

Yukon Territory



OVERVIEW

Regulated child care is under the aegis of Health and Social Services, whereas kindergarten is the responsibility of the Department of Education and part of the public school system.

Kindergarten part day or full day is offered to children who are five-years-old as of December 31st of the school year. Yukon Education supports early learning and early intervention by offering kindergarten programs but attendance is not mandatory.

There is a full day Early Learners program for four-year-olds at the Whitehorse Francophone School and in some rural communities there are part day Early Learners programs for four-year-olds (3.8 years old as of September).

Regulated child care for 0-12 year olds is for-profit and non-profit with for-profit services predominating. There are no publicly operated programs.

Regulated family child care homes are termed “family day homes” and are individually licensed.

In February 2018, the [Canada-Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#) was signed by the territory and federal government. It will provide \$7.2 million over three years to Yukon to contribute to quality improvement, training, professional development, accessibility and affordability, among other initiatives.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,300
3-5	1,200
6-12	2,700
Total	5,200

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

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

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	455	65	0	30	10
5-9	555	85	30	20	0
10-14	540	70	25	20	10
Total	1,550	215	55	75	15

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child)

Not available

Language spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	1,915	80	70	60
5-9	1,905	80	70	55
10-14	1,810	55	75	55
Total	5,635	215	220	180

Living arrangements by age of child by age by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	1,735	355	290	70
5-9	1,500	515	385	130
10-14	1,350	565	430	130

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
101,376	37,683	44,032	36,779

FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS

Maternity leave

This entitlement applies to biological mothers who have worked continuously for an employer for at least 12 months, provided that the employer is notified four weeks prior to taking the leave. The leave period consists of up to seventeen weeks of unpaid maternity leave.

Parental leave

Parental leave is up to thirty-seven weeks and can be taken by biological and adoptive mothers and fathers. Parents who share a parental leave cannot take their leave simultaneously under ordinary circumstances. This applies whether or not they work for the same employer. Applicants must provide written notification to the employer four weeks prior to taking leave.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation.

EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute. Under EI, the federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers. Until December 3, 2017, there was only one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of payment was available to cover parental leave for either eligible parent including adoptive parents. As of December 3, 2017, this has been amended by the federal government to offer two options for new parents: a Standard Parental Benefit (35 weeks of parental benefits for a total of 50 weeks total including 15 weeks of maternity benefits) and an Extended Parental Benefit (15 weeks of maternity benefits and 61 weeks of parental leave benefits totalling 76 weeks). Maternity and the Standard Parental Benefit are paid at 55% of wages up to a ceiling of \$543 a week (2017); the Extended Parental Benefit is paid at 33% of wages up to a ceiling of \$326 a week.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefits and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Government of Yukon
Department of Education
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-5141
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, 1990.S.Y. c.25. Last updated December 31, 2016.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Age eligibility for kindergarten in the Yukon territory, as denoted in the *Education Act*, includes those children who are five-years-old as of December 31st of the school year. Children must be four-years-old, as of December 31st of the school year to attend the Early Learners programs.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT

Rural 84
Urban 361
Total 445

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is not compulsory.

HOURS

Kindergarten programming is up to approximately five hours a day.

CLASS SIZE

Mean class size in 2015/2016: 16

Full day classes are capped at 18 students as per the collective agreement between the Yukon Government and Yukon Teacher's Association.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A kindergarten teacher must have teacher certification, which requires a B.Ed. or a bachelor's degree plus an approved program of teacher preparation of not less than one academic year.

There are no ECE requirements for kindergarten teachers.

CURRICULUM

As of September 2017, the Yukon Department of Education adopted the British Columbia curriculum, which is geared towards skill development and experiential learning with the student at the centre. The curriculum also draws on Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing. More information on kindergarten can be found on the [website](#).

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available

Spending per student K-12 (est). (2013-2014) \$18,803
Source: [Government of Yukon Annual Report](#) (2014)

REGULATED CHILD CARE

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Child Care Services Unit
Yukon Health and Social Services
Government of the Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-3492
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Act*, 1990.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Centre Program Regulation, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. Family Day Home Program Regulation, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. School-Age Program Regulation, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. Child Care Subsidy Regulation, 1995.

Note: Sections of the child care regulations have been repealed, amended or replaced. See Child Care Act, Tab 121.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed family child care

A maximum of three children not including the provider's own children is permitted.

Preschools

Programs for children aged three-to-six years-old operating for less than three consecutive hours are not required to be licensed.

Camps

A program for children that has a primary purpose other than providing child care and operates for a period of 12 consecutive weeks or less is exempt from the *Child Care Act*.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centres

Group care for less than 24 hours a day for four or more children, up to and including 12 years of age, in a place other than a preschool, a school-age program or a family day home.

