
New Brunswick



OVERVIEW

Responsibility for kindergarten, regulated child care and other early childhood development programs was moved into New Brunswick's new Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as of April 1, 2011.

New Brunswick is an officially bilingual province with parallel English and French public education sectors; French and English kindergartens are delivered as part of those two sectors.

Kindergarten is a compulsory full school-day program for five year olds. Full school-day is defined as four to 4.5 hours a day.

Regulated child care centres are predominantly for-profit, with about one third non-profit centres, and no publicly-delivered child care. Regulated family child care is individually licensed. Its spaces are termed "approved spaces" while regulated family child care homes are termed "community child care homes". Parental leave is termed "child care leave".

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 years (2014 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	6,500
1	6,400
2	7,100
3	7,700
4	6,200
5	7,100
6	7,200
7	7,100
8	7,400
9	7,400
10	6,200
11	6,900
12	8,100
Total	91,200

Number of children 0-12 years (2014 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	20,000
3-5	21,000
6-12	50,300
Total	91,200

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2014 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	4,000
1	3,900
2	4,000
3	5,100
4	4,200
5	4,400
6	4,800
7	4,300
8	4,800
9	4,800
10	4,200
11	4,900
12	5,900
Total	59,300

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2014 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	11,900
3-5	13,700
6-12	33,700
Total	59,300

Children 0-14 years identifying with an Aboriginal group (2011)

Age	First Nations	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	1,470	230	65	0	30	1,815
5-9	1,400	280	55	30	30	1,800
10-14	1,650	330	70	0	40	2,100
Total	4,520	840	190	50	105	5,710

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2014 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	12,400	70.5
3-5	10,400	80.6
6-15	31,100	85.5

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE**Maternity leave**

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave (Child Care Leave)

37 weeks may be shared between the parents. The combined total of maternity leave and Child Care Leave taken by one or both parents cannot exceed 52 weeks.

Family-related leave

Three days per year.

Note: Paid maternity and parental leave provisions are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. All leave provisions are set under employment standards legislation by provinces/territories. The federal government benefit for these leaves pays for up to 15 weeks of maternity leave and 35 weeks of parental leave/adoptive leave (either parent) for new parents eligible under Employment Insurance rules. In all jurisdictions except Quebec (which has its own approach), the benefit is paid at a rate of 55% of earned income to a maximum of \$524/week (2015).

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Childhood
Development
Educational Services Division
Place 2000, 250 King Street
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1
Telephone: (506) 444-4672
Website: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education.html>

Ministère de l'Éducation et Développement
de la petite enfance
Division des Services Éducatifs francophones
Place 2000, 250 rue King
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1
Website: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/fr/ministres/education.html>

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, 1997. c.E-1.12

Sections of the Education Act specific to kindergarten are: Section 8 (school privileges), Section 15 (compulsory attendance), and Section 16 (exceptions).

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years of age by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools and is compulsory.

HOURS

The number of instructional hours must be a minimum of four hours and a maximum of 4.5 hours per day. School districts report that kindergarten programs operate at the maximum hours of instruction. There are approximately 832 instructional hours per year (based on 185 days of instruction).

CLASS SIZE

Provincial class size limits are specified in the agreement between Board of Management and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The 2008–2012 agreement stipulates a maximum kindergarten class size of 22 pupils. A kindergarten class combined with any other grade shall not exceed 17 pupils.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Two undergraduate degrees and a New Brunswick Teacher's Certificate are required. There are no specific requirements for kindergarten teachers beyond those for elementary teachers. According to provincial officials, school districts are likely to give preference when hiring to a teacher who has taken some early childhood courses.

CURRICULUM

[K-12 Anglophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum](#)
[K-12 Francophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

K-12 per pupil spending	\$13,181
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REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Development Division
Place 2000, P.O. Box 6000, 250 King Street
Fredericton, NB, E3B 1H1

Telephone: (506) 453-2950

Websites: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/elcc.html>

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/fr/ministeres/education/elcc.html>

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Early Childhood Services Act*. Not yet proclaimed.

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act*. 1980.

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act* and Day Care Regulations, 83–85, as amended.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Care provided in a home for a maximum of five children (including the caregiver's own children less than 12 years) of mixed ages, 0-12 years. Maximum number if all are 2-5 years: four. Maximum if all are school-age: eight.

Alternative child care program

This provides funding to parents who are working or training and for whom no accessible regulated child care is available due to where they live or their hours of work. These parents may be eligible for the Alternative Child Care Program. The maximum daily subsidy for this is \$18.50 for infants, \$16.50 for children two years and older, and \$9.25 for after-school care.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Part-time or full-time care for less than 24 hours/day for four or more infants, six or more preschoolers, 10 or more children aged 6-12 years, or seven or more children from birth to 12 years.

