

NEW BRUNSWICK

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 yrs (2001 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	22,200
3-5	26,600
6-12	63,300
Total 0-12	112,200

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (2001 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	13,700
3-5	17,600
6-12	45,200
Total 0-12	76,500

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an Aboriginal group (1996)

Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4	1,940	65	40
5-9	1,685	60	15
10-14	1,575	35	30

Note: These 1996 data are the latest currently available.

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2001)

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	470	1.3
5-9	1,760	4.1
10-14	2,100	4.4
Total 0-14 yrs	4,330	3.4

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2001 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	13,000	66.8
3-5	12,000	74.4
6-15	35,000	78.6

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

17 weeks.

Parental leave

(Child Care Leave) 37 weeks may be shared between the parents. The combined total of Maternity Leave and Child Care Leave taken by one or both parents cannot exceed 52 weeks.

Family-related leave

3 days per year.

Births and EI maternity claims

Number of births (2000): 7,347

Number of initial maternity claims allowed (2000-2001): 3,910

Note: Provincial leaves are unpaid. The federal government pays for some portions under Employment Insurance. See federal ecec programs for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. Education Act, 1997. c.E-1.12

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education.

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools. Programs in New Brunswick for all five year olds operate for a full primary day (approximately 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) in both French and English communities. There are 832.5 instructional hours per year.

Kindergarten is compulsory in New Brunswick. Parents may defer attendance until the next school year if the child is not five years old on or before September of the given year.

There are a number of independent schools that may choose to offer a kindergarten program; there is no specific legislation under which these schools fall. A parent must request an exemption from the Minister of Education for the child to attend such a school.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31.

CLASS SIZE

Provincial class size limits are specified within the Agreement between Board of Management and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The maximum for kindergarten is 25 students. A kindergarten class that is combined with any other grade shall not exceed 20 students.

Average/mean class size

Anglophone sector: 20.6

Francophone sector: 18.3

All province: 19.9

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The *Education Act* mandates the inclusion of exceptional pupils. A policy on Special Education is under development. Extra supports include possible provision of

physical accommodations as ramps or elevators; assertive technology when needed; development of special Education Plans; and teacher assistants and school intervention workers.

Some children's physical needs or medical fragility necessitate the provision of a teacher's assistant.

In 2000/2001, approximately 509 students with identified special needs were in the regular kindergarten program.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT (2000-2001)

Information not available.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

B.Ed. and a New Brunswick Teacher's Certificate are required. There are no specific requirements for kindergarten teachers; however, according to provincial officials, school districts are likely to give preference when hiring to a teacher who has some early childhood courses.

Training assistants must have completed Grade 12. The Department of Education is working with the community college to establish a mandatory two year training program for teacher assistants.

CURRICULUM

There is a provincial curriculum, Kindergarten Curriculum, revised in 1999. It addresses cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. It is student-centred and advocates developmentally appropriate practices within an activity-based approach to learning. The curriculum identifies specific curricular outcomes across a variety of subject areas.

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN**Average spending per kindergarten student**

Information is not available.

Total spending on kindergarten

Information is not available.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Department of Education has a one-time ESL grant of \$600. The grant may be used toward the provision of tutoring in English. Sixty-four students applied for the ESL grant in 2001/2002.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act*. 1980.

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act and Day Care Regulations*, 83-85, as amended.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children of mixed ages, 0-12 permitted: 5

Maximum if all are 2-5 years: 4

Maximum if all are school-age: 8

No more than two infants are allowed. Figure includes the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

Nursery schools

Nursery schools are only licensed upon request or complaint; most are not regulated.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Part-time or full-time care for less than 24 hours/day for four or more infants; six or more preschoolers; 10 or more children aged 6-12 years; or seven or more children from birth to 12 years.

Part-day centres (nursery schools) are only licensed upon request or complaint.

School-age child care centres

Centre-based care outside school hours for school-age children up to 12 years.

