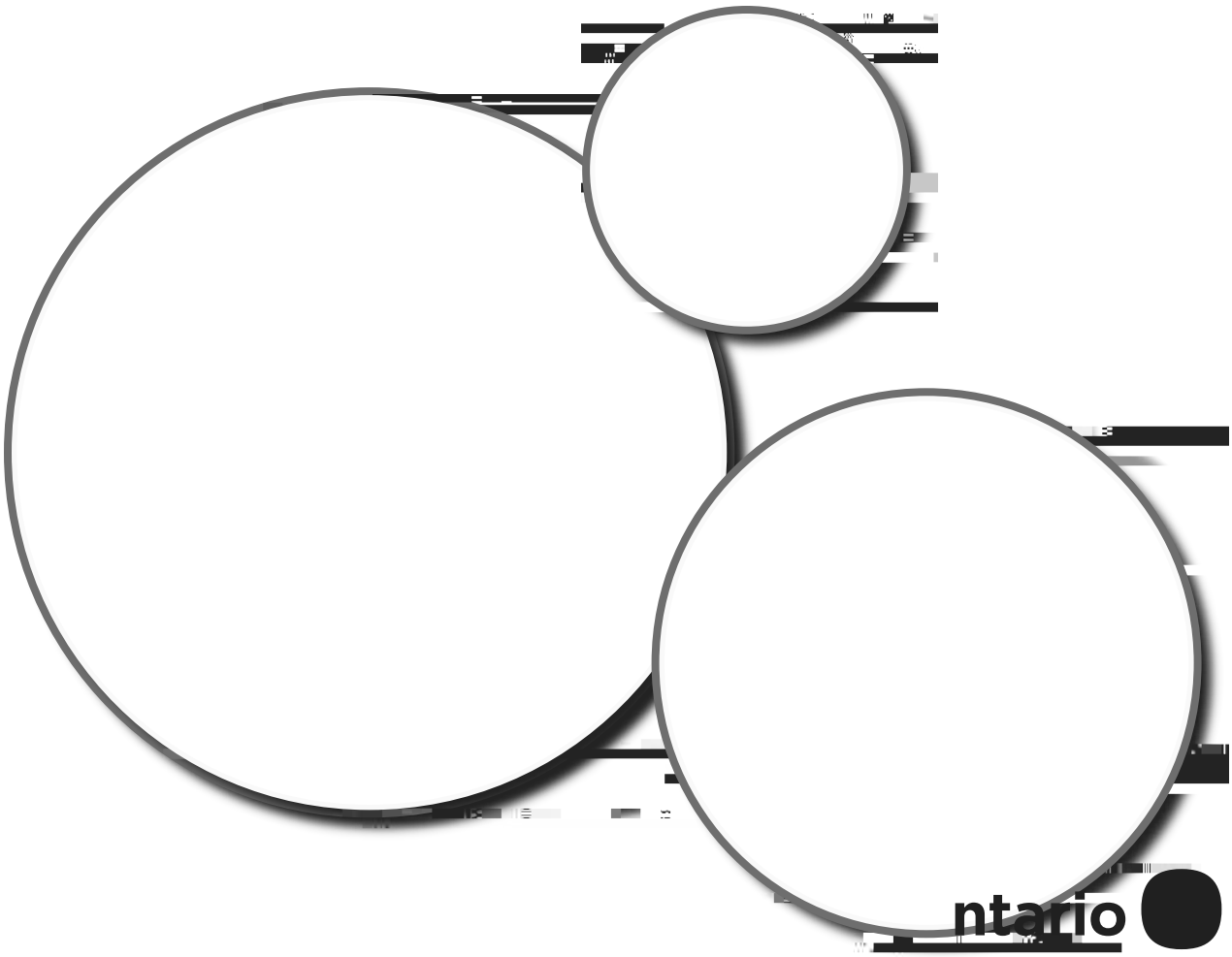
Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2019



The Ministry of Education acknowledges the Government of Canada's support in connection with the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework and the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Part 3 of this document outlines Ontario's progress towards meeting early learning and child care goals under the agreement.

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Building a Stronger Child Care and Early Years System

We know it is important to get the early years right – and make life easier for families.

That is why the provincial government is committed to increasing access to child care, giving parents more choice, and making high quality programs more a ordable.

We also want all children to reach their full potential and become engaged, productive citizens who can contribute to Ontario's future prosperity. Research shows a clear link between a solid foundation in the early years and a child's long-term development and success.

With an investment of over $2 billion in 2019-20 and a commitment to create up to 30,000 new child care spaces in schools, we are building a stronger child care and early years system to provide more children and families with access to child care and give children the best possible start in life.

Ontario's child care and early years system continues to grow. In 2018-19:

- The number of licensed child care centres increased by 2%, to over 5,500 centres, and the number of centres located in publicly funded schools also increased by 2% to a total of nearly 3,000 centres.
- The number of licensed child care spaces grew by 5%, to more than 445,000 spaces. All age groups have seen an increase in spaces: a 7% increase for infants, 5% for toddlers, 3% for preschool, 5% for Kindergarten,

Ontario's new child care and early years plan focuses on four key areas:

1. Making child care more a ordable
2. Increasing choice and availability for families
3. Improving quality and delivering high standards of care
4. Reducing red tape and administrative burden.

