

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PROGRAM MAP

## Children's Services

**Child Care  
Delivery**

**Child Care  
Service System  
Management**

Toronto Children's Services promotes access to high quality early learning, child care and supports for families through a well-planned and managed system.

All families in Toronto benefit from a range of services that promote healthy child development and family well-being.

## SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Question	Indicator/Measure	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2016 vs. 2015 Results	External Comparison to Other Municipalities (MBNC) By Quartile for 2016	Chart & Page Ref.
<b>Service Level Indicators</b>				
How much is spent or invested in childcare per child (aged 12 and under)?	Operating Investment/Expenditure per 1,000 Children (12 & under) - (Service Level)	<b>Increase</b>  <b>Operating Investment/expenditures per child increased compared to prior year</b>  <b>(service level indicator)</b>	<b>1</b>  <b>Highest rate/level of operating investment/ expenditures on children compared to others</b>  <b>(service level indicator)</b>	4.1 4.2  pg. 5/6
<b>Community Impact Measures</b>				
How many regulated childcare spaces are available?	Regulated Child Care Spaces in Municipality per 1,000 Children (12 & under) – (Community Impact)	<b>Increase</b>  <b>Number of regulated spaces increased</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Lower rate of regulated spaces compared to others</b>	4.3 4.4  pg. 7/8
How many subsidized childcare spaces are available?	Fee Subsidy Child Care Spaces per 1,000 LICO Children – (Community Impact)	<b>Increase</b>  <b>Number of subsidized spaces increased</b>	<b>1</b>  <b>Highest rate of subsidized spaces compared to others</b>	4.5 4.6  pg. 9
What percentage of children under 12 years old are considered low income children?	Percentage of Children in the Municipality (12 and under) that are LICO Children – (Community Impact)	<b>Stable</b>  <b>Proportion of low income children was stable from prior year</b>  <b>(no graph)</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Highest proportion of low income children compared to others</b>	4.6  pg. 9
How large is the waiting list for a subsidized child care space?		<b>Increase</b>  <b>Size of wait list for a subsidized space increased</b>	<b>N/A</b>	4.7  pg. 10
<b>Efficiency Measures</b>				
How much does it cost per year, to provide an average child care space?	Annual Child Care Service Cost per Normalized Child Care Space – (Efficiency)	<b>Stable</b>  <b>Cost per subsidized space was stable</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>Cost per subsidized space compared to others are at median</b>	4.8 4.9  pg. 11

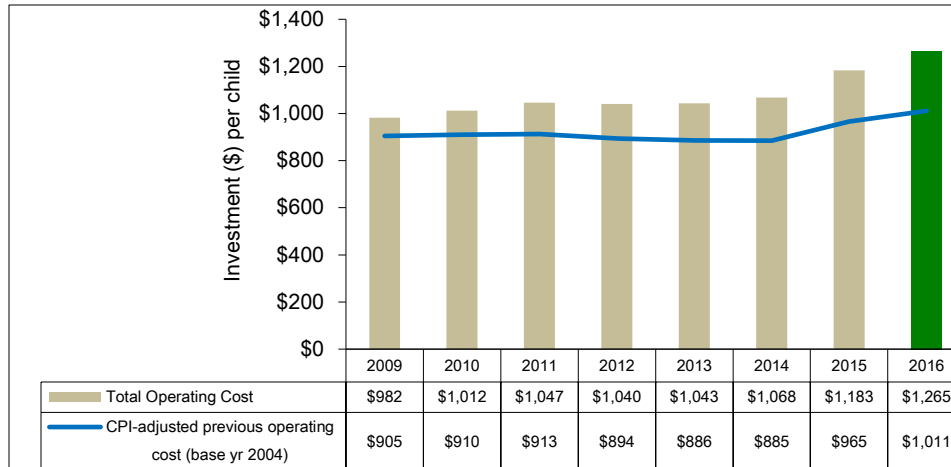
Question	Indicator/Measure	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2016 vs. 2015 Results		External Comparison to Other Municipalities (MBNC) By Quartile for 2016		Chart & Page Ref.	
Overall Results		Service Level Indicators (Resources)	Performance Measures (Results)	Service Level Indicators (Resources)	Performance Measures (Results)		
		1 - Increased 0 - Stable 0 - Decreased	2 - Favourable 2 - Stable 1 - Unfavorable	1 - 1st quartile 0 - 2nd quartile 0 - 3rd quartile 0 - 4th quartile	1 - 1st quartile 1 - 2nd quartile 0 - 3rd quartile 2 - 4th quartile		100% stable or increased

For an explanation of how to interpret this summary and the supporting charts, please see the Guide to Toronto's Performance Results. These quartile results are based on a maximum sample size of 10 municipalities.