Community day care homes

Care in a private home for no more than three children under two years, or five children aged 2-5 years, or nine children aged six years and over, or six children of a combination of ages from birth to 12 years, including the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with special needs are identified through the Early Childhood Initiatives. To be identified as special needs, the child must fall into one of three categories: a) the child has a confirmed diagnosis at birth; b) the child has developmental issues after birth; c) there are family risk factors.

Special needs children can attend an Integrated Day Care Centre which receives extra funding. Facilities providing services to children may receive an average of \$3,000/ year/child for children ages 2-5. The maximum payment for a child with high needs is \$5,000/year, primarily to provide a support worker.

There are no training requirements for staff in Integrated Day Care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

New Brunswick licenses child care centres on-reserve upon request from the First Nations community. There are two on-reserve centres currently licensed by the Department. One other received its initial approval from the Department but ongoing monitoring and renewal functions are managed locally. Licensed centres on-reserve are not eligible for provincial funding and parents are not eligible for fee subsidy. Some Head Start programs receive funding through an agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick and the federal department of Health, and Indian and Northern Development. (These programs are not part of the Health Canada Aboriginal Head Start Program.)

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (2001)

Centre-based	10,936
Family child care	150
Total regulated spaces	11,086

New Brunswick does not keep licensing information by age of child. However, the Quality Improvement Funding Support provides operating funds to centres based on the ages of children enrolled. These figures represent 93.5% of children enrolled in regulated child care centres. The age breakdown of children enrolled in centres receiving the Quality Improvement Funding are as follows:

Infants	653
Preschool	
– Full-time	4,675
– Part-time	492
– School-age	4,610

Children with special needs in regulated child care (March 2001) 513

This figure represents the number of children enrolled in Inte-grated Day Care Services.

Children receiving subsidies (2001) 2,545

Subsidized children as a proportion of total regulated spaces (2001) 23 %

Sponsorship of full-time regulated centre spaces

Information not available.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size 60 spaces

Child care programs are approved for a maximum of 60 spaces; however, those approved before 1983 that had more than 60 spaces were grandparented.

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
Less than 2 yrs	1:3	9
2-3 yrs	1:5	10
3-4 yrs	1:7	14
4-5 yrs	1:10	20
5-6 yrs	1:12	24
6-12 yrs	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements

No early childhood education training or experience is required.

Effective April 1, 2003, the Director or his/her designate OR one in four staff will be required to have one year community college training in child care or its equivalent.

Staff must be at least 16 years old. Staff 16-19 years old are required to be supervised by a primary staff member who must be at least 19 years old. All staff must have first-aid training.

Parent involvement

Non-profit centres are required to be managed by a board of directors whose members include at least two parents of enrolled children. There is no requirement for parent involvement.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Nine regional coordinator positions are responsible for monitoring compliance with the regulations. Regional coordinators must have an ECE credential or equivalent. Child care centres receive one full-day inspection and up to three unannounced visits per year. Centres determined to be in noncompliance with standards are provided with a time frame in which to comply. Where the child care care service is considered necessary and where the Minister is satisfied that the requirements will be met within the designated period of time, the regulation permits the issuance of a temporary approval for a period not to exceed six months.

The *Family Services Act* provides the Minister with the authority to investigate, recommend changes, suspend the operation or terminate the approval of a child care facility. While the functions of approval and monitoring are delegated to regional offices of the department, the authority for openings and closures has not been delegated. Regions recommend and approvals are granted or terminated by the Minister.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE (COMMUNITY DAY CARE HOMES)

Regulation

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Infants: 3

2-5 yrs: 5

6 yrs and over: 9

Combination of ages: 6

The capacity maximums include the provider's own children under 12 years.

Provider qualification requirements

No early childhood education training or experience is required. Providers must be at least 19 years old and have first aid training. Training requirement implemented in April 1, 2003 will not be applied to operators of community day care homes.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The nine regional coordinator positions are responsible for licensing and monitoring community day care homes. Community day care home providers are issued an initial license and must make an annual request

for renewal. The regional coordinators spot-check community day care homes to ensure compliance with the regulations.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE FEE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents through the Day Care Assistance Program.

