



## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

### Number of children 0-12 yrs (2003 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	8,000
1	9,000
2	10,100
3	9,400
4	9,300
5	9,700
6	10,900
7	10,000
8	11,000
9	10,700
10	11,300
11	11,100
12	12,100
Total	132,600

### Number of children 0-12 yrs (2003 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	27,100
3-5	28,400
6-12	77,100
Total	132,600

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**Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (2003 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0	5,300
1	5,300
2	6,000
3	5,800
4	6,000
5	6,200
6	6,700
7	6,400
8	7,400
9	7,400
10	7,800
11	7,200
12	8,500
Total	86,000

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**Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (2003 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0-2	16,600
3-5	18,000
6-12	51,400
Total	86,000

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**Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an Aboriginal group (2001)**

Age	North American					Total
	Indian	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	
0-4	1,470	255	45	0	30	1,800
5-9	1,530	270	35	0	40	1,875
10-14	1,440	220	20	0	50	1,730
Total	4,440	745	100	0	120	5,405

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**Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2001)**

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	630	1.3
5-9	2,340	4.3
10-14	3,250	5.3
Total	6,210	3.8

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*Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.*

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**Number of children by marital status of families (2001)**

Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0-4	37,600	9,615	8,640	975
5-9	43,090	12,480	11,135	1,350
10-14	47,815	13,450	11,625	1,825
Total	128,505	35,545	31,400	4,150

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**Number of children by mother tongue (2001)**

Age	English	French	Non-official language
0-4	44,930	900	1,090
5-9	53,305	1,100	1,190
10-14	59,010	1,160	1,345
Total	157,245	3,160	3,625

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**Number and percentage of children living in families below the LICO (2002)**

Age	Number	Percent (%)
0-2	5,100	22.6
3-5	4,800	15.4
6-12	15,400	19.0
Total	25,300	18.8

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**Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2003 rounded estimate)**

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	16,500	71.4
3-5	13,300	76.9
6-15	44,400	80.6

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## FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

### Pregnancy leave

Seventeen weeks

### Parental leave

Both parents are entitled to 52 weeks which must be taken within 12 months of the child's birth. Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken pregnancy/maternity leave.

### Adoption leave

Fifty-two weeks

### Births and EI maternity and parental claims (2003)

Number of births	8,533
Birth rate per 1,000 population	9.2
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	5,150
Average length of maternity claims	14.2 weeks
Number of parental claims	5,590
Average length of parental claim	21.1 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	70
Average length of adoptive claim	24.9 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 \$413/week. See federal ECEC programs for more information.*

## KINDERGARTEN

### LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act and Regulation*. 1995-96. Amended 1998, 2000, 2002.

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

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## KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

### GRADE PRIMARY

Grade Primary is delivered in public and private schools. It is available to all five year olds in Nova Scotia on a full-time basis (a minimum of four hours/day are required for Grade Primary to Grade 2).

Grade Primary is an entitlement and is compulsory in Nova Scotia.

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old before October 1

### CLASS SIZE

Class size limits of 25 are about to be set by the provincial government for Grade Primary to Grade 2.

### Average/mean class size

2003/04: 23.1 (for elementary in general). Information specific to Grade Primary not available.

### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a policy of including children with special needs in the least restrictive setting. Extra support is available and children have Individual Program Plans (IPPs). Resources such as assistants and technology are provided. A per pupil special education grant is available to school boards.

In 2003/04 287 students (approximately 3% of all Grade Primary students) had IPPs.

### ENROLMENT (2003/04)

Number of children enrolled the year before Grade 1:

- Public	9,550
- Private	302

Number of children enrolled in two years before Grade 1  
\*(4 Plus students in Halifax)

\* See SPECIAL FEATURES.

### KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Qualification requirements: A valid teaching certificate is required. An Initial Teacher's Certificate is granted upon completion of a minimum of five years of undergraduate education including three years of approved undergraduate studies, two years of an approved program of professional studies including a practicum, and receipt of an approved Bachelor's degree from a recognized university.\*

Responsibility for certification: Registrar, Teacher Certification, Department of Education.

Representation: Nova Scotia Teachers' Union.

Professional Development: Every teacher who has a probationary or permanent contract with a school board must complete 100 contract hours of professional development every five years and maintain a professional development profile to be submitted to the school board annually. \*

Average salary (2003/04): Not available

In 2003/04 there were 604 full-time kindergarten teachers.

