493	2,533	2,561	2,519	2,549

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
In public ly funded schools	2,422	2,590	2,700	2,782	2,842	2,944	2,990	3,044	2,987	2,996
In communities	2,688	2,540	2,444	2,494	2,509	2,493	2,533	2,561	2,519	2,499
Total	5,105	5,130	5,144	5,276	5,351	5,437	5,523	5,605	5,506	5,495

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

Figure 7: Number of licensed child care spaces in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2012–13 to 2021–22



Number of licensed child care spaces in publicly funded schools and in communities, 2012–13 to 2021–22

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total	294,490	317,868	350,801	389,286	406,395	427,032	446,596	462,802	464,538	472,997
In Publicly Funded Schools	141,715	165,602	203,157	236,831	250,344	268,469	282,048	294,979	296,567	300,286
In Communities	152,775	152,266	147,644	152,455	156,051	158,563	164,548	167,823	167,971	172,711

Year	2021-2023	2021-2024	2021-2025	2021-2026	2021-2027	2021-2028	2021-2029	2021-2030	2021-2031	2021-2032
In public ly funded schools	141,715	165,207	203,317	228,311	254,404	281,609	309,828	339,099	369,477	401,026
In communities	152,775	156,226	164,744	173,505	182,611	192,066	201,874	212,033	222,551	233,431
Total	294,490	321,433	368,061	401,816	437,015	473,675	511,702	551,132	592,028	634,457

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, 2022, 73 licensed child care centres were operating on 58 First Nations in Ontario. The number of licensed child care spaces on reserve has increased by 2.5% since 2012–13 (see Table 4).

Table 4: First Nations licensed child care centres and spaces by age group, 2012–13 to 2021–22

Year	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Number of centres	76	74	75	76	76	76	75	75	74	73
Total number of spaces	3,211	3,191	3,400	3,609	3,755	3,855	3,989	4,022	3,966	3,990

Year	2021-2023	2021-2024	2021-2025	2021-2026	2021-2027	2021-2028	2021-2029	2021-2030	2021-2031	2021-2032
Number of spaces										
Infant	232	254	270	296	290	290	290	309	309	303
Toddler	692	702	727	727	727	731	717	747	747	722
Preschool	1624	1620	1658	1641	1653	1655	1629	1684	1668	1650
Total number of spaces	3211	3211	3244	3264	3265	3265	3269	3332	3325	3275

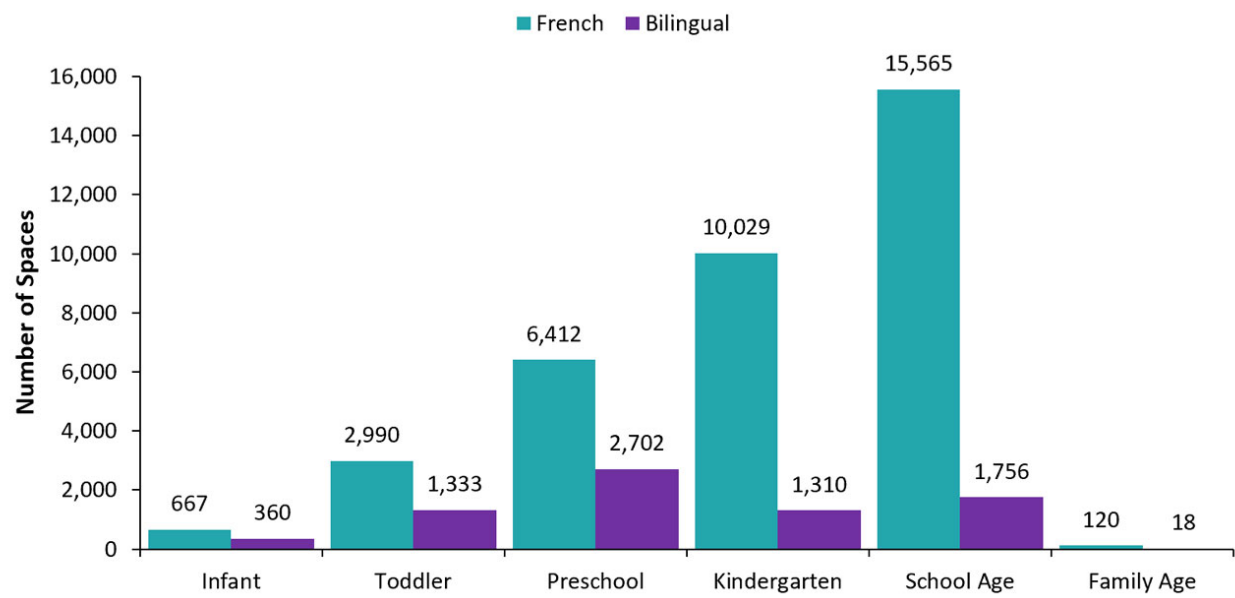
Year	2021-2023	2021-2024	2021-2025	2021-2026	2021-2027	2021-2028	2021-2029	2021-2030	2021-2031	2021-2032
Kin der gar ten	205	172	177	192	192	227	225	228	208	188
Sch ool ag e	458	443	398	413	413	416	413	459	459	492
Fa mil y ag e	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	15	15	15	15
Tot al nu mb er of spa ces	3,211	3,191	3,140	3,169	3,175	3,215	3,189	3,342	3,306	3,290

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 2021–22, of the 5,545 licensed child care centres, 307 (5.5%) offered programs in French and 101 (1.8%) offered bilingual programs. Of the 472,997 licensed child care spaces, 35,783 (7.6%) were for programs in French and 7,479 (1.6%) were for bilingual programs. For further details about how these spaces are distributed by age, see Figure 8.

