

Toronto’s Early Learning and Child Care System has a variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of families with children from newborn to 12 years.

System Transformation: Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

- The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system was initiated in March 2022 and funded by the Government of Canada with a five-year plan to reduce the cost of child care for children under the age of six to an average of \$10 per day by 2026 in licensed child care.
- In 2024, CWELCC participating programs continued to reduce their child care fees from March 2022 by 52.75% to a minimum of \$12 per day.
- The average daily fee information will no longer be included in the fact sheets due to the implementation of a new funding model aimed at standardizing public child care fees.

Licensed Child Care Centres (1,070 centres have a capacity to serve 82,559 full-time children)

Type of operator	Fee subsidy contract	Total Number of centres	Infant spaces	Toddler spaces	Preschool spaces	Before / After Kindergarten spaces	School Age	Total spaces
City	Yes	39	342	550	864	0	0	1,756
Non-profit	Yes	607	2,072	5,297	11,536	13,840	21,244	53,989
Non-profit	No	98	135	1,106	2,875	671	607	5,394
Commercial	Yes	73	450	1,144	2,405	522	1,297	5,818
Commercial	No	253	1,096	4,349	8,486	921	750	15,602
Total		1070	4,095	12,446	26,166	15,954	23,898	82,559

CWELCC Participating Centres

Type of operator	Fee subsidy contract	Number of centres that opted into CWELCC	Infant spaces	Toddler spaces	Preschool spaces	Before / After Kindergarten spaces	School Age	Total spaces
City	Yes	39 (100%)	342	550	864	0	0	1,756
Non-profit	Yes	600 (99%)	2,069	5,292	11,531	13,632	0	32,524
Non-profit	No	60 (61%)	125	869	1,967	522	0	3,483
Commercial	Yes	68 (93%)	430	1,049	2,165	478	0	4,122
Commercial	No	164 (65%)	956	3,312	5,534	439	0	10,241
Total		931 (87%)	3,922	11,072	22,061	15,071	0	52,126

Licensed Home Child Care Agencies

- 24 licensed agencies operate in Toronto one (1) of which is City operated; 23 agencies are enrolled into CWELCC.
- 10 agencies have a City of Toronto Fee Subsidy Agreement, including the City operated agency.

Before & After School Programs for Kindergarten and School-Age Children

- 566 licensed child care centres operate before & after school programs.
- 24 schools offer an Extended Day Program (EDP) operated by a school board and have a fee subsidy agreement.

Child Care Fee Subsidy helps eligible families with all or part of the cost of licensed child care

- Based on current funding levels, 30,700 Child Care Fee Subsidies are available for eligible families.
- As of December 31, 2024, there are 19,819 children on the waiting list for a Child Care Fee Subsidy.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

There are 52 organizations that have a City of Toronto Service Agreement to offer free programs for families with children (six years and younger). In total, they operate 255 locations across the city.

Every Child Belongs

The City provides funding to 18 organizations to provide Every Child Belongs services in licensed child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres for children with extra support needs and their families.