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# Prince Edward Island



## OVERVIEW

In 2010, PEI outlined a new approach to early childhood education and care in [Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative](#) which built on [The Early Years Report Early Learning In PEI: An Investment in the Island's Future](#).

Regulated child care has been under the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development since 2007. Until 2010, kindergarten was delivered by child care centres under child care legislation but has now moved into the public education system, becoming a compulsory full-school day program for five year olds. The Early Child Development Division is responsible for Early Years Centres and other regulated child care programs while kindergarten is part of the Department's K-12 programs.

Child care centres are predominantly delivered by for-profit operators with some non-profits. These now include Early Years Centres, a new model. These are governed by additional provincial policies including provincially-set parent fees and formula-based unit funding. They are also required to have spaces for infants and include children with special needs, have parent advisory committees and determine staff wages and benefits according to a provincial salary scale. There is a new mandated early learning curriculum framework and revised certification and training requirements.

When the new policy was introduced, existing centres were given the option to apply for designation as an Early Years Centre (EYC), remain a regulated private/non-EYC centre or retire their license. The provincial government determines the number of Early Years Centres based on demonstrated community need.

## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

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

Age	Number of children
0	1,500
1	1,500
2	1,400
3	1,600
4	1,500
5	1,700
6	1,500
7	1,200
8	1,600
9	1,600
10	1,700
11	1,300
12	1,600
Total	19,700

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	4,400
3-5	4,800
6-12	10,500
Total	19,700

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

Age	Number of children
0	900
1	1,100
2	1,100
3	1,200
4	900
5	1,300
6	1,100
7	900
8	1,000
9	1,200
10	1,200
11	900
12	1,100
Total	14,100

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	3,100
3-5	3,400
6-12	7,400
Total	14,100

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**Number of children 0-14 years identifying with an Aboriginal group (2011)**

Age	First Nations	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	120	15	0	0	0	175
5-9	170	0	0	0	0	200
10-14	130	70	0	0	0	245
Total	415	100	20	0	0	625

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

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	3,300	84.6
3-5	2,200	84.6
6-15	6,400	87.6

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**FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE****Maternity leave**

Seventeen weeks.

**Parental leave**

Thirty-five weeks. The total parental leave for both parents cannot exceed 35 weeks.

**Adoption leave**

Fifty-two weeks. The combined total leave for both parents cannot exceed 52 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

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
250 Water St., Holman Centre  
Summerside, PE, C1N 1B6  
Phone: (902) 438-4883  
Website: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/>

The Department is responsible for teacher/staff certification, supports for children with special needs in preschool, policy development, funding, curriculum development, program support and in-service training.

### LEGISLATION

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The School Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, c. S-2.1

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31.

### COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is a compulsory grade level for all eligible children as a full school-day program.

### HOURS

Five hours of instructional time per day.

### CLASS SIZE

Class sizes are based on 15 children. When there are 18 or more children in a class, an additional teacher is required.

### TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

All kindergarten teachers are now required to have a Bachelor of Education degree with specialization in Early Years. This requirement was phased in over a period of time during which a special Bachelor of Education-Kindergarten program was offered at the University of PEI.

## CURRICULUM

[Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum Document](#)

### SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

K-12 per pupil spending \$11,317

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Early Childhood Development Division  
250 Water St., Holman Centre  
Summerside, PE, C1N 1B6  
Telephone: (902) 438-4883  
Website: [www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/earlychildhood](http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/earlychildhood)

### LEGISLATION

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Facilities Act*. 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Facilities Regulations*. 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Social Assistance Act*. 2003 (Dept of Community Services and Seniors)

### CHILD CARE SERVICES

#### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

##### Unregulated family child care

Five children including the caregiver's own preschool-age children are permitted. If all children are under two years, three are allowed, or five preschoolers if not more than two of them are younger than two years. Six are allowed in a mixed-age group up to 10 years with no more than two younger than two years.

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

### Early childhood centres

Group child care for less than 24 hours/day for children from birth to seven years including part-day nursery schools for children aged 2–5 years. These may be Early Years Centres or private non-EYC regulated centres.

### School-age child care centres

Group child care outside school hours for school-age children (usually 5 – 12 years).

### Family child care

Full-day child care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of seven children, including the provider's own preschool-aged children.

## CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[PEI Early Learning Framework: Relationships, Environments, Experiences](#)

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. Centres may apply for a special needs grant on behalf of a child which may cover staff to support the child plus mandatory employment-related costs. The role of these grants is to lower ratios to allow for children's successful inclusion into early childhood settings. The funding is not capped and there is no waiting list for service.

Early Years Centres are not permitted to turn away a child with special needs for service.

## ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Prince Edward Island currently has one licensed child care program on-reserve with Early Years Centre designation; it is funded by the province. There are no First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) programs in Prince Edward Island. There is one unlicensed centre on-reserve. As well, the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre operates an Aboriginal Head Start program in Charlottetown. It serves 3–6 year olds and is regulated.