Figure 8: Number of licensed child care spaces in French-language and bilingual child care by age group, 2021–22



Number of licensed child care spaces in French-language and bilingual child care by age group, 2021–22

Age	French	Bilingual

Age	French	Bilingual
Infant	667	360
Toddler	2,990	1,333
Preschool	6,412	2,702
Kindergarten	10,029	1,310
School age	15,565	1,756
Family age	120	18

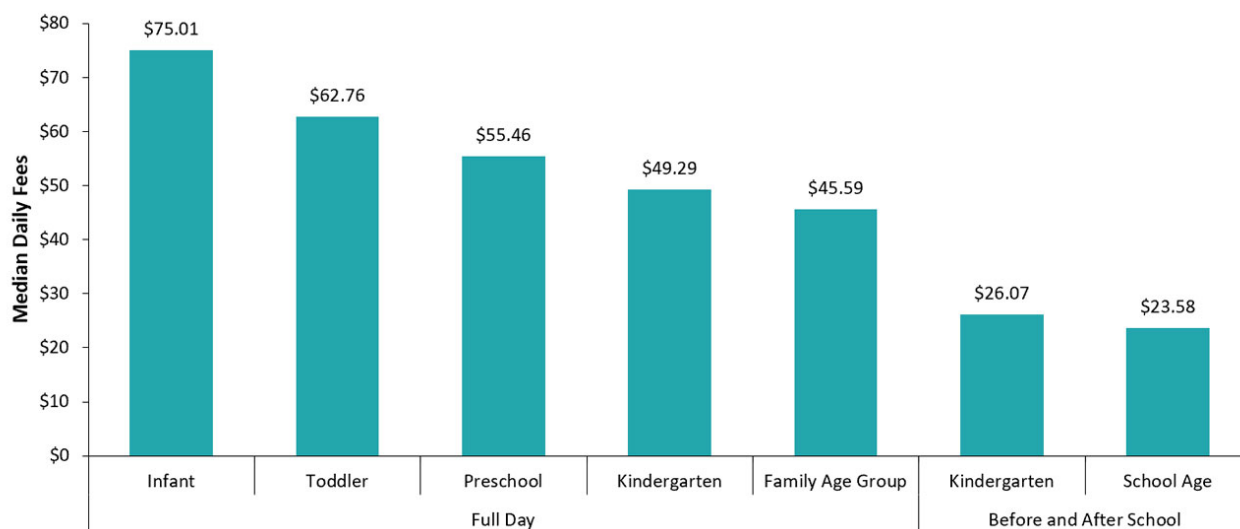
Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

Parent fees by age group

In 2022, the most recent year for which data is available, mean parent fees among licensed child care centres ranged from \$75.01 per day for infants to \$23.58 per day for school-aged children. Mean parent fees among licensed home child care agencies ranged from \$48.69 per day for children under two years of age to \$27.23 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: Mean daily fees by age group among licensed child care

centres, 2022

Mean daily fees by age group among licensed child care centres, 2022: Full day

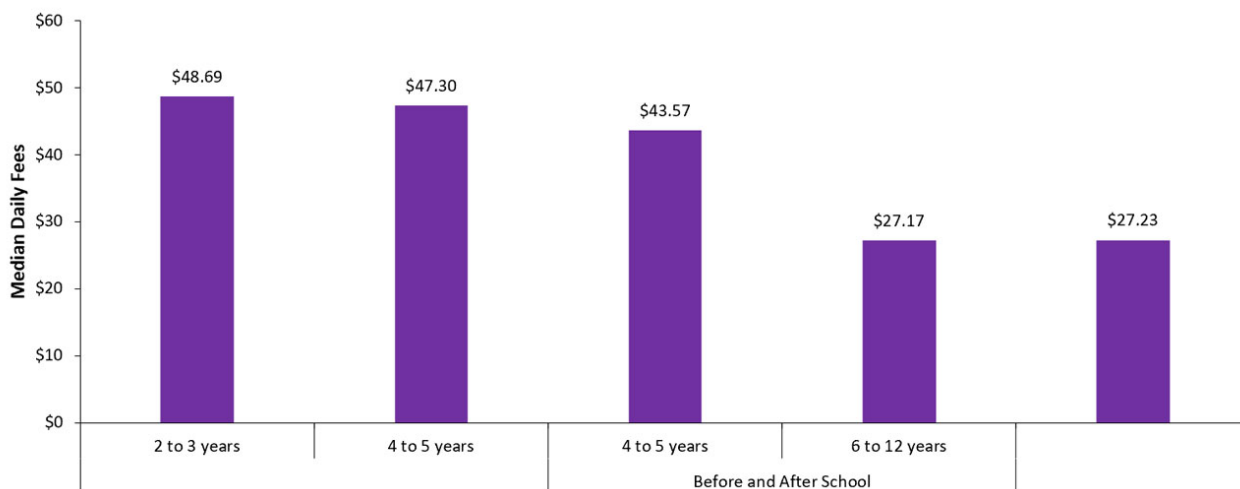
Age	Mean daily fee \$
Infant	75 . 01
Toddler	62 . 76
Preschool	55 . 46
Kindergarten	49 . 29
Family age group	45 . 59

Mean daily fees by age group among licensed child care centres, 2022: Before and after school

Age	Mean daily fee \$
Kindergarten	26 . 07
School age	23 . 58

Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).

Figure 10: Mean daily fees by age group among licensed home child care agencies, 2022



Mean daily fees by age group among licensed home child care agencies, 2022: Full day

Age	Mean daily fee \$
Younger than 2 years	48.69
2 to 3 years	47.30
4 to 5 years	43.57

Mean daily fees by age group among licensed home child care agencies, 2022: Before and after school