School-age child care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 12 years-old.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for mixed age groups with no more than four infants; or six children with no more than three under 18 months; or eight children all over 18 months. Four additional school-age children may be in attendance with an additional staff member with the above numbers. The provider's preschool children are included in the above numbers; their own school-age children are exempt from the maximum number of children permitted.

Indoor space requirements must also be met with no less than four square meters of useable space provided per child in attendance.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

None

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Child care regulations state that children with disabilities in regular child care programs must be integrated to the fullest extent possible. A child is designated as living with a disability upon assessment by a child care professional.

An individual program plan must be developed for the child in consultation with staff, parents and professionals in the community, outlining goals and objectives for the child.

There are no segregated regulated child care programs for children with disabilities.

Funding is available for centres and family day homes through the Supported Child Care Fund and is based on the individual needs of the child. Funding may be provided for adaptive equipment, transportation, programming support and additional staff.

Fee subsidies for families are allocated on the basis of an income test, family size, and community. Once the family is deemed eligible, they will receive a fee subsidy for their child with disabilities to attend a child care program. This is also an option for parents not in the workforce. Parents who are not eligible for a subsidy pay for the child care space but not for the additional supports.

The Whitehorse Child Development Centre provides special needs programming and supports across the Yukon. It operates a licensed integrated preschool program. The CDC also provides early intervention supports and resources to families of children with disabilities.

Additionally, they operate a mobile outreach unit that serves every community in the territory with support and resource provision.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

There are no reserves for First Nations people in the Yukon.

First Nations communities receive the same start-up and operating grants from the Yukon government as others operating licensed child care centres and family day homes. Parents who use regulated centres and family child care homes are eligible for fee subsidies.

In total, there are 277 regulated spaces operated by First Nations in nine child care centres.

There are also four Aboriginal Head Start programs.

SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 2016)

Number of regulated child care spaces	
<i>Centre-based (licensed capacity)</i>	
<i>Age</i>	
Infants (up to 18 months)	86
Toddlers (18-36 months)	227
Preschool (36 months-Grade 1)	471
School-age	154
Total regulated centre-based spaces	1232
<i>Total number of occupied centre-based spaces</i>	938
<i>Family child care</i>	207
Total number of regulated child care spaces	1439
<i>Note: The calculations here use licensed capacity, not occupied spaces, to be consistent with previous years and other jurisdictions.</i>	
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Children with special needs in regulated child care (estimated)	37
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Children receiving fee subsidies	434
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Number of child care programs	
<i>Centre-based</i>	
Full day centres	34
Stand-alone after-school programs	2
Total centre-based programs	36
<i>School-based programs</i>	
Preschool-age children (included in total centres)	1

<i>Family child care</i>	
Individual family child care providers	23
Sponsorship of regulated full day centre-based spaces	
Non-profit	431
For-profit	802
Parent fees (2016-2017)	
<i>Average monthly parent fees for centre-based full time care</i>	
Age group	
Infants (0-17 months)	\$796
Toddlers (18 months-3 years)	\$709
Preschoolers (3-5.11 years)	\$693
School-age (before school/lunch/after school)	\$362

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size:	64 spaces	
Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes		
<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff: child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
Up to 18 months	1:4	8
18 months- 3 years	1:6	12
3 years to kindergarten	1:8	16
Grade 1 to 12 years	1:12	24

Centre staff qualification requirements

There are three levels of designation for child care workers in the Yukon Territory. Legislation requires that 20% of staff must meet or exceed Child Care Worker III qualifications and an additional 30% must meet Child Care Worker II qualifications. The rest (50%) must meet Child Care Worker I qualifications. The classification criteria for each designation are described below.

Child Care Worker I: 60 hour introduction to early childhood development course (ECD) or equivalent.

Child Care Worker II: One year of training in ECD or equivalent from a recognized college or university.

Child Care Worker III: Two or more years of training in ECD or equivalent from a recognized college or university.

Note: These three levels of designations correspond to five levels of training completed. A description of these can be found [here](#).

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Model of organization

The Yukon Department of Health and Social Services licenses individual family child care operations.

Maximum capacity

No more than four infants or six children with no more than three under 18 months; or eight children all over 18 months. Four additional school-age children may be attendance with an additional staff member with the above numbers.

Indoor space requirements must also be met with no less than four square meters of useable space provided per child in attendance. The provider's preschool-age children are included in the above numbers; their own school-age children are not.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family child care homes are regulated by the *Child Care Act* and family day home regulations. They receive a minimum of one annual inspection and three unannounced spot checks per year to monitor for compliance with the regulations.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

Caregivers must complete a 60 hour introductory early childhood development course and a specific family day home course or equivalent within the first year they provide care for children.

