



TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 years (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	725
1	705
2	730
3	710
4	755
5	715
6	605
7	755
8	665
9	690
10	680
11	660
12	665
Total	9,060

Number of children 0-12 years, aggregated (2007 rounded estimate)

0-2	2,160
3-5	2,180
6-12	4,720
Total	9,060

Children 0-14 years identifying with an Aboriginal group (2006)

Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4y	10	0	3,180	0	0	3,195
5-9	10	15	3,100	10	10	3,135
10-14	0	10	3,055	10	0	3,075
Total	20	25	9,335	20	10	9,405

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2006)

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	70	2.0
5-9	90	2.7
10-14	110	3.4
Total	260	2.6

Number of children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force

Information not available

Number of children by marital status of families (2006)

Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0-4	2,565	835	650	185
5-9	2,530	735	590	145
10-14	2,445	730	570	155
Total	7,535	2,300	1,815	485

Number of children by mother tongue (2006)

Age	English	French	Non-official language
0-4	935	10	2,425
5-9	935	10	2,335
10-14	870	20	2,325
Total	2,740	40	7,085

Number and percentage of children living in families below the LICO (2006)

Information not available.

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2006)

	Number of mothers in the labour force	Participation rate
Females with children at home	3,560	64.8
Children under 6 years only	600	54.3
· with at least one child under 2 years	285	46.7
· children 2-5 years only	320	64.0
Children 6 years as well as children under 6 years	1,050	62.7
Children 6 years and over only	1,905	70.2
· Youngest child 6-14 years	1,360	74.5

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

Parental leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be shared between the parents. Fifty-two weeks is the maximum allowed for combined maternity and parental leave.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Births and EI maternity and parental claims (2007)

Number of births: 788

Birth rate per 1,000 population: 25.6

Number of initial maternity claims allowed: 340

Average length of maternity claim: 14.2 weeks

Number of parental claims: 350

Average length of parental claim: 30.7 weeks

Number of adoptive parent claims: 100

Average length of adoptive claim: 17.6 weeks

Note: Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. The federal government pays for up to 15 weeks for maternity leave and 35 weeks for parental and adoptive leave for eligible parents at 55% of earned income to a maximum of \$447/week (2009). See FEDERAL ECEC PROGRAMS for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

Note: 2008/09 kindergarten information was not available for Nunavut. The majority of the following information is from the 2005/06 period.

LEGISLATION

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. 1995, R.S.N.W.T. c.28.*

Nunavut is currently reviewing and developing a new Education Act.

**The Nunavut Act, S.C. 1993, c.28 as amended brought Nunavut into being on April 1, 1999. Laws passed by the Government of the Northwest Territories during this period were inherited by the Government of Nunavut upon its creation.*

Note: The Nunavut Legislative Assembly Bill 1. Education Act 2002 was introduced but did not pass.

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

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KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under regional school operations. It is available to all five year olds in Nunavut on a half-day basis. There is a requirement for no less than 485 hours and no more than 6 hours/day instructional hours per year. The District Education Authorities in each community determine hours of attendance.

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Nunavut. Access is legislated and it is an entitlement.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31.

CLASS SIZE

There is no territorial class size limit.

Average/mean class size: Information not available.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a policy of inclusion; children with special needs have the right to be in a regular class with children their own age and in their own community. Extra supports are available such as student support assistants, Individual Education Plans, and specialists provided through both Health and Education.

Number of kindergarten children with identified special needs: Information not available.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT

Five year olds (2005/06) *700

**This figure is a head count.*

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Qualification requirements: Must be a certified teacher with a B.Ed. or a certified Kindergarten teacher; certification requires a two-year program in ECE, successful completion of two academic years of classroom teaching and completion of courses for one-year teacher training, or a Letter of Authority which requires one year ECE or some course work towards a B.Ed. and must be renewed annually. Most kindergarten teachers have a B.Ed. or Letter of Authority.

Responsibility for certification: Registrar of the Nunavut Educator's Service.

Representation: Nunavut Teachers' Association.

Salaries (2005/06) vary by type of certification as follows:

Certified as Teacher	\$49,302-88,058
Certified as Kindergarten Teacher	49,302-62,338
Granted Letter of Authority	46,771-56,449

Number of kindergarten teachers: Information not available.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

There is no territorial policy regarding training for assistants. Student Support Assistant (SSA) enables a child with special needs to have access to the program with children of his or her age group. There are no qualification requirements but there is a certificate program that may be offered in the community as an on-the-job series of courses. The courses are linked to the teacher education program. Many SSAs are included in school professional development activities. All SSAs are unionized under the Nunavut Employees Union.