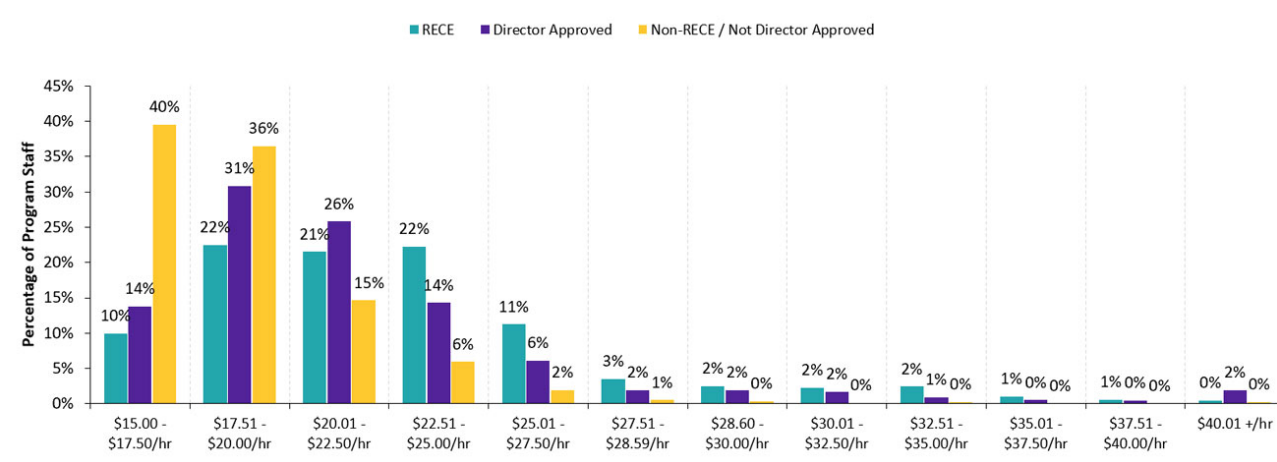
Age	Mean daily fee \$
4 to 5 years	27.17
6 to 12 years	27.23

Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).

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, 32.4% earned between \$15 and \$20 per hour and 60.9% earned between \$20 and \$30 per hour. 44.6% of full-time director-approved program staff earned between \$15 and \$20 per hour and 76.0% of non-RECE, not director-approved program staff earned between \$15 and \$20 (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Hourly wages of full-time program staff in licensed child care centres, 2022



Hourly wages of full-time program staff in licensed child care centres, 2022			
Wage range	RECE %	Director approved %	Non-RECE/not director approved %
\$15.00-\$17.50/hr	10	14	40

Wage range	REC E % *****	Director approved % ****	Non-RECE/not director approved % ****
\$17.51-\$20. 00/hr *****	22	31	36
\$20.01-\$22. 50/hr *****	21	26	15
\$22.51-\$25. 00/hr *****	22	14	6
\$25.01-\$27. 50/hr *****	11	6	2
\$27.51-\$28. 59/hr *****	3	2	1
\$28.60-\$30. 00/hr *****	2	2	0
\$30.01-\$32. 50/hr *****	2	2	0
\$32.51-\$35. 00/hr *****	2	1	0
\$35.01-\$37. 50/hr *****	1	0	0

Wage range	REC E % *****	Director approved % ****	Non-RECE/not director approved % ****
\$37.51-\$40.00/hr *****	1	0	0
\$40.01+/hr *****	0	2	0

Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).

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 2022, there were 611 main EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations and 358 mobile/satellite EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations. In addition, there were approximately 198 EarlyON Child and Family Centres offering virtual services

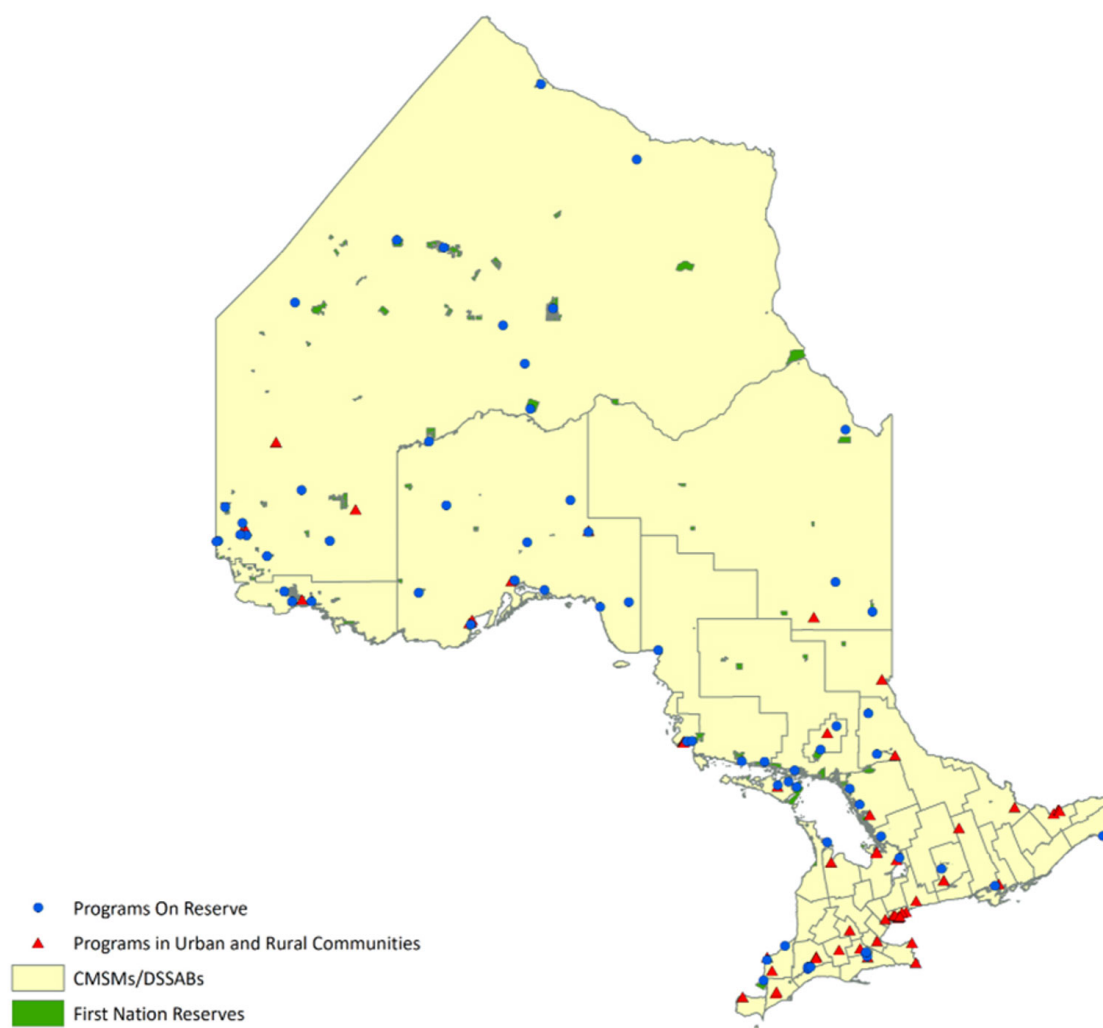
supports to meet the needs of families across the province.