Caregivers must be 18 years of age, have valid first-aid certification, a medical note, a TB test, a record of immunization status and a criminal records check.

FUNDING

All regulated child care programs are eligible. Both non-profit and for-profit programs may receive funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Subsidies may be used in any regulated for-profit or non-profit regulated service. Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined through an income test, family size and the community where the applicant resides. Subsidies may be used for part time child care.

Subsidy is an entitlement for all eligible families; there is no cap on the number of subsidised spaces. To be eligible, parents must be gainfully employed, actively seeking employment, attending/preparing to attend an educational institution, undertaking medical treatment or have a special need (themselves or their child), as assessed by a professional. Subsidy is also available when child care is recommended by a child protection service, approved on the basis of an individual assessment of special needs of the family or child by a qualified professional, or when emergency child care services are required to meet a short-term family crisis. Parents seeking employment may be eligible for part time child care for two months.

Fee subsidy rates

Subsidy rates are determined by the age of the child; the number of hours the child attends a child care service; and whether or not they have special needs. A table offering specifics for the maximum subsidy rates is available below and on the government's [website](#).

Maximum subsidy rates

Category/Age	Monthly hours in child care	Maximum monthly subsidy
Infant (0-18 months*)	100 or >	\$688
Toddler (19-36 months)	100 or >	\$622
Preschool-age (37-59 months) (including half time kindergarten) (or 71 months if in half day kindergarten)	100 or >	\$578
Special needs (0-59 months) (infant, toddler, and pre-school) (or 71 if half-day kindergarten)	100 or >	\$688
Full day Kindergarten (60 months +)	< 80 hours	\$330
Kindergarten-summer months (60 months +)	100 or >	\$578
School-age (72 months +)	< 80 hours	\$303
School-age (72 months +) -summer months	100 or >	\$550

There is no minimum user fee. Centre-based programs and family day care homes may surcharge subsidised parent fees above the maximum subsidy rate, in which case the parent/caregiver must pay the difference.

One-time funding

Start-up funding is available to family child care homes of up to \$1,000/home in Whitehorse and up to \$2,000/home in the rest of the territory in areas underserved by licensed child care.

Start-up funding is also available to child care centres to a maximum of \$10,000 for areas underserved by licensed child care.

Enhancement Funding is available yearly to child care programs up to \$5,000 to meet regulatory requirements related to health and safety or playground development and maintenance.

Enhancement Funding is available yearly to family day home programs up to \$500 for the replacement of a major appliance (up to 50% of the cost), for health and safety requirements and for outdoor playspace development and maintenance.

Recurring funding

Operating grants

Operating grants are allocated quarterly, according to a "unit funding" formula that assesses a given centre according to four factors: the age and number of children enrolled, the level of training among staff, whether a hot meal is provided, and the building costs. All licensed non-profit and for-profit child care programs are eligible for an operating grant.

Family child care homes are eligible for the unit and training components of the grant but not the building cost.

Unit funding

Age unit	Max. funding (per month)
Infant	1 staff/4 infants = \$720 With hot meal program = \$776
Toddler	1 staff/6 toddlers = \$795 With hot meal program = \$879
Preschooler	1 staff/8 preschoolers = \$800 With hot meal program = \$912
Kindergarten-age	1 staff/8 kindergarten children = \$640 With hot meal program = \$752
School-age unit	1 staff/12 school-age children = \$1,010 With hot meal program = \$1178

Child care centres and family day home programs receive \$14/child/month if a hot lunch program is provided.

Staff wage funding

Wage enhancement funding is provided to assist with the cost of staff wages based on the level of training held by child care staff. Funding is provided up to a maximum of 40 hours per week, per staff, for actual hours worked.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Hourly rate</i>
Level I	\$1.85
Level IA	\$3.50
Level II	\$4.75
Level IIA	\$6.95
Level III	\$9.00

Note: The above levels of training correspond to the [qualification designations](#) on the previous page.

Building costs

Eligible building expenses are subsidized at \$0.32 per dollar. Eligible expenses include: rent or mortgage, insurance, janitorial wage and supply costs, water/sewer taxes, garbage, snow removal, minor repairs, carpet cleaning, internet, electricity, heating fuel, recurring phone/cell phone costs, security system monitoring, equipment rentals.

Other funding

The Whitehorse Child Development Centre received \$2.3 million from the Government of Yukon to provide a range of services in regulated and unregulated child care.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015–2016)

Fee subsidies	\$1,801,000
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One-time funding	NA
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Recurring funding

Direct Operating Grant (including unit funding)	\$3,984,000
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Supports to children with special needs	\$470,000
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Total regulated child care	\$6,255,000
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Other Funding

Child Development Centre	\$2,306,571
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