

# ALBERTA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

## GOVERNANCE

<b>Alberta: Governance structure early childhood education</b>	
<b>Lead ministry/ department</b>	Ministry of Human Services Alberta Education
<b>Policy framework</b>	Public consultation on Education Act underway. No integrated early childhood education framework.
<b>Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Act (2000) <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/department/policy/legislation/regulations.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/department/policy/legislation/regulations.aspx</a></li> <li>• Early Childhood Services Regulation (2002)</li> <li>• Private Schools Regulation (2000)</li> <li>• Child Care Licensing Act (2008) <a href="http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=C10P5.cfm&amp;leg_type=Acts&amp;isbncIn=9780779733866">http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=C10P5.cfm&amp;leg_type=Acts&amp;isbncIn=9780779733866</a></li> <li>• Child Care Regulation Licensing Regulation (2008) <a href="http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2008_143.cfm&amp;leg_type=Regs&amp;isbncIn=9780779735570">http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2008_143.cfm&amp;leg_type=Regs&amp;isbncIn=9780779735570</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related legislation</b>	
<b>Public oversight/ advisory</b>	Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services
<b>Local service delivery</b>	Nine regional Child and Family Service Authorities 300 school authorities

### Department organization

On October 12, 2011, the provincial government announced a new Ministry of Human Services that consolidates Children and Youth Services, Employment and Immigration, Homelessness and Alberta Supports (from Seniors and Community Support). The new ministry brings together programming for children and families in need.

The Ministry of Human Services includes the former Children and Youth Services. In the past the Ministry of Child and Youth Services has collaborated with Alberta Education on a variety of initiatives related to child care (e.g. Child Care Modularity), children with special needs and disabilities (e.g. Inclusive Child Care) and a number of cross-ministry early childhood development priorities.

The Ministry of Education includes Early Childhood Services, including kindergarten for five-year-old children. The Early Learning Branch of Alberta Learning is responsible for Early Childhood Services in Alberta Education.

Bill 18, the proposed Education Act, was introduced in the 2011 Spring Legislative Session but will not proceed in the 2011 Fall Legislative session. It is under review and will be re-introduced at a later date.  
<http://education.alberta.ca/department/policy/education-act.aspx>

The government has announced *Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right* public consultations on the Education Act  
<http://education.alberta.ca/department/policy/education-act.aspx>

### Service design

Nonparental child care for infants, preschool and kindergarten children for 4 or more consecutive hours in each day

**Pre-school:** Program for children from age two- to five-years children for less than 4 hours per child in each day the program is provided

**Out-of-School Care:** care provided to kindergarten and school-aged children before or after school, during lunch or when school is closed.

**Early Childhood Services** is a continuum of programming provided by Alberta Learning to children before compulsory schooling begins in Grade 1. It includes Kindergarten, a half-day program the year prior to Grade 1 for all children the year prior to Grade 1. Some school authorities offer full-day kindergarten and programs to four year olds typically offered to children at risk. Children from age 2.5 years with a diagnosed delay or who are English Language Learners may attend ECS programs. Children who are designated 'at risk' may attend from age 3.5 years. A *private ECS operator* must be a non-profit society or a non-profit company. For-profit child care centres may establish a separate non-profit society to operate the ECS program. Most private ECS operators also operate licensed child care programs. Private ECS operators must submit a letter of intent to the School Accreditation Branch, with documentation showing the teacher's certification, proof of insurance and a student count. Letters of intent must be submitted annually.

### Public oversight/advisory

The province-wide Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services supports program quality enhancements as part of a voluntary accreditation process. Accredited child care programs receive additional funding support including staff wage enhancements. In 2010, approximately 450 accredited child care centres and 78 family child care agencies are now accredited. Preschool programs are not eligible.

<http://www.aelcs.ca/default.aspx>

### Local service delivery

Ten Regional Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSAs) monitor and enforce compliance with child care licensing standards and regulations.