Eligibility is determined through a needs and income test which is administered by the Department of Family and Community Services.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is capped. Allocation of spaces is based on geography, program, and/or child/ group-at-risk criteria assessment.

Subsidies are payable to any regulated non-profit or for-profit child care centre or community day care home.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 2001)

	Turning point	Break-even point
All family sizes	\$15,000	—
1 child, 2 yrs and older	15,000	\$23,100
1 child, under 2 years	15,000	24,180

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy by age of child (2001)

0-2 yrs	\$18.50/day
2-6 yrs	16.50/day
6-12 yrs	9.25/day

There is no minimum user fee. Programs may surcharge subsidized parents. The same subsidy rate applies to centres and community day homes.

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Support Program (see NEW DEVELOPMENTS)

\$650/year/infant space
\$260/year/full-time preschool space
\$100/year/part-time preschool space
\$130/year/school-age space
\$300/year/community day home

Note: A minimum of 60% of these funds must go to wages and benefits, either as an increase to the hourly wage or as a bonus.

Special needs funding

Special needs funding is provided to Integrated Day Care Centres under Early Childhood Initiatives.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATION FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)

One time funding None

Fee subsidies \$6,500,000

Recurring funding

Quality Improvement Funding	
Support Program	2,700,000
Special needs funding	2,623,000
Total	\$11,823,000

Other funding

Alternative Child Care \$1,000,000

The Alternative Child Care Program provides subsidies for unregulated care for parents who are in school, working and who need care on weekends or evenings, or where no regulated child care is available. The same rates are paid as for regulated care. Payment is made to the caregiver who may not be a member of the child's immediate family.

SALARIES

Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time staff combined), (2001)

Assistant teachers	not available
Teachers	\$6.87
Teacher-directors	9.34
Administrative directors	12.37

Source: Figures from centre applications for Quality Improvement Funding Support prior to its 2001-2002 distribution.

Family child care

Information not available.

FEES

Median monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based care (September 2001)

Infants (Age 0-17 mos)	\$21.90/day (\$481.80/month)
Toddlers (Age 18 mos-3 yrs)	\$19.00/day (\$418.00/month)
Preschool (Age 3-5.11 yrs)	\$19.00/day (\$418.00/month)
School-age	\$10.30/day (\$226.60/month)

Source: Figures provided by the Department of Family and Community Services from information collected on centre applications for Quality Improvement Funding Support.

Average daily fee in family child care

Information not available.

ADMINISTRATION

The Early Childhood and School-Based Services Branch under the Program Development and Monitoring Division of the Department of Family and Community Services is responsible for policy and program development of the Day Care Services Program.

Authority for the approval and monitoring of child care programs is delegated to regional offices of the Department of Family and Community Services.

The Department of Family and Community Services also administers the Day Care Assistance (subsidy) Program.

MUNICIPAL OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no provincial plan for the development of child care.

The Department of Family and Community Services has lead responsibility for the initiatives of the Early Childhood Development Agenda.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

1970s Child care centres were established under federal Local Initiatives Project grants.

1974 Enactment of the *Day Care Act* which included 40 staffing, health and safety, and administration regulations. It also provided for a fee subsidy program for eligible low-income families. The Act authorized the Department of Social Services to license child care centres and administer fee subsidies.

1980 *The Family Service Act* included child care services, viewing them as a child development service.

1982 One year training program for child care workers was established.

1983 *Day Care Regulation 83-85* was enacted and the Day Care Facilities Standards were developed.

1989 A Minister of State for Childhood Services and the Office for Childhood Services were established (these were later abolished).

1991 *Playing for Keeps: Improving Our Children's Quality of Life*, a policy framework for children's services in New Brunswick was released.

For the first time, public kindergarten programs were introduced as part of the school system.

1992 In September, the provincial government announced the Early Childhood Initiatives, designed to provide targeted services to foster the healthy growth and development of priority children and their families and to enhance family self-sufficiency.

The MicMac-Maliseet Child Care Council was established to address First Nations centre-based child care quality issues.