## SERVICE/ACTIVITY LEVELS

One method of examining service levels for child care is to relate municipal costs to all children under the age of 12. This category includes children who are cared for in regulated child care programs, by families at home, or in non-regulated child care arrangements.

### 4.1 - HOW MUCH IS SPENT OR INVESTED IN TORONTO FOR CHILDCARE PER CHILD AGED 12 AND UNDER?



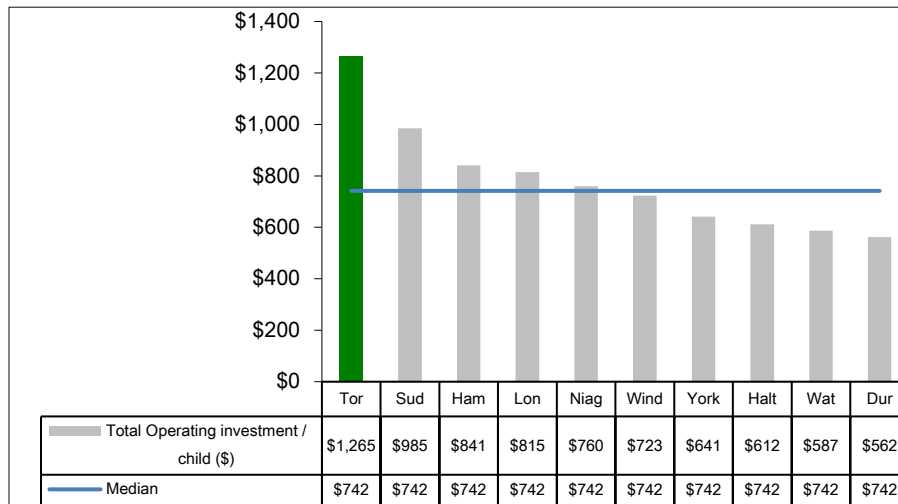
**Chart 4.1** reflects Toronto's total operating cost in investment/expenditures in all child care related activities, per child aged 12 years and under. The results for 2010 and prior years are not based on Statistics Canada revised population estimates.

**Chart 4.1 (City of Toronto) Operating Investment/Expenditure per Child Ages 12 and Under**

The above chart shows an increase in investment in 2016. These investments include the activities of operating and purchasing subsidized child care spaces, base funding, special needs resourcing, other municipally funded activities, and program administration.

To reflect the impact of inflation, Chart 4.1 also provides Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted results for the operating investment /expenditures per child, which are plotted as a line graph. This adjustment discounts the actual operating cost result for each year by the change in Toronto's CPI since the base year of 2004.

**4.2 - HOW DOES TORONTO'S COST (INVESTMENT) PER CHILD UNDER 12 COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**



**Chart 4.2** compares Toronto's 2016 operating investment/expenditures per child to other Ontario municipalities.

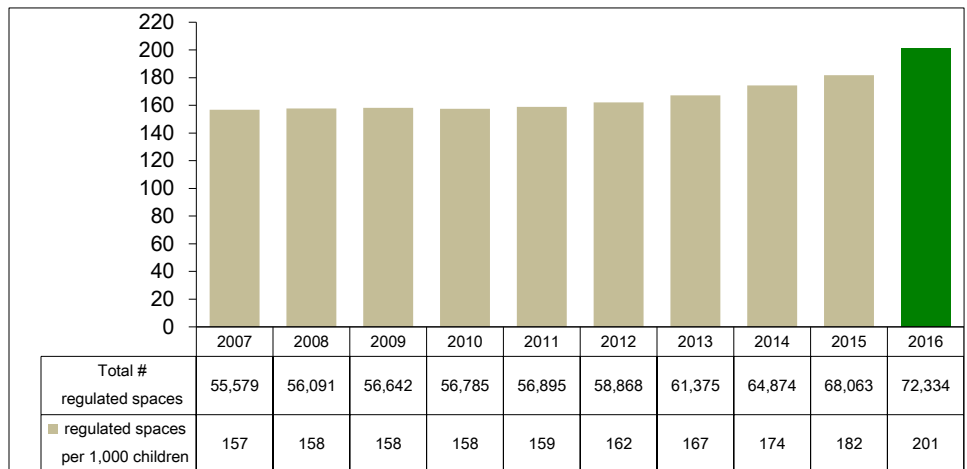
**Chart 4.2 (MBNC 2016) Operating Investment/Expenditure per Child Ages 12 and Under**

Toronto ranks first of ten municipalities (first quartile), with the highest investment/ expenditure per child. These costs can be influenced by the number of subsidized spaces, the age mix of children, the relative cost of living and the level of child poverty in a municipality.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

Providing access to early learning and care is a primary objective of Children’s Services. The number of licensed child care spaces available impacts access for families. For parents that are unable to afford the full cost of child care services, access to a subsidy is very important.

