
New Brunswick



OVERVIEW

Responsibility for kindergarten, regulated child care and other early childhood development programs is under the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

New Brunswick is officially a 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, with full school-day up to Grade 3 defined as 4-4.5 hours per day.

Regulated child care centres are predominantly for-profit, representing more than 60% of centres. There is 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”.

In August 2017, New Brunswick entered into a [three year bilateral agreement](#) with the Government of Canada. New Brunswick will receive almost \$30 million dollars from federal funds and will contribute an additional \$41 million in provincial funds on initiatives to improve early learning and child care. An [Action Plan](#) released January 9, 2018 provides further details.

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.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	6,200
1	7,500
2	7,700
3	5,600
4	7,200
5	7,600
6	8,000
7	6,900
8	7,000
9	8,000
10	6,400
11	6,800
12	7,100
Total	92,000

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	21,400
3-5	20,400
6-12	50,200
Total	92,000

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

Age	Number of children
0	3,700
1	4,500
2	5,400
3	3,600
4	4,900
5	5,500
6	5,600
7	4,800
8	5,100
9	5,800
10	4,500
11	4,800
12	5,100
Total	63,300

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	13,600
3-5	14,000
6-12	35,700
Total	63,300

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

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	1665	550	35	20	50
5-9	1675	500	30	35	50
10-14	1510	575	30	20	40
Total	4,855	1,620	95	80	135

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

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	13,700	70.3
3-5	10,200	84.3
6-15	31,600	85.9

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	26,735	7,230	6,330	900
5-9	28,020	9,660	8,045	1,610
10-14	27,360	9,880	8,020	1,865

Language spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	24,190	8,500	885	770
5-9	26,760	9,825	890	765
10-14	26,680	9,535	885	720
Total	77,635	27,860	2,655	2,240

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
73,479	27,890	32,560	27,324

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.

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, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$543/week (2017) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit and will continue to be offered.

However, as of December 3, 2017, the federal government amended the Employment Insurance benefits offering an additional option for the parental leave portion, referred to as the Extended Parental Benefit, that allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits, that can be taken over an 18 month period, paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$326/week (2017) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

Although the federal parental benefit provisions have changed, new parents cannot be paid for the Extended option until provinces/territories make changes to their own leave provisions. Leave provisions under the Canada Labour Code have already changed.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit 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

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Educational Services Division

Place 2000

250 King Street

Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1

Telephone: (506) 453-3678

[Website](#)

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](#)

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 Treasury Board and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The 2016–2021 agreement stipulates a maximum kindergarten class size of 21 pupils. A kindergarten class combined with any other grade shall not exceed 16 pupils.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's undergraduate degree, a one year bachelor of education and a New Brunswick Teacher's Certificate are required for elementary teachers. 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](#) (2008)

[K-12 Francophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum](#) (2009)

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Anglophone	2,254
Francophone	4,868
Total	7,122

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available	
K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015)	\$13,855

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 in [English](#) and [French](#)

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 two–five years: Four.

Maximum if all are school-age: Eight.

Alternative child care program

This program provides funding to eligible parents who are working or training and do not have access to regulated child care due to where they live or their hours of work. 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. Parent financial and social needs are assessed for eligibility. Control point and income thresholds are \$22,000 and \$40,000 respectively. Funding is provided directly to the caregiver as a co-payment with the parent/guardian.

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-old.

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-old.

Community day care homes

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

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework, 2008](#)

[Le Curriculum éducatif Services de gardes francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick, 2008](#)

Note: These are two distinct curriculum frameworks, not translations.

The early learning and child care curricula are learning and development frameworks for parents and caregivers of all children aged 0 to 5 years. They promote an experiential-based approach to learning and were developed by New Brunswick child care experts to assist parents and caregivers in helping children grow to their greatest potential. They recognize the individual learning abilities and unique cultural and linguistic identities of all children. Children are encouraged to be active participants in their own learning and to follow their interests. The curricula aim to develop children's 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 both the Enhanced Support Worker Program (ESWP) and Developmental Child Care.

A child's eligibility for support under ESWP is determined through an annual application process. Under the ESWP, Education and Early Childhood Development funds early learning and child care facilities to pay the salary costs of support worker 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; parents must be working or studying. The ESWP pays for the salary of a support worker for a maximum of 35 support worker hours per preschool-aged child/wk. School-aged children can be funded for up to 20 hours/wk while school is in session and 35 hours for one week in December, March Break and summer vacation.

Eligibility for the Developmental Child Care (DCC) program is determined through a referral from a Family and Early Childhood Agency, formerly Early Intervention Programs. DCC may be provided for up to 12 hours/wk for preschool-aged 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, the salary of a support staff, and transportation, if required. Families of children enrolled in DCC may also be clients of the Family and Early Childhood Agency, where the child's participation in an early learning and child care setting is part of an overall case plan to support the family.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

New Brunswick approves child care centres for Indigenous communities 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 Indigenous child care programs that are approved by the Department and receive provincial government funding.

