

International Student

CONNECT >>>>

Étudiants Internationaux

SE CONNECTER

CHILD CARE

TYPES OF CHILD CARE

There are two types of child care in Ontario – licensed and unlicensed. Details of each are outlined below. 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 depending on the demand and on the region.

Many colleges and universities have child care facilities on campus. Some campus centres are reserved for the children of students, staff and faculty but availability may still be limited. Your child's vaccination records will be requested at the time of registration.

LICENSED CHILD CARE

Licensed child care centres are government-regulated and inspected to make sure they meet health, safety and caregiver training standards. They may be in a private home, a school, a community centre, on campus or in a separate facility. Some licensed child care centres are private and others are run as co-ops, where parents help run the centre. Licensed home child care providers are allowed to care for a maximum of 6 children under the age of 13, including their own children under the age of 6; and care for a maximum of only 2 children under the age of 2 (including their own children). Centres have different group ratios (children per care provider) depending on the age group. Learn about child care options at the Ministry of Education at www.edu.gov.on.ca or findlink.at/childcare

UNLICENSED CHILD CARE

In Ontario, unlicensed, informal care is not regulated by the government. Unlicensed caregivers do not need a license if they care for

fewer than five children under the age of six in their own home, including their own children.

For more information about the types of child care available and questions to ask when you are selecting a child care provider, go to www.ontario.ca or findlink.at/typescare.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is financial support for low-to moderate-income families – whether they are working or not – to help provide for their children. To find out if you are eligible and how to apply, visit the Ministry of Children and Youth Services at www.children.gov.on.ca or findlink.at/finhelp.

Ontario child care subsidy is financial assistance to help eligible families with the cost of licensed child care. To find out if you are eligible and how to apply, talk to your settlement counsellor or visit the Ministry of Education at www.edu.gov.on.ca or findlink.at/payingchc.

The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a monthly payment made to families to support them with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age. To find out if you are eligible and how to apply, visit the Canada Revenue Agency at www.cra-arc.gc.ca or findlink.at/bnfts.

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. The parent/caregiver must attend with the child. The centres also provide information to parents and caregivers about family services. There is no cost to visit an Early Years Centre.

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

1-844-871-4567

www.settlement.org/isc

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Ontario public and Catholic schools now offer free full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children. Private and alternative schools may accept children as young as three-and-a-half years up until six years of age. Most kindergarten programs include both a teacher and an early childhood educator. When there is enough interest from parents, schools also offer before- and after-school programs from about 7:00 to 9:00 in the morning and from 3:30 to 6:00 in the afternoon. These programs are generally for full-day kindergarten students and are offered for a reasonable fee. For more information, visit the Ministry of Education at www.edu.gov.on.ca or findlink.at/full-dayK.