### 4.3 - HOW MANY REGULATED CHILDCARE SPACES ARE IN TORONTO?

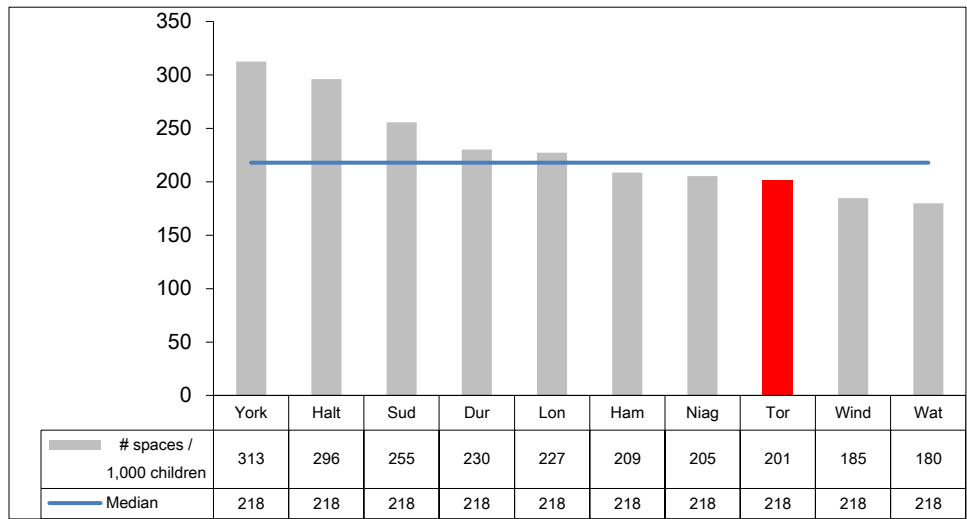


**Chart 4.3** provides information on the total number and rate of regulated Child Care spaces there were in Toronto per 1,000 children under the age of 12.

**Chart 4.3 (City of Toronto) Regulated Child Care Spaces per 1,000 Children under 12**

It shows small increases in the total number of spaces each year between 2007 and 2012, with higher increases starting in 2013 reflecting an increase in provincial capital funding and the implementation of Full-Day kindergarten. Information on the number of licensed child care spaces in each of Toronto’s 140 neighbourhoods can be found at [Wellbeing Toronto](#).

**4.4 - HOW DOES THE NUMBER OF REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACES IN TORONTO COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**



**Chart 4.4** compares 2016 results for the number of regulated child care spaces there were per 1,000 children under 12 in Toronto, relative to other Ontario municipalities.

**Chart 4.4 (MBNC 2016) Regulated Child Care Spaces per 1,000 Children under 12**

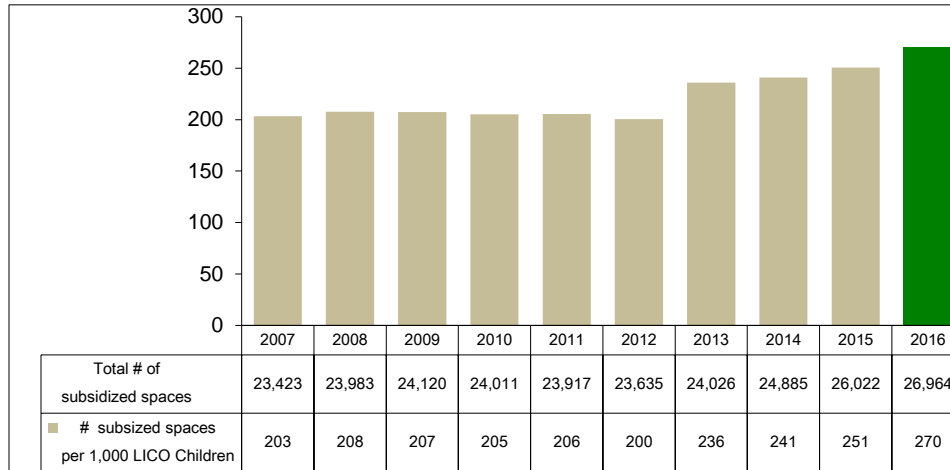
Toronto ranks eighth of ten (fourth quartile) in terms of having the largest number of regulated spaces. The total number of regulated spaces is a function of demographics and population, and the availability of federal or provincial capital funding. The municipal role in increasing the supply is often limited to application of instruments, such as Section 37 agreements, which require developers to fund child care in new developments, and municipal capital funding.