Over 300 school authorities including public school boards, Catholic school boards, charter schools, private schools and private operators offer Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs including Kindergarten, prekindergarten and early intervention programs.

## FUNDING

<b>Alberta: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011-2012</b>		<b>\$</b>
Early Childhood Services (Kindergarten)		180,737,000 <sup>1</sup>
Early Childhood Services (Preschool)		29,739,000 <sup>2</sup>
Licensed child care		229,000,000 <sup>3</sup>
Total ECE/child care spending		439,476,000
Total Budget 2011-2012 estimate		38,990,000,000 <sup>4</sup>
ECE as % of provincial budget		1.13%
<p>1. Estimate based on Basic Child Grant @ \$3953.90 in public, separate, charter or Francophone schools x approximately 40,000 children + Basic Child Grant @ \$3248.35 in private schools and ECS private operators x 3200 children + Mild/Moderate Disabilities @ \$2438 per eligible child x approximately 5000 children. Funding Manual For School Authorities 2011/2012. <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/manual.aspx/">http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/manual.aspx/</a>. Alberta Education Student Population by Grade, School &amp; Authority, 2011. <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/apps/eireports/pdf_files/eis1004_2011/iar1004_2011.pdf">http://education.alberta.ca/apps/eireports/pdf_files/eis1004_2011/iar1004_2011.pdf</a> Special Education statistics <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/admin/special/stats.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/admin/special/stats.aspx</a></p> <p>2. Estimate based on Basic Child Grant + Mild/Moderate Disabilities per eligible child x approximately 5000 children (in public, separate, charter, Francophone, private schools and ECS private operators)</p> <p>3. Child and Youth Services Business Plan 2011 – 2014</p>		

<http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2011/children-youth-services.pdf>  
 Note: Between 2008 and 2011 \$242 million was invested in child care programs through Creating Child Care Choices, creating approximately 14,000 new child care spaces.

4. Alberta Budget 2011. <http://budget2011.alberta.ca/newsroom/index.html>

**Notes: Early Childhood Services Funding**

All ECS operators are funded on a per capita basis and must provide a minimum of 475 hours of service at no cost to parents. For 2011/12 ECS funding includes:

Early Childhood Services funding per child in public, separate, charter or Francophone schools

Base instruction	3,248.35
Class Size	708.90
Basic Child Grant	3,952.90
ECS Mild/Moderate Disabilities/Delays, Gifted and Talented (per eligible child):	\$2,438.00

**Early Childhood Services for ECS Private Operator or Private School**

Base instruction	3,248.35
Administration (6%) (assuming less than 2,000 children)	194.88
ECS Mild/Moderate Disabilities/Delays, Gifted and Talented (per eligible child):	\$2,438.00

Alberta Education provides funding to school authorities who may then provide kindergarten programming in a variety of languages. Funding is also provided for children who are learning English as a new language and for Francisation. Programming for children under 5 is also available.

Funding Manual For School Authorities 2011/2012. <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/manual.aspx>

**Alberta: Estimated Licensed Child Care Funding Breakdown 2011<sup>1</sup>**

Parent fee subsidies	63%
Direct funding (including wage enhancement grant for accredited programs)	36%
Special Needs	1%

1. Estimate from Child and Youth Services Business Plan 2011 – 2014

<http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2011/children-youth-services.pdf> and Beach et al (2009) *ECEC in Canada 2008*. <http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-canada/09/1>

**ACCESS**

**Alberta: Child population 0-5 years 2010<sup>1</sup>**

Child population 0-5 years	290,130
Total population	3,720,946
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	7.8%

1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.

**Alberta: Kindergarten 2010**

Children attending 5 year old kindergarten	42,127 <sup>1</sup>
Child population 5-years-old	43,883 <sup>2</sup>
% of 5-year-old population attending Kindergarten	96%

1. ECS enrolment in 2010/11 is 51,147. The total includes children attending ECS programs offered by public, separate, Francophone, charter, private school and private ECS operators. Because Alberta Education provides funding to school authorities for the provision of educational programming for children who are less than Kindergarten age this number reflects the total number of children registered in ECS programs. Alberta Education Annual Report 2010/2011

2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.

