

ONTARIO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

Ontario: Governance structure early childhood education	
Lead ministry/department	Ministry of Education
Common supervisory unit	Early Learning Division
Related departments	Ministry of Children and Youth Services Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Policy framework	No policy framework for integrated delivery of ECE programs.
Legislation	The Day Nurseries Act (1990, last amended 2010) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90d02_e.htm The Day Nurseries Act Regulation 262 http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900262_e.htm Education Act http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90e02_e.htm Education Act; O.Reg. 224/10 – Full Day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten http://cal2.edu.gov.on.ca/june2010/EL_7Eng.pdf Education Act; O.Reg. 221/11 – Extended Day and Third Party Programs; O. Reg. 399/00 – Class Size http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/june2011/2011EL4.pdf Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007 http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2010/elaws_src_regs_r10431_e.htm
Related legislation	
Public oversight/advisory	
Local service delivery	72 school boards 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards

Department organization

In 2010, the Ontario government transferred responsibility for child care from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) to the Ministry of Education, to create an integrated system and support transitions for children and families.

The government is taking a phased approach.

- Child care policy and program responsibilities were transferred in May 2010.

Funding and contract management for Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) were transferred on January 1, 2011. The Ministry of Education holds funding agreements with Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) that manage fee subsidies and operational funding for child care.

- Funding and contract management for First Nations child care transferred on April 1, 2011.

- Responsibility for child care licensing will transfer from MCYS to the Ministry of Education on January 1, 2012.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/march2011/2011ELCC3.pdf>

The Early Learning Division, within the Ministry of Education, oversees policy implementation in kindergarten, and funding and licensing of child care, whether in schools or the community. The Learning Environment Branch oversees 145 school board-operated Parenting and Family Literacy Centres. The Learning and Curriculum Division oversees the development of the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program.

The Ministry for Children and Youth Services remains responsible for Ontario Early Years Centres, most community-based children's special needs services and has the lead for the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy which focuses on children to three years old to provide early identification and support.

Policy framework for integrated early childhood education

With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario recommended the development of an integrated policy framework for children from 0 to 12 years that would include seamless day program for four- and five-year-old children and extended day programs for elementary school children offered by schools; Best Start Child and Family Centres for children from 0 to age 3 years; and expanded parental leave and benefits.

http://www.ontario.ca/en/initiatives/early_learning/ONT06_018865.html

Full Day Kindergarten is now being implemented with school-board delivered or third party delivered extended day component for children 4 and 5 year-olds. Best Start Child and Family Centres (BSCFCs), were envisioned as integrated programs providing early learning, care, family supports, and special needs servicing for preschool aged children. BSCFC are now focused on the coordination of special needs service delivery. An update paper on the new role of BSCFCs was released in June 2011 by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/reports/bestStartUpdate2010-2011/index.aspx>

To date, the government of Ontario has not released a comprehensive policy document for an integrated early childhood education system.

Service design

- *Kindergarten*: Children are eligible for senior kindergarten if they turn five years old in the calendar year they start kindergarten. Ontario also offers junior kindergarten for children who turn 4 years old in the calendar year they start junior kindergarten. Attendance for both junior kindergarten and kindergarten is voluntary. Ontario is introducing a Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) program to four- and five-year-old children that will replace junior and senior kindergarten. FDK was initiated with approximately 600 schools in 2010 with a commitment to include all elementary schools by 2014-15. Estimated enrollment in FDK is 35,000 in 2010-2011; 50,000 in 2011-2012 and 120,000 in 2012-2013. Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) Program is being rolled out over 5 years starting in 2010. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/kindergarten/>; <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/kindergarten/memosummary.html>
- Where there is sufficient parent demand, boards are required to offer before and/or after school programs on instructional school days. Boards may deliver these programs directly, or they may ensure the delivery of on-site before- and/or after- school programs through an agreement with a qualifying third party provider. Third party programs must be: delivered on at least every instructional day; delivered on the school premises; led by a Registered ECE (or by an individual approved by a Director under the *Day Nurseries Act*); and be a day nursery program licensed under the *Day Nurseries Act*. Programs must also be municipal or not-for-profit, subject to limited exceptions. http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2475
- *Parenting and Family Literacy Centres*: Children from birth to six years and their parents/caregivers can participate together in a range of play-based learning activities designed to prepare children for school learning. They are typically staffed by early childhood educators and offered in 145 schools in

urban high-needs neighbourhoods.
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/pflc.html>

- *Licensed child care programs:* Licensed child care is offered in centres includes: full-time, part-time, and school-age care. Child care is operated by municipal governments (5%); post secondary institutions (3%) (as part of their training programs); non-profit agencies (65%) and individuals and corporations as commercial enterprises (26%). Approximately 50 percent of child care centres are located in schools.

Public oversight/advisory

Ministries, including the Ministry of Education, convene stakeholder tables but there is no legislated or policy requirement for public oversight/advisory bodies with a defined role to advise or monitor government policies.

Local service delivery

Across Ontario, school boards and authorities deliver kindergarten, junior kindergarten or Full Day Kindergarten. School boards may offer Parent and Family Literacy Programs, extended day programming and special needs interventions in some schools. School boards include 31 English public boards, 29 English Catholic boards, 4 French public boards, 8 French Catholic boards and 11 school authorities (isolated boards and hospital school boards).