Of the total number of EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations, 381 offer non-standard hours, 151 offer French-language programming, and 183 offer Indigenous programming.^[9]

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 were enhanced and 60 new child and family programs established) and 61 programs in urban and rural communities (including 10 child care programs, 14 joint child care and child and family programs, and 37 child and family programs). See Figure 12.

Figure 12: 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	-88.516125 47	52.745514 93
Program on reserve	-88.011441 88	52.204584 08
Program on reserve	-94.543440 08	49.892447 61
Program on reserve	-82.493359 12	42.591934 25
Program on reserve	-92.940531 67	48.710957 5
Program on reserve	-80.072115 76	46.973195 44
Program on reserve	-85.421013 84	55.008780 88
Program on reserve	-80.832978 66	49.002912 99

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-81.776026 23	46.066163 88
Program on reserve	-79.777382 63	44.994685 03
Program on reserve	-94.446428 13	49.707720 64
Program on reserve	-84.927164 48	47.961158
Program on reserve	-90.229747 45	51.091833 91
Program on reserve	-90.469314 84	48.838896 62
Program on reserve	-94.943154 28	50.129916 64
Program on reserve	-87.888062 56	51.558898 18
Program on reserve	-79.873861 16	46.323415 9

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-88.245322 69	49.028907 94
Program on reserve	-77.141405 26	44.185730 17
Program on reserve	-79.974363 2	48.550095 97
Program on reserve	-80.811236 52	46.772960 54
Program on reserve	-80.095148 1	43.000018 13
Program on reserve	-87.557237 45	48.883166 96
Program on reserve	-82.468128 2	46.202065 99
Program on reserve	-92.521515 57	49.625475 62
Program on reserve	-87.634738 86	55.990661 82

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-86.957508 47	50.232191 19
Program on reserve	-84.261524 31	46.528504 74
Program on reserve	-81.468300 82	42.787992 33
Program on reserve	-81.473387 83	42.818983 34
Program on reserve	-93.176461 79	50.379514 34
Program on reserve	-80.135698 74	43.055182 18
Program on reserve	-87.959058 49	49.602615 04
Program on reserve	-81.915573 68	45.883319 8
Program on reserve	-84.150200 02	46.536849 33

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-90.972147 07	53.924038 58
Program on reserve	-82.416055 7	42.935995 04
Program on reserve	-95.099310 25	49.625647 13
Program on reserve	-80.273452 22	45.513984 27
Program on reserve	-80.500756 79	45.769407 89
Program on reserve	-93.386182 64	48.711037
Program on reserve	-85.608740 46	48.697990 71
Program on reserve	-80.600516 48	51.262632 72
Program on reserve	-93.573223 55	48.861382 88

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-74.645413 66	44.999749 21
Program on reserve	-94.587144 42	49.714509 2
Program on reserve	-81.409759 81	42.819425 34
Program on reserve	-81.728089 62	45.797541 73
Program on reserve	-93.972961 19	49.394713 85
Program on reserve	-86.544242 26	49.757920 15
Program on reserve	-89.884895	53.823251
Program on reserve	-82.161817 33	45.825471 82
Program on reserve	-78.375306 86	44.462531 62

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-80.117515 07	43.070407 11
Program on reserve	-89.262676 04	48.354335 71
Program on reserve	-81.026822 87	44.903031 72
Program on reserve	-81.998814 99	43.178391 81
Program on reserve	-82.998628 36	46.208346 62
Program on reserve	-81.178760 23	46.397979 02
Program on reserve	-79.35127	44.646658 03
Program on reserve	-86.269007 85	48.626054 5
Program on reserve	-87.360303 42	52.984051 56

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program on reserve	-93.327657 09	53.063088 05
Program on reserve	-95.135744 75	49.613993 38
Program on reserve	-89.449991 42	50.283352 18
Program in urban and rural community	-93.398322 27	48.611328 04
Program in urban and rural community	-78.963504 18	43.935337 16
Program in urban and rural community	-80.927652 21	44.576411 04
Program in urban and rural community	-79.875889 26	44.743892 03
Program in urban and rural community	-79.418038 19	44.612916 17
Program in urban and rural community	-79.885815 25	44.727695 18
Program in urban and rural	-80.743194	43.113095

Key	Longitude	Latitude
community	25	14
Program in urban and rural community	-82.408576 15	42.989442 25
Program in urban and rural community	-80.492617 05	43.447523 02
Program in urban and rural community	-82.208927 03	42.380301 09
Program in urban and rural community	-82.185869 24	42.404223 01
Program in urban and rural community	-81.267947 02	43.005797 25
Program in urban and rural community	-75.686182 05	45.426478 24
Program in urban and rural community	-75.779233 03	45.373250 21
Program in urban and rural community	-75.660257 03	45.431284 25
Program in urban and rural community	-75.659067	45.437169 06

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-76.689224 05	45.472755 09
Program in urban and rural community	-77.056515 16	44.217827 12
Program in urban and rural community	-77.973666 06	45.140287
Program in urban and rural community	-81.330194 12	48.470832 24
Program in urban and rural community	-82.163627 09	45.811688 23
Program in urban and rural community	-84.356980 02	46.520432 02
Program in urban and rural community	-81.016307 09	46.667111 08
Program in urban and rural community	-79.448939 04	46.307165 23
Program in urban and rural community	-94.486045 99	49.765700 87
Program in urban and rural	-88.313900	49.025366

