

# British Columbia



## OVERVIEW

Responsibility for BC's early childhood education and care is split among three ministries:

- Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD): Child care policy and funding programs, including child care subsidies; operating funding; major and minor capital funding; the ECE Registry; and Indigenous child and family supports.
- Ministry of Health (HLTH): Child care licensing, with monitoring carried out through local health authorities.
- Ministry of Education (EDUC): Kindergarten, StrongStart BC Early Learning Programs and the Ready, Set Learn initiative.

British Columbia introduced full day kindergarten for five-year-olds in 2010. All public schools are now required to provide the program. BC also funds private schools but these are not required to provide full day kindergarten.

A variety of regulated child care programs (sometimes referred to as “facilities” in BC) for children 0-12 years old are provided, including programs outside regular school hours for school-aged children. BC's full day centre-based programs are predominantly (49% of full and part day spaces) operated on a for-profit basis, with 42% of non-profit spaces. There are no municipally or other publicly operated child care programs identified.

All services may receive all forms of funding—operating funds (CCOF), fee subsidies, and one-time-only (capital funding). BC also provides parent fee subsidies in unregulated child care.

Licensed family child care for up to seven 0-12-year-olds is provided by individually licensed family child care providers. BC terms unregulated child care providers caring for a maximum of two children or a sibling group “Licence Not Required” (LNR). Local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) offices offer a voluntary registration process for LNR providers to become “Registered LNR providers”. These unregulated providers receive a higher child care subsidy rate than licence-not-required providers that are not registered.

A May 2017 general election brought a change of government to BC, with a minority New Democratic Party supported by the Green Party forming government in June. Child care was featured in the election campaign. The NDP and the Greens both committed to significant policy changes in child care and—after forming government—to building universal child care over a 10-year period. [Significant changes](#) to child care funding introduced in April 2018 will modify some of the material in this section.

In February 2018, British Columbia entered into a three year bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada. British Columbia will receive almost \$153 million dollars over three years from federal funds. The funds will contribute to initiatives including accessibility, quality improvement and under served communities. Further details are available [online](#).

## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

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### Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	39,400
1	40,900
2	42,600
3	38,200
4	44,600
5	47,600
6	43,500
7	49,100
8	46,200
9	48,300
10	48,600
11	44,900
12	41,200
Total	575,000

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### Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	122,900
3-5	130,400
6-12	321,800
Total	575,100

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### Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	21,900
1	23,700
2	27,800
3	23,000
4	27,500
5	29,300
6	26,700
7	30,000
8	29,500
9	33,000
10	30,500
11	31,200
12	29,700
Total	363,800

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**Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0-2	73,400
3-5	79,800
6-12	210,600
Total	363,800

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**Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)**

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	75,600	67.8
3-5	56,800	73.5
6-15	176,200	81.1

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**Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)**

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	14,485	6,510	195	440	150
5-9	16,535	6,730	210	555	165
10-14	15,945	7,365	135	380	135
Total	46,970	20,605	540	1375	450

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**Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)**

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	189,370	27,840	23,210	4,625
5-9	188,900	43,695	34,845	8,850
10-14	177,910	50,970	40,475	10,490

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**Language spoken most often in home, by age of child (2016)**

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	174,715	990	33,270	11,485
5-9	196,320	930	25,465	14,045
10-14	194,470	780	23,695	14,735
Total	565,505	2,705	82,435	40,280

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**Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)**

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
81,298	27,621	33,024	26,967

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## FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

### Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks. An additional six weeks is available to the birth mother if she is unable to return to work for health reasons related to the birth or pregnancy.

### Parental leave

Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken maternity leave; must be taken immediately following maternity leave. Thirty-seven weeks if parental leave is taken by the other parent or by a birth mother who has not taken maternity leave. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care. Parental leave must be taken within 52 weeks of the child's birth.

### Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care.

### Family-related leave

Five days per year.

### Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada, outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week; the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

*For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.*

## KINDERGARTEN

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education  
PO Box 9158 STN ProvGovt  
4th floor, 620 Superior Street  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9H1  
Telephone: (250) 516-4589

[Website](#)

### LEGISLATION

*School Act* R.S.B.C 1996] c.412.