1993 The provincial government established a working group on child care to study the issues of staff training, wage enhancement, and standards. The provincial government initiated a review process and established a Child Care Review Committee with representation from the Early Childhood Coalition/Petite Enfance, Garde de Jour, NB Day Care Association, Departments of Health and Community Services, Income Assistance, Advanced Education and Labour, and the Executive Council.

1994 In March, *A Policy Framework for Child Care Services in New Brunswick* was released. The report outlined three areas of discussion — quality, affordability and accessibility — and provided an agenda for change in child care service delivery.

New Directions: Child Care Reforms was released in response to the report of the Child Care Review Committee. It outlined changes to regulated child care. It identified four directions for change: "improving

quality; addressing the lack of affordable, accessible child care as a barrier to employment; forging partnerships for better child care; and monitoring the implementation of the changes.” The province established several working groups to make recommendations.

Operating and professional development grants to child care centres were reduced to 50%. Workplace start-up grants were eliminated.

Quality issues were to be addressed through promotion of parent awareness, strengthening regulations, implementing minimum training requirements, and enhancing community college early childhood training. New pamphlets and bookmarks for parents were developed and the legislation was reviewed. A new early childhood curriculum was launched.

With regard to “improving affordability”, recurring grants were eliminated and fees increased. Subsidy eligibility levels went up (from \$11,000 annual family income to \$15,000 annual family income). Subsidy rates were increased. The number of children accessing subsidy increased from 1,363 in 1995 to 1,568 in 1998. A majority of the children accessing subsidies were welfare recipients. There was a 30% vacancy rate in centres.

1994 Student parents were required to take subsidies as part of student loans and repay them.

1998 In August, the province increased the subsidy rates through the Day Care Assistance Program. Eligible parents who did not have access to regulated child care, including those who work evening or weekend shifts could now also receive financial assistance for unregulated care through the Alternative Child Care Program. These subsidies are paid at the same rate as those through the Day Care Assistance Program.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

1998 A national study of wages, working conditions and quality, *You Bet I Care!*, found that — based on a sample of full-time centres for children 0-6 years and regulated family child care — New Brunswick scored 4.0 on the ECERS-R (preschool rooms), 3.8 on the ITERS (infant rooms), and 4.2 on the FDCRS (family child care). (See Table 25 for elaboration.)

2001 The provincial government announced its new initiative, *Greater Opportunities for New Brunswick Children: An Early Childhood Development Agenda*. This initiative was New Brunswick’s response to the announcement of September 2000, in which First Ministers agreed that funding would be allocated to provinces, “so that young children can fulfill their potential to be healthy, safe and secure, ready to learn, socially engaged and responsible”.

\$3 million of the \$7.3 million in ECDI funding was allocated to child care for:

- Enhanced Child Day Care Services. \$3 million intended to:
 - improve working conditions for staff
 - improve the overall quality of service delivery
 - increase availability and quality of infant care
 - improve training and professional development for child care workers
- Enhancements to the Early Childhood Initiatives Pro-gram to increase accessibility to Early Intervention and Integrated Day Care Services: \$1.4 million.

The Enhanced Child Day Care Services project has two components, with both having the overall goal of improving the quality of child care services in New Brunswick: 1) the Training Needs Assessment of New Brunswick’s Child Care Sector and 2) the Quality Improvement Funding Support.

The objectives of the Training Needs Assessment are: 1) to conduct a province-wide needs assessment of child care workers currently employed in the child day care sector; 2) to explore training delivery models that respond to the identified needs; and 3) to establish equivalency to the one year community college training of the New Brunswick community college system.

The objective of the Quality Improvement Funding Support is to provide child care facilities with funding support to assist them in improving their quality of service delivery. Facilities must use a minimum of 60% of the funds they receive to improve the working conditions of staff who work directly with children, and may use up to 40% for the purchase of equipment and materials for the children's programs.

KEY PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

In May 2001, a new child care association was officially formed.

Early Childhood Care and Education New Brunswick
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TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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New Brunswick Teachers' Federation
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