Key	Longitude	Latitude
community	84	85
Program in urban and rural community	-86.534937 75	49.781503 9
Program in urban and rural community	-89.248324 8	48.394431 04
Program in urban and rural community	-89.290210 99	48.380946 11
Program in urban and rural community	-94.558877 87	49.755916 96
Program in urban and rural community	-79.379494 2	43.653273 18
Program in urban and rural community	-79.190961 1	43.751148 06
Program in urban and rural community	-79.369821 25	43.669155 02
Program in urban and rural community	-79.288061 03	43.738608 15
Program in urban and rural community	-79.490892 12	43.686574 04

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-79.448433 21	43.691585 13
Program in urban and rural community	-79.335895 04	43.679227 23
Program in urban and rural community	-78.326336 13	44.278350 11
Program in urban and rural community	-78.322170 25	44.277665 13
Program in urban and rural community	-79.867253 12	43.262752 12
Program in urban and rural community	-78.970308 09	42.898505 06
Program in urban and rural community	-80.083280 05	42.994046 03
Program in urban and rural community	-82.975100 25	42.315011 24
Program in urban and rural community	-80.257704 17	43.138977 12
Program in urban and rural	-79.060983	43.238153

Key	Longitude	Latitude
community	16	25
Program in urban and rural community	-81.275710 21	42.981305 19
Program in urban and rural community	-79.749094 06	47.508234 13
Program in urban and rural community	-94.558877 87	49.755916 96
Program in urban and rural community	-93.759162 93	51.086482 86
Program in urban and rural community	-79.674663 03	43.630506 02
Program in urban and rural community	-79.875180 17	44.749609 1
Program in urban and rural community	-82.296173 06	42.763104 06
Program in urban and rural community	-75.640432 02	45.410550 25
Program in urban and rural community	-80.034786 21	45.349006 01

Key	Longitude	Latitude
Program in urban and rural community	-84.319529 08	46.532697 11
Program in urban and rural community	-84.329274 1	46.511595 21
Program in urban and rural community	-79.448939 04	46.307165 23
Program in urban and rural community	-94.452517 74	49.783253 94
Program in urban and rural community	-91.920081 82	50.098065
Program in urban and rural community	-89.228109 85	48.430040 15
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:

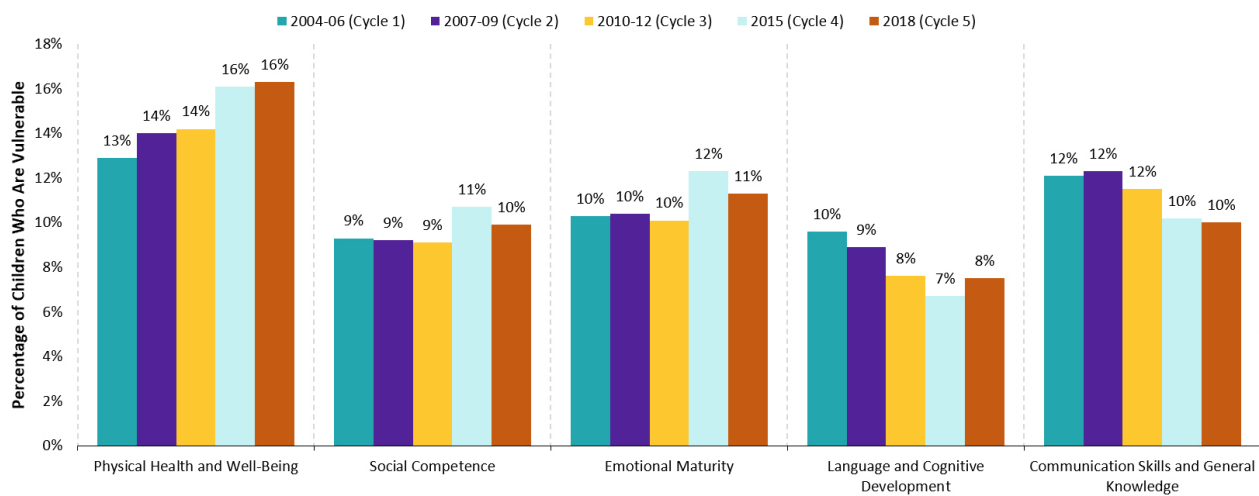
- over a three-year period for Cycle 1 (2004–06), Cycle 2 (2007–09) and Cycle 3 (2010–12)
- in a single year, every three years, for Cycle 4 (2015) and Cycle 5 (2018)^[10]

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^[11] 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 13). The results can also be combined to look at all those who are vulnerable in **one or more** of the five domains (see Figure 14). 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 13: Percentage of vulnerable children by EDI domain, 2004–18



