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# Yukon Territory

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## OVERVIEW

Regulated child care is under the aegis of Health and Social Services whereas kindergarten is the responsibility of the Department of Education and part of the public school system. Kindergarten may be part-day or full-day for five year olds. There is a full-day Early Learners program in the Whitehorse francophone school and in some local communities there are part-day Early Learners programs for four year olds.

Regulated child care for 0-12 year olds is for-profit and non-profit with for-profit services predominating; there are no publicly operated programs. Regulated family child care homes are called family day homes and are individually licensed.

## TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,300
3-5	1,200
6-12	2,500
Total	5,000

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	800
3-5	900
6-12	2,000
Total	3,700

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

Age	First Nations	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	515	55	20	0	0	605
5-9	500	75	0	0	0	595
10-14	620	70	20	0	0	720
Total	1,630	205	55	15	15	1,920

### 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. Parents who share a parental leave normally cannot take their leave at the same time, whether or not they work for the same employer.

### 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

Government of Yukon  
Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6  
Telephone: (867) 667-5186  
Website: <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/>

### LEGISLATION

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, 1990. S.Y. c.25.

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Four years and eight months as of September 1 for five year old kindergarten.

Three years and eight months as of September 1 for four year old Early Learners programs.

### COMPULSORY

All five year olds have access to kindergarten; it is not compulsory.

### HOURS

Full day and half day programs.

### CLASS SIZE

Average/mean class size in 2013-2014: 16.

Full day classes are capped at 18 students.

Part-day programs are not large enough to require a class size cap.

There is considerable variation between small rural schools where class size is 5 – 10 kindergarten students and large urban schools where there are 12 – 18 kindergarten students.

## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

There are no ECE requirements for kindergarten teachers.

A kindergarten teacher must have teacher certification which requires a B.Ed. or a bachelor's degree plus an approved program of teacher preparation of not less than one academic year.

### CURRICULUM

Yukon adapts the [British Columbia Kindergarten Curriculum](#)

### SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

#### Spending on Learning Together programs

In 2013/14 \$47,494 was spent on the Learning Together pilot, a program for children aged three to five and their caregivers.

Spending per student K-12 \$18,803

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

### TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Child Care Services Unit  
Yukon Health and Social Services  
Government of the Yukon  
P.O. Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6  
Telephone: (867) 667-5635  
Website: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/childcareunit.php>

### LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Act*, 1990.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Centre Program Regulation*, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Family Day Home Program Regulation*, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *School-Age Program Regulation*, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Subsidy Regulation*, 1995.

## CHILD CARE SERVICES

### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

#### **Unlicensed family child care**

A maximum of three children not including the provider's own children under age six is permitted.

#### **Preschools**

Programs for children aged 3 -6 years operating for less than three consecutive hours are not required to be licensed.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

#### **Child care centres**

Group care for less than 24 hours a day for four or more children up to and including 12 years of age in a place other than a preschool, a school-age program or a family day home.

#### **School-age child care**

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 12 years.

#### **Family day homes**

Care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of eight children (including the providers' own children under six). Four school-age children in addition to the number of preschool-age children may be included with additional adults.

## CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

None

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Child care regulations state that children with special needs in mainstream child care programs must be integrated to the fullest extent possible. A child is designated special needs on the assessment of a child care professional. An individual program plan must be developed for the child in consultation with staff, parents and professionals in the community, which outlines goals and objectives for the child.

There are no segregated child care programs. The Whitehorse Child Development Centre provides special needs programming and supports across the Yukon. It operates a licensed integrated preschool program for 12 children as well as unlicensed preschool programs. It provides early intervention supports and resources to families of children with special needs. It also operates a mobile outreach unit that serves every community in the territory with support and resource provision.

Funding is also available for centres and family day homes through a supported child care fund and is based on the individual need of the child. Funding may be provided for adaptive equipment, transportation, programming support and additional staff.

Parents who meet the financial eligibility criteria receive a fee subsidy for their child with special needs to attend a child care program whether or not the parent is in the paid labour force. Parents who are not eligible for a subsidy pay for the child care space but not for the additional supports.

## ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

There are no reserves for First Nations people in the Yukon. First Nations receive the same start-up and operating grants from the Yukon government as others operating licensed child care centres and family day homes.

In total, there are 277 regulated spaces operated by First Nations in nine child care centres. There are also four Aboriginal Head Start programs. Parents who use regulated centres and family child care homes are eligible for fee subsidies.