Independent School Act [R.S.B.C. 1996] c. 216.

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old on or before December 31 of the relevant school year.

### COMPULSORY

Attendance is not compulsory.

### HOURS

Full school-day.

### KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT (2015-16)

Public schools	38,147
Independent schools	6,429
<b>Total kindergarten enrolment</b>	<b>44,576</b>

### CLASS SIZE

A provincial class size limit is specified in the *School Act*, which sets the maximum average aggregate size for kindergarten at 19.1 students. Maximum class size is 20 students.

See [Overview of Class Size and Composition in British Columbia Public Schools 2016/17](#).

## SPECIAL NEEDS

The schools section 106.3 (5) of The *School Act* provides the legal authority for special needs funding. A student must qualify for special needs funding through appropriate assessment and identification, and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place.

Supplemental funding for the following is per the current year's [operating grant manual](#).

## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Elementary school teachers (which includes kindergarten teachers) must have completed 30 credits of general coursework in areas related to the BC elementary curriculum. These 30 credits must include three of each of the following: Canadian studies, mathematics and science.

There are no ECE requirements.

## CURRICULUM

[British Columbia Kindergarten-Grade 12 Curriculum](#)

## SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Per kindergarten pupil	Not available
<b>K-12 per-student funding (2014/15)</b>	\$11,216

2015-16 OPERATING FUNDING  
(based on kindergarten enrolment)

Kindergarten in public schools	\$309,955,861
Kindergarten in independent schools	\$25,200,000
<b>Total kindergarten funding</b>	\$335,155,861

*Note: Independent (private) schools receive public funding in British Columbia*

## OTHER

StrongStart BC is an early childhood play-based drop-in program under the Ministry of Education. It operates in all 60 school districts for children 0-5-years-old. It requires that children be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver and is provided at no cost. StrongStart BC is intended to prepare children for kindergarten.

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Child Care Programs and Services  
PO Box 9953, STN Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9R3  
Telephone in Greater Victoria or outside BC: (250) 356-6501

Elsewhere in BC call toll-free: (888) 338-6622

[Website](#)

Ministry of Health  
Community Care Facility Licensing  
PO Box 9638 STNProvGovt  
Victoria BC  
Telephone: (250) 952-1847

[Website](#)

### LEGISLATION

*Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, S.B.C. 2002, Chapter 75; *Child Care Licensing Regulation 332/2007*.  
*Child Care Subsidy Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 26; *Child Care Subsidy Regulation 74/97*.  
*Child Care BC Act*, S.B.C. 2001. Chapter 4.

### CHILD CARE SERVICES

#### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

##### Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: two children or one sibling group of any age, not including children related to the caregiver. This category is referred to in BC as "licence-not-required" (LNR). The *Child Care Subsidy Regulation* specifies that LNR care is in the provider's own home.

A registered licence-not-required (RLNR) provider must be registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral program and must meet specific registration requirements established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Unlicensed care provided in the child's own home is in a different category. Care in the child's own home is subject to the same rules as LNR, restricting maximum group sizes to two children or one sibling group.

### **Child-minding**

Unlicensed child care offered to immigrant families who are attending programs in respect of English as Second Language, settlement or labour market integration under a government-funding contract (funded either by the Government of Canada or British Columbia). The parent(s) must be attending courses on the same premises as the child-minding service and must be immediately accessible at all times to attend to the child's needs. Maximum group size: 24 children based on age calculation (a child younger than 12 months counts as 2.5 children).

## **REGULATED CHILD CARE**

### **Centre-based child care—under 36 months**

Centre-based care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 12 children from birth to 36 months.

### **Centre-based child care—30 months to school-age**

Centre-based child care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 25 children.

### **Centre-based child care—school-age**

Centre-based child care outside school hours, including during school vacations for children attending school. It may be provided for no more than 13 hours/day, for no more than 24 children (if kindergarten or Grade 1 children are present) and for no more than 30 children (if all children are in Grade 2 or higher).

### **Multi-age child care**

Centre-based child care by an early childhood educator to groups of eight children of various ages. No more than three children may be under 36 months, and no more than one child may be younger than 12 months.

### **Preschool- 30 months to school-age**

Part day, centre-based programs for preschool-age children for no more than four hours/day per child, for no more than 20 children.