\*Source: Nova Scotia Teacher Certification Handbook August 2001: [http://nstu.romulin.com/files/69/Certification\\_Handbook.pdf](http://nstu.romulin.com/files/69/Certification_Handbook.pdf)

## CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Title: Teacher Assistant

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent

Role: Working with students who have IPPs under direction of supervising teacher and as a support for the instructional program.

## CURRICULUM

There is a provincial kindergarten curriculum, *Foundation for Grade Primary*. The focus is on the transition from home to school, on the foundations for lifelong learning and on fostering development in all areas. Specific curriculum outcomes in all areas are included.

## MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Information not available

## SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Funded by province from general revenues and mandatory property taxes collected by municipalities.<sup>1</sup> Generally, this funding represents approximately 97% of school board revenues, with the remainder being board-generated. The province does not provide funding to private schools.

## PUBLIC SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN 2003/04

### Average spending per kindergarten student

\$5,967.10 per student for all funded students in the education system 2003/04. Spending per kindergarten student is not available.

### Total spending on kindergarten

Information not available

## SPECIAL FEATURES

The Halifax Regional School Board funds a Pre-Grade Primary initiative – “4 Plus” – targeted to children at risk. Presently there are seven “4 Plus” sites; these programs are taught by certified teachers.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN KINDERGARTEN

A Pre-Primary Pilot Program has been announced with new provincial funding for 20 pilot sites effective September, 2005. The programs will not be targeted. The Pre-Primary pilots will be located in schools and taught by Early Childhood Educators. The Departments of Education, Community Services and Health will both be involved.

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

### LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. *Legislative Assembly. Day Care Act. Chapter 120, of the Revised Statutes, 1989. R.S., c. 120, s. 1. Day Care Regulations* made under Section 15 of the Day Care Act., amended to N.S. Reg. 202/2004

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian School Board Association. *Education Governance in Canada: Trends and Implications*. Last updated 1999.

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## CHILD CARE SERVICES

### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

#### Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: Six children who may be of mixed-age groups, including the caregiver's own preschool children. If all children including the caregiver's own are school-age, eight children are permitted.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

#### Child care centres

Care in a group setting for less than 24 hours/day for seven or more children from 0-12 years. This includes full-day child care centres, preschools, nursery schools and programs for school-age children.

#### Child Development Centres (CDCs)

CDCs were established to provide a part-day preschool experience for children deemed to be "at risk" and prepare them for school entry. These non-profit centres receive a grant which cannot exceed 50% of their operating costs. In order to qualify for a grant, a percentage of the families of children enrolled must qualify for assistance under established income guidelines (the former Canada Assistance Plan guidelines). These income guidelines are higher than those that must be met to qualify for regular child care subsidy. The director of the CDC administers the income test and keeps the information on file as required for licensing inspections.

Centres are free to establish their own fees, which are often on a sliding scale according to family income. The amount of funding is generally based on past allocations and not formula-based on capacity or actual costs. There are 26 programs in 31 locations.

#### Family child care

Care in a private home for up to six children of mixed ages including the provider's own children, or eight school-age children including the provider's own school-age children.

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Licensed child care centres may receive Supported Child Care funding of between \$19 to \$82 per full-day and \$20 per part-day to support the inclusion of children with special needs who have either a developmental delay or behavioural issue that requires intervention. The funding is intended to cover the additional costs of including children with special needs in child care programs. Funds may be used towards the salary of an early childhood special educator or to purchase materials, equipment or resources that will assist with inclusion.

Eligibility is based on evidence of the child's disability. Parents of children with special needs are not income tested for additional supports. The funding depends on availability and is not an entitlement.

Supported Child Care funding is not available in family child care but may be available in part-day child care centres.

## ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Development of on-reserve child care as part of the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Tri-Partite Social Working Committee: Child Care Facilities and Licensing Agreement Subcommittee. There are 13 on-reserve child care centres with 233 spaces. Centres follow provincial regulations but are not provincially licensed or funded.

## SPACE STATISTICS (2003/04) (MARCH 2004)

### Number of regulated child care spaces

<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full-day	9,318
Part-day	3,282
Family child care	159
Total regulated spaces	12,759
Number of children receiving subsidies	*3,700

*\*Note: This figures includes children that share subsidized spaces. Further breakdowns are not available.*

### Subsidized child care spaces

Total subsidies: 2,706. Of these 2,426 spaces are allocated to specific non-profit centres and 280 "portable spaces" may be used in either for-profit and non-profit centres and follow the child.

