

# Prince Edward Island



## OVERVIEW

Regulated child care—now under the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture—has been under an education ministry since 2007. Kindergarten was, until 2010, delivered by child care centres under child care legislation but has been moved into the public education system, becoming a compulsory full school day program for five-year-olds.

Child care centres are predominantly delivered by for-profit operators with some non-profits. Since 2010, these have included Early Years Centres, which are governed by additional provincial policies including provincially-set parent fees, formula-based unit funding and a provincial salary scale. Early Years Centres are also required to have spaces for infants and toddlers, include children with special needs, have parent advisory committees and use a mandated early learning curriculum framework and have revised certification and training requirements.

Following the introduction of the new policy in 2010, 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. The Early Learning and Child Care Board reviews all applications for licensed child care programs and issues or denies licenses based on whether there is a need for spaces in the geographic area. Note that the Board determines licenses and the government determines designation.

These developments followed a review of PEI's ECEC provision outlined in [Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative](#).

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.

In August 2017, Prince Edward Island entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada to receive funds of almost \$11 million over the next three fiscal years, to be spent under the terms set out in the [Canada-Prince Edward Island Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care](#).

## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that 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	1,500
1	1,200
2	1,400
3	1,500
4	1,400
5	1,400
6	1,600
7	1,700
8	2,000
9	1,400
10	1,600
11	1,700
12	1,600
Total	20,000

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	4,100
3-5	4,300
6-12	11,600
Total	20,000

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

Age	Number of children
0	1,000
1	700
2	1,000
3	900
4	900
5	900
6	1,200
7	1,200
8	1,400
9	900
10	1,100
11	1,300
12	1,200
Total	13,700

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

Age	Number of children
0-2	2,700
3-5	2,700
6-12	8,300
Total	13,700

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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	2,800	75.7
3-5	1,900	76
6-15	6,500	84.4

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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	95	50	10	0	15
5-9	65	70	10	0	0
10-14	80	40	15	0	0
Total	530	170	25	0	15

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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	5,580	1,345	1,155	190
5-9	6,050	1,750	1,420	335
10-14	5,735	1,900	1,480	425

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

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	6,535	110	250	105
5-9	7,335	120	300	150
10-14	7,210	115	315	135
Total	21,075	350	865	380

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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
71,190	28,507	31,680	27,942

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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.

### 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 (2017); 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.*

## KINDERGARTEN

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Learning and Culture

250 Water St., Holman Centre

Summerside, PE, C1N 1B6

Phone: (902) 438-4883

[Website](#)

Kindergarten is part of the public school system. The Department is responsible for teacher/staff certification, supports for children with special needs, policy development, funding, curriculum development, program support and in-service training.

### LEGISLATION

[The Education Act](#), 2016. R.S.P.E.I. Cap. E-02

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-years-old by December 31 of the school year.

### COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is a compulsory grade level for all eligible children and is a full school day program. Children who are four-years-old can start kindergarten as long as they turn five years of age by December 31st of that year.

### HOURS

Five hours of instructional time per day.

### ENROLLMENT

1453 children in kindergarten  
(1429 in public schools and 24 in private schools).

### CLASS SIZE

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

## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

All kindergarten teachers are 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](#)

## SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

\$15.5 million (2015-16)

K-12 per pupil spending \$12,610 (2014-2015)

# REGULATED CHILD CARE

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDCARE

Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture  
Early Child Development Division  
250 Water St., Holman Centre  
Summerside, PE, C1N 1B6  
Telephone: (902) 438-4883

[Website](#)

## LEGISLATION

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Early Learning and Child Care Act*. 2017.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. 2017.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Social Assistance Act*. 2015 (Department of Family and Human Services)

## CHILD CARE SERVICES

### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

#### Unregulated family child care

Provides care to the following groupings of children that include the operator's own children: no more than two

infants, no more than four preschool-age children; no more than six school-age children; no more than five children in mixed-aged groupings where only one child can be under 22 months and only three children can be preschool-age children.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

#### Early Childhood Centres

Early learning and child care programs that are authorized to provide services to infants, preschool-aged and school-aged children for full days. Private centres and early childhood centres with Early Years Centre (EYC) Designation fall under this category. EYCs operate less than 24 hrs/day.