## SPACE STATISTICS (2014)

<b>Number of regulated child care spaces</b>	
<i>Centre-based</i> (licensed capacity)	1,243
Age breakdown	Occupied spaces
Infants (up to 18 months)	80
Toddlers (18-36 months)	210
Preschool (36 months – grade 1)	418
School-age	166
Children with special needs (not included in numbers above)	47
<b>Total regulated centre-based spaces</b>	<b>1,243</b>
<i>Note: There can be a variation in actual number of used spaces due to the unit model method of funding; these numbers are estimates.</i>	
Total family child care spaces	240
<b>Total number of regulated child care spaces</b>	<b>1,483</b>
<b>Children with special needs in regulated child care</b> (estimated)	
	47
<b>Children receiving fee subsidies</b>	
	462
<b>Numbers of child care programs</b>	
<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full-day centres	34
Stand-alone after-school programs	2
<b>Total centre-based programs</b>	<b>36</b>
<i>School-based programs</i>	
For preschool-age children	1
<i>Family child care</i>	
Individual family child care providers	30
<b>Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces</b>	
Non-profit	480
For-profit	763
<b>Parent fees (2010)</b>	
Age group	Average monthly parent fees for centre-based full-time care
Infants (0-17 months)	\$739
Toddlers (18 months-3 years)	685
Preschoolers (3- 5.11 years)	649
School-age (before school/lunch/after school)	341

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### REGULATED CENTRES

**Maximum centre size:** 64 spaces

#### Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff: child ratios	Max. group sizes
Up to 18 months	1:4	8
18 months- 3 years	1:6	12
3 years to 6 years	1:8	16
6 years to 12 years	1:12	24

#### Centre staff qualification requirements

20% of staff must meet exceed Child Care Worker III qualifications, an additional 30% must meet Child Care Worker II qualifications; the rest must meet Child Care Worker I qualifications.

There are three qualification levels:

- *Child Care Worker I:* 60-hour introduction to early childhood development course (ECD) or equivalent.
- *Child Care Worker II:* One year training in early childhood development (ECD) or equivalent from a recognized college or university.
- *Child Care Worker III:* Two or more years of training ECD or equivalent from a recognized college or university

### REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

#### Model of organization

Individually licensed

#### Maximum capacity

Up to eight children including the provider's own pre-school but not school-aged children. There may be no more than three infants if there are three children who are preschoolers or school-age already enrolled. If there is an additional caregiver, there may be four additional school-age children.

#### Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family child care homes are regulated by the *Child Care Act* and family day home regulations. They receive one annual inspection and two to four unannounced spot checks per year to monitor for compliance with the regulations.

### Family child care provider qualification requirements

Caregivers must complete a 60 hour introductory early childhood development course, a specific family day home course or equivalent within the first year they provide care for children. Caregivers must be 18 years of age, have a first-aid certificate and a criminal records check.

## FUNDING

### CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

All regulated child care programs are eligible. Both non-profit and for-profit programs may receive funding.

### TYPES OF FUNDING

#### Fee subsidies

Subsidies may be used in any regulated for-profit or non-profit service. Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined through an income test. Subsidies may be used for part-time child care.

Subsidy is an entitlement for all eligible families; there is no cap on the number of subsidised spaces. To be eligible, parents must be gainfully employed, actively seeking employment, attending/preparing to attend an educational institution, undertaking medical treatment or involved in a rehabilitation program. Parents seeking employment may be eligible for part-time child care for two months. Subsidy is also available when child care is recommended by a child protection service, approved on the basis of an individual assessment of special needs of the family or child by a qualified professional, or when emergency child care services are required to meet a short-term family crisis.

There is no minimum user fee. Centre-based programs and family day care homes may surcharge subsidised parents fees above the maximum subsidy rate.

#### One time funding

Start-up funding of up to \$1,000/home in Whitehorse and up to \$2,000/home in the rest of the territory in areas underserved by licensed child care is available to family child care homes.

Start-up funding is also available to child care centres to a maximum of \$10,000 for areas underserved by licensed child care.

Enhancement Funding is available yearly to child care programs up to \$5,000 to meet regulatory requirements related to health and safety or playground development and maintenance. Enhancement Funding is available yearly to family day home programs up to \$500 for the replacement of a major appliance (up to 50% of the cost), for health and safety requirements and for outdoor play space development and maintenance.

### Recurring funding

#### Operating grants

Operating grants have three components: unit funding, training, and building costs. All regulated non-profit and for-profit child care programs receive an operating grant. Family child care homes are eligible for the unit and training components of the grant but not the building cost.

Unit funding is allocated as follows:

Age unit	Max. funding
Infant unit	One staff/4 infants = \$720/month
Toddler unit	One staff/6 toddlers = \$795/month
Preschool unit	One staff/8 preschoolers = 800/month
School-age unit	One staff/12 school-age children = \$1,010/month

#### Training funding

Training funds are allocated on hours worked, to a maximum of 40 hours per week per staff.

Level	Hourly rate
Level I	\$1.85
Level IA	3.50
Level II	4.75
Level IIA	6.95
Level III	9.00

#### Building costs

Eligible building expenses are subsidized at \$0.32 per dollar (32%).

In addition, child care centres and family day home programs receive \$14/child/month if a hot lunch program is provided.

### Other funding

The Whitehorse Child Development Centre received \$2,141,000 from the Government of Yukon to provide a range of services in regulated and unregulated child care.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED  
CHILD CARE

<b>Fee subsidies</b>	\$3,077,000
<b>One time funding</b>	n/a
<b>Recurring funding</b>	
Unit funding	\$4,114,000
Supports to children with special needs	470,000
<b>Total regulated child care</b>	<b>\$7,661,000</b>
<b>Other Funding</b>	
Whitehorse Child Development Centre	\$2,141,000
Yukon College – ECD Course Funding	25,000

