

NEW BRUNSWICK EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

New Brunswick: Governance structure early childhood education	
Lead ministry/ Department	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Common supervisory unit	Early Childhood Development Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for all early childhood programs including licensed child care and preschool, early intervention, preschool autism and early childhood development centres. Not responsible for Anglophone and Francophone kindergarten.
Related departments	Departments of Health and Public Safety, Post Secondary Education Training and Labour, Social Development
Policy framework	Under discussion http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf
Legislation	New Brunswick Legislative Assembly. <i>Education Act</i> , 1997.c.E – 1.12. Sections on school privileges, compulsory attendance and exemptions are relevant to kindergarten. Part II of the Family Services Act, Day Care Regulation 83-85 and the Child Day Care Facilities Operator Standards http://www.gnb.ca/0062/regs/f-2-2reg.htm Part I of the Family Services Act, Interventions for Autistic Children Regulation 2005-19 http://www.gnb.ca/0062/regs/f-2-2reg.htm Family Income Security Act (Day Care Assistance Program) <i>Early Learning and Childcare Act</i> , Ch. E-0.5 received Royal Assent but has not yet been proclaimed
Related legislation	National Building Code, Fire Prevention Act, Public Health Act
Public oversight/advisory	Ministerial Advisory Committee on Early Learning and Child Care
Local service delivery	Kindergarten: 14 District Education Councils Child care: Regional Operations – licensing and monitoring (Early Childhood Service Coordinators) Child care fee subsidies: 8 Social Development regional offices

Department organization

In April 2011, the New Brunswick government formally integrated Early Childhood Development with the Department of Education to form the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

In April 2010, the *Early Learning and Childcare Act* received Royal Assent but was not proclaimed before the change of government in Fall 2010. The Department is now preparing consolidated legislation and regulations that will reflect the move of all early childhood programs into Education and Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development Division in the Department of Education and Early Childhood

Development is responsible for planning, design and monitoring of early learning and child care services and early childhood development supports and services.

Early learning and child care services include: Day Care Services Program, Day Care Assistance Program, Alternative Child Care Program, Quality Improvement Funding Support Program for Child Care Facilities, Support Worker Program and Integrated Day Care Program and Early Childhood Development Centres.

Policy framework for integrated early childhood education

Be Ready for Success: A 10 year Early Childhood Strategy for New Brunswick, was developed under the former government and released in June 2008. This was the first long-term strategy for early learning and child care in New Brunswick and was a response to the challenges and recommendations identified during the 2007 province-wide consultation on early learning and child care.
<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/ECHDPE/pdf/ELCCStrategy.pdf>

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Discussion Paper (September 2011) has invited public input into finding efficiencies on how education, early childhood education and other programs are delivered in the province.
<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf>

Service design

- *Kindergarten*: Children who are age five years by December 31 are entitled to full day of kindergarten program delivered by schools during the school year. Attendance is compulsory.
- *Child care*: Child care in the province is provided by private non-profit and for-profit organizations. In 2011, 71% of child care centres in the province were for-profit and 29 percent were not-for-profit centres. Facility types include day care centres, part time pre schools, school-age child care centres and community day care homes.
- *Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC)*: A demonstration model for integrated early childhood services and supports for parents and young children. The Government selected four ECDCs for a three-year demonstration (April 2009 – June 2012). In partnership with the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation, five additional sites received funding.
<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/ECHDPE/PDF/EarlyChildhoodDevelopmentCentresQA-e.pdf>

Public oversight/advisory

Government created the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Early Learning and Childcare in March 2011. The committee provides advice on implementing the government's Early Learning and Childcare Plan under four key principles of accessibility; affordability; inclusiveness; and quality early learning and child care. The committee facilitates communication between the department and early learning and childcare centres, parents, schools and community partners.

The committee will provide advice on implementing the government's Early Learning and Childcare Plan. The plan includes a commitment to increase total child care spaces to 30,000, enhance affordability to low income families, raise the upper household income limit for fee subsidies from \$40,000 to \$55,000, increase educational requirements and compensation for early childhood educators and use of available school space for ECE programs.

Local service delivery

Management of kindergarten to Grade 12 is shared between the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and District Education Councils. The province is divided into 14 school districts (nine English and five French) each governed by a District Education Council (DEC) that are made up of publicly and elected councilors. The DEC is accountable to the Minister through the Education Act, regulations and provincial policy. The DEC hires and directs the superintendent, who is responsible to hire and supervise all school district staff. The DEC does not participate in the day-to-day operations of

the school district. At the school level, Parent School Support Committees operate in an advisory capacity to the principal and focus on school improvement planning.