Nursery schools

Part-day programs for preschool-age children.

School-age child care centres

Centre-based care outside school hours for school-age children up to and including 12 years.

Community day care homes

Care in a private home for no more than six children of a combination of ages from birth to 12 years, including the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

[New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework](#)

[Le Curriculum éducatif Services de gardes franco-
phone du Nouveau-Brunswick](#)

The Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum is a learning and development tool for parents and caregivers of all children aged 0 to 5. It promotes an experiential-based approach to learning and was developed by New Brunswick child care experts to assist parents and caregivers in helping children grow to their greatest potential. It recognizes the individual learning abilities and unique cultural and linguistic identities of all children. It encourages children to be active participants in their own learning and allows them to follow their interests. It works with their strengths and aims to develop dignity, a sense of self worth, and a zest for living and learning.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with disabilities and additional needs may receive services in regulated child care under the following programs: Enhanced Support Worker Program (ESWP) and Developmental Child Care.

Eligibility for the ESWP is determined through an annual application process. Under the ESWP, child care programs are funded to pay salary costs of support worker (aid) hours for preschool-aged and school-aged children

with disabilities and additional needs. The intent of the ESWP is to lower the child:staff ratio when children with disabilities and additional needs are in attendance. The ESWP is intended to support the labour force activities of families with children with disabilities and additional needs. Therefore it is intended to support children with parent(s) who are working or studying. The ESWP offers funds to centres for the salary of a support worker for a maximum of 35 support worker hours per preschool child per week. School-aged children can receive funding for up to 20 hours per week while school is in session and 35 for one week in December, March Break and summer vacation.

Eligibility for the Developmental Child Care program is determined through a referral from a Family and Early Childhood Agency, formerly Early Intervention Programs. Developmental Child Care may be provided for up to 12 hours per week for preschool children only. Parents do not need to be in the labour force. Funding may be provided to support the cost of care at the part time subsidy rate under the Day Care Assistance Program as well as the salary of a support staff, and transportation, if required. Families of children enrolled in Developmental Child Care may also be clients of the Family and Early Childhood Agency, where the child's participation in a early learning and child care setting is part of an overall case plan to support the family.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

New Brunswick approves child care centres on-reserve upon request from a First Nations community. Ongoing monitoring and renewal functions are undertaken by the province. On-reserve centres are not eligible for provincial funding and parents are not eligible for provincial fee subsidy.

There are two off-reserve Aboriginal child care programs that are approved by the Department and receive provincial government funding.

Ten centres on-reserve are currently approved by the Department. There are 268 approved spaces on reserve; 222 preschool and 46 school-age.

Some Head Start programs receive funding through an agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick and Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development

Canada (New Brunswick Head Start) and from Health Canada (Aboriginal Head Start). These programs are not licensed by the provincial government.

SPACE STATISTICS (2014)

Number of regulated child care spaces

Centre-based

Age group

Infants (0-2 years)	1,754
Preschool (2-4 years)	10,211
School-age (5-12 years)	12,591

Total centre-based spaces 23,621

Total family child care spaces 906 (est).

Total number of regulated child care spaces 24,527

Note: These figures are estimates made by provincial officials. New Brunswick approves child care centres for a total enrolment based on usable space and does not allocate spaces according to specific age groups. The number of spaces the facility operates per age category is collected through the Quality Improvement Funding Support Program's application process.

Children with special needs in regulated care

Enhanced Support Worker Program	2,251
Developmental Childcare Program	n/a

Note: These figures are the number of children with disabilities and additional needs accessing programming as of March 31st, 2014. The breakdown of Enhanced Support Worker Program recipients includes 120 preschool and 131 school-aged kids. The Developmental Childcare Program is a preschool only program.

Children receiving fee subsidies

Age group

0-4 years	2,339
5-14 years	2,985
15 + years	8

Total number of subsidies 5,332

Note: This figure is the number of children receiving subsidies as of March 31st, 2014. Note that New Brunswick reports only annual cumulative totals. Thus, this figure is not comparable to the numbers reported in the various editions of Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada.

Number of child care programs

Centre-based

Full-day	270
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	8
Stand-alone after-school programs	196
Combined nursery/school-age programs	131

Note: The part-day nursery school/preschools and combined/nursery school figures are estimates as the data cannot identify part-time.

Total centre-based programs 605

School-based child care centres

For preschool-age children	30
For school-age children only (included in centre-based)	68

Family child care

Individual family child care providers	151
Number of francophone child care centers	235

Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces

Non-profit	8,666 (est.)
For-profit	14,955 (est.)