### **Family (home) child care**

Child care in a private home for no more than seven children aged birth to 12-years-old including the provider's own children under the age of 12. No more than three

children may be under 48 months, with no more than one child younger than 12 months. If no children under 12 months are present, then a provider may care for four children under 48 months, with no more than two under the age of 24 months.

The care provider must reside in the same location as care is provided.

### **Occasional child care**

Occasional or short term child care for children who are at least 18 months old, for no more than 40 hours in a calendar month per child. Maximum of 16 children if a child under three years of age is present and a maximum of 20 children if all children are three years of age or older.

### **In-home multi-age care**

Child care in a private home for no more than eight children, aged birth to 12 years including the provider's own children under the age of 12. No more than three children may be under 36 months, and no more than one child may be younger than 12 months.

The care provider must be an early childhood educator, and reside in the same location as care is provided.

## **CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

The [Early Learning Framework \(ELF\)](#) is a document developed by British Columbia's Ministry of Education, but its use is not a mandatory requirement for child care programs.

It can be used in a variety of early learning environments; including kindergarten, StrongStart BC programs and child care settings, preschools and other early childhood development or child health programs, and by parents/families. Free online training modules are publicly available for early years professionals providing care for children between the ages of 0-6-years-old. Additionally, post secondary programs may teach pre-service ECEs using the ELF as a foundational document.

## **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

The Supported Child Development (SCD) program assists families and child care providers to fully include children needing extra support in typical child care settings. Services include individualized planning, training, information and resources, referrals to other specialized services and when required, extra staffing supports.

The program serves children from birth to 12-years-old, with services for youth 13 – 19 years old available in some communities.

In 2016, there were 49 community agencies providing SCD Consultant Services for families and extra support staff for children in child care settings.

In addition, there were 49 Aboriginal SCD (ASCD) programs; 39 of these programs are within Aboriginal agencies both on and off-reserve, with an additional 10 ASCD programs with non-Aboriginal contractors in BC. Participation is voluntary and SCD services are provided at no charge to parents but parents are responsible for child care fees. Families who are eligible for the child care subsidy program are provided with an additional special needs supplement of up to \$150 per month towards the cost of child care by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to assist families whose child has a designated special need.

The Supported Child Development [website](#)  
The Aboriginal Supported Child Development [website](#)

## INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Child care services in Indigenous communities on-reserve are licensed and funded by the province through the same programs available to non-Indigenous facilities, parents, and providers.

A number of post secondary educational institutions deliver ECE training with an Indigenous focus. In addition, the provincial government provides funding to the [British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society \(BCACCS\)](#) to provide training and workshops, resource and referral services to Indigenous child care providers.

As of March 2016, the number of licensed, funded child care facilities located in Indigenous communities on-reserve, or who reported a First Nation contract type as part of their application for Child Care Operating Funding was 201 (177 organizations).

The number of licensed, funded child care spaces was 5,831. (These are included in the overall count of child care spaces for British Columbia).

*Note: The above Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) data is as of March 2016. The funding and number of spaces provided to First Nations and Indigenous child care may be under-reported since child care providers are not required to provide this information to the ministry.*

## SPACE STATISTICS

### Number of regulated child care spaces (March 2016)

<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age group or program	Full day	Part day	Total
Group child care (<3 years)	9,840	-	9,840
Group child care (30 months > school-age)	28,897	-	28,897
Preschool	-	19,917	19,917
School-age (including kindergarten)	-	32,720	32,720
Emergency care	-	-	0
Special needs	-	-	0
Group multi-age child care	2,368	-	2,368
<b>Total centre-based spaces</b>	<b>41,105</b>	<b>52,637</b>	<b>93,742</b>
<i>Total regulated home child care spaces</i>			12,160
<b>Total regulated child care spaces</b>			<b>105,902</b>

*Note: This table shows the number of licensed centre-based child care spaces that received Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) as of March 2016. Information on the number of child care spaces that do not receive CCOF is not available and is not included in the totals. The majority of licensed child care providers in the province receive this operating funding. Therefore, the figures may not directly align with the totals.*