<b>Children with special needs in regulated child care</b>	376		
<b>Number of centres and homes</b>			
Number of child care centres	382		
- Full day	228		
- Part-day nursery schools/preschools	143		
- Stand-alone after school programs	11		
Number of family child care agencies March 2004:	3		
Number of family child care providers	34		
<b>Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (2004)</b>			
	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Non-profit	5,060	1,927	6,987
For-profit	4,258	1,355	5,613
Total	9,318	3,282	12,600
<b>Openings and closings (2003/04)</b>			
New child care centre licenses issued	28		
Number of child care centre closures	24		
Number of new licenses issued to family child care agencies	0		
Number of family child care agencies that ceased providing care	0		

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### REGULATED CENTRES

#### Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-17 mos	1:4	10
18 mos-35 mos	1:6	18
36 mos-5 yrs (full-day)	1:8	not specified
30 mos – 5 yrs (part-day)	1:12	not specified
5-12 yrs	1:15	not specified

*Although group size is not specified for full-day and part-day preschool programs and school-age programs, the Day Care Regulations state that “No more than 25 children shall be in a room or a specified play area at any one time for rest or play.”*

#### Staff qualification requirements

The centre director and 2/3 of the staff must have completed a training program in early childhood education or its equivalent. To be considered equivalent staff must have completed grade 12, have a minimum of two years experience in a day care centre and have successful completion of a full credit course of two semesters of post-secondary education in at least one of the following areas:

- human growth and development with an emphasis on the young child;
- curriculum development and implementation of programs for young children in child care centres;
- and successful completion of 25 hours in training programs, seminars or workshops in the other area not completed by way of post-secondary education.

*Note: Workshops that are directly related to planning the child care curriculum are also offered at conferences. These workshops may be considered as meeting the requirements of equivalency (as stated above).*

#### Parent involvement

Parent meetings must be held at least four times in a year for full-day programs and twice a year for part-day programs.

#### Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Initial and ongoing inspections are conducted by provincial Early Childhood Development Officers (ECDOs). ECDOs require education, experience and expertise in early childhood education, child development or special needs.

Licenses can be issued for up to 24 months for part-day programs and up to 12 months for full-day programs. If a centre is not in compliance with the Day Care Act and Regulations, clear direction and written communication of the enforcement requirements and the compliance dates are sent to the program (centre) director and/or to the operator. The non-compliance will be documented and conditions may be attached to a license requiring that the violations be corrected. To assist with compliance with the Day Care Act and Regulations, ECDOs are guided by the Department of Community Services' Compliance/Enforcement Policy.

If the centre fails to meet the legislative requirements in this period, the Day Care Act and Regulation authorizes the Minister to cancel or not renew the license. A license may not be renewed if there is evidence of a threat to the health or safety of children, or if there is a pattern of non-compliance to regulations that impacts on the physical, social, emotional, or intellectual development of children. Health inspections are conducted by inspectors from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Fire inspections are conducted by the Department of Environment and Labour.

#### REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

##### Regulation

Family child care providers are supervised by licensed agencies.

##### Maximum capacity

Up to six children of mixed ages including the provider's own preschool children, or up to eight school-age children including the provider's own school-age children.

##### Provider qualification requirements

Providers must be at least 18 years old, be screened through the Child Abuse Register and have undergone a criminal record check by the RCMP or local police. No early child-hood training or experience is required by the province.

##### Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

A licensed family child care agency staff must have ECE qualifications as per the provincial regulations. The agency is responsible for recruiting, screening and selecting providers, and for approving and monitoring homes. Provincial Early Childhood Development Officers (ECDOs) conduct annual visits and evaluations of agencies to confirm adherence to provincial guidelines for child care homes.

## FUNDING

#### CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of families eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program. Subsidy is available at full-day licensed child care centres or family child care agencies. Eligibility for subsidy is established by means of a test which evaluates three primary areas of eligibility: social need, financial assets, and family income.

Prior to 2000, only non-profit centres operated by community-based organizations and family child care agencies could enrol children receiving subsidies. In 2000, the province introduced portable subsidies which are assigned to the child and not to the child care centre and which may be used in any eligible licensed full-day child care centre, non-profit and for-profit. Since 2000, new subsidized spaces are portable.