In 2017 the City Council approved a Growth Strategy directed additional Federal funding for expansion of spaces. This will result in a significant increase in capital expenditure to increase capacity.

While the previous charts relate to the number of regulated spaces, Chart 4.5 provides information on the number of subsidized child care spaces in Toronto, per 1,000 children in low-income cut-off (LICO) families. Subsidized spaces are for parents who are unable to afford the full cost of child care.



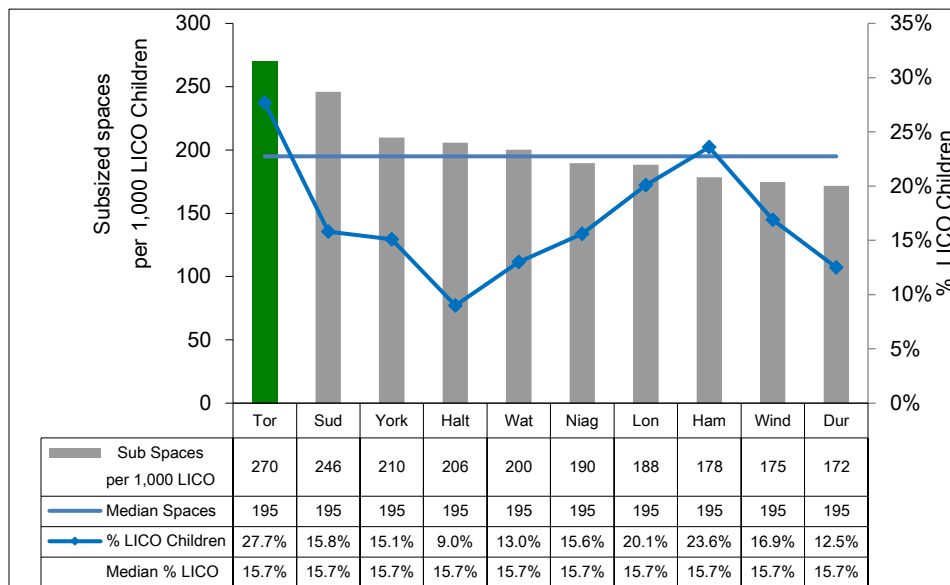
4.5 - HOW MANY SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SPACES ARE IN TORONTO?



**Chart 4.5** shows, from 2007 to 2013 the number of subsidized child care spaces fluctuated around a stable target of 24,000 spaces. From 2013 to 2016, that number increased as a result of additional Provincial and City funding allocations that resulted in a target increase of more than 2000 spaces.

**Chart 4.5 (City of Toronto) Subsidized Child Care Spaces per 1,000 LICO (Low-Income) Children under 12**

4.6 - HOW DOES THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SPACES IN TORONTO COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?

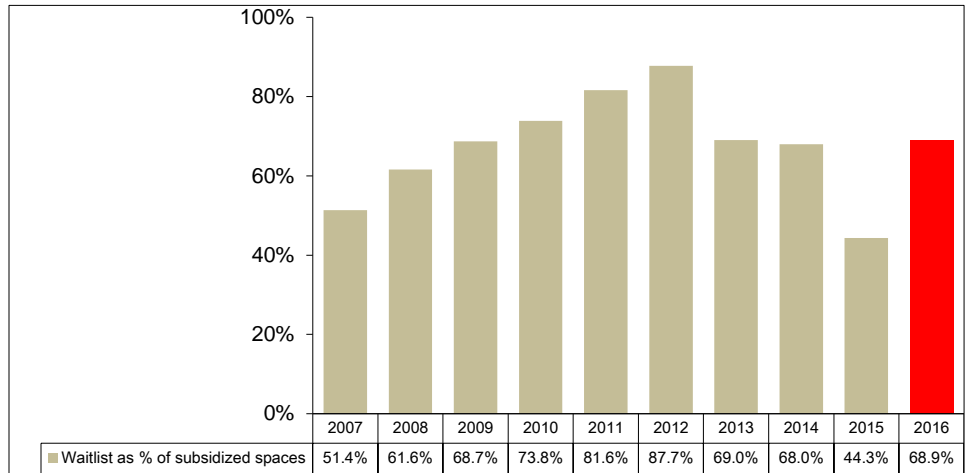


**Chart 4.6** also reflects the number of children in low income families, as a percentage of all children in the municipality, plotted as a line graph relative to the right axis. This provides some indication of the level of child poverty.

