
Nunavut



OVERVIEW

Nunavut's regulated child care and kindergarten are the responsibility of the Department of Education. Kindergarten is a part-day program for all five year olds. Regulated child care programs for children aged 0-12 are all non-profit. Family child care homes are called family day homes in Nunavut.

The Department of Education's Early Childhood Division is responsible for promoting early childhood development, the licensing and monitoring of early childhood facilities and developing language and culturally appropriate early childhood resources.

Nunavut is the result of one land claim agreement that took effect April 1st, 1999 and is all considered to be Indigenous land. There are no reserves. Nunavut's population is predominantly Inuit.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 years (2014 estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	2,200
3-5	2,100
6-12	5,000
Total	9,300

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	800
3-5	900
6-12	2,500
Total	4,200

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

Age	First Nations	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	15	0	3,755	0	0	3,775
5-9	10	10	3,175	0	0	3,195
10-14	10	10	2,980	0	0	3,000
Total	30	15	9,915	10	0	9,970

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

Not available

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be shared between the parents. Fifty-two weeks is the maximum allowed for combined maternity and parental leave.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks

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

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Curriculum and School Services
Department of Education
P.O. Box 1000, Station 960
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 975-5666
Website: www.edu.gov.nu.ca

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. 2008

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under regional school operations.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Not compulsory but most attend. Access is legislated and it is an entitlement.

HOURS

The requirement is for no fewer than 485 and no more than 570 instructional hours per year and no more than six hours/day.

CLASS SIZE

There is no class size limit.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a certified teacher with a B.Ed. or a certified kindergarten teacher. Kindergarten certification requires a two-year program in ECE, successful completion of two academic years of classroom teaching and completion of courses for one-year teacher training, or a Letter of Authority which requires one year ECE or some course work towards a B.Ed. and must be renewed annually.

Most kindergarten teachers have a B.Ed. or Letter of Authority as a Language Specialist, which means that they speak an Inuit language. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires bilingual education. All but five kindergarten classes are in Inuit languages. A kindergarten teacher who has only a Language Specialist qualification (Letter of Authority) must be participating in teacher training.

CURRICULUM

[Kindergarten curriculum guides](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

K-12 per pupil spending \$14,768.10

REGULATED CHILD CARE

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education
Government of Nunavut
Early Childhood Division
Box 1000, Station 920
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Telephone: (867) 975-5600
Website: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/education/information/early-childhood-education-0>

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act* and *Child Day Care Standards and Regulations*, 1994.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: Four, including the caregiver's own children up to 12 years

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Group care, instruction and supervision for five or more children aged 0 – 12 years by a person who is not a relative of the majority of the children

Nursery schools/preschool

Programs for children under six years of age for four consecutive hours or less a day including Aboriginal Head Start Programs

Family day homes

Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children)

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

None

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs.

Centres and other care providers are funded to provide extra support for children with special needs through daily operating grants, which are based on the age of the child and the area in which the centre is located.

The operating grant for a preschool child is increased by approximately 50% for a child with an identified special need and is an entitlement.

A letter from a recognised health care professional is required for the centre to receive the additional funding for a child. In addition, centres may apply for funding to the Healthy Children's Initiative for adaptive equipment or for a one-on-one worker if necessary.

Parents are eligible for fee subsidy for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. This subsidy eligibility requires a financial needs assessment to be applied and parents must have a medical referral from a recognised health care professional for the child to be in developmental care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Nunavut is the result of one land claim agreement that took effect April 1st, 1999 and is all considered to be Indigenous land. There are no reserves. Nunavut's population is predominantly Inuit.

Since 1996, the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) provided capital and start-up funding for the development of approximately 20 centres. There are also seven Aboriginal Head Start programs funded by the federal government.

There is an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) regional office in each of Nunavut's three regions. Each ASETS office has the responsibility for the delivery and administration of the Inuit child care program in their region established with FNICCI funding.

In addition to providing capital funding for new child care centres, all child care centres with the exception of the seven Aboriginal Head Start programs (which are funded by the federal government) may receive block funding from ASETS.

ASETS may also provide one-time funding for repairs and renovations, and for developing or acquiring culturally relevant program materials. In addition, ASETS may provide wage subsidies based on the number of Inuit staff in a centre, and fee subsidies to land claim beneficiary parents that are in addition to the regular fee subsidy funded through Early Childhood Services.

ASETS offices have also provided funding for training in each region, including the delivery of ECE training through Arctic College.

SPACE STATISTICS (2014)

Number of regulated child care spaces			
<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age group	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Infant (under two years)	186	-	186
Preschool (two years-school entry)	534	255	789
School-age (kindergarten-12 years)	-	157	157
<i>Family child care</i>			
Infant (under two years)	2	-	2
Preschool (two years-school entry)	4	-	4
School-age (kindergarten-12 years)	-	2	2
Total number of regulated child care spaces	726	414	1,140
Children with special needs in regulated child care			
Information not available			
Children receiving fee subsidies in regulated child care			
The number of children is not available but 85 families received subsidies through the Daycare User Subsidy and 72 families received subsidies through the Young Parents Stay Learning program. These are in addition to fee subsidies provided to land claim beneficiary parents through the ASETS program (see Aboriginal child care section above).			
Number of child care programs			
<i>Centre-based</i>			
Full-day centres			32
Part-day nursery schools/preschools			15
Stand-alone after-school programs			7
Total number of centre-based programs			54
<i>School-based child care centres</i>			
For preschool-age children			13
For school-age children (included in centre-based)			5
Family child care homes			1
Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces			
Non-profit			1,140
<i>Note: All child care centres in Nunavut are non-profit. Family day homes are considered to be non-profit.</i>			

Parent fees

Average daily parent fees for centre-based care

Age group	Full time fees	Part time fees
Infants	\$32.97	\$16.56
Preschoolers	33.27	19.72
School-age	-	14.77

Note: This information comes from the application for Program Contributions collected each year.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: not specified

Maximum room size: not specified

Staff /child ratios and group sizes

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes for individual age groups

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max.group sizes
0 – 12 months	1:3	6
13 – 24 months	1:4	8
23 – 25 months	1:6	12
3 years	1:8	16
4 years	1:9	18
5 – 11 years	1:10	20.