Transition to School coordinators in each school district support children's preparation for entry to kindergarten.

Regional Early Childhood Services Coordinators are assigned to geographic regions to monitor and license early learning and child care programs. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development issues a certificate of approval to both child care centres and family care facilities that meet the existing child care regulations. Child care centres must also be inspected by the Departments of Health and Public Safety.

FUNDING

New Brunswick: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011-2012		\$
Kindergarten		66,155,000 ¹
Licensed child care		37,200,000 ²
Total ECE/child care spending		103,355,000
Provincial budget 2011-2012		8,091,000,000 ³
ECE as % of provincial budget		1.29%
1. Programs include onetime ESL grants and the Early Years Evaluation Direct Assessment. Estimate based on 7080 children x \$9268/child. Department of Education and Early Child Development 2. Department of Education and Early Child Development (2011) <i>Government Renewal Discussion Paper</i> . http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf 3. New Brunswick Budget 2011		

New Brunswick: Licensed child care funding breakdown 2011¹	
Parent fee subsidies	14,200,000
Direct funding (Quality Improvement Support Program Funding ²)	18,700,000
Special Needs Inclusion Initiative for equipment and enhanced staffing	4,300,000
1. Department of Education and Early Child Development (2011) <i>Government Renewal Discussion Paper</i> . http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf 2. The Quality Improvement Funding Support program makes funding available to increase wages for eligible child day care staff working in regulated early learning and child care facilities. Additionally, it aims to increase the availability and quality of child care programs and to improve the working conditions of staff working directly with the children.	

ACCESS

New Brunswick: Child population 0-5 years 2010¹	
Child population 0-5 years	42,858
Total population	751,755
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	11.4%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

New Brunswick: Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten ¹	7073
Child population 5-years-old ²	7076
% of 5-year-old population attending kindergarten ³	96%
<p>1. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/polplan/EducOutline2010-11.pdf Parents may defer the attendance of a child until the first school day of the next school year if the child has not attained the age of five years on or before the first day of September of a given school year.</p> <p>2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.</p> <p>3. kindergarten attendance includes some children who are 6-years-old before December 31 and some children are in homeschooling, an estimated 96% of five-year-olds attend provincial school kindergarten programs.</p>	

New Brunswick: Early Childhood Education 2 – 4 year olds 2008-2009¹	
Children whose parents work or study	6100
Children whose parent not working	1,700
Total children attending ECE program	7,800
Child population 2-to 4-years-old	21,900
% of 2- to 4-year-old population attending an ECE program	36%
<p>1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Special tabulation (unless otherwise noted). NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.</p>	

New Brunswick: Number of licensed child care spaces 2011¹	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0 - 2 years)	1,462
• Preschool (2 – 4 years)	9,065
• School age (5-12 years)	9,972
Private-home day care enrolment	Community day care homes included in figures above.
Total licensed capacity	20, 319
Space increases actual &planned: 10,000 additional spaces including 2100 infant spaces	
<p>1. Department of Education and Early Child Development (2011) <i>Government Renewal Discussion Paper</i>. http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf</p>	

New Brunswick: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child (2010)¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	14,700	75.0
Children ages 3 to 5	9,900	76.0
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	24,500	75.2
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	8,100	24.8
Total mothers with child less than age 6	32,600	100
<p>1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages</p>		

Inclusion

Special needs supports in Kindergarten: In kindergarten, physical accommodations and special education plans assist children identified with special needs to attend regular classes. In the Francophone sector, children identified as at-risk have a *Plan d'intervention* and the child is provided with supports accordingly.

Special needs support in child care: Integrated Day Care Services provide resources for inclusion of children with special needs. As of March 31, 2011, the number of children benefitting from Integrated Daycare Services was 323

Affordability

Fees: The average daily fee (provincial) at March 31, 2011 was \$30.27/ day for infants and \$26.17/day for preschoolers