Starting wage (2006) \$44,811-50,856

CURRICULUM

An Elders Advisory Committee in Nunavut works with educators to define knowledge, skills and values from an Inuit perspective to be taught in Nunavut schools at all levels. This information is combined with curriculum frameworks from the Western and Northern Curriculum Protocol partnership. Input from the Elders is being used to develop teaching resources and learning materials for Kindergarten classes in Nunavut schools.

The materials should be completed in 2009.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Kindergarten programs are monitored by school principals and the Superintendent of Schools as part of teacher evaluation.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Sources of funding for school boards: Government of Nunavut. The French District Education authority has access to federal funding.

There are no private schools in Nunavut.

There are no fees for participation in kindergarten.

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2005/06)

The per capita spending K-12: \$10,521.

Total spending on kindergarten: Information not available.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Instruction in Inuktitut is provided from kindergarten to Grade 3. A transition to English in Grade 4 with some Inuktitut follows from that point on. (It should be noted that 95% of the children have a first language other than English or French.)

Language of Instruction Policy: The goal is to graduate functionally bilingual (Inuktitut/English) students. Cabinet has agreed on instructional models and is working on a strategy for implementation so that Inuktitut is taught throughout the system.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

2005/06 The French Language School in Iqaluit carried out a three year pilot program of full-day everyday kindergarten. The 2006/07 school year marked the second year of the program.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act and Child Day Care Standards and Regulations*, 1994.

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: four, including the caregiver's own children up to 12 years

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Group care, instruction and supervision for five or more children aged 0-12 years by a person who is not a relative of the majority of the children.

Nursery schools

Programs for children under six years of age for four consecutive hours or less a day, including Aboriginal Head Start Programs

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs.

Care providers are funded to provide extra support for children with special needs through the daily operating grants which are based on the age of the child and the area in which the centre is located. The operating grant for a preschool child is increased by approximately 50% for a child with an identified special need and is an entitlement.

A letter from a recognized health care professional is required for the centre to receive the additional funding for a child. In addition, centres may apply for funding to the Healthy Children's Initiative for adaptive equipment or for a one-on-one worker if necessary.

Parents are eligible for fee subsidy for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. This subsidy eligibility requires a financial needs assessment to be applied and parents must have a medical referral from a recognized health care professional for the child to be in developmental care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Since 1996, the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) has provided capital and start-up funding for the development of approximately 20 centres in what is now Nunavut. There is an Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS) regional office in each of Nunavut's three regions. Each regional AHRDS office took on the responsibility for the delivery and administration of the Inuit child care program in their region, established with FNICCI funding.

In addition to providing capital funding for new child care centres, all child care centres, with the exception of the seven Aboriginal Head Start programs, receive block funding from their AHRDS office, which may also provide one-time funding for repairs and renovations, and for developing or acquiring culturally relevant program materials. In addition, the AHRDS may provide wage subsidies based on the number of Inuit staff in a centre, and fee subsidies to Land-Claim Beneficiary parents that is in addition to the regular fee subsidy funded through Early Childhood Services. AHRDS offices have also provided funding for training in each region, including the delivery of ECE training through Arctic College.

The federal Inuit Childcare Program spends approximately \$3 million/year on child care in Nunavut.

SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 2008)

Number of regulated child care spaces			
<i>Centre-based</i>			
Age Group	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Infant (under two years)	151	-	151
Preschool (two years-school entry)	527	200	727
School-age (kindergarten-12 years)	-	135	135
Total regulated spaces	678	335	1,013
<i>Note: There are currently no family child care spaces</i>			
Facilities and homes			
Number of child care centres (March 2008)			45
Full-day			30
Part-day nursery schools/preschools			10
Stand-alone after-school programs			5
Number of family child care providers			0

Children with special needs in regulated child care

Information not available.

Children receiving fee subsidies

The number of children is not available; however, 188 families received subsidies through the Daycare User Subsidy and 5 families received subsidies through the Young Parents Stay Learning program.

Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces as of March 31, 2008

Nonprofit	1,013
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Note: All child care centres in Nunavut are nonprofit. Family day homes are considered to be nonprofit.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size

Not specified.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-12 months	1:3	6
13-24 months	1:4	8
25-35 months	1:6	12
3 years	1:8	16
4 years	1:9	18
5-11 years	1:10	20

Staff qualification requirements

Must be at least 19 years of age, have an awareness of early childhood development theory, and basic health and safety measures, have immunizations up to date, provide a doctor's note documenting good health, have a first-aid certificate, submit to a RCMP Security Clearance, and represent the cultural background of the children. There are no early childhood training requirements.

