



The Yukon

■ OVERVIEW

The Yukon considers early learning and child care (ELCC) to include regulated child care centres, school-age programs, and family child care (termed family day homes). All ELCC programs, kindergarten, and early kindergarten are the responsibility of the Department of Education.

Full school-day kindergarten (K5) is available to all five-year-olds. Early kindergarten (K4) is available in some rural schools. Parents decide whether their child will attend full- or part-day. Francophone schools offer full school-day kindergarten in both K4 and K5.

Licensed centre-based care includes full-day centres and before- and after-school programs. The Yukon does not require part-day preschool programs to be licensed.

Centre-based child care is delivered by for-profit and non-profit operators, with a small number of publicly operated spaces. Fifty-nine percent of full-day centre spaces are for-profit.

Family child care (family day home) providers are individually licensed.

On April 1, 2021, the Yukon launched the Universal Child Care (UCC) program, allocating territorial funds to reduce parent fees by \$700/month for full-day spaces for children not yet in school and between \$300 and \$500 for kindergarten-age and school-age spaces. This approach was then incorporated into the Yukon's Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement, with service providers setting their own fees and the territory limiting parent fee increases.

Fee subsidies for eligible low-income families may be used at licensed for-profit or non-profit centres and day homes.

On April 1, 2021, the Yukon introduced a minimum wage level for educators by level of certification, supported by [wage supplement funding](#), but does not have a wage grid. The supplement is based on actual hours worked to a maximum of 40 hours per week. Operators must pay at least the Yukon minimum wage before accessing the wage supplement.

The Yukon signed the Canada-Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on February 7, 2018. This agreement allocated \$7.2 million over three years to

regulated child care; it was extended on July 2, 2020 with another \$13.7 million allocated to the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year, and renewed on August 12, 2021 with an additional \$10.1 million over four years.

The Canada-Yukon CWELCC agreement was signed by the Yukon on July 23, 2021. This agreement allocated \$41.6 million over five years. 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 2021			
	2021	2023	Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2023
For-profit	947	1,204	+257
Non-profit and public	712	841	+129
Total full-day spaces	1,659	2,045	+386
Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit			
	57%	59%	+1.8%

Note: The Yukon does not license spaces by age or by full- or part-day, so a breakdown is not available. Thus, full-day and before- and after-school spaces are included in the full-day numbers above.

Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit		67%
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Family child care spaces (2021, 2023)		
	2021	2023
Family child care spaces (enrolment)	210	183

■ TERRITORIAL 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 (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	1,000
3 – 5	1,300
6 – 12	3,800
Total	6,000

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

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	800
3 – 5	900
6 – 12	2,900
Total	4,700

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

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0 – 4	520	105	25	30	0
5 – 9	570	60	25	25	0
10 – 14	530	105	25	0	10
Total	1620	270	75	55	10

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2021 rounded estimate)

Not available

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	1,795	350	275	70
5 – 9	1,730	575	430	150
10 – 14	1,520	645	465	180

Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0 – 4	1,940	75	95	50
5 – 9	2,180	75	55	60
10 – 14	2,065	75	60	65
Total	6,190	230	215	180

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

Two-parent families	Male lone parent	Female lone parent
\$123,000	\$63,200	\$54,000

KINDERGARTEN

Full school-day kindergarten enrolment (2023)

Kindergarten (K5)	465
Early kindergarten (K4)	71
Total kindergarten enrolment	536

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

Although there are no First Nations reserves in the Yukon, there are self-governing First Nations and settlement areas, including Inuit land. The Yukon government funds all licensed child care centres including those owned and operated by First Nations.

There are nine full-day licensed centres operated by First Nations governing bodies, with a total of 291 spaces. All licensed centres may also offer part-day and/or after-school programming. These spaces are included in the overall territorial space statistics.

There are four Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs, two of which are licensed.

■ CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated spaces (March 31, 2023)

Centre spaces	
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	2,045
Regulated family child care (enrolment)	
Total regulated family child care spaces	183

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care enrolment) 2,228

Note: The Yukon does not license spaces by age group. See enrolment figures for age breakdowns of children enrolled in child care centres on March 31, 2023.