## SPACE STATISTICS (2014)

### Number of regulated child care spaces

<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age group	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Infants (0-24 months)	209	55	264
Preschool (2-4 years)	2,489	231	2,720
School-age (5-12 years)	-	1,264	1,264
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>	2,698	1,550	4,248
<i>Total family child care spaces</i>			14
<b>Total number of regulated spaces</b>			4,262

*Note: Kindergarten was previously part of child care centres but is now part of the public education system. Thus, numbers of spaces that include that age group in editions of ECEC in Canada before 2010 are not directly comparable.*

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<b>Children with special needs in regulated child care</b>	172
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<b>Children receiving fee subsidies</b>	1,624
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### Number of child care programs

<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full-day (Early Years Centres – EYCs)	22
Full-day (Other centres)	45
Part-day nursery schools	9
Stand-alone school-age	-
<b>Total centre-based programs</b>	115

<i>School-based child care centres</i>	
<i>(These are included in centre-based programs)</i>	
For preschool-age children	3
For school-age children	10
<i>Family child care</i>	
Individual family child care providers	2

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### Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces

Non-profit	1,516
For-profit	2,734

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### Parent fees

*Early Years Centres* (provincially-set daily parent fees)

0 – 2 years	\$34/day
2 – 3 years	28/day
3 years – school entry	27/day

*Other regulated centres* (average weekly)

Infants - full day	\$165/wk
Two year olds	135/wk
3 – 13 years	130/wk

*Note: These averages are calculated based on data collected from non-EYC programs.*

In 2012, a national survey of child care centres and staff found median monthly fees of:

Age group	Median monthly fee
Infant	\$696
Toddler	566
Preschool	544

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### REGULATED CENTRES

**Maximum centre size:** 50 spaces

**Maximum room size:** not specified

#### Staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0 – 2 years	1:3	6
2 – 3 years	1:5	Not specified
3 – 5 years	1:10	Not specified
5 – 6 years	1:12	Not specified
7+ years	1:15	Not specified

#### Centre staff qualification requirements

*Type I centres (Full and part-day child care centres):* Centre supervisors and one full-time staff member in each program must have at least a one year Early Childhood Development diploma or university Child Study degree.

Thirty hours of in-service training every three years is required for all staff.

*Type II centres (Family child care homes and school-age centres):* The supervisor and one staff person of a Type II facility must have successfully completed one unit of continuing education (defined as one semester university/college course), and must provide two personal references from members of the community.

*Early Years Designation:* Must meet the requirements of a Type I centre and have all remaining program staff certified at a minimum of entry level.

#### Certification requirements

Once certified, thirty hours of ongoing training every three years is required to maintain certification.

### REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

#### Model of organization

Providers are individually licensed.

#### Maximum capacity

Up to seven children including the provider's own children under school-age with a maximum of three children under two years.

#### Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Annual inspections are made by staff of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, who observe the administration and programming in the home, by an inspector for the Fire Marshall's office and by an environmental health officer.

#### Family child care provider qualification requirements

Providers must be at least 18 years of age, have completed a 30 hour training program, have two letters of reference and a current first aid certificate.

## FUNDING

### CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Only designated Early Years Centres receive base funding. Otherwise, all licensed child care centres are eligible for all other funding programs including fee subsidies.

Unit funding for Early Years Centres includes base (operating) funding to the centre together with parent fees or a fee subsidy if the family is eligible. In Early Years Centres, parent fees are set by the province based on the age of the child.

## TYPES OF FUNDING

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### Fee subsidies

Subsidies are managed by the Department of Community Services and Seniors. Any Early Years Centre, regulated non-profit or for-profit child care program or regulated family child care home is eligible to enroll children receiving subsidies.

Eligibility for families to receive subsidized child care is determined by an income test and by the following social criteria: parent(s) working or studying, parental medical emergency, child in need of protection, children with special needs, children of immigrant families who are registered for English/French second language programs and school readiness.

In Early Years Centres, parent fees are set by the province based on the age of the child. In addition, families in Early Years Centres may be subsidized to cover the full parent fee if they are eligible. In other centres and family child care homes, the subsidy rate may not fully cover the parent fee. These programs may charge subsidized families a surcharge above the maximum subsidy rate.

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<b>One time funding</b>	Not available
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### Recurring funding

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#### *The Quality Enhancement Grant*

Provides licensed early learning and child care centres with financial support in order to enhance the quality of their programs. Centres must have been open and operational for six months by March 31, 2013 to be eligible to apply for funding.

#### *Special Needs Grant*

Provides licensed early childhood centres with financial support in order to include children with diagnosed special needs up to the age of 12 years in their program.

#### *Early Years Centre funding*

Early Years Centres are funded quarterly. EYCs submit invoices to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development detailing enrolment and staffing. A funding formula is applied to determine the amount of funding per EYC.

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## PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

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<b>Fee subsidies</b>	\$3,170,000
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<b>One time funding</b>	Not available
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### Recurring funding

Operating grants	\$295,000
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Special needs funding	1,200,000
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Early Years Centres	7,455,000
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<b>Total regulated child care spending</b>	\$12,120,000
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### Other funding

Home visiting program	\$1,221,100
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Early Childhood Development Association	160,000
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