**Chart 4.6 (MBNC 2016) Subsidized Spaces per 1,000 LICO (Low Income) Children and % of All Children Considered LICO Children**

Toronto has the highest level of % LICO children at 27.7% for 2016. Toronto's high proportion of LICO children may indicate that it is underserved in terms of the number of subsidized spaces. The size of the waiting list for a subsidized space also provides an indication of demand.

**4.7 - HOW LARGE IS THE WAITING LIST FOR A SUBSIDIZED SPACE IN TORONTO?**



**Chart 4.7** shows demand in Toronto for subsidized child care has grown significantly since 2007.

**Chart 4.7 (City of Toronto) Size of Waitlist for a Subsidized Space as a Percentage of All Subsidized Spaces**

In 2013, the wait list decrease can be attributed to changes in the licensed child care system. With the introduction of Full-Day Kindergarten, four and five year old children now only need a before and after school program, which is less expensive than a full day program. These resources were utilized to increase the number of subsidies available. In 2015, the wait list decreased as a result of additional funding. In 2016, the wait list represented 68.9% of all subsidized spaces.

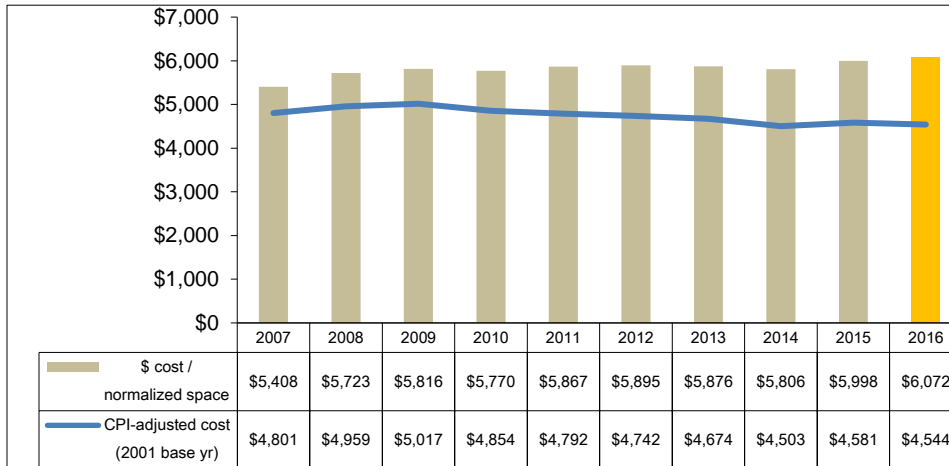
## EFFICIENCY

To examine efficiency, the most comparable area of child care operations between municipalities is the cost of providing a subsidized child care space. Children of different ages require a different level of staff to child ratios to provide care. Since more staff are required to provide care to infants, a municipality will pay more for an infant space and less for a space occupied by a school-aged child, where fewer staff are required to provide care.

Efficiency measures in MBNCanada adjust for different staffing ratios by converting them to “a normalized space” which makes the results more comparable. A normalized space takes into consideration the mix of infant, toddler, pre-school, and school-age spaces, the different staffing ratios required, and the costs associated with providing care.

The cost of service between municipalities varies significantly depending on the proportions of different modes for providing care used in each municipality (e.g. home- or centre-based care), and the differences in cost of living.

