



Newfoundland and Labrador

■ OVERVIEW

In Newfoundland and Labrador, regulated child care centres, family child care, and kindergarten are the responsibility of the Department of Education. Prekindergarten falls under the Early Learning Division and kindergarten is within the K – 12 system.

Full school-day kindergarten is available to all children who turn five by December 31 of the respective school year. Kindergarten attendance is not compulsory. Newfoundland and Labrador began to pilot prekindergarten for four-year-olds in September 2022; prekindergarten pilots are being phased in. Prekindergarten is fee-based, licensed as full-day child care, delivered by a non-profit provider, and operates year round.

Licensed centre-based child care includes full-day centres, part-day nursery schools, prekindergarten pilots, and before- and after-school programs.

Family child care is primarily agency-based. There is one province-wide family child care agency, as well as a small number of individually licensed providers.

Child care is delivered by non-profit and for-profit operators, with 70% of full-day centre spaces for-profit.

Newfoundland and Labrador has set full-day child care fees at \$10/day since January 1, 2023. A small number of centres do not participate in this program and set their own rates. Income-tested parent fee subsidies are available for eligible families, who pay no fee.

A province-wide [wage grid](#) was introduced effective January 1, 2023. Family child care providers are not included in the wage grid and continue to receive the Early Learning and Child Care Supplement.

Newfoundland and Labrador signed the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on December 15, 2017. The agreement allocated \$22 million over three years; it was extended on January 12, 2021 with another \$7.1 million allocated to the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year, and renewed on July 28, 2021 allocating a further \$34.8 million over four years.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement was signed by Newfoundland and Labrador on July 28, 2021. This agreement allocated \$306 million over five years to the province. The Canada-wide agreement does not replace but runs parallel to the Multilateral Framework Agreement.

Net growth in full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years since CWELCC

	2021	2023	Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2023
For-profit	3,438	3,734	+296
Non-profit and public	1,189	1,587	+398
Total full-day spaces	4,627	5,321	+694
Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit	74%	70%	-4%
Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit			43%

Family child care spaces (2021, 2023)

	2021	2023
Family child care spaces (enrolment)	623	653

Note: Family child care enrolment includes all children 0 – 12 years; a breakdown by full- and part-day is not available.

■ PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

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.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2023 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children (2023)
0	3,400
1	3,500
2	4,100
3	4,200
4	4,100
5	3,800
6	4,700
7	4,500
8	5,200
9	4,500
10	4,600
11	4,700
12	5,400
Total	56,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0 – 2	11,000
3 – 5	12,100
6 – 12	33,600
Total	56,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2023 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0	2,400
1	2,400
2	3,000
3	2,800
4	2,800
5	2,700
6	3,300
7	3,000
8	3,800
9	3,300
10	3,600
11	3,100
12	3,700
Total	40,000

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0 – 2	7,800
3 – 5	8,300
6 – 12	23,800
Total	40,000

Number of children 0 – 14 years identifying with an Indigenous group (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>First Nations</i>	<i>Métis</i>	<i>Inuk (Inuit)</i>	<i>Multiple</i>	<i>Other</i>
0 – 4	1,480	310	450	80	70
5 – 9	1,695	445	480	50	145
10 – 14	2,065	615	590	70	190
Total	5,240	1,370	1,520	200	405

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2023 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	9,400	83.2
4 – 5	3,700	84.1
0 – 5	13,000	82.3
6 – 12	13,600	87.2

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2021)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0 – 4	14,425	4,255	3,660	595
5 – 9	16,615	5,880	4,755	1,125
10 – 14	18,505	6,945	5,525	1,420

Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0 – 4	18,200	55	530	200
5 – 9	22,310	60	400	255
10 – 14	25,455	60	445	190
Total	65,965	180	1,370	655

Median after-tax income among families with children 0 – 5 years (2020)

Two-parent families	Male lone parent	Female lone parent
\$101,000	\$43,200	\$41,200

KINDERGARTEN

Full school-day kindergarten enrolment (2023)

<i>Enrolment in public schools</i>	
Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	4,166
<i>Enrolment in independent/private schools</i>	
Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	124
Total kindergarten enrolment	4,290

Note: Newfoundland and Labrador provides prekindergarten as a non-profit, licensed child care program. See the Child Care Space Statistics section for information about prekindergarten.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

First Nations and Inuit child care on reserves and on Inuit lands

The province of Newfoundland and Labrador licenses child care on First Nations reserves and Inuit lands. In 2023, there was one licensed full-day child care centre on the Samiajjj Miawpukek Reserve (formerly known as Conne River) that served 28 children. The centre was operated by the Miawpukek First Nation.