As part of this plan, the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for child care and early years programs, will be undertaking a review of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 and its regulations over the coming year. The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 is the law governing child care in Ontario and came into e ect on August 31, 2015, replacing the Day Nurseries Act. With this act turning ve years old in 2020, we look forward to engaging with stakeholders and the public to explore opportunities to enhance early years and child care legislation and reduce administrative burden, while continuing to ensure the health and safety of children in child care.

With the above initiatives, we are giving families the child care and early years options their children need to reach their full potential – and to build a exible system that is accessible, a ordable, inclusive, and high quality.

PART 1:

Figure 1: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boar

1. Algoma District Services Administration Board
2. City of Brantford
3. City of Cornwall
4. City of Greater Sudbury
5. City of Hamilton
6. City of Kawartha Lakes
7. City of Kingston
8. City of London
9. City of Ottawa
10. City of Peterborough
11. City of St. Thomas
12. City of Stratford
13. City of Toronto
14. City of Windsor
15. County of Bruce
16. County of Dufferin
17. County of Grey
18. County of Hastings
19. County of Huron
20. County of Lambton
21. County of Lanark
22. County of Lennox and Addington
23. County of Northumberland
24. County of Oxford
25. County of Renfrew
26. County of Simcoe
27. County of Wellington
28. District Municipality of Muskoka
29. District of Cochrane Social Services Administration Board
30. District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board
31. District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board
32. District of Sault Ste Marie Social Services Administration Board
33. District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board
34. Kenora District Services Board
35. Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
36. Municipality of Chatham-Kent
37. Norfolk County
38. Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board
39. Regional Municipality of Durham
40. Regional Municipality of Halton
41. Regional Municipality of Niagara
42.

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education; Statistics Canada

As of March 31, 2019, the province was funding 99 First Nations to support child care and/or child and family programs on reserve (see Figure 2), of which:

- 32 received funding for child care only
- 22 received funding for child and family programs only
- 45 received funding for a combination of child care and child and family programs.

Figure 2: Ontario First Nations Receiving Provincial Funding for Child Care and/or Child and Family P

1. Aamjiwnaang First Nation
2. Alderville First Nation
3. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
4. Animakee Wa Zhing #37
5. Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
6. Anishinabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation
7. Aroland First Nation
8. Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek First Nation
9. Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
10. Attawapiskat First Nation
11. Aundeck-Omni-Kaning First Nation
12. Batchewana First Nation of the Ojibways
13. Bearskin Lake First Nation
14. Beausoleil First Nation
15. Big Grassy River First Nation
16. Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
17. Cat Lake First Nation
18. Chippewas of Georgina Island
19. Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
20. Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
21. Chippewas of Rama First Nation
22. Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation
23. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
24. Constance Lake First Nation
25. Couchiching First Nation
26. Curve Lake First Nation
27. Deer Lake First Nation
28. Delaware Nation Council Moravian of the Thames Band
29. Eabametoong First Nation
30. Eagle Lake First Nation
31. Fort Albany First Nation
32. Fort Severn First Nation
33. Fort William First Nation
34. Garden River First Nation
35. Ginoogaming First Nation
36. Henvey Inlet First Nation
37. Hiawatha First Nation
38. Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First Nation
39. Kasabonika Lake First Nation
40. Keewaywin First Nation
41. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
42. Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation
43. Long Lake 58 First Nation
44. Magnetawan First Nation
45. Marten Falls First Nation
46. M'Chigeeng First Nation
47. Michipicoten First Nation
48. Mishkeegogamang First Nation
49. Mississauga First Nation
50. Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
51. Mitaanjigamiing First Nation
52. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
53. Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
54. Moose Cree First Nation
55. Moose Deer Point First Nation
56. Munsee Delaware Nation
57. Muskrat Dam First Nation
58. Naicatchewenin First Nation
59. Namaygoosisagagun First Nation
60. Naotkamegwanning First Nation
61. Neskantaga First Nation
62. Nibinamik First Nation
63. Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
64. Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation
65. Nipissing First Nation
66. North Caribou Lake First Nation
67. Northwest Angle 33 First Nation
68. Obashkaandagaang First Nation
69. Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation
70. Oneida Nation of the Thames
71. Pays Plat First Nation
72. Pic Mobert First Nation
73. Pikangikum First Nation
74. Rainy River First Nations
75. Red Rock Indian Band
76. Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation
77. Sandy Lake First Nation
78. Serpent River First Nation
79. Shawanaga First Nation
80. Sheguiandah First Nation
81. Shoal Lake Band 40
82. Six Nations of the Grand River
83. Taykwa Tagamou First Nation
84. Temagami First Nation
85. Wabaseemoong Independent Nations
86. Wabauskang First Nation
87. Wabigoon First Nation
88. Wahgoshig First Nation
89. Wahnapitae First Nation
90. Wahta Mohawks
91. Walpole Island First Nation
92. Wapekeka First Nation
93. Wasauksing First Nation
94. Webequie First Nation
95. Weenusk First Nation
96. Whitefish River First Nation
97. Whitesand First Nation
98.

Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education; Statistics Canada

PART 2 Early Years and Child Care Key Data and Measures

Licensed Child Care

In Ontario, licensed child care is provided in centres and homes, and is delivered by a mix of not-for-pro t and for-pro t organizations as well as municipalities, school boards, and First Nations. As of March 31, 2019, there were 5,523 licensed child care centres in Ontario. The total number of spaces in licensed centres was 446,596, which included:

- o

Table 1.1 Spaces in Licensed Child Care Centres by Age Group, 2009-10 to 2018-19

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-1
Number of										

Child Care by Type of Auspice[5]

As of March 31, 2019:

- 76% of licensed child care centres were not-for-pro t (operated by not-for-pro t organizations and First Nations) and 24% were for-pro t.
- 79% of child care spaces were in not-for-pro t centres and 21% were in for-pro t centres.
- 84% of licensed home child care agencies were not-for-pro t and 16% were for-pro t.
- 90% of approved child care homes were a liated with not-for-pro t agencies and 10% were a liated with for-pro t agencies.

For more detailed data and a look at changes over time, see Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: Licensed Child Care Centres and Spaces in Licensed Child Care Centres by Auspice, 2009-

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-1
Number of Centres	4,803	4,796	4,922	5,050	5,069	5,144	5,276	5,351	5,437	5,523
Not-for-pro t	3,663	3,643	3,733	3,859	3,847	3,942	4,007	4,053	[illegible]	4,186
For-pro t	1,140	1,153	1,189	1,191	1,222	1,202	1,269	1,298	1,309	1,337
Number of Spaces	257,457	264,201	275,873	294,490	317,868	350,801	389,286	406,395	[illegible]	446,596
Not-for-pro t	192,256	196,708	205,777	222,851	240,881	272,899	305,317	319,608	[illegible]	352,949
For-pro t	65,201	67,493	70,096	71,639	76,987	77,902	83,969	86,787	[illegible]	93,647

Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education

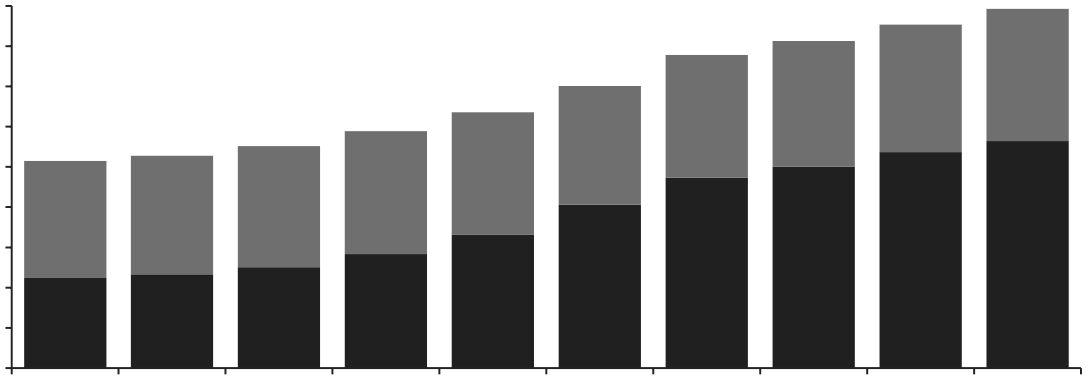
Table 3: Licensed Home Child Care Agencies and Approved Homes by Auspice, 2009-10 to 2018-19

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-1
Number of Agencies	140	135	132	127	126	124	122	124	122	124
Not-for-pro t	125	121	118	116	113	111	108	109	[illegible]	104
For-pro t	15	14	14	11	13	13	14	15	17	20
Number of Approved Homes	7,071	6,832	6,142	5,960	5,765	6,962	7,504	7,579	7,783	

For Public Release

Licensed Child Care in Publicly Funded Schools and in Communities

Figure 7: Licensed Child Care Spaces in Publicly Funded Schools and in Communities, 2009-10 to 2



French-language and Bilingual Licensed Child Care

Some licensed child care centres o er services in French or in both English

Figure 9 Median Daily Fees by Age Group Among Licensed Child Care Centres, 2019

Staff Wages by Category

Program sta fall into one of three categories: Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs), sta approved by a ministry director,[9] and sta who are not RECEs and have not been director-approved. Among full-time RECEs employed by licensed child care centres, 42% earned between $15 and $20 per hour, and 43% earned between $20 and $27 per hour. For the majority of full-time program sta in the other two categories, wages ranged between $15 and $20 per hour (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Hourly Wages of Full-time Program Staff in Licensed Child Care Centres, 2019