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

New Brunswick: Curriculum	
Kindergarten	<p>In the Anglophone sector, the Kindergarten curriculum contains learning outcomes by subject areas (e.g., arts education, mathematics). There is also an introductory section that gives overall direction on the philosophy of the kindergarten program. Revisions to the Anglophone kindergarten curriculum are under discussion.</p> <p>The Francophone system has revised its Kindergarten curriculum in consultation with early childhood educators. It is now aligned with <i>Curriculum éducatif pour la petite enfance</i>:</p>
<i>Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum (English)</i> <i>Curriculum éducatif pour la petite enfance. (French)</i>	<p>Completed in 2008 , these curricula focus on maximizing children's learning through their earliest experiences, whether through play, their environments, or their relationships. The curricula value and support the provision of child care as well as the education of the youngest children and the individual learning abilities and unique cultural and linguistic identities of all children.</p> <p>The implementation of the new curricula is supported by the department's Early Childhood Services Coordinators as well as nine community-based Early Learning Community Advisors The Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund has provided funding to support a 3 year joint professional development initiative: <i>Growing Together - Building the Capacity of the NB Early Learning and Child Care Sector to Sustain the Ongoing Implementation of the Curricula</i> under the New Brunswick Association for Community Living (NBACL)and Early Childhood Care and Education NB.(ECCENB).</p>

Transition to school

Children register for kindergarten in October of the year preceding the one in which they begin school. During the months leading up to the commencement of kindergarten, children are screened for risk with the Early Years Evaluation- Direct Assessment (EYE-DA). Children and families of children who are at risk participate in activities to assist in the transition to kindergarten between April and September. <http://earlyyearevaluation.com/EN/index.php/en/about-us.html>

Transition to School Coordinators in each school district help prepare children to enter kindergarten. They are also responsible for preparing schools to better welcome children and to involve parents, the community and the school to ensure that the level of educational quality supports children's overall development.

Working environment

Kindergarten class size: The maximum class size is 21 except when a class is combined with another grade in which case the class size is capped at 16. Children are taught by teachers with educational degrees.

Child care program size: A regulated child care centre may have a maximum of 60 spaces per approval. There may be more than one approval per building however each must comply with all requirements independently.

New Brunswick: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres¹		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size
0 to 2 years	1:3	9
2- 3 years	1:5	10
3- 4 years	1:7	14
4-5 years	1:10	20
5-6 years	1:20	24
6-12 years	1:15	30

1. Part II of the Family Services Act, Day Care Regulation 83-85 and the Child Day Care Facilities Operator Standards
<http://www.gnb.ca/0062/regs/f-2-2reg.htm>

Staffing

New Brunswick: Educator qualifications	
Kindergarten teachers	An undergraduate degree, plus a bachelor of education, and a New Brunswick Teacher's Certificate are required to teach kindergarten.
Early childhood educators	The Director, a designate or one-in-four staff members are required to have a one-year community college ECE certificate or its equivalent.

New Brunswick: Teacher and early childhood educator average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008-200909 ¹	Early childhood educator 2010 ²	ECE % of Teacher
\$63,440	\$34,715	49%

1. Brockington, R. (2010) *Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009*. Statistics Canada; <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm>
2. Calculated at \$16.69/hour (2010 enhanced wage for early childhood educators (primary/administrators) Department of Education and Early Child Development (2011) *Government Renewal Discussion Paper*.
<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf>) x 40 hours x 52 weeks

The New Brunswick government provides a wage enhancement under the Quality Improvement Funding Support Program. The amounts allocated are \$4.50 / hour/eligible trained staff and \$2.75/hour/eligible untrained staff. Effective April 2010, untrained staff entering the sector are no longer eligible for the \$2.75/hr. Most qualified early childhood educators are administrators/primary staff. Average hourly wage increased to \$17.16/hour, March 2011.

Department of Education and Early Child Development (2011) *Government Renewal Discussion Paper*.
<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/comm/DiscussionPaper.pdf>)

New Brunswick: Professional requirements for educators		
	Recognition required	Professional learning required
Kindergarten teachers	Teacher certificate required and is issued by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education. http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/Pub/EServices/ListServiceDetails.asp?ServiceID1=599&ReportType1=ALL	The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offers in-service training and summer institutes are available on a variety of topics. School districts also provide professional development sessions for kindergarten teachers.
Early childhood educators	Not required.	Not required.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Progress reports: The *New Brunswick 2010-2011 Child Day Care Services Annual Statistical Report* is a public profile of child care for 2010-2011. It reports on programs that support the child care services and the families and children who access child care in New Brunswick. It offers a picture of the investments that has made in child day care services during this reporting period. The report includes data from previous fiscal years so it is possible to track trends and progress.

Monitoring children's learning: The Early Years Evaluation- Direct Assessment (EYE-DA) is an initiative of the Department of Education that assesses children at kindergarten registration in both Francophone and Anglophone schools.

The Early Development Instrument was applied in spring 2009. To date, results have not been publicly reported.