### Children with special needs in regulated and unregulated child care (2016)

10,700

*Note: This represents children receiving special needs support through the Supported Child Development (SCD) program in both regulated and unregulated child care. The number of children receiving SCD services in regulated child care only is not available.*

### Children receiving fee subsidies in regulated child care (March 2016)

Age group	Total monthly average
Under three years	3,158
Three-four years	7,251
School-age (includes kindergarten-age children)	4,683
<b>Total children subsidized</b>	<b>15,092</b>

*Note: Age group is based on children's actual age. Depending on date of birth and age at the start of kindergarten, some four-year-olds may already be attending school-age programs (children with late birthdays will be four years old at the start of kindergarten) and some five-year-olds may attend child care programs (children with birthdays prior to September may attend child care between January-August as a five-year-old.)*

### Number of child care programs (March 2016)

<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day (0-three years; three-five years)	1,507
Part day nursery schools/preschools (30 months-school entry)	1,005
After-school programs	1,141
Multi-age	296
<b>Total centre-based programs</b>	<b>2,932</b>
<i>School-based child care centres (included in total centre-based)</i>	
For children younger than school-age	498
For school-age children (includes kindergarten-age children)	523
<i>Number of licensed home child care providers</i>	<i>1,700</i>

*Note: This table shows the number of licensed centres and home child care providers that received Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) as of March, 2016. Information on the number of licensed child care programs that do not receive CCOF is not available and is therefore not included in the totals; however, the majority of licensed child care providers in the province receive this operating funding. Program types cannot be summed to get the total number of centre-based programs as facilities may offer more than one care type and be double counted. School-based centres include those in both public and independent schools.*

### Sponsorship of part and full day centre spaces (March 2016)

	<i>Full day</i>	<i>Part day</i>
Non-profit	17,308	31,162
For-profit	24,292	21,475

### Sponsorship of part and full day centre spaces (by age group and type) (March 2016)

<i>Non-profit</i>		
Age group	<i>Full day</i>	<i>Part day</i>
Group child care (under 36 months)	3,961	-
Group child care 30-months-school-age	12,489	-
Preschool	-	11,486
School-age	-	19,676
Emergency care	-	-
Special needs	-	-
Group multi-age child care	858	-
<b>Total centre-based non-profit spaces full and part day</b>	<b>17,308</b>	<b>31,162</b>
<b>Total centre-based non-profit spaces</b>	<b>48,470</b>	

### Sponsorship (continued)

<i>For-profit</i>		
Age group	<i>Full day</i>	<i>Part day</i>
Group child care (under 36 months)	5,879	-
Group child care 30 months-school-age	16,408	-
Preschool	-	8,431
School-age	-	13,044
Emergency care	-	-
Special needs	-	-
Group multi-age child care	2,005	-
<b>Total centre-based for-profit spaces full and part day</b>	<b>24,292</b>	<b>21,475</b>
<b>Total centre-based for-profit spaces</b>	<b>45,767</b>	

### Parent Fees

Parent fees are not set by the province. They are established by individual child care providers and vary depending on the type of care, age of child, and community.

In 2015/16, the Child Care Provider Profile Survey reported the following median monthly fees for licensed, funded centre-based child care facilities in BC:

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Median monthly centre fees</i>
Infant	\$1,000
Toddler	\$953
30 months-five years	\$755
Preschool (three days)	\$180
Preschool (five days)	\$320
Out-of-school (kindergarten)	\$400
Out-of-school (Grade 1+)	\$315

*Source: The 2015/2016 Child Care Provider Survey conducted by the provincial government.*

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included the following British Columbia cities:

<i>City</i>	<i>Median monthly Fees</i>		
	<i>Infant</i>	<i>Toddler</i>	<i>Preschooler</i>
Vancouver	\$1,321	\$1,325	\$950
Richmond	\$1,200	\$1,210	\$875
Burnaby	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$850
Surrey	\$995	\$950	\$750

*Note: These median monthly figures include fees from licensed centre-based child care and licensed family child care.*



## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### REGULATED CENTRES

<b>Maximum centre size</b>	Not specified	
<b>Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes</b>		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratio</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
Under 36 months	1:4	12
30 months-school entry	1:8	25
Preschool (part day)	1:10	20
Kindergarten-Grade 1	1:12	24
Above Grade 1	1:15	30
Multi-age	1:8	8

#### Required ECE staff qualifications for centres

##### *Centre-based child care, under 36 months*

Each group of four or fewer children requires one infant/toddler educator.

