



Orientation to Ontario

CHILD CARE

TYPES OF CHILD CARE

Costs for both kinds of child care vary widely and different child care centres have different rules. Some require that your child attend full-time. Other centres provide part-time and drop-in child care. There can be long waiting lists.

LICENSED CHILD CARE

Under the Day Nurseries Act, caregivers who look after more than five unrelated children under the age of ten must have a license from the Ministry of Education. Licensed child care centres are regularly inspected by Ministry staff to make sure they meet health, safety and caregiver training standards. Licensed child care may be in a private home, a school, a community centre or a separate facility. Some licensed child care centres are private and others are run as co-ops, where parents help run the centre.

Learn about child care options at the Ministry of Education at ontario.ca or findlink.at/childcare

UNLICENSED CHILD CARE

Caregivers who look after five or fewer unrelated children in their own home do not need a license.

When you select unlicensed child care, you must rely on your own judgement that it will provide appropriate care for your child.

CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES

If you cannot afford to pay for child care, you may be eligible for a subsidy. Talk to your settlement counsellor or visit the Ministry of Education at ontario.ca or findlink.at/payingchc

To find a settlement agency near you, visit services.settlement.org

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT (CCB)

The CCB is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age. Any person responsible for the primary care of a child can receive this benefit.

For more information, visit Service Canada at canada.ca or findlink.at/UChildCB

IMPORTANT NOTE

There are two types of child care in Ontario: licensed and unlicensed. You should consider these two options and then choose what is best for your family.

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ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRES

Early Years Centres are programs in community centres across the province.

Parents and caregivers can bring children up to six years old to play and learn at these government-funded centres, and must attend with them. The centres also provide information about family services and there is no cost to visit.

To find a centre near you, call ServiceOntario at **1-800-268-1153** or visit the Ministry of Education at ontario.ca or findlink.at/EarlyYearC

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Ontario public schools now offer full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children. Most kindergarten programs include both a teacher and an early childhood educator. Some schools also offer before- and after-school programs for kindergarten students from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Kindergarten is free, but families must pay a reasonable fee for their children to attend before- and after- programs, which often have waiting lists.

For more information, visit the Ministry of Education at ontario.ca or findlink.at/full-dayK



DID YOU KNOW?

Many child care centres employ caregivers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) diplomas.