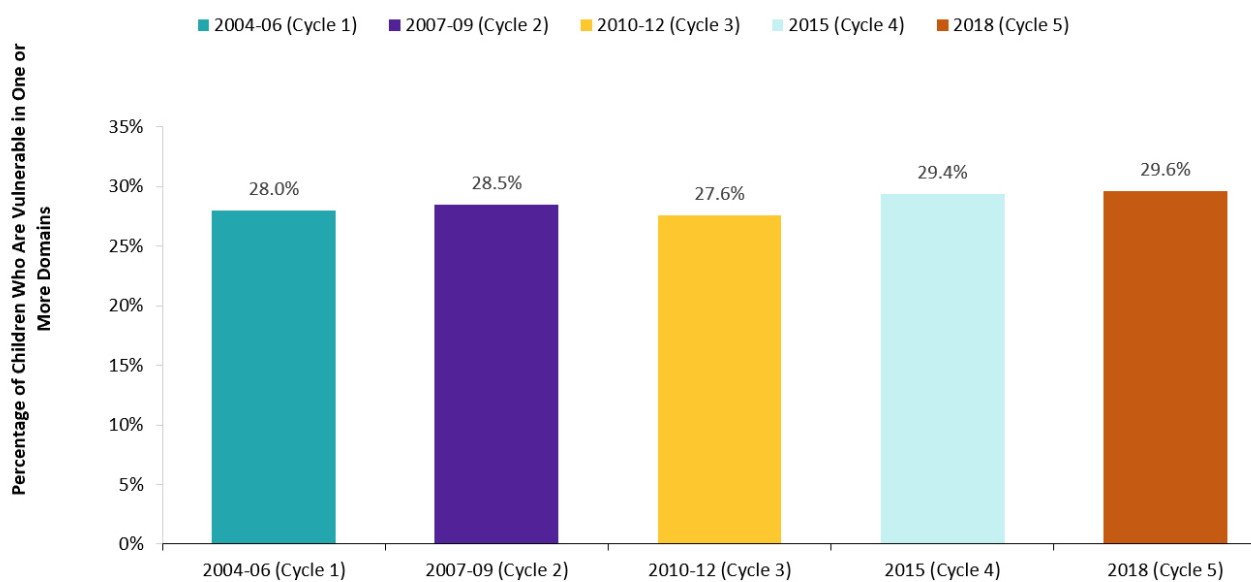
Percentage of vulnerable children by EDI domain, 2004–18

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

Cycle	2004–06 (Cycle 1) % ****	2007–09 (Cycle 2) % ****	2010–12 (Cycle 3) % ****	2015 (Cycle 4) % ****	2018 (Cycle 5) % ****
Language and cognitive development	10	9	8	7	8
Communication skills and general knowledge	12	12	12	10	10

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

Figure 14: 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 (2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20).^[12] Annual investments include:^[13]

- \$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 2024–25.

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 2021–22 fiscal year, of which \$2.9 million was carried forward to the 2022–23 fiscal year. Ontario's actual expenditures in the 2021–22 fiscal year were \$143.8 million.^[14]

The 2021–22 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 2021–22

Are as	Federal allocations	Actions	Ac tu al ex pe nd itu res [15]
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. There are two components to this investment, including \$80 million for children	The federal funding was provided to service system managers through provincial-municipal service agreements. In December 2021, service system managers received consolidated 2022 service agreement and funding guidelines for licensed child	\$1 00. 0 mil lio n

	aged 0–6, and \$20 million to support access to affordable child care across the system based on local priorities.	care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres, including funding under the Canada-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.	The federal funding was provided to service system managers to support 611 main EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations, 358 mobile/satellite EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations and 198 EarlyON 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 2021-22 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	This funding supports culturally relevant professional learning strategies for Francophone and First Nation, Metis, Inuit and Indigenous staff	\$1.5 million

pm ent	workforce.	working in the child care and early years sector.	
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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, 2014

(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>) 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

Age categories	Age range	Ratio of employees to children	Maximum number of children in group	Proportion of employees that must be qualified employees
Toddler	18 months or older but younger than 30 months	1 to 5	15	1/3
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

Age categories	Age range	Ratio of employees to children	Maximum number of children in group	Proportion of employees that must be qualified employees
Primary/juni or school age	68 months or older but younger than 13 years	1 to 1 5	30	1/2
Junior school age	9 years or older but younger than 13 years	1 to 2 0	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:^[16]

- 83% of licensed child care centres employed at least one RECE for supervisor positions
- 97% of licensed home child care agencies employed at least one RECE for all home child care visitor positions

In 2022, the most recent year for which there is data available, there were 32,445 full-time program staff employed by licensed child care centres of which 19,112 (58.9%) were RECEs.^[17]

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, 2014* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>) are also in place to help child care licensees embed How does learning happen into practice.

As of March 31, 2022, 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 neither 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, 2022, there were 472,997 licensed child care spaces in centres across the province, with 8,459 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.^[18]

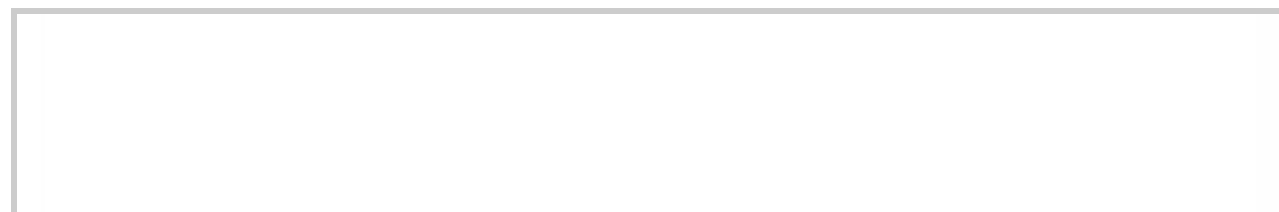


Table 7: Ontario child population, licensed spaces, and percentage of children with access to licensed child care, 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Child population aged 0-12	1,901,206	1,908,411	1,915,515	1,923,619	1,931,723	1,940,827	1,949,931	1,959,035	1,968,139	1,977,243
Spaces in Licensed Child Care Centres	294,409	317,608	330,807	344,006	406,505	429,704	452,903	476,102	499,301	522,500
Perc	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2
Percentage of children aged 0-12 for whom there are licensed child care spaces %	5.5	6.7	8.3	10.1	11.0	11.9	12.8	13.6	13.9	14.2

Data source: Child population data from Summer 2022 population projections, Ontario Ministry of Finance, and space data from the Child Care Licensing System (CCLS), Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31 each year).