Each group of five to eight children requires one infant/toddler educator and one early childhood educator.

Each group of nine to 12 children requires one infant/toddler educator, one early childhood educator and one assistant.

##### *Centre-based child care, 30 months to school-age*

Each group of eight or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.

Each group of nine to 16 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant.

Each group of 17 to 25 children requires one early childhood educator and two assistants.

##### *Preschool, 30 months to school-age (part day)*

Each group of 10 or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.

Each group of 11 to 20 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant (some exceptions apply where there is an approved parent education program).

##### *School-aged centre-based child care*

Staff are termed “Responsible adults” and must be at least 19 years of age; be able to provide care and mature guidance to children; have completed a course or a combination of courses of at least 20 hours in duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition; and have relevant work experience.

Otherwise, there are no early childhood training requirements.

##### *Occasional child care*

These staff are termed “Responsible adults” and must be at least 19 years of age; be able to provide care and mature guidance to children; have completed a course or a combination of courses of at least 20 hours duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition; and have relevant work experience.

Otherwise, there are no early childhood training requirements.

##### *Multi-age care*

Each group of eight children requires one early childhood educator. No more than three children in each group may be younger than 36-months-old and no more than one child may be younger than 12-months-old.

##### *Child-minding*

No early childhood training requirements.

All staff must be “of good character”.

#### Certification of early childhood educators

There are four categories of certification for an early childhood educator that define the qualifications of staff in the above program types.

##### *Early childhood educator*

Successful completion of a basic early childhood education training program with a minimum 902 hours of instruction and training in: child growth and development; program development; curriculum planning and foundations; family, community resources and communications; health, safety and nutrition; and practicum. This training is to be completed at a recognized post secondary educational institution. In addition, a written reference from an educator and completion of 500 hours of supervised work experience are required.

##### *One year early childhood educator certificate*

Same certification as above. However there is no requirement to submit a reference or complete 500 hours of supervised work experience. This certificate is only valid for one year and may only be renewed once.

##### *Infant and toddler educator*

Must qualify for an early childhood educator certificate and have successfully completed a specialized, post-basic program that includes 250 hours of instruction in advanced child growth and development, working with infants and toddlers, working with families, administration, advanced health, safety and nutrition, and a 200-hour infant/toddler practicum. This training is to be completed through a post secondary educational institution recognized to offer the post-basic program.

### *Special needs early childhood educator*

This level requires completion of the basic early childhood education program that includes 250 hours of instruction in advanced child growth and development; working with children with special needs; working with families; administration; advanced health safety and nutrition; and a 200-hour special needs practicum. This training is to be completed through a post secondary educational institution recognized to offer the post-basic program.

### *Assistant early childhood educator*

This category requires successful completion of one course of a basic early childhood education training program from a recognized post secondary ECE program in one of the following three areas: child growth and development; child guidance; or health, safety and nutrition. To renew certification, ECE Assistants are required to complete one additional course that is part of a recognized post secondary ECE program and 400 hours of work experience relevant to early childhood education every five years.

### *Other*

A staff person termed a “responsible adult” must be at least 19 years of age; be able to provide care and mature guidance to children; have completed a course or a combination of courses for at least 20 hours in duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition and have relevant work experience.

Certificates issued for early childhood educators, infant/toddler educators or special needs early childhood educators are valid for five years. To renew the certificate, the individual must have completed 40 hours of professional development and 400 hours of work experience, both relevant to early childhood education, within the previous five years.

If there are concerns regarding the practice of a licensed early childhood educator, a special needs educator, an infant/toddler educator, or an assistant, the Director of the Early Childhood Educator Registry has the authority to investigate and take action on a certificate, including the placing of terms and conditions, suspension or cancellation. In all cases, early childhood educators or assistants are entitled to a hearing and appeal process.

