

Child care for young children with disabilities ^[1]

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AVAILABILITY
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Excerpts

Background

More than half (56%) of Canadian children aged 0 to 5 years are in non-parental child care, but data on child care attendance among children with disabilities is limited. This study examines child care participation among young children with disabilities in Canada, with a focus on different disability types.

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Results

Among children aged 0 to 5 years with disabilities, 45% attended a daycare centre, preschool, centre de la petite enfance, or before or after school care as their main child care arrangement; 17% attended another type of child care, such as a family child care home or care by a relative; and 38% did not regularly attend non-parental child care. The parents of nearly half of children with disabilities reported difficulty finding a child care arrangement, particularly for children with emotional conditions. Close to 1 in 10 parents of children with disabilities who were using child care reported that their child had been denied a child care space because of their condition.

Interpretation

These findings highlight the need for information to support inclusive policies, practices, and resources for children with disabilities within the Canada-wide early learning and child care system.

Related link: Survey on early learning and child care arrangements - Children with long-term conditions and disabilities, 2023 ^[4]
Child care arrangements for children aged 0 to 5 with long-term conditions or disabilities, 2023 ^[5]

Region: Canada ^[6]
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