Parent involvement

The legislation requires nonprofit programs whose boards of directors do not have a minimum of 51% parent members, to have a parent committee with a minimum of 51% parent members.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Licences are granted for one year. Annual inspections of all regulated child care centres are conducted by an Early Childhood Officer from the Department of Education, the Public Health Department, and the Fire Marshall's office. It is recommended that the Early Childhood Officer have a background in early childhood education.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE (COMMUNITY DAY CARE HOMES)

Regulation

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Maximum of eight children under 12 years (including the provider's children). No more than six of the eight children may be five years or under, no more than three children may be under three years, and no more than two children may be under two years.

Provider qualification requirements

Must be at least 19 years of age, have an awareness of early childhood development theory, have immunizations up to date, provide a doctor's note stating good health, have a first-aid certificate, submit to a RCMP Security Clearance, and represent the cultural background of the children.

There are no early childhood training requirements.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Homes are visited at least once a year by staff from the Early Childhood Program and a representative from each of the Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office.

FUNDING

DAY CARE USER SUBSIDY PROGRAM (AN INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM)

Fee subsidies may be used in both regulated and unregulated child care. Subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents if the child care is a regulated service, unless the child care centre requests that the subsidies be paid directly to the parent. In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent and is based on an attendance report signed by the child care provider. Parents may apply for subsidy in person, by mail or fax.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work or take part in a training program. Eligibility is determined by a needs assessment, which takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income. An unregulated provider may be a relative of a parent of the child being subsidized.

Eligibility for day care user subsidy

Eligibility varies with clients' actual housing, utility and child care costs, plus social assistance rates for food and clothing. To be eligible for a fee subsidy, parents must be working, attending school or a training program, or have a child with a special need, for whom child care is recommended by a recognized health care professional.

A needs assessment is applied, so there is no set break-even point.

Maximum subsidy rates are set for the type of care.

Maximum subsidy rate/child/month (2007/08)

	Full-time care	Part-time care
Licensed centre	\$700/month/child	\$350/month/child
Licensed family day home	600/month/child	300/month/child
Unlicensed care	500/month/child	250/month/child
After-school care	—	145/month/child

There is no minimum user fee and programs may surcharge subsidized parents.

ADMINISTRATION

The Adult Education, Career and Early Childhood Services Division of the Department of Education is responsible for the development of standards, the regulation of child care services, contributions to child care programs and the development of a territorial child care system. Four Early Childhood Officers within the three regions of Nunavut are responsible for licensing and monitoring child care programs. The Income Support Division of the Department of Education is responsible for the administration of fee subsidy. Early Childhood Officers are required to have an ECE diploma and experience working in a child care centre, or equivalent qualifications. In practice, however, filling the positions with qualified staff is often not possible.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

Child care programs may be under the auspice of District Education Authorities who may hold the licence.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no territorial plan for the development of child care. New centres must complete a needs assessment before they are eligible to apply for start-up funding.

RECENT HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

FOR HISTORY BEFORE 2000, SEE THE RELEVANT PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL SECTION OF *ECEC IN CANADA 2006*, available online at: <http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2006/> or in print.

Note: Before Nunavut was established in 1999, it was part of the Northwest Territories (NT).

September 2000 The Children First Secretariat, made up of the Departments of Education, Justice, Health and Social Services, and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was formed. This committee is designed to facilitate the coordination of programs and services that promote the healthy development and well-being of all children and youth across Nunavut.

2002 Responsibility for child care programs moved from the Early Childhood and School Services Division to the Adult Education, Career and Early Childhood Services Division of the Department of Education. The budget for operating and start up grants was increased by \$438,000 or approximately 25%.

2003/04 After a period of little or no enrolment in ECE training programs, 63 students graduated from Arctic College with ECE certificates.

2004

The Department of Education began the development of Nunavut-based resources for early childhood programs relevant to local communities. All written materials will be available in the four official languages of the territory. The Nunavut funding allocation through the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care was not spent.

2005 Effective April 1, 2005 the Young Parents Stay Learning Program came into effect as a program separate from regular subsidy. Eligibility does not require a needs test.

2005/06

Nunavut received \$651,000 through the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in 2005/06.

The \$651,000 in Federal Early Learning and Child Care Trust funding was given to all operating licensed facilities as a one-time grant. It was to be used for one or more of the following: equipment and toy upgrades/replacements, professional development/staff training, building or playground maintenance/improvements, or nutritional food for children.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

2006/07 Nunavut received \$603,000 in Federal Early Learning and Child Care funding.

\$503,000 was distributed among all operating and eligible licensed child care facilities as a supplementary grant to be used on operating expenses. The other \$100,000 was put towards the development of a culturally and language appropriate theme-box on the wildlife in Nunavut. The box was distributed to all licensed child care facilities, all health centres, all schools, all libraries and all hamlet offices in Nunavut.

KEY TERRITORIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

There is no territorial child care organization.