The Education Act requires a Parent Council in every school. Regional bodies which manage child care and related children's services vary in the amount of organized community and stakeholder input used to inform services planning and operations. Many regions have standing advisory committees. Many have also developed additional quality monitoring tools to improve services. School boards with large Aboriginal student populations generally have Aboriginal advisory committees. http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_000612_e.htm

47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards administer parent fee subsidies and operational funding for child care programs, child care special needs services and family resource programs. Some regional authorities directly deliver child care programs.

57 First Nations administer on-reserve child care and early years programming.

FUNDING

Ontario: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011-12		\$
Kindergarten		1,440,000,000 ¹
Other publicly funded ECE program		8,700,000 ²
Licensed child care		1,042,000,000 ³
Total provincial budget		124,100,000,000 ⁴
Total ECE spending		2,490,700,600
% ECE/child care spending of provincial budget		2.01
<p>1. Calculated on 50,000 full time JK/SK kindergarten children x \$10,500/child and 195,000 part time JK/SK kindergarten students x \$4800/child http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1112/technical11.pdf; http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html;</p> <p>2. Estimate for 145 Parent and Family Literacy Programs x \$65,000/site</p> <p>3. Estimates from Ontario 2011-2012. http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/estimates/2011-12/volume1/. Includes Estimate of municipal 20 percent provincial spending. Municipal governments are required to contribute to the administration and operations of of most child care programs: 50 percent administration and 20 percent operating costs. Many municipalities contribute above the statutory cost sharing. http://www.toronto.ca/children/pdf/serv_plan_2010/servplan_2010.pdf</p> <p>4. http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ontariobudgets/2011/</p> <p>Note: The provincial government is aware that the implementation of full-day kindergarten will impact Ontario's child care sector and has introduced transition funding, growing to \$51 million annually at full implementation.</p>		

Ontario: Child care public funding breakdown 2011-2012¹		%
Parent fee subsidies		46
Program funding including wage subsidies, Best Start operating grant to municipalities and child care capital		48
Special needs		6
1. Breakdown based on http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/estimates/2011-12/volume1/ , previous years' allocations and Beach et al (2009) <i>ECEC in Canada 2008</i> . http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-in-canada		

ACCESS

Ontario: Child population 0-5 years¹	
Child population 0-5 years	855,880
Total population	13,210,667
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	6.5%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Ontario: Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5 year old kindergarten ¹	126,100
Child population 5-years-old ²	144,237
% of 5-year-old population attending kindergarten	87%
1. Estimate of 5-year-old children attending provincial schools http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html	
2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Early childhood education 2-to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-2009¹	
Children whose parents work or study	112,800
Children whose parent not working	36,000
Children attending public school programs ²	100,000
Total children attending ECE program	248,800
Child population 2 – 4 years	428,213
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	58%
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. Estimate of Junior Kindergarten enrollment and Parenting and Family Literacy Centre participation not including estimated 20,000 children attending licensed child care	

Ontario: Number of licensed child care spaces 2010¹	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0-18 months)	8,511
• Toddler (18-30 months)	28,083
• Preschool (2.5 – 5 years)	103,174
• Junior Kindergarten (3 years, 8 months)	21,404
• Kindergarten (4 years, 8 months)	6,217
• Total centre spaces 0-5 years	167,389
• School age (6-12 years)	90,233
Private-Home Day Care Enrolment	18,953
Total Licensed Capacity	276,410

1. Early Learning Division, Ministry of Education, April 2011.

Ontario: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	2,705,000	71
Children ages 3 to 5	1,869,000	73
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child 6 years and younger	4,574,000	72
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child 6 years and younger	1,796,000	28
Total mothers with child age 6 or younger	6,370,000	

1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages

Inclusion

Special needs supports in Kindergarten: Special Education Needs and FDK document is part of the process to streamline special needs support as children transition from preschool programs to kindergarten.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/may10.html>
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/july11.html>

Special needs support in child care: Policy is articulated in the Ontario Child Care Service Management Guidelines. The government’s policy encourages the inclusion of children with special needs into community child care services with their peers. Special needs resourcing provides supplemental staffing (resource teachers/consultants), equipment and supplies to support inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings and is available at no additional cost to parents.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/specialneeds.html>

Affordability

Fees: The Ontario government does not collect data on parent fees. Regionally fees vary widely. In a large urban centres (Toronto, Ottawa) fees can exceed \$1500/month for infants & toddlers and \$900/month for preschooler.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Ontario: Curriculum	
The Full-Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program	The document will remain in draft until 2012 and is used in full day kindergarten program and incorporates the Kindergarten Program 2006, and major elements from more newly developed frameworks including Every Child Every Opportunity and Early Learning for Every Child Today. http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten_english_june3.pdf
The Kindergarten Program, 2006 (revised)	Used in half day junior and senior kindergarten programs. http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindercurr.pdf
Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten Program: Extended Day Program	Used in FDK before/after school programs. http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderProgram2010.pdf
Curriculum is modified to meet the language and religious requirements of French and Catholic schools.	
Day Nurseries Act	Requires licensed child care centres to have a program of activities that is appropriate for the developmental levels of children enrolled. A written statement that outlines the program’s philosophy and method of operation must be reviewed with parents before their child is enrolled. http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900262_e.htm
Early Learning for Every Child Today: A Framework for Ontario early childhood settings (2007)	Provides a guide for curriculum development and pedagogy for ECE programs. Licensed child care programs are not required to use the framework but are encouraged to follow the framework principles in their daily practice. A website version of the Early Learning Framework includes videos illustrates how to put the principles of the framework into practice. http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/oelf/introduction/ .