## **REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE**

### **Model of organization**

Individually licensed

### **Maximum capacity**

If any child younger than 12-months-old is present, a responsible adult caring for seven or fewer children in a personal residence can have no more than three children younger than 48-months-old. Of those three, no more than one child may be younger than 12 months. If no child younger than 12-months-old is present, a responsible adult caring for seven or fewer children in a personal residence can have no more than four children younger than 48-months-old. Of those four, no more than two children may be younger than 24-months-old.

If the licensee is an early childhood educator, he or she may operate a multi-age child care home, in which the licensee may care for no more than eight children in his or her personal residence. No more than three of those children may be younger than 36-months-old and no more than one child may be younger than 12-months-old.

### **Licensing, monitoring and enforcement**

All family child care providers have at least one comprehensive licensing inspection conducted by their local health authority every 12-18 months. An initial inspection by the local fire authority may be required when a new licensed family child care facility opens.

### **Family child care provider requirements**

Providers do not need to be certified early childhood educators unless they are operating an in-home multi-age care program.

Providers must be at least 19 years of age, be of good character, have a valid first-aid certificate, be able to provide care and mature guidance to children, have completed a course or combination of courses of at least 20 hours in child development, guidance, health and safety or nutrition and have relevant work experience.

A criminal records check must be completed for any person over the age of 12 who will be ordinarily present at the facility.

## FUNDING

### Fee subsidies

Fee subsidies are available to families in all licensed child care settings: family child care home, child care centre or preschool and in some unregulated arrangements: registered licence-not-required, licence-not-required (both in the provider's home) and in the child's own-home care except by someone who is a relative of the child or a dependent of the parent and who resides in the child's home.

Subsidies are available to all eligible families who qualify. Families may be eligible for a full or partial subsidy only up to a maximum income level, depending on factors such as: the family size, age of the children and type of child care setting. The full subsidy rates are based on the age of the child, the type of care, and the number of hours in care.

Subsidy rates may not cover the full fees, in which case the child care provider may charge the parent the difference between the full child care fee and the amount of subsidy received. In specific circumstances, the Child Care Subsidy Program may cover the total cost of care; for example if child care is arranged or recommended by staff delegated under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* or the child care is provided for a parent participating in a Young Parent Program.

### Fee subsidy rates

	<i>*Four hours or less daily</i>		<i>**More than four hours daily</i>	
	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Monthly</i>
<b>Licensed centre (group) care</b>				
G1 (0-18 mos.)	\$18.75	\$375.00	\$37.50	\$750.00
G2 (19-36 mos.)	\$15.90	\$317.50	\$31.75	\$635.00
G3 (37 mos. but not school-age)	\$3.75	\$275.00	\$27.50	\$550.00
G4 (school-age)	\$10.38	\$207.50	\$20.75	\$415.00

*\*Four hours or less daily*    *\*\*More than four hours daily*  
*Daily*    *Monthly*    *Daily*    *Monthly*

### Licensed family child care

J1-L Family (0-18 mos.)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
J2-L Family (19-36 mos.)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
J3-L Family (37 mos. but not school-age)	\$13.75	\$275.00	\$27.50	\$550.00
J4-L Family (school-age)	\$10.38	\$207.50	\$20.75	\$415.00

### Licensed preschool

N1 (30 mos. but not school-age)	\$11.25	\$225.00	-	-
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### Subsidy rates for unregulated (LNR) child care

F1-LNR Family (0-18 mos.)	\$10.95	\$219.00	\$21.90	\$438.00
F2-LNR Family (19-36 mos.)	\$10.10	\$202.00	\$20.20	\$404.00
F3-LNR Family (37 months +)	\$8.85	\$177.00	\$17.70	\$354.00

### Subsidy rates for unregulated (LNR) child care

R1-R Family (0-18 months)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
R2-R Family (19-36 months)	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$600.00
R3-R Family (37 months but not school-age)	\$13.75	\$275.00	\$27.50	\$550.00
R4-R Family (school-age)	\$10.38	\$207.50	\$20.75	\$415.00

### Subsidy rates for in-child's-own-home child care

H1-1st child (0-18 months)	\$9.85	\$197.00	\$19.70	\$394.00
H2-1st child (+18 months)	\$7.95	\$159.00	\$15.90	\$318.00
H3-2nd child (0-18 months)	\$4.95	\$99.00	\$9.90	\$198.00
H4-each additional child (including 1st child of school-age if another child in the family, younger than school-age, is in category H1 or H2)	\$3.68	\$73.50	\$7.35	\$147.00
L2-school-age except if considered the 'additional child'	\$8.75	\$175.00	\$10.50	\$210.00