Parent fees

There is no set parent fee.

Based on a national survey, the 2012 median monthly fees were:

Age group	Median monthly fee
Infant	\$740
Toddler	653
Preschool	620

The Child Day Care Services Annual Statistical Report 2013-2014 estimates the daily cost of full time care as follows:

Age group	Estimated daily fee
Infant	\$32.62
Toddler	27.63
Preschool	15.53

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: 60 spaces

Maximum room size: not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
Under 2 years	1:3	9
2 – 3 years	1:5	10
3 – 4 years	1:7	14
4 – 5 years	1:10	20
5 – 6 years	1:12	24
6 – 12 years	1:15	30

Centre staff qualification requirements

The centre director or his/her designate or one in four staff is required to have a one-year community college ECE certificate or equivalent. New applicants for child care centres must meet this training requirement prior to approval. Facilities not meeting the staff qualification requirement by 2006 were required to submit an action plan detailing how they would meet it. Many are still working to achieve this.

Staff must be at least 16 years old; 16-19 year olds are required to be supervised by a primary staff member who must be at least 19. All staff must have first-aid training and Prior Contact/Criminal Record Checks.

Individuals with out-of-province early childhood credentials that are accepted by other provinces in Atlantic Canada, or with a certificate level or higher from a community college that is a member of the Association of Community Colleges of Canada, are recognized as having equivalent qualifications.

New Brunswick also accepts as a training credential in child care a Bachelor of Education (Primary or Elementary) from New Brunswick universities.

There are no qualification requirements for staff working in stand-alone school-age programs.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Infants: Three

2–5 years old: Five

6 years and over: Nine

Combination of ages: Six

The capacity maximums include the provider's own children who are under 12 years of age.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

21 regional Early Childhood Services Coordinators located in the province's seven school districts (four Anglophone and three francophone) are responsible for monitoring compliance with the regulations.

The *Family Services Act* provides the Minister with the authority to investigate, recommend changes, suspend the operation or terminate the approval of a child care facility.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

No early childhood education training or experience is required. Providers must be at least 19 years old and have first aid training. Training requirements implemented in April 1, 2003 do not apply to operators of community day care homes.

Providers are required to have a Prior Record Check and Criminal Record Check as set out in the Day Care Regulation 83-85.

FUNDING

Child care services eligible for funding

All services are eligible for all funding streams.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Family eligibility is determined through a needs and income test, which is administered by the Department of Social Development. Parents must be working, attending school or undergoing medical treatment.

Child care subsidies are also available to support social assistance clients who are recently unemployed or who have recently completed training and are actively seeking employment. In addition, a social worker may refer a child to part-time care for social reasons.

One time funding

Capital funding and start-up funding provided through the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund:

For new infant child care spaces:

- Day care centres and community day care homes (minimum of three spaces must be created)

For new spaces in rural New Brunswick local service districts and villages:

- Day care centres (minimum of five spaces must be created) \$5,000/space
- Community day care homes (minimum of three spaces must be created)

For new extended hours spaces for shift workers:

- Day care centres (minimum of eight spaces must be created)
- Community day care homes (minimum of five spaces must be created)

Training assistance

- For individuals currently employed in approved child care facilities who have completed courses as part of the one year ECE Certificate from a recognised training institute on or after January 2007, or who completed the one year ECE Certificate on or after January 2007 and are currently employed in an approved child care facility in New Brunswick.

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Funding Support Program (QIFS)

QIFS makes funding available to increase the wages of child care workers. All facilities with a valid facility identification number that apply for and are approved before the annual deadline receive funding. There are no waiting lists for eligible applicants. Funding is disbursed quarterly following receipt of the quarterly hours report indicating number of hours worked each quarter by each eligible employee.

Special needs funding

Funding is provided under the Enhanced Support Worker Program for families in the labour force whose children have relatively high support needs. Funding is provided under the Developmental Child Care Program for families referred through the Family and Early Childhood Agencies, where the child's participation in an early learning and child care facility is part of the case plan.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED
CHILD CARE

Fee subsidies	\$15,691,200
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One time funding

See Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund below

Recurring Funding

Quality Improvement Funding (QIF)	
support	\$21,530,000
Special needs funding	1,619,479

Total regulated child care	\$38,840,679
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Other funding

Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund

Training assistance for child care staff	\$1,699,469
Trust Fund - New child care spaces	5,203,000
Minority language funding	321,200
Early Childhood Care and Education NB (wage reimbursement program)	1,230,000
Professional development	2,567,576
Braiding Our Resources	25,070
Curriculum materials grant	407,094

Total other funding	\$11,453,409
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Note: These figures represent disbursements under this fund cumulatively to March 2014.