Programs may surcharge subsidized parents if costs are above the maximum subsidy rate; they must charge full fee parents at least the same as subsidized parents.

#### Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 2004)

	Turning point	Break-even point (estimated maximum)
1 parent, 1 child	\$16,800	\$24,912
2 parents, 2 children	17,700	34,992

*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 (2003/04)\*

Infants to 17 mos	\$15.45/day
Preschoolers	15.45/day
School-age	15.45/day

*\* Note: Nova Scotia includes the minimum parent fee of \$2.25 per family per day in its subsidy rate of \$17.70/day. In order to be comparable to other provinces and territories the rates above do not include the minimum parent fee.*

#### PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2003/04)

The following recurring funding is available:

- Salary enhancement grant: \$3.25/ day/ approved regular subsidized space multiplied by the number of operating days
- Equipment grant: Funds allocated at the rate of \$0.50 per day per regulated subsidized space up to 260 days maximum per year
- Infrastructure grant: \$0.25 per day per licensed space up to 260 days maximum per year
- Infant care grant: \$4.69/day/infant in a centre; \$1.58/day/infant in a family child care home
- Child Development Centre grant: Annual operating grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the centre's approved operating budget



- Child care stabilization grant: To improve wages and assist in attracting/retaining quality staff, \$4,000/yr/ per trained staff and \$1,000/yr. untrained staff according to staff: child ratios in regulation. At least 80% must be spent on salaries; up to 20% may be spent on benefits and professional development.
- Family child care administration grant: Available to licensed family day care agencies. The grant is either 10% of the approved per diem fee or \$0.50 per day per licensed space.
- Supported Child Care funding: Between \$19 and \$82/day/child with special needs intended to cover additional costs associated with including children with special needs. Special needs are described as either a developmental delay or behavioural issue presented by the child that requires intervention. Eligibility is based on evidence of the child's disability. This grant depends on availability of funding.

**Eligibility for recurring funding:**

*Full-day non-profit programs licensed before June 2000*

- Equipment grant
- Infant care grant
- Infrastructure grant
- Salary enhancement grant
- Supported Child Care funding
- Family child care administration grant
- Child care stabilization grant

*Full-day non-profit centres licensed after June 2000*

- Infant care grant
- Infrastructure grant
- Supported Child Care funding
- Child care stabilization grant

*Full day for-profit centres*

- Supported Child Care funding
- Child care stabilization grant

*Child Development Centres*

- Child Development Centre grant

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PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE (2003/04)

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<b>Fee subsidy</b>	<b>\$8,924,136</b>
<b>One time funding</b>	*724,461
<b>Recurring funding</b>	
Equipment grant	312,418
Infrastructure grant	311,393
Family child care administration grant	42,470
Infant care grant	204,849
Child development centre grant	290,917
Salary enhancement grant	2,531,445
Stabilization grant	3,839,403
Supported Child Care	2,161,329
Partnerships for Inclusion	425,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,767,821</b>

*\* This is one-time-only funding in 2003/04 for materials and resources grants to promote physical activity in part-day child care centres.*

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**Other funding**

Early childhood education training initiative	\$1,093,906
Building Blocks: Strategies for Inclusion	16,500

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Funding to parents through Employment Support Income Assistance \*\$5,116,282 (funding provided to an average of 1,630 families per month)

Payments to clients through Child Welfare \*\*\$992,782 (of which \$574,285 was spent on regulated care)

*\*Parents on social assistance who are working, involved in an employability program or are unable to look after their children because of their health may receive money(as part of their social assistance payment) to assist with child care costs. The parent may choose any form of licensed, unlicensed or relative care, except care provided by a spouse, legal guardian or dependent child. Parents using licensed care are encouraged to apply for subsidy; the child care allowance may cover the difference between the subsidy rate and the fee charged by the centre. Parents may receive \$400/family/month.*

*\*\*Children who are permanent wards, temporary wards or involved in a family support program may be eligible for child care funding. Care may be provided in licensed, unlicensed or relative care, except a spouse, legal guardian or dependent child. Occasionally a home care agency may be used. If the care is unlicensed, the provider must undergo a police check and not be on the Child Abuse Register. If the child is a ward, the full cost of care is covered. If there is a supervision order or family support, the parent is encouraged to apply for subsidy. When using licensed care, the minimum parent fee and surcharge may be covered.*