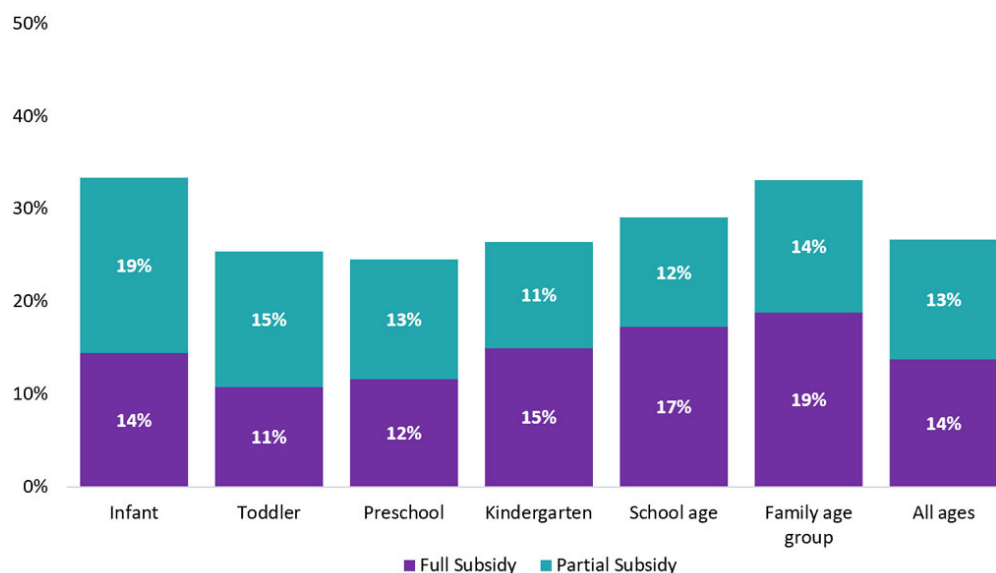
Affordability

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 2022, the most recent year for which there is data available, approximately 26.7% of children in licensed child care centres received a subsidy (see Figure 15), as did 51.0% of children in licensed home child care (see Figure 16).

Figure 15: Percentage of children in licensed child care centres receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2022

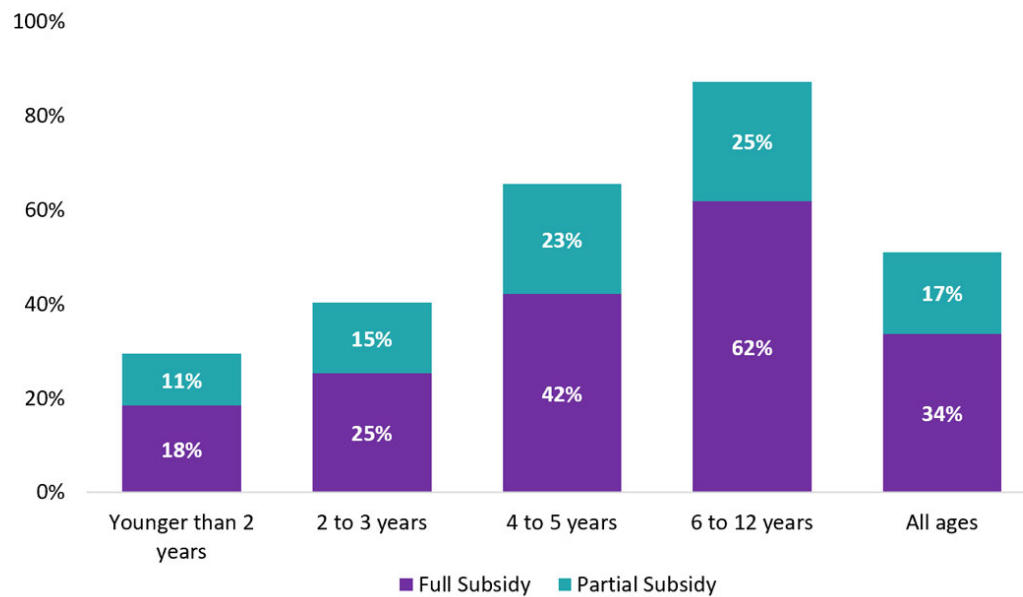


Percentage of children in licensed child care centres receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2022

Subsidy type	Full subsidy %	Partial subsidy %
Infant	14 . 4	19 . 0
Toddler	10 . 8	14 . 7
Preschool	11 . 6	12 . 9
Kindergarten	15 . 0	11 . 5
School age	17 . 2	11 . 8
Family age group	18 . 8	14 . 2
All ages	13 . 8	12 . 9

Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).

Figure 16: Percentage of children in licensed home child care receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2022



Percentage of children in licensed home child care receiving a full or partial subsidy by age, 2022

Subsidy type	Full subsidy %	Partial subsidy %
Younger than 2 years	18 . 4	11 . 0
2 to 3 years	25 . 3	15 . 0
4 to 5 years	42 . 0	23 . 5
6 to 12 years	61 . 9	25 . 4
All ages	33 . 7	17 . 4

Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).

In 2020, the most recent year for which there is data available, 117,388 children in Ontario received fee subsidies.^[19] A total of 5,066 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.^[20]

It is estimated that 71% 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, 2020^[21]

Family income	Percentage %
\$20,000 and below	36
\$20,001 – \$40,000	35
\$40,001 – \$60,000	19
\$60,001 – \$80,000	7
Total	100

Family income	Percentage %
\$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:[22]

- 9.9% of child care centres reported the availability of weekend care and less than 1% reported the availability of care during the evening or overnight
- 8.8% of home child care providers reported the availability of weekend care, 8.0% reported the availability of evening care and 5.1% 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 27,504 children were funded through Special Needs Resourcing between January 1 and December 31, 2020, the most recent year for which there is data available. [23]

Indigenous-led child care centres

A total of 20 licensed child care centres reported that they were Indigenous-led organizations operating in urban and rural communities. [24]

French-language and bilingual child care

As of March 31, 2022, a total of 307 centres offered French-language programs and 101 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, 2022, there were 472,997 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. [25]

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

- more than 102,000 spaces are used by children from families with income below \$40,000
- about 188,000 spaces are used by children from families with income between \$40,000 and \$100,000
- about 183,000 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 2022, there were 611 main EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations and 358 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, 151 offered French-language programming and 183 offered Indigenous programming.