## Subsidy rates for care surrounding school-day

\**Four hours or less daily*    \*\**More than four hours daily*  
*Daily*                      *Monthly*                      *Daily*                      *Monthly*

L2—all children of school-age except children in child's-own-home child care considered the 'additional child'

\$8.75                      \$175.00                      \$10.50                      \$210.00

\* *Unless both before-and after-school care is provided.*

\*\* *Both before-and after-school care is provided.*

## One-time funding

### Child Care Minor Capital Funding

Available to help licensed centre-based non-profit child care providers maintain quality services for families in their communities (i.e., emergency repair, replacement and relocation).

Licensed centre-based, non-profit child care providers may receive up to \$2,000 per facility for:

- Emergency upgrades or repairs to existing facilities
- Emergency replacement of furnishings and equipment necessary to comply with the Child Care Licensing Regulation
- Relocation costs when a child care facility is moving to another location

Those eligible for the funding include non-profit societies in good standing with the BC Corporate Registry, local governments, public institutions, bands/tribal councils and First Nations governments. Occasional child care, child minding and family child care licensees are not eligible to receive Child Care Minor Capital Funding.

### Child Care Major Capital Funding

Supports costs associated with the creation of new licensed non-profit and for-profit child care spaces excluding occasional child care, child minding and residential care. The province opened the first application intake period for the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program in May 2014. Under this program, child care operators could apply to receive up to a 90% provincial contribution for the creation of licensed child care spaces located on school grounds and up to a 75% provincial contribution for all other projects.

Non-profit organizations could receive up to a maximum of \$500,000 and for-profit organizations a maximum of \$250,000.

## Recurring funding

### Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)

Direct operating funding that assists eligible, licensed centre-based and regulated family child care providers with the cost of providing child care. Amounts are based on enrolment, number of hours per day care is provided and the age and type of child care. The daily rates below are set by the government. CCOF is not available for Occasional Child Care and Child Minding.

Non-profit and for-profit child care providers are treated the same way vis-à-vis operating funding.

CCOF rates are based on the estimated cost of providing child care in different settings. Monthly payments are determined by multiplying the daily rates below by the total number of children enrolled in a facility, with a maximum sum available.

#### *CCOF daily rates for centres by age group and hours of attendance*

*Group child care: Rates for providers with a group or multi-age group licence for more than eight children, or if the facility is in a location other than a personal residence.*

<i>Rate category</i>	<i>Four hours or less</i>	<i>More than four hours</i>
Under 36 months	\$6.00	\$12.00
3 years to kindergarten	\$2.74	\$5.48
Grade 1 to 12 years	\$1.40	\$2.80
Preschool	\$1.37	\$1.37

#### *CCOF daily rates for family child care by age group and hours of attendance*

*Family child care: family, in-home multi-age or multi-age child care licence for eight or fewer children in their principal residence.*

<i>Rate category</i>	<i>Four hours or less</i>	<i>More than four hours</i>
Under 36 months	\$1.85	\$3.70
3 years to Kindergarten	\$1.41	\$2.82
Grade 1 to 12 years	\$0.73	\$1.46

### Supported Child Development Program (SCDP)

Available in both regulated and unregulated child care. Assists and covers consultation, training and extra staffing required to support children with extra support needs who attend child care. Some communities have targeted some of the funds towards improving access for Indigenous families.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED  
CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

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<b>Fee subsidies in regulated child care</b>	\$80,690,000
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**One-time funding**

Major capital	\$6,330,000
Minor capital	\$382,000

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**Recurring funding**

Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)	\$85,745,000
Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) (see note)	\$58,254,000

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<b>Total regulated child care</b>	\$231,401,000
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**Other funding**

Child Care Resource and Referral	\$9,821,000
Child care fee subsidies in unregulated child care	\$28,350,000

*Note: Spending for children accessing supports through the Supported Child Development Program includes expenditures for children attending both regulated and unregulated settings.*

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