##### *Early Years Centres*

Early Years Centres are licensed under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and would have been in good standing with the Early Learning and Child Care Board for a minimum of one calendar year.

Early Years Centres receive funding to help bridge the difference between regulated parent fees and operating costs. In return for this investment, centres with Early Years Centre designation are governed by additional provincial policies including provincially-set parent fees and formula-based unit funding. Early Years Centres are also required to have spaces for infants and toddlers, include children with special needs, have parent advisory committees, set staff wages and benefits according to a provincial salary scale (See "Hourly wage grid", under the FUNDING section of this report), use a mandated early learning curriculum framework, as well as revised certification and training requirements.

##### *Preschool centres*

Early learning and child care services for less than four consecutive hours per day for children who are three-years of age or over but not yet attending school.

##### *School-age centres*

Child care provided to children currently attending school on weekdays during one or more of the following time periods: before or after school, school lunch period or during regular school hours when schools are closed (e.g. PD days or summer break). The children are usually aged five to 12 years.

### Family home centre

Full day child care in a private residence where the operator can provide care for up to six infants, preschool-aged children or school-aged children as long as the staff member to child ratios are met. The ratios are as follows: one staff person for three infants (under 22 months); one staff for every five toddlers (22 months to three years of age); one staff for every ten pre-schoolers (three to five years old); and one staff person for every fifteen school-aged children.

## CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Early Years Centres are required to use the [PEI Early learning framework 2011: Relationships, environments, experiences](#) (ELF).

All other licensed programs are permitted to use alternative approaches to the PEI Early learning framework, so long as they meet the requirements set out by regulation.

## 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 that may cover staff to support the child plus mandatory employment-related costs. The role of these grants is to lower ratios to allow for successful inclusion in early childhood settings.

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

## INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Prince Edward Island currently has two licensed early childhood centres in Indigenous communities on-reserve. One of the two licensed programs holds an Early Years Centre designation and is funded by the province. As well, the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre operates a federally-funded Aboriginal Head Start (AHSUNC) program in Charlottetown for children aged three to five-years-old and is regulated under the Early Learning and Child Care legislation. There are no First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) programs in Prince Edward Island.

## SPACE STATISTICS

### Number of regulated child care spaces (March 31, 2016)

#### Centre-based

Age group	Full day	Part day	Total
Infants (0-24 months)	297	-	297
Preschool (2-4 years)	2,777	239	3,016
School-age (5-12 years)	-	1,322	1,322
<b>Total centre-based spaces</b>	<b>3074</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>4,635</b>
<b>Total family child care spaces</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>

**Total number of regulated spaces** 4,642

*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.*

### Early Years Centre spaces (March 31, 2016)

Age group	Full day
Infants (0-24 months)	255
Preschool (2-4 years)	< 220
School-age (5-12 years)	1,523

**Total number of regulated spaces in EYCs** 1,998

*Note: The number of spaces in EYCs is included in the total number of regulated spaces.*

*Note: The number of preschool spaces is flexible but each Early Years Centre must have a minimum of five toddler spaces. There are 44 EYCs, therefore this number is 220+.*

**Children with special needs in regulated child care (March 31, 2016)** 146

**Children receiving fee subsidies (March 31, 2016)** 1,468

### Number of child care programs

#### Centre-based

Full day (EYCs)	44
Full day (Other centres)	21
Part day nursery schools	9
Stand-alone school-age	45

**Total centre-based programs** 119

*School-based child care centres (Included in centre-based programs.)*

For preschool-age children	6
For school-age children	12
<i>Family child care (Individual)</i>	1

**Sponsorship of full and part day regulated centre-based spaces (March 2016)**

	<i>Non-profit</i>	<i>For-profit</i>
<i>Full day</i> (EYCs, other licensed centres)	859	1,855
<i>Part day</i> (preschools, school-age)	1,049	851
<b>Total centre spaces</b>	1,908	2,706

**Parent fees**

*Early Years Centres (provincially-set daily parent fees) (2016)*

0–up to 22 months	\$34/day
22 months–3 years	\$28/day
3 years–up to school entry	\$27/day
School-age	fee not regulated