Number of child care centres and family child care homes (March 31, 2023)

Centre-based child care	
Total number of centres	57
Centre-based programs	
Number of centres providing a full-day program	57
Number of centres providing infant care (<18 months)	33
Number of centres providing toddler care (18 – <36 months)	44
Number of centres providing preschool-age care (36 months – kindergarten)	56
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care (non-standard hours as defined by the territory)	3
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – 12)	2
Regulated family child care	
Number of individually licensed family day homes (active)	20

Participation in CWELCC

Number of child care centres	57
Number of licensed family child care homes (day homes)	20

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-day programs by auspice (2023)

	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	35
Non-profit and public	22

Note: Public child care centres include nine operated by Indigenous governing bodies.

Centre spaces by auspice

	<i>Full-day¹</i>	<i>Part-day²</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	1,204	<i>Not applicable</i>	1,204
Non-profit and public	841	<i>Not applicable</i>	841

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

² The Yukon does not require part-day centres to be licensed.

Note: Public spaces include 291 operated by Indigenous governing bodies.

Fee subsidies

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

Full subsidy	278
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Disability support

Special needs/disability support (March 31, 2023)

Children in licensed child care receiving special needs/disability support funding	72
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Note: In addition, the Child Development Centre in Whitehorse provided inclusion support to 487 children in 28 centres and family day homes.

CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

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

Full-day centres

Infants (<18 months)	134
Toddlers (18 – <3 years)	491
Preschool-age (3 years – kindergarten)	815

Total centre enrolment (children 0 – 5 years) 1,440

Number of children enrolled in before- and after-school care (licensed or regulated)

Children in early kindergarten and kindergarten	133
Children in Grades 1 – 6	262

Total before- and after-school care enrolment (children of early kindergarten and kindergarten-age, and in Grades 1 – 6) 395

TOTAL CENTRE ENROLMENT (children 0 – 12 years) 1,836

PARENT FEES

The Yukon does not set child care fees. The Yukon initiated fee reduction through a set-dollar reduction to market fees shortly before the 2021 federal CWELCC announcement. CWELCC funds now help cover the cost of this territorial initiative. The flat-dollar amount of \$700/month reduces the territorially managed market fees to average monthly fees as below.

Full-time median monthly fees for centres and family child care homes in Whitehorse (2021, 2023)

	Full-time median monthly fee (2021)	Full-time median monthly fee (2023)
Infant	\$240	\$280
Toddler	\$200	\$227
Preschool-age	\$195	\$220

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

On April 1, 2021, the Yukon introduced a minimum wage level for educators by level of certification, supported by wage supplement funding. The supplement is based on actual hours worked to a maximum of 40 hours per week. Operators must pay at least the Yukon minimum wage before accessing the wage supplement.

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

The funding figures in each category represent territorial spending, which may include both territorial 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	\$416,566
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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 territorial eligibility criteria. Fee subsidies are sent to service providers, not to parents.

Operational funding

Program	Amount
Operating funding	\$5,660,062
Early childhood educator wage funding	\$6,744,523
Supports to children with special needs	\$2,074,862
COVID Cleaning Supports	\$622,152
Funding to reduce parent or caregiver fee payments to providers	\$12,577,129
Staff benefits	\$828,325
Total operational funding	\$28,507,053

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)

Program	Amount
Start-up funding	\$6,300

One-time funding – other

Program	Amount
Health and Safety Enhancement funding	\$92,902
Cultural Enhancement	\$560,570
Sustainability funding (non-profit, First Nations)	\$278,555
Total one-time funding	\$938,327

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)	\$29,861,946
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Other ELCC funding

Program	Amount
Yukon Child Development Centre Funding	\$4,576,033
Yukon University – Professional Diploma Pathway	\$648,029
Professional development	\$336,787
ECE early learning website	\$49,722
Valuing Educator Campaign	\$47,901
Yukon First Nations Education Directorate Early Years Course	\$340,248
Bursaries	\$56,032
Review of Supported Child Care	\$25,335
Total other funding	\$6,080,087

Federal transfers to the Yukon

<i>Federal transfers</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$2,561,000
Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$7,393,000

Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to The Yukon 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).
