

Northwest Territories



OVERVIEW

Regulated child care and kindergarten in the Northwest Territories are both under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (Early Childhood and School Services). Kindergarten may be full or part-day; most are full-day.

All regulated child care programs are non-profit. Several full-day child care programs for preschool children are operated by school boards.

Regulated family child care homes are termed licensed family home day care facilities.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 years (2014 estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,500
3-5	2,200
6-12	4,000
Total	7,700

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2014 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	900
3-5	1,500
6-12	2,700
Total	5,100

Children 0-14 years identifying with an Aboriginal group (2011)

Age	First Nations	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	1,355	285	485	0	0	2,140
5-9	1,240	250	420	0	25	1,950
10-14	1,335	240	355	10	15	1,960
Total	3,930	785	1,265	20	45	6,040

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2014 rounded estimate)

Not available.

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.

Note: Paid maternity and parental leave provisions are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. All leave provisions are set under employment standards legislation by provinces/territories. The federal government benefit for these leaves pays for up to 15 weeks of maternity leave and 35 weeks of parental leave/adoptive leave (either parent) for new parents eligible under Employment Insurance rules. In all jurisdictions except Quebec (which has its own approach), the benefit is paid at a rate of 55% of earned income to a maximum of \$524/week (2015).

KINDERGARTEN

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Early Childhood and School Services
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 920-3491
Website: www.ece.gov.nt.ca

LEGISLATION

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

The legislation applies to public and private schools. A departmental directive provides additional guidelines (funding and reporting, administration, monitoring and education program) for private schools.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten enrolment is not compulsory. Access is a legislated entitlement.

HOURS

A jurisdiction can choose to offer either a full-day or a half-day program or both. A majority are full-day.

CLASS SIZE

There is no class size limit.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A Teaching Certificate (B.Ed. or post-secondary degree plus one year course work in a Faculty of Education) or one of the following three levels of education and experience specific to kindergarten:

- *Interim Kindergarten Teaching Certificate*: Two-year diploma in Early Childhood plus 25 hours of teacher training;

- *Standard Kindergarten Teaching Certificate*: Interim Kindergarten Teaching Certificate and two academic years of teaching;
- *Kindergarten Specialist Certificate*: Standard Kindergarten Teaching Certificate and a one year teacher training program approved by the Registrar.

Teachers are required to take 120 hours of professional development over five years, with a minimum of 15 hours each year.

CURRICULUM

[Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

K-12 student (per full time equivalent)	\$19,400
Estimated total spending:	\$7.8 million

REGULATED CHILD CARE

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Early Childhood and School Services
Lahm Ridge Tower, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 920-3491
Website: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/

LEGISLATION

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act* and the Child Day Care Standards and Regulations 1988 (2013).

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

Centre day care facility

Group care, instruction and supervision provided in a place other than a private residence.

Preschool day care

Part-time day care provided for a child two years of age or older not enrolled for the full day in a school operated under the *Education Act*.

Family home day care facility

A child day care facility where day care is provided within the private residence of the operator. Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

Out-of-school day care

Day care provided following completion of the daily school program for a child who is in regular attendance at a school operated under the *Education Act*.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Curriculum framework in development

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. The NWT Child Day Care Standards Regulations state that a centre day care facility must modify the daily program to ensure that any child is able to participate and also obtain any specialized equipment required for the child to participate.

Child care providers are subsidized with higher operating grants for children with special needs. Documentation from a health care professional must be provided.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

The Northwest Territories is composed of Inuit and Dene communities outside the capital city of Yellowknife. The majority of community-based programs are available to all children equally.

Aboriginal Head Start programs are the only programs targeted specifically to Aboriginal children. However, they may include non-Aboriginal children if capacity allows. There are eight Aboriginal Head Start programs in the Northwest Territories.

SPACE STATISTICS (2014)

Number of regulated child care spaces

Centre-based

Age group	Number of spaces
Infant (0-2 years)	124
Preschool (2-5 years)	845
After-school (6-12 years)	503

Total regulated centre-based spaces 1,475

Family child care

Infant (0-2 years)	100
Preschool (2-5 years)	200
After-school (6-12 years)	100

Total family child care spaces 400

Total number of regulated spaces 1,785

Note: All centres are licensed for full-time spaces even though many operate as part-day nursery schools/playschools. Of the 845 preschool spaces for children age 2-5, 321 operate as part-day spaces.

Children with special needs in regulated child care

Information not available.

Children receiving fee subsidies

Information not available.

Numbers of child care programs

Centre-based

Full-day centres	25
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	14
Stand-alone school-age centres	17

Total centre-based programs 56

School-based child care centres

For preschool-age children	11
For school-age children (included in centre-based)	14

Family child care

Individually licensed family child care providers	50
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Sponsorship

All centres are currently non-profit and family home day care facilities are also considered to be non-profit.

Parent fees

According to the territorial government, the average monthly parent fee for full-time centre-based care varies from free of charge up to \$1,380 for an infant and free of charge up to \$1,170 for a preschooler. In regulated family day homes, the average monthly parent fee is \$1,000 for an infant and \$900 for a preschooler.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size:		not specified
Staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
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 years	1:10	20

Centre staff qualification requirements

Primary staff must be at least 19 years of age and have a certificate in first aid and infant/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation. All staff must provide a criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector search prepared by the RCMP.

Primary staff must have successfully completed a post-secondary program in child development satisfactory to the Director or demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director, an understanding of developmentally appropriate practices in respect of children and the ability to apply that understanding to the operator's child care program.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

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

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. Licenses are usually issued in conjunction with annual inspections.

Family day home provider qualification requirements

A provider must be a minimum of 19 years of age and have a certificate in first aid and infant/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The operator and all adults that live in the home must provide a criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector search prepared by the RCMP. Must undertake training in relation to child development and care on an annual basis through appropriate courses, seminars or workshops and retain documentation respecting attendance at such training.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Non-profit licensed centres and family day homes including part-time, infant, after-school and special needs spaces are eligible for public funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

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

The Child Care User Subsidy is paid directly to eligible parents who are receiving Income Assistance. Once approved to receive the subsidy for child care, parents must provide monthly invoices from their child care provider and provide receipts showing that the child care fee has been paid. Proof of participation in school/training/employment must also be provided.

<i>Subsidy rates</i>	<i>Licensed</i>	<i>Unlicensed</i>
Infant (0-1)	\$42	\$33
Children (2-12)	39	28
Afterschool (6-12)	15	8

One time funding

Start-up funding is available to non-profit licensed centres and family day homes at differing rates. There are ten different rates based on the cost of living in different parts of the territory.

Service	Funding per space (\$) (range)
<i>Non-profit licensed centres</i>	
Pre-school space	1,560 - 2,964
Infant space	2,340 - 4,446
<i>Family day homes</i>	
Pre-school space	975 - 1,853
Infant space	1,463 - 2,779

Operating funding

Available to non-profit licensed centres and family day homes. Ranges from \$10.40 - \$19.80/per occupied preschool space/day, depending on the location of the program.

For infants it is \$15.60 - \$29.60/per occupied space/day, depending on the location of the program.

Family day homes and centres receive the same amounts in operating grants.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child Care User Subsidy	\$66,390
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One time funding

Start-up Contributions	166,904
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Recurring funding

Operational Contributions	2,196,798
Rent and Mortgage Contributions	94,290
Minor Health and Safety Renovations	63,045
Healthy Children Initiative	1,712,425
Small Community Initiative	248,753

Total	\$ 4,548,605
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