There were four licensed full-day centres in the autonomous Inuit area of Nunatsiavut, Labrador. These centres, in the communities of Nain, Hopedale, Rigolet, and Makovik, have 67 spaces in total. These centres were operated by the Nunatsiavut Government.

There was one licensed family child care provider on reserve, located on the Samiajij Miawpukek reserve.

There were two Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) programs in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2023.

Indigenous child care other than on reserves or Inuit lands

There was one Indigenous-led child care centre not on reserve or Inuit lands in 2023, operating 35 full-day spaces.

There were three Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) in 2023. Newfoundland and Labrador does not license AHSUNC programs.

CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated spaces (March 31, 2023)

Full-day centre spaces	
Infants (0 – 24 months)	138
Toddlers (18 – 36 months)	1,331
Preschool-age (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in school)	3,723
Prekindergarten (3 years and 8 months – 5 years and 9 months and attending a prekindergarten program)	129
Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	5,321
Part-day centre spaces	
Preschool-age (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in school)	51
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	5,372
Before- and after-school care centre spaces (licensed or regulated)	
Children in kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6	2,530
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	7,902

Regulated family child care (enrolment)

Total regulated family child care spaces	653
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TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care enrolment)	8,555
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Number of child care centres, family child care homes, and agencies (March 31, 2023)

Centre-based child care

Total number of centres	193
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Centre-based programs

Number of centres providing a full-day program	160
Number of centres providing a part-day (nursery or preschool) program (licensed as a part-day program)	4
Number of centres providing a part-day program for children attending school (approximately 4 – 12 years)	112
Number of centres providing infant care (0 – 24 months)	23
Number of centres providing toddler care (18 – 36 months)	131
Number of centres providing preschool-age care (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in school)	149
Number of centres providing prekindergarten (3 years and 8 months – 5 years and 9 months and attending a prekindergarten program)	7
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care (non-standard hours as defined by the province)	<i>Not available</i>
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – 12)	35

Regulated family child care

Number of individually licensed family child care homes (active)	10
Number of agency-based family child care homes (active)	97

Total number of family child care homes	107
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Number of family child care agencies	1
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Participation in CWELCC

Number of child care centres	186
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Number of licensed or agency approved family child care homes	96
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Note: Provision for children older than 0 – 5 years in school-age centres is not eligible for CWELCC funding.

Municipal delivery

Number of municipalities or municipal entities operating child care centres (i.e. are the licence holder)	0
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Auspice

Full- and part-day programs by auspice (2023)

	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	112
Non-profit and public	81

Note: Public centres reported by Newfoundland and Labrador include two operated by a school authority and five operated by Indigenous governing bodies.

Centre spaces by auspice

	<i>Full-day</i>	<i>Part-day</i>	<i>BASC¹</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	3,734	0	1,575	5,309
Non-profit and public	1,587	51	955	2,593

¹ Before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).

Note: Public spaces reported by Newfoundland and Labrador include 12 operated by a school authority and 95 operated by Indigenous governing bodies.