<b>Alberta: Early childhood education 2-to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-2009</b>	
Children attending licensed child care/preschool centres	
Children whose parents work or study	18,500
Children whose parent not working	16,200
Children attending public school programs (estimate) <sup>2</sup>	10,000
Total children attending ECE program	44,700
Child population 2 – 4 years	142,000
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	31
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation. NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.	
2. The Muttart Foundation, 2010. In the Best Interests of Children and Families <a href="http://www.muttart.org/sites/default/files/report/ECEC%20Discussion%20Paper%201011_0.pdf">http://www.muttart.org/sites/default/files/report/ECEC%20Discussion%20Paper%201011_0.pdf</a>	

<b>Alberta: Licensed child care spaces 2011<sup>1</sup></b>	
Centre-based child care	
• Under 12 months	1,416
• 13 – 19 months	3,264
• 19 – 54 months	26,875
Preschool	18,182
Out-of-School kindergarten (5-year-olds)	5,623
Out-of-School school age	21,350
Family day home	11,893
Total licensed child care spaces	88,608
1. Child Care Information System, Ministry of Child and Youth Services, March 2011.	

<b>Alberta: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010<sup>1</sup></b>		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	74,300	62.2%
Children ages 3 to 5	54,600	74.7%
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	128,900	66.9%
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	63,700	33%
Total mothers with child less than age 6	192,600	100%
1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages		

## Inclusion

*Special needs supports in Kindergarten: Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education (2006)*

[http://education.alberta.ca/media/452316/ecs\\_specialstds2006.pdf](http://education.alberta.ca/media/452316/ecs_specialstds2006.pdf)

Funding is also available to school authorities to provide educational programming for children as young as 2 years – six months of age on September 1 who have been diagnosed with a severe disability/delay, and for children who are at least 3-years, 6- months of age on September 1 if the child has a mild or moderate disability/delay, is learning English as a new language or has been formally assessed and identified as gifted and talented.

*Special needs support in child care:* Children with disabilities can receive support from the Inclusive Child Care Program in approved child care centres, family day homes and preschools.

Inclusive Child Care Programs create flexibility to meet the individual needs of children with special needs or disabilities within these child care settings. Support may include training for child care staff, consultation on programming or inclusion, resource and referral information and/or funding for additional staff.

## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

<b>Alberta: Curriculum</b>	
<i>The Kindergarten Program Statement</i>	Includes performance expectations for children in seven learning areas: early literacy; early numeracy; citizenship and identity; environment and community awareness; environment and community awareness; personal and social responsibility; physical skills and well-being; and, creative expression. <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/media/312892/kindergarten.pdf">http://education.alberta.ca/media/312892/kindergarten.pdf</a>
ECS Special	ECS operators demonstrate how they will address the Kindergarten Program Statement, regardless of the age of the children in their program. <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/parents/ecs.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/parents/ecs.aspx</a>
Child care program standards	The Alberta Child Care Accreditation Program Accreditation requirements include program standards that provide a coherent curriculum and pedagogy framework for early childhood education programs. <a href="http://www.aelcs.ca/default.aspx">http://www.aelcs.ca/default.aspx</a>