Maximum staff: child ratios and group size for mixed age groupings

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max.group sizes
0 – 24 months	1:4	8
2 – 5 years	1:8	16
5 – 11 years	1:10	20

Centre staff qualification requirements

There are no early childhood training requirements.

Staff must be at least 19 years of age, have an awareness of early childhood development theory, and basic health and safety measures, have immunizations up to date, provide a doctor's note documenting good health, have a first-aid certificate, submit to a RCMP Security Clearance, and represent the cultural background of the children.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Maximum of eight children under 12 years including the provider's children. No more than six of the eight children may be five years or under, no more than three children may be under three years, and no more than two children may be under two years.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Homes are visited at least once a year by staff from the Early Childhood Program and a representative from each of the Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office

Provider qualification requirements

There are no early childhood training requirements. Providers must be at least 19 years of age, have an awareness of early childhood development theory, have immunizations up to date, provide a doctor's note stating good health, have a first-aid certificate, submit to a RCMP Security Clearance, and represent the cultural background of the children.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Funding is available to non-profit regulated centres and family day homes except fee subsidies, which may be used in unregulated child care.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Daycare User Subsidy (Administered by the Department of Family Services)

Fee subsidies may be used in both regulated and unregulated child care. Subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents if the child care is a regulated service, unless the child care centre requests that the subsidies be paid directly to the parent.

In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent and is based on an attendance report signed by the child care provider. Parents may apply for subsidy in person, by mail or fax. An unregulated provider may be a relative of a parent of the child being subsidised.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work or take part in a training program. Eligibility is determined by a needs assessment, which takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income. As a needs assessment is used, there are no set income eligibility levels.

Eligibility varies with clients' actual housing, utility and child care costs, plus social assistance rates for food and clothing. To be eligible for a fee subsidy, parents must be working, attending school or a training program or have a child with a special need, for whom child care is recommended by a recognised health care professional.

Maximum subsidy rates are set for each type of care. There is no minimum user fee and programs may surcharge subsidised parents

Young Parents Stay Learning Program (Administered by the Department of Education)

Since June 2009, all parents who are working toward a high school diploma may be eligible for this child care subsidy regardless of age. Students under 18 who are attending a post secondary institution within Nunavut may also be eligible.

Eligibility does not require a needs test.

The parent must use regulated child care if available; unregulated care may be approved in certain circumstances.

Maximum rates and payments are the same as the regular subsidy rates. The parent's school attendance records are sent to the early childhood officer along with the child's attendance records; there is an expectation that the parent will be attending school unless he or she is ill or has an excused absence. Parents may apply for subsidy in person, by mail or fax.

One time funding

Start-up funding

Available to non-profit regulated centres and family day homes including part-time, infant, after school and special needs spaces. Funding ranges from \$300 – \$3,420/ space depending on the geographic area of the program and the ages of children served.

Security and Safety Funding

The Security & Safety Funding program was developed and implemented in the fall of 2014. Each licensed facility is eligible once over the next three years for up to \$40,000 for upgrades and repairs to their security and safety features.

Recurring Funding

Operating funding

\$2.42 – \$17.25/occupied space/day (depending on the age of the child and the location of the program) is available to non-profit regulated centres and family day homes.

Other funding

Healthy Children Initiative

The Department of Education offers funding to early childhood programs (licensed and unlicensed) and additional programs and services for individual children aged 0 - 6 years who require extra supports to reach their full developmental potential. These programs can offer a variety of services such as supporting parent and child play groups, parenting workshops, home visits, etc.

District Education Authority – Early Childhood Education (DEA-ECE) Funding

The *Education Act* states that District Education Authorities (DEAs) shall provide early childhood programs that promote fluency in the Inuit language and knowledge of the Inuit culture. District Education Authorities (DEAs) are able to access funding to support existing early childhood programs (licensed and unlicensed) in promoting the Inuit language and culture (this requirement is modified with regard to programs falling under the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN) to refer to promotion of French language and francophone culture).

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

Fee subsidies

Daycare User Subsidy \$502,000

Note: The fee subsidy budget includes spending on both regulated and unregulated child care.

Young Parents Stay Learning 133,000

Note: The allocation for the Young Parents Stay Learning program is not comparable to previous years due to changes in parameters. In 2009/10 the actual spending was considerably higher than the allocation.

One time funding \$833,000

Recurring funding

Start-up and operating grants \$1,970,000

Note: A breakdown between one-time start-up and ongoing operating grants is not available.

Total regulated child care \$3,438,000

Other Funding

Healthy Children Initiative \$595,000

Note: This funding is for early childhood programs to enhance the development opportunities of children 0 to 6 years of age. This can be used for licensed or unlicensed early childhood programs.

DEA-ECE Language/Cultural Funding 1,600,000

Note: This funding is for District Education Authorities to provide/support early childhood programs that enhance the fluency of the Inuit language and knowledge of the Inuit culture. This can be used for licensed or unlicensed early childhood programs.