#### SALARIES (2001)

##### Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full-time staff)

Directors	\$13.32
Assistant directors	10.31
Teachers	7.87
Special needs teacher	9.22

*Source: Information provided by provincial officials from the Employee and Wage Information Questionnaire. More recent information is not available.*

#### FEES (2003/04)

##### Median daily parent fees for centre-based full-time care

Infants (Age 0-17 mos)	\$24.55
Toddlers (Age 18-36 mos)	22.82
Preschool (Age 3-5 yrs)	22.57
School-age (Age 5-12 yrs)	20.54

*Source: For centres that receive a stabilization grant: N.S. Child Care Stabilization Grant Application (May/July 2004). For other centres, the information came from the Annual Application for Renewal of License to Operate a Child Care Centre.*

##### Average daily fee in family child care

Full-day	\$20.62
Part-day	14.37

*Source: Family child care agency budget submission forms.*

## ADMINISTRATION

The Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) section of the Department of Community Services is responsible for the licensing and inspection of child care and preschool facilities, monitoring family child care agencies, administration of funding, program consultation for licensed programs, and developing policy. The Early Childhood Development Services section approves all new early childhood education and training programs and approves the training status of child care staff working in licensed child care facilities. ECDS is responsible for the administration of the Child Care Subsidy and Supported Child Care program. As well, ECDS is responsible for the coordination of 16 Early Intervention programs in the province. These programs provide home visitation and guidance/support to families of children with identified special needs.

## MUNICIPAL OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role.

## CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nova Scotia developed *Our Children: Today's Investment, Tomorrow's Promise* (2001), which serves as the foundation for the province's Early Childhood Development/Early Learning and Child Care investments.

The Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) was created as part of Nova Scotia's commitment to "support families and improve opportunities for children to have a healthy start in life" and is reported in Nova Scotia's Early Childhood Development Initiative Annual Report April 2003.

## **HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES**

**1966** Advocacy Committee on Day Care Services announced by the Minister of Public Welfare.

**1967** Enactment of the *Day Nurseries Act*.

**1968** Formation of the Preschool Association of Nova Scotia.

**1970** Founding of the Nova Scotia Day Care Advocacy Association and the Nova Scotia Child Care Council.

**1972** Appointment of the Provincial Day Care Advisory Committee, which introduced the day care subsidy program.

**1977** A Task Force on Day Care Finance was struck with a mandate to review the per diem rate. This resulted in annual increments in the subsidy rate and an annual review of the parent fee formula.

**1980** Enactment of the revised *Day Care Act and Regulations*.

**1983** Task Force on Day Care was announced. Its recommendations resulted in the introduction of annual equipment grants, additional subsidized child care spaces, special needs funding, and staff training standards along with staff training grants.

**1987** Training specifications for staff working in child care came into effect.

**1988** Provincial child care plan to triple spending for program expansion and enhancements subject to federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement was developed.

**1989** Child care spending was postponed.

**1990** Child care staff in 40 centres across the province staged a one-day walkout to protest poor wages.

The Minister announced a Round Table on Day Care with representation from the child care community to conduct a review of the province's child care system.

A salary enhancement grant was introduced.

**1991** The Round Table on Day Care presented series of recommendations to the Minister including a recommendation to establish the Round Table as a permanent advisory body. This recommendation was adopted. Other recommendations called for the creation of 500 new subsidized spaces and the adoption of salary scales for child care workers.

**1992** Funding increases were announced, including 100 new subsidies and increases in subsidy rates.

**1993** Per diem and subsidy rates to non-profit infant child care and staff training grants were increased.

**1993-96** Fifty additional subsidized spaces were allotted each year.

**1998** All licensed child care facilities were required to ensure that staff and volunteers have up-to-date Child Abuse Register checks.

The per diem rate for a subsidized space and the infant differential increased by 2%.

Through the National Child Benefit, \$2.2 million was allocated to a Healthy Child Development Initiative to enhance/support centre-based and family child care, rural child care and early intervention programs.

**2000** One hundred "portable" child care spaces were introduced, including five for children with special needs. These spaces follow the child and are not attached to a specific centre.

**2001** There were amendments to the *Day Care Act and Regulations* including several related to the provision of infant/toddler care.

A funding review was conducted and the *Nova Scotia Child Care Funding Review* was released.