*Other regulated centres (daily mean fee)*

Infants-full day	\$36/day
2-year-olds	\$29/day
3 years-school entry	\$28/day
School-age	\$11/day for before/ after school care; \$18/day for full day

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

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada’s large cities included Charlottetown:

Median monthly infant fee	\$738
Median monthly toddler fee	\$608
Median monthly preschooler fee	\$586

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

**STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**

REGULATED CENTRES

**Maximum centre size:** 50 spaces

**Maximum room size:** not specified

**Staff/child ratios and group sizes (2017)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
<i>0–under 22 months</i>	1:3	6
<i>22 months–three years</i>	1:5	*NS
<i>Three years–school entry</i>	1:10	NS
<i>School-age (1st day of school until the end of elementary)</i>	1:15	NS
<i>*Not specified</i>		

**Centre staff qualification requirements (2017)**

*Early childhood centres and preschool centres*

Early childhood supervisor/early childhood director and at least one full time staff member in each licensed centre must have at least a one year certificate from an approved early childhood care and education program or a two year diploma or degree from an approved early childhood care and education program.

*School-age child care centres*

At least one staff person has, at minimum, successfully completed a 30-hour course related to the care and education of school-age children which has been approved by the Early Learning and Child Care Board. If more than one staff person is required, at least one more staff must meet the minimum certification requirements.

*Programs with an Early Years Centre designation*

Must meet the requirements of an early childhood centre. In addition, all program staff are required to be certified at minimum as an early childhood educator Level I (successful completion of 30 hour courses in each of the following areas: growth and development; child guidance; early childhood pedagogy).

**Certification of early childhood staff (January 2017)**

The Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture designates a person employed in the public service of the province in the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture as the Registrar and Resource to the Early Learning and Child Care Board (called “the Board” below). The Board delegates to the Registrar its responsibilities to review applications for certificates and renewal of certificates.

Forty-five hours of approved on-going training every three years is required for all certified staff.

#### *ECE Level I*

An applicant for an Early Childhood Educator Level I certificate shall have successfully completed a 30 hour course, approved by the Board, in each of the following subject areas: (a) child growth and development; (b) child guidance; (c) early childhood pedagogy.

#### *ECE Level II*

An applicant for an Early Childhood Educator Level II certificate shall have successfully completed a one year certificate program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board.

#### *ECE Level III*

An applicant for an Early Childhood Educator Level III certificate shall have successfully completed a two year diploma program, or a degree program, in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board.

#### *Early Childhood Supervisor*

An applicant for an Early Childhood Supervisor certificate shall: (a) have successfully completed either (i) a two year diploma program or a degree program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board, or (ii) a degree program in child and family studies, which includes credit for a two year diploma program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board; and (b) obtained at least 3,900 hours of experience providing services to children while holding a certificate or an equivalent authorization issued in the jurisdiction where the services were provided.

#### *Early Childhood Director (not yet required in Early Years Centres)*

An applicant for an Early Childhood Director certificate shall: (a) have successfully completed (i) a degree program in early childhood care and education approved by the Board, (ii) a degree program in child and family studies, which includes credit for a two year diploma program in early childhood care and education, approved by the Board, or (iii) a one year certificate program in early childhood care and education approved by the Board, and a degree program that, in the opinion of the Board, is related to early childhood care and education; and (b) obtained at least 9,750 hours of experience providing services to children at an early childhood centre or preschool centre, a Type I facility under the former *Act* or an equivalent type of centre licensed under the laws of another jurisdiction, while holding a certificate or an

equivalent authorization issued in the jurisdiction where the services were provided.

#### *Inclusion Support Assistant*

An applicant for an Inclusion Support Assistant certificate shall have successfully completed a one year certificate program or two year diploma program in early years studies, early childhood care and education, or human services, approved by the Board.

#### *Family Home Child Care Provider*

An applicant for a Family Home Child Care Provider certificate shall have successfully completed a 30 hour course related to the care and education of infants and preschoolers approved by the Board.