Additionally, seven centres on-reserve are currently approved by the Department. There are 195 approved spaces on reserve; 181 preschool-age and 14 school-age.

New Brunswick Head Start programs receive funding through an agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick and Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada. As well, Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) programs are funded by Health Canada. None of these programs are licensed by the provincial government.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 2016)

Centre-based

Infants (0-2 years)	1,826
Preschool (2-4 years)	10,259
School-age (5-12 years)	13,623
<i>Total centre-based spaces</i>	25,708
<i>Total family child care spaces</i>	(est.) 1,143
Total number of regulated child care spaces	26,851

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 (QIFS) application process.

Children with special needs in regulated care (March 31 2016)

Enhanced Support Worker Program	226
Developmental Child Care Program	489

Note: These figures are the number of children with disabilities and additional needs accessing programming as of March 31st, 2016. The breakdown of Enhanced Support Worker Program recipients includes 102 preschool-aged and 124 school-aged kids. The Developmental Child Care Program is a preschool-only program serving ages two to five.

Children receiving fee subsidies (March 31 2016)

Age group

0-4 years	2,616
5-14 years	3,386
15 + years	5

Total number of subsidies

6,007

Note: Note that New Brunswick reports only annual cumulative totals. This figure may not be comparable to numbers reported for other provinces/territories in ECEC in Canada.

Number of child care programs

Centre-based

Full day	333
Part day nursery schools/preschools	37
Stand-alone after school programs	221
Combined nursery/school-age programs	137

Note: The part day nursery school/preschools and combined/nursery school figures are estimates as the data cannot identify part time. For this reason, the total number of centre-based programs may not equal the sum of child care programs by type.

Total centre-based programs

627

Number of school-based child care centres

Preschool-age children	34
School-age children only (included in centre-based)	69

Number of francophone child care centres

(included in centre-based) 242

Number of family child care providers (individual)

188

Sponsorship of part and full time regulated centre-based spaces (2016)

Non-profit	9,746 (est.)
For-profit	15,962 (est.)

Parent fees

There are no set parent fees.

The Child Day Care Services Annual Statistical Report 2015-2016 estimates the daily fee of full time care as follows:

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Estimated daily fee</i>
Infant	\$33.35
Toddler	NA
Preschool	\$28.11

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included Saint John:

Median monthly infant fee	\$864
Median monthly toddler fee	\$738
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$681

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

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size	60 spaces	
Maximum room size	not specified	
Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
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.

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 a Bachelor of Education (either Primary or Elementary) as a training credential in child care 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

Two to five years of age: Five

Six years of age 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

Twenty-one 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

All services are eligible for all funding streams.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Family eligibility for Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) 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 to be subsidized.

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.

The control (eligibility) point for a full subsidy is \$30,000 net family income and the threshold is \$55,000.

Daily fee subsidy rates

Infants (0 to 24 months)	\$28.50
Preschool (2-5 years)	\$24.25
School-age (5-12 years)	\$12.75

One-time funding

Funding through the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund is to support training for ECEs, creation of new spaces for rural locations, infant spaces, extended hours facilities; and the creation of new spaces offered in the minority language of a given community. The Early Learning and Child Care Project Review Board Inc. is the beneficiary of the fund and administers the current initiatives. The Board is comprised of four members and employs one part time Project Review Coordinator.

New expansion spaces

For new infant child care spaces in day care centres and community day care homes: A minimum of three spaces must be created.

For new spaces in rural New Brunswick local service districts and villages: In day care centres, a minimum of five spaces must be created (\$5,000/space). In community day care homes, a minimum of three spaces must be created.

For new extended hours spaces for shift workers: In day care centres, a minimum of eight spaces must be created. In community day care homes, a 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.

Minority language communities

Funding is available for new day care facilities that will operate in one of the official languages (English or French) in a community where that language is the minority. The facility must offer full day services for 0-5-year-olds and remain open for a minimum of two years after receiving the funding.

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

Note: See the Action Plan referenced in the OVERVIEW section regarding new funding arrangements for new initiatives.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED
CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies

Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) \$15,544,000

One-time funding

See Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund above and below under “Other”

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Funding (QIF) \$23,591,900

Special Needs Funding

Enhanced Support Worker Program \$2,376,700

Developmental Child Care \$700,000

Total recurring funding \$26,668,600

Total regulated child care \$42,212,600

Other funding—Early Learning and Child Care Trust

Fund

Training assistance for child care staff \$2,419,536

Trust Fund—New child care spaces \$6,617,500

Minority language funding \$650,400

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 Early Learning and
Child Care Trust Fund** \$13,917,176

Note: These figures represent disbursements under this fund cumulatively to March 2016.