Under the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Agreement on Early Childhood Development, Nova Scotia's strategy for Early Childhood Development was outlined in *Our Children: Today's Investment, Tomorrow's Promise*. The Department of Community Services undertook a number of initiatives designed to improve the quality of and access to child care. Funding was designated to stabilize existing licensed child care programs, support inclusion of additional children with special needs, improve salaries, and provide professional development for early childhood educators.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

**2002/03** Stabilizing and Enhancing Childcare Initiatives were introduced:

*Partnerships for Inclusion:* Facilitators worked with child care centres to evaluate their program and environment, and to improve the centre's environment and daily program in order to support the inclusion of children with special needs.

*Building Blocks:* In June 2003 province-wide training was undertaken to facilitate the full inclusion of children with special needs. An evaluation is being completed to assess its benefits.

*Capital funding:* Funding to non-profit full- and part-day child care centres resulting in 329 new full-day spaces and 74 new part-day spaces. (Approximately \$1.6M in funding in 2002/03)

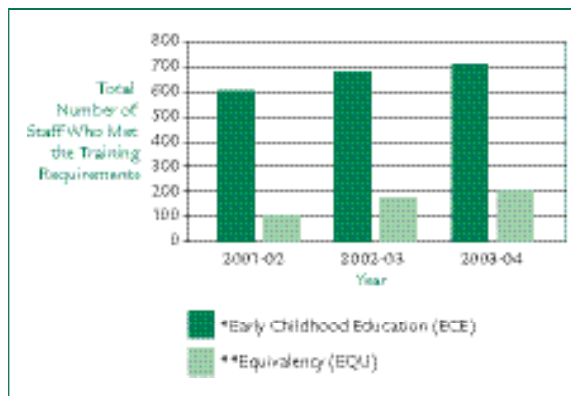
*Child Development Centres Materials and Resources Grant* (\$400,000 in funding in 2002/03)

**2003/04** A one-time-only Materials and Resources Grant to Promote Physical Activity for part-day child care centres was provided.

The development and implementation of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Information System was completed on March 31, 2004. The system provides cross-functional access to data, a snap-shot of programs and the ability to respond to inquiries in a timely manner.

**March 2004** A Child Care Stabilization Grant Survey was distributed to child care facilities who had received the Nova Scotia Child Care Stabilization Grant. Preliminary analysis shows an increase in the level of training of early childhood staff from 2001 to 2004 (see below) and that the grant has enhanced the salaries of early childhood educators.

## LEVEL OF TRAINING



As described in the *Early Childhood Education Training Requirements* (Nova Scotia Department of Community Services):

\*Training in early childhood education refers to successful completion of training programs recognized by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.

\*\*Equivalency signifies that a person will be considered to have the equivalent of early childhood education if he or she completes all of the requirements under 'Staff qualification requirements'.

**2004** The Child Care Subsidy Program Review was announced. It will entail a revised subsidy rate structure for maximizing the utilization of subsidized child care spaces by eligible families across the province and options for revising grant funding to child care centres to improve the effectiveness.

**September 2004** Effective September 8, 2004, the maximum group size for school-age children was changed from 25 to 30.

**2005** New subsidy rates were announced in February 2005, effective January 1, 2005. Maximum subsidy rates are as follows and include a \$2.25 parent fee.

Infant (3-17 months)	\$22.00/day
Toddler (18-35 months)	20.00/day
Preschool (3-5 years)	19.00/day
School Age (5-13 years)	17.70/day

## **KEY PROVINCIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE ORGANIZATIONS**

Child Care Connection-NS  
Suite 100, 1200 Tower Road  
Halifax, NS, B3H 4K6  
Telephone: 902-423-8199 1-800-565-8199  
Fax: 902-492-8106

Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators  
of Nova Scotia  
c/o 100 1200 Tower Road  
Halifax, NS, B3H 4K6

Coalition of Non Profit Directors of Nova Scotia  
c/o 17 Earnscliff Avenue,  
Wolfville, NS, B4P 1X4

Private Licensed Administrators Association  
2695 Dutch Village Road  
Halifax, NS, B3L 4G5

Société Provinciale des Intervenants(e)s du Préscolaire  
(SPIP)  
CP 117  
Pointe de L'Eglise, NS, B0W 1M0

## **TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Nova Scotia Teachers' Union  
3106 Dutch Village Road  
Halifax, NS, B3L 4L7  
Telephone: 902-477-5621  
Fax: 902-477-3517  
Website: [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)