#### *School-Age Child Care Provider*

An applicant for a School-Age Child Care Provider Certificate shall have successfully completed a 30 hour course related to the care and education of school-age children, approved by the Board.

Once certified, 45 hours of ongoing training every three years is required to maintain certification.

## REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

### **Model of organization**

Providers are individually licensed and operate independently of any other licensed program.

### **Maximum capacity**

Up to six children; not more than a total of six infants, preschool children and school-age children, including the provider's own children, while maintaining ratios set out in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act and Regulations* (see above).

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

Annual inspections are made by staff of the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, 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 requirements**

Providers must be at least 18 years of age, provide results of a criminal record check and vulnerable sector search, have completed a 30 hour course related to the care and education of infants and preschoolers. They must also provide written confirmation that the applicant is entitled to work in Canada and a current emergency first aid certificate.

## FUNDING

### CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Early childhood centres that have received Early Years Centre designation and are operationally funded and receive quarterly payments. The funding payment is calculated based on staff wages, benefits and base operating costs minus 90% of parent fees (including child care subsidy) to provide centres with base funding. The province determines the salary grid for all Early Years Centres and regulates the parent fees.

Otherwise, all licensed child care centres are eligible for all other funding programs including child care subsidy, special needs funding and IBI funding.

#### Hourly wage grid (Updated April 1, 2017)

Position/ Education	Experience after certification				
	1 yr <	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs +
Director: Post diploma/degree	\$21.42				
ECE Level III: 2 year diploma	\$15.30	\$15.76	\$16.23	\$16.71	\$17.22
ECE Level II: 1 year certificate	\$13.77	\$14.19	\$14.62	\$15.05	\$15.47
ECE Level I: 3 X 30 hours EC courses	\$12.24	\$12.61	\$12.98	\$13.37	\$13.77
Uncertified	\$11.25				
Support staff	\$11.25				

*Note: Staff must have completed the education level required and have become certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board in order to start the associated pay band.*

*Note: Uncertified Staff and Support Staff are funded at the minimum wage rate and the rate is subject to change.*

## TYPES OF FUNDING

### Fee subsidies

Parent fee subsidies are managed by the Department of Family and Human Services.

The Child Care Subsidy Program assists low to moderate income families with the cost of child care. There are five categories of eligibility: parents who are employed/working; parents in a training or education program; parents with medical needs; children with special needs; and children in need of child protection.

The amount of subsidy available to parents is based on a sliding scale that considers family net income and the number of individuals in the family.

All licensed early learning and child care centres are eligible to enroll children receiving child care subsidies. This includes both early childhood centres and those with Early Years Centre designation, preschool centres, family home centres, school-age centres and those that are for-profit or not-for-profit.

The province regulates parent fees in Early Years Centres based on the age of the child. The child care subsidies maximum per diem rates match the fees charged by Early Years Centres. Therefore, eligible families in Early Years Centres may be subsidized to cover the full fee.

In non-Early Years Centres where fees are not regulated, the subsidy may not fully cover the parent fee. Therefore, the family would be responsible for paying a share of the fee.

#### Maximum daily subsidy rates for licensed child care

Infants	\$34
Two-year-olds	\$28
Five-year-olds	\$27
School-age: full day	\$18
School-age: before- and after-school	\$11

### One-time funding

Not available

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**Recurring funding**

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**Early Years Centre funding**

Early Years Centres receive funding on a quarterly basis. EYCs submit invoices to the Department of Education and Early Learning and Culture detailing enrolment and staffing. The funding formula is based in part on staff wages determined by the province-wide salary scale and operational costs to determine the amount of funding per EYC.

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**Quality Enhancement Grant**

Provides licensed early learning and child care centres with additional financial support in order to enhance the quality of their programs. The Quality Enhancement Grant is provided to centres that were receiving the grant as of March 31, 2013 which continue to apply and provide accountability documentation.

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**Special Needs Grant**

Provides licensed early learning and child care centres with extra financial support to include children with diagnosed special needs up to the age of 12 years in their program.

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**PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)**

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<b>Fee subsidies</b>	\$2,871,500
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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 Recurring funding</b>	\$8,950,000
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<b>Total regulated child care</b>	\$11,821,500
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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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