As of Summer 2020, 81 new EarlyON Child and Family centres 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 2020, the most recent year for which there is data available, 150,740 children were served by child and family programs at EarlyON centres,^[26] or approximately 15% of children in the province aged 0–6 years.^[27] In the same year, there were 711,279 visits made by children to EarlyON centres, and 593,256 visits made by parents and caregivers.^[28]

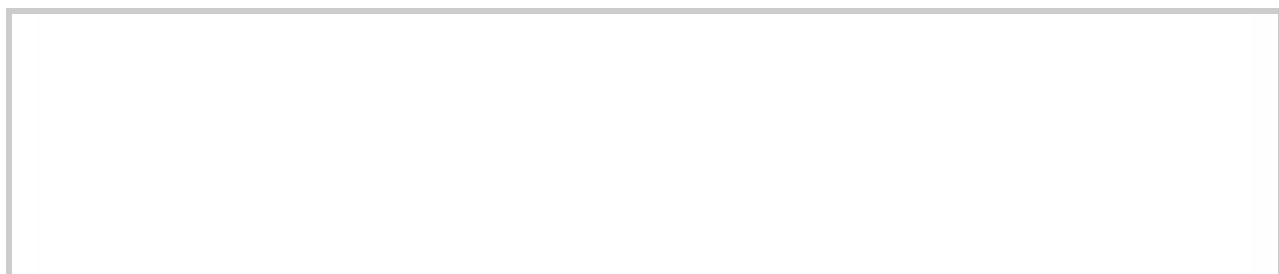


Table 9: Number of children served and visits to child and family programs, 2019 to 2020

Item	2019	2020	Percentage Change %
Number of children served	384,851	150,740	-60.8
Number of visits by children	2,590,151	711,279	-72.5
Number of visits by parents or caregivers	2,105,538	593,256	-71.8

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 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 2021–22, the ministry allocated \$3.5 million in provincial funding and \$2 million in federal funding under the ELCC Agreement, and \$1.5 million in federal funding under the Early Childhood Workforce Funding Agreement 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 college directly for the cost of tuition fees rather than requiring the students to pay up front and be reimbursed. In 2021–22, a total of 2,322 applications were approved under the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program, an increase of 14% from 2020–21.^[29]

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 2021–22, the ministry allocated \$2.25 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 experiences through 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 ^[30]	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 requiring qualified employees	See "Staff Qualifications" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment ^[30]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
High quality	Number and percentage of programs implementing Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, <i>How does learning happen</i>	Number of affirmations confirming programming alignment with <i>How does learning happen</i>	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"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment ^[30]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
Accessible, affordable and flexible	Number and percentage of licensed child care programs that offer flexible hours	Number and percentage of programs providing care during non-standard hours	See "Flexibility and Inclusion" 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"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[30]	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 French-language licensed child care centres	See "French-language and Bilingual Child Care" 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 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-	Number and percentage of children for	See "Children in Licensed Child Care by

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment ^[30]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
	income and middle class families participating in early learning and child care programs	whom a licensed space is available by income	Income" under "Licensed Child Care Indicators"
High quality early learning^[31]			
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, <i>How does learning happen</i>	Service guideline requires programming alignment with <i>How does learning happen</i>	See "Pedagogical Framework" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
Accessible	Number of new EarlyON Child and	Number of EarlyON Child	See "Access, Affordability,

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[30]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
affordable and flexible	Family Centres (including full and part-time locations)	and Family programs offering full- and part-time hours	Flexibility and Inclusion" under "EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators"
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	Number and percentage of	Number and percentage of	See "Access, Affordability,

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[30]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
affordable and flexible	early learning programs that offer flexible hours	EarlyON Child and Family that offer programming during non-standard hours	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 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"

Principles	Indicators related to planned investment^[30]	Indicators as reported by Ontario	Reference to the data in the report
Professional learning			
Early Childhood Educators qualifications upgrade program	Number of individuals supported through the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program per annum	Number of individuals supported through the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program	See "Early Childhood Educators 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"

The Ministry of Education acknowledges the Government of Canada's support in connection with the 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>) and 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>). Part 3 of this document outlines Ontario's progress towards meeting early learning and child care goals under the agreement.

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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: 2022 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, 2022, were asked to complete the 2022 survey, and more than 98% did so.
- [4] ^ "Active homes" refers to the number of home child care providers that have a contract/agreement with an agency.
- [5] ^ 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.
- [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] ^ Data source: EarlyON web page on Ontario.ca, Ontario Ministry of Education.
- [10] ^ 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.
- [11] ^ "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.
- [12] ^ Actual allocations may vary according to the latest population estimates.
- [13] ^ Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- [14] ^ Figure is subject to change upon the completion of the 2021–22.
- [15] ^ Final expenditures are subject to change pending the 2021–22 audit.
- [16] ^ Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education, as of March 31, 2022.
- [17] ^ Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).
- [18] ^ The estimation does not account for children cared for in homes contracted with licensed home child care agencies. All the “Percentage of children aged 0–12 for whom there are licensed child care spaces” are updated with the 2022 Summer child population projection data, Ontario Ministry of Finance.
- [19] ^ Data source: Education Finance Information System, Ontario Ministry of Education. The total number includes federal, provincial, and municipal funding sources.
- [20] ^ Data source: Education Finance Information System, Ontario Ministry of Education.
- [21] ^ The percentage of children receiving subsidy by family income does not add up due to rounding.
- [22] ^ Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).

- [23] ^ Data source: Education Finance Information System, Ontario Ministry of Education. The total number includes federal, provincial, and municipal funding sources.
- [24] ^ Data source: 2022 Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, Ontario Ministry of Education (as of March 31, 2022).
- [25] ^ Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016104.
- [26] ^ Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education.
- [27] ^ Percentage is an estimate based on the number of children served and the total population of children in the province aged 0–6 years.
- [28] ^ Data source: Ontario Ministry of Education. Based on the most recent year of data available.
- [29] ^ 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.
- [30] ^ This column lists the indicators outlined in the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.
- [31] ^ "Early learning" under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement refers to EarlyON Child and Family Centres within the context of Ontario.