<b>Alberta: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Age</b>	<b>Staff: child ratio</b>	<b>Maximum group size</b>
<b>Day Care programs</b>		
Under 12 months	1:3	6
12 – under 19 months	1:4	8
19 months – under 3 years	1:6	12
3 – under 4.5 years	1:8	16
4.5 years and older	1:10	20
<b>Out-of-school-care program</b>		
Kindergarten children	1:10	20
Children attending grades 1 and higher	1:15	30
<b>Pre-school Program</b>		
19 months – under 3 years	1:6	
3 years and older	1:12	
<b>Group Family Childcare</b>		
A licensed Group Family Child Care provider may care for no more than 10 children, including the licence holder's own children. A maximum of 3 children may be under 3 and a maximum of 2 may be infants.		
1. Child Care Licensing Regulation <a href="http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2008_143.cfm&amp;leg_type=Regs&amp;isbncln=9780779759323&amp;display=htm">http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2008_143.cfm&amp;leg_type=Regs&amp;isbncln=9780779759323&amp;display=htm</a>		

## Educators

<b>Alberta: Educator qualifications</b>	
Kindergarten teachers	Kindergarten teachers must hold a valid Alberta teaching certificate which requires a minimum of four years of university study including a basic teacher preparation program (B.Ed.), or a bachelor's degree supplemented with a basic teacher preparation program (two years post-degree for teacher course work and practicum.) <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/certification.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/certification.aspx</a>
Early childhood educators Child Care Staff Certification Guide	For licensed day care programs, out-of-school care programs, and pre-school programs, staff working directly with children must be certified. Post-secondary training in early childhood education or equivalent and determines eligibility for one of the three levels of certification.  Child development supervisor: ECE diploma, or equivalent (qualified early childhood educator)  Child development worker: ECE certificate, or has competencies, completed course work or a combination of both. Child development assistant: Course in child care/early childhood education or have equivalent competencies, that the statutory director deems acceptable. <a href="http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/childcare/Certification_Guide.pdf">http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/childcare/Certification_Guide.pdf</a>

<b>Alberta: Teacher and ECE average annual salaries</b>		
<b>Teachers 2008/09<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Early childhood educator 2010<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>ECE % of Teacher</b>
80,376	38,355	48%
<p>1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i>. Statistics Canada; <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm">http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm</a>.</p> <p>2. Calculated at \$18.44/hour (Adapted from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Employed employees and average weekly for NOCS 2006 occupations E217-Early Childhood Educators and Assistants by highest level of educational attainment. Canada and the provinces, 2009/ 2010 two years averages. Special tabulation.) x 40 hours x 52 weeks.</p>		

<b>Alberta: Required professional standards for educators</b>		
	<b>Required professional recognition</b>	<b>Required professional learning</b>
<b>Kindergarten teachers</b>	The Professional Standards Branch of the Alberta Education is responsible for teacher certification. <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/certification.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/certification.aspx</a>	
<b>Early childhood educators</b>	Child Care Staff Certification, Human Services <a href="http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/childcare/Certification_Guide.pdf">http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/childcare/Certification_Guide.pdf</a>	

**Annual progress reports:** Child and Youth Services Annual Report 2010 – 2011, Government of Alberta

<http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/publications/AnnualReport2010-11.pdf>

Education Annual Report 2010-2011.

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/media/6552055/annualreport2011.pdf>

**Child Care Information System (CCIS):** CCIS contains current information about licensing and monitoring child care programs, Child Care Subsidy Program, Child Care Accreditation Funding Program, Staff Qualification Program, Claims Process, and Licensing and Family Day Home Program.

<http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/publications/AnnualReport2010-11.pdf>

**Program standards:** As of March 2010, approximately 80% of day care programs and family day home agencies were accredited the voluntary Alberta Child Care Accreditation Program. As of March 31, 2011, more than 96 per cent of licensed day cares and contracted family day home agencies are participating in accreditation and more than 81 per cent of programs are accredited.

<http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/publications/AnnualReport2010-11.pdf>

**Population monitoring:** *Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Initiative* is a five-year, province-wide research project on the factors that may influence healthy child development. Data are gathered from the Early Development Instrument, 2006 and 2011 Census data on socioeconomic factors and information about local programs and services. Alberta school authorities, communities and parents will have a comprehensive range of population level information on children's development prior to kindergarten.

<http://www.ecdmapping.alberta.ca/>