

Federal-provincial child care agreement ^[1]

Expands accessible, affordable and high-quality child care to give Alberta families the choice they need.

Source: Government of Alberta

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AVAILABILITY

[Access online](#) ^[2]

Excerpted from release

We have successfully negotiated an agreement with the federal government that will support the expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality child care that gives families the choice they need. This made-in-Alberta plan also reduces fees for parents of 0- to kindergarten-aged children by an average of half next year, and provides an average of \$10 per day child care by 2026.

Through the agreement, \$3.8 billion will be invested in child care for children aged 0 to Kindergarten over the next 5 years:

- \$2.865 billion to lower child care fees for Alberta parents
- \$240.64 million to increase the number of child care spaces
- \$202.6 million to develop and fund child care options to support vulnerable and diverse populations, as well as children with extra needs
- \$306.16 million to support licensed programs and certified educators in offering high-quality support for families in their communities

Key features of the plan

Improving affordability

Over the next 5 years of the agreement, we will:

- reduce fees by an average of 50% for families with children 0 to Kindergarten in early 2022
- lower average licensed child care fees to \$10 per day by 2025-26 for families with children 0 to Kindergarten
- increase support for parents

Expanding child care accessibility

To ensure families can choose the child care that works best for them, we will:

- add at least 42,500 new licensed child care spaces over the next 5 years
- support licensed child care – preschools, daycare and licensed family day homes

Supporting high-quality child care

Quality care starts with quality educators. The agreement provides funds for:

- professional development, training and improved certification levels for our early childhood educator workforce
- continued wage tops for child care educators – among the highest in Canada

What this means for parents

Parents will see reduced fees starting in early 2022 and for the next 2 years. While additional information will be shared soon, families can expect to pay an average of:

- \$10 per day if they earn up to \$119,999
- \$11 to \$17 per day if they earn between \$120,000 and \$179,999
- \$22.19 per day if they earn \$180,000 and above
- For example, a family earning \$120,000 with an infant attending a licensed facility-based centre full-time currently pays on average \$1172 per month. By year 2022, this family can expect to pay an average of \$284 per month.

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