**4. 8 - HOW MUCH DOES IT COST PER YEAR TO PROVIDE AN AVERAGE CHILD CARE SPACE IN TORONTO?**



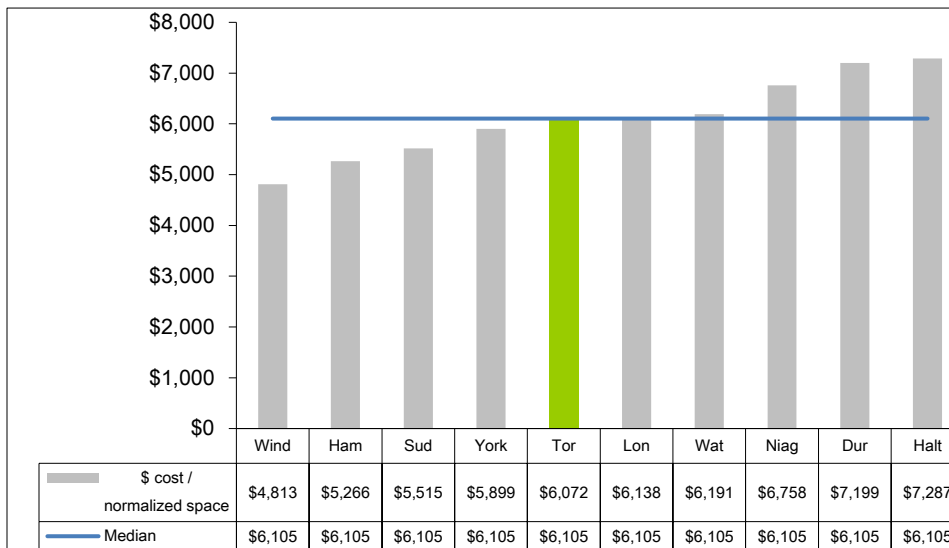
**Chart 4.8** provides Toronto's annual child care costs per normalized child care space for the period 2007 to 2016.

**Chart 4.8 (City of Toronto) Annual Child Care Cost per Normalized Child Care Space**

To reflect the impact of inflation, the chart also provides Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted results, plotted as a line graph. This adjusts or discounts the actual result for each year by the change in Toronto's CPI since the base year of 2001.

Cost increases in 2007 through 2009 for Toronto, reflect Toronto City Council's direction to eliminate the gap between rates paid on behalf of subsidized clients and the actual cost of providing care, as well as the growth of service to young children under the Best Start expansion.

**4. 9 - HOW DOES TORONTO'S ANNUAL COST TO PROVIDE A CHILD CARE SPACE COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?**



**Chart 4.9** compares Toronto's 2016 annual child care costs per normalized child care space to other municipalities.

**Chart 4.9 (MBNC 2016) Annual Child Care Cost per Normalized Child Care Space**

Toronto ranks fifth of ten (second quartile) in terms of having the lowest cost.

## 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2017 PLANNED INITIATIVES

The following initiatives are expected to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Children's Services:

### 2016 Initiatives Completed/Achievements

- Provided more than 27,000 families a fee subsidy in 2016, enabling them to participate in employment or educational activities.
- Increased the number of licensed child care spaces by more than 300 in 2016.
- Added capital projects that create an additional 12 child care centres through the 10 year Capital Plan, increasing the target from 8 to 20 new centres to support growth in licensed child care spaces in underserved neighborhoods.
- Implemented the provincial Wage Enhancement program for staff in 900 + child care programs and 19 home child care agencies.
- Launched the Shared Outcomes for Child Care and Family System in Toronto, which defines population indicators and analyses data to measure the well-being over time of children and families in Toronto.
- Launched the Middle Childhood Quality Child care Standards, and action plan to move toward a system of accessible, high quality before and after school programs for children in middle childhood (ages 6-12).
- Expanded the implementation of the Quality Framework and the Assessment for Quality Improvement (AQI) so that all City funded child care programs participate in the quality framework, thus expanding the number of child care programs that are assessed and supported for quality.

### 2017 Initiatives Planned

The 2017 Preliminary Operating Budget will fund the delivery of the following:

- Upwards of 26,059 child care subsidies;
- 672 contracted child care centres with contracts for fee subsidy;
- 10 home child care agencies with service contracts for fee subsidy;
- Over 900 centres with agreements for Provincial Wage Enhancement;
- 52 Toronto Early Learning and Child Care Services centres, and 1 home child care agency;
- 21 agencies supporting children with special needs;
- 45 family support programs;
- 34 summer day programs; and
- 51 After School and Recreation Programs (ARC) in partnership with Parks Forestry & Recreation.

### **Factors Influencing the Results of Municipalities**

The results of each municipality included in this report can be influenced to varying degrees by factors such as:

- Varying levels of child poverty in municipalities and differing needs for subsidized child care.
- Cost to provide child care can be impacted by economic variables such as the cost of living in the municipality and the income levels of its residents.
- Rates for child care spaces other than those directly operated by a municipality are set in service agreements between the municipality and the child care service providers; and these rates can be influenced by the level of funding available, local wage conditions, pay equity legislation, municipal policies and business practices.