Working environment

- Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten class size: 23 students or fewer.
- Full Day Kindergarten class size: 26 students with two educators (teacher and early childhood educator)
- Child Care Program Size: the maximum number of children per licensed child care centre is not specified.

Ontario: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres¹		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size ²
Under 18 months	3:10	10
18 - 30 months	1:5	15
31 months - 5 years ³	1:8	16
44 - 67 months as of August 31 of the year	1:10	20
56 - 67 months	1:12	24
68 months and up to and including 12 years as of August 31 of the year	1:15	30

1. Day Nurseries Act Regulations: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900262_e.htm

2. A minimum of one Registered early childhood educator per group of children.

3. A group of 24 may be together with 2 qualified early childhood educators.

Educators

Ontario: Educator qualifications	
Kindergarten teachers	Bachelor of Education degrees or undergraduate degree and one year teacher education. French boards require language proficiency. Catholic boards often require proof of religious practice.
Early childhood educators	Diploma in Early Childhood Education from an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology (OCAAT) or a diploma/degree from a program listed on the College's Approved Post Secondary Programs List.

Ontario: Teacher and ECE average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008-2009 ¹	Early Childhood Educators 2009-2010 ²	ECE % of Teacher
\$75,295	\$36,179	48
<p>1. Brockington, R. (2010) Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009. Statistics Canada; http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm; (2010);</p> <p>2. Calculated at \$17.39/hour (Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Employed employees and average weekly for NOCS 2006 occupations E217-Early Childhood Educators and Assistants by highest level of educational attainment. Canada and the provinces, 2009/ 2010 two years averages. Special tabulation.) x 40 hours x 52 weeks.</p>		

Ontario: Professional requirements for educators		
	Recognition requirement	Professional learning requirement
Kindergarten teachers	Teacher certification, Ontario College of Teachers http://www.oct.ca/home.aspx	
Early childhood educators	Registration, College of Early Childhood Educators ¹ http://collegeofece.on.ca/Pages/default.aspx	
<p>1. The College of Early Childhood Educators primary duty is to serve and protect the public interest by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining a public register of early childhood educators; • Setting registration requirements to ensure that only qualified and competent individuals are registered as members;1establishing a code of ethics and standards of practice for early childhood educators; • Investigating complaints from the public about the conduct of its members and, if necessary, disciplining members; • Setting standards of practice that all early childhood educators are accountable to meet; and • Assuring parents that members of the CECE will be held accountable for providing a high standard of care and early education for children. <p>The College is also responsible for assessing educational training and certification of Canadian and internationally-trained professionals working in the early childhood sector who want to be recognized as early childhood educators.</p>		

ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual reports: The Early Childhood Development Agreement (ECDA) and Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care contained commitments from its signatories to publicly post annual reports on the initiatives and investments in early childhood. Ontario's last report was in 2006/2007.
http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/OECDELCCIO_2006-2007.aspx

Program standards:

Kindergarten: The Early Learning Division is engaged in a monitoring and evaluation strategy for Full-Day Kindergarten. The 2010-2012 objectives for the evaluation are to identify early indicators of effective practices related to the impact of Full-Day Kindergarten and, to gain knowledge from the first phase of

implementation to help inform program delivery moving forward through to full implementation.
<http://www.brocku.ca/news/14619>

Child care: Not required by legislation but quality assessment tools are used in some regions. The City of Toronto's Operating Criteria has been validated. <http://www.toronto.ca/children/operatingcriteria.htm>

Monitoring children's learning:

Kindergarten: *The Full-Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program and the Kindergarten Program, 2006* (revised) contain learning goals children are expected to achieve. Reports become part of the child's school record and are shared with parents.

Child care: *The Early Learning for Every Child Today: A Framework for Ontario early childhood settings* (2007) promotes documentation of children's programs but there is no requirement to monitor or report. Records from child care do not follow children into school.

Population monitoring: The *Early Development Instrument (EDI)* is collected in three year cycles. All publicly funded schools participate. EDI data are used by communities across Ontario to understand the relative strengths and needs of children. Many communities use EDI data to support local program and planning decisions. Some communities conduct additional analysis in partnership with school boards

Data Analyst Coordinators (DACs) lead the implementation of the EDI at the local level and work jointly with research staff at the Offord Centre and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to conduct other early child development research. They provide analysis and reporting of EDI data at the community level. The DACs are funded by, and under the jurisdiction of, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.
<http://www.omssa.com/lib/db2file.asp?fileid=36408>