Fee subsidies

Number of children receiving fee subsidies (March 31, 2023)

Number of children	1,755
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Disability support

Special needs/disability support (March 31, 2023)

Children in licensed child care receiving special needs/disability support funding	238
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CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Number of children enrolled in regulated centre-based programs (March 31, 2023)

Full-day centres

Infants (0 – 24 months)	116
Toddlers (18 – 36 months)	1,127
Preschool-age (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in school)	3,323
Prekindergarten (3 years and 8 months – 5 years and 9 months and attending a prekindergarten program)	98

Part-day centres

Preschool-age (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in school)	42
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Total centre enrolment (children 0 – 5 years)	4,706
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Before- and after-school care (licensed or regulated)

Children in kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6	2,036
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TOTAL CENTRE ENROLMENT

(children 0 – 12 years)	6,742
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■ PARENT FEES

On January 1, 2023, Newfoundland and Labrador's parent fees for infants and preschool-age children in child care facilities receiving operating grants were set at a maximum fee of \$10/day. In 2021, the provincially set fees were \$25/day.

Provincially set fees for centres and family child care homes participating in CWELCC (2021, 2023)

	<i>Provincially set monthly full-time fee (2021)</i>	<i>Provincially set monthly full-time fee (2023)</i>
Infant/toddler/preschool-age	\$543	\$217

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

Sources: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2023). *Measuring Matters: Assessing Canada's progress toward \$10-a-day child care for all*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2022). *Game Changer: Will provinces and territories meet the new federal child care fee targets? Canadian child care fees 2021*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

■ WORKFORCE

A province-wide [wage grid](#) was introduced effective January 1, 2023. Family child care providers are not included in the wage grid and continue to receive the Early Learning and Child Care Supplement.

■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (Fiscal year 2022 – 2023)

The funding figures in each category represent provincial spending, which may include both provincial funds and federal funds transferred under bilateral agreements, Canada-wide ELCC agreements, or other federal programs used for early learning and child care.

Fee subsidies

Total fee subsidies	\$3,075,735
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Note: These are fee subsidies in licensed, regulated, or approved child care. The subsidies are associated with an individual child and family. There are provincial eligibility criteria. Fee subsidies are sent to service providers, not to parents.

Operational funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Early Learning and Child Care (Income) Supplement Program	\$11,292,756
Operating Grant Program	\$56,492,841
Family and Child Care Connections	\$576,717
ELCC Quality Enhancement Program	\$544,055
Child Care Inclusion Program	\$2,590,112
Daybreak Parent Child Centre	\$1,516,100
<i>Note: In 2021 operating funding to Daybreak Parent Child Centre included funding for its family resource centre and its child care centre. In 2023 it only includes funding for its child care centre, and so is not comparable to the 2021 data.</i>	
Total operational funding	\$73,012,581

Note: Operational funding includes regularly paid public funding that contributes to the ongoing operation of the child care service. It may include: operating grants or formula-based funding, family child care agency operating funds, wage grants/enhancement, special needs funding, and other grants/funding that is paid on a recurring basis.

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Child Care Capacity Initiative (Family Homes and Centres)	\$649,255
Child Care Capacity Pre-Kindergarten	\$2,595,342

One-time funding – other

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
One-Time ECE Payment	\$2,160,000
Wage Grid Delayed Payment	\$2,608,953
Total one-time funding	\$8,013,551

Note: One-time funding is paid occasionally or just once to a child care service and is not part of the regular operating budget. It may include: major capital, minor capital, start up, one time equipment, or repair funding.

TOTAL SPENDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (fee subsidies, operational funding, and one-time funding)

\$84,101,867

Other ELCC funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Family Resource Centres (unregulated)	\$7,047,684
KinderStart and Parent Resource Kits	\$717,249
Mother Goose Program	\$220,690
Roots of Empathy	\$25,000
Early Childhood Education bursaries	\$429,723
Association of Early Childhood Educators of NL	\$509,023
NL Public Libraries	\$1,125,972
Funding for the creation of seats in ECE Post-Secondary Programs	\$235,000
Funding for the creation of the ECE Wage Grid	\$254,780
Funding for the promotion of the ECE workforce sector	\$116,725
Total other funding	\$10,681,846

Federal transfers to Newfoundland and Labrador

<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$8,733,000
Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$51,439,000

Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to Newfoundland and Labrador for fiscal year 2022 – 2023. These funds may be slightly different from those included in the original agreements as they are updated in line with population estimates on an annual basis. They do not represent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year or carried into the next fiscal year.

Source: Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat, Employment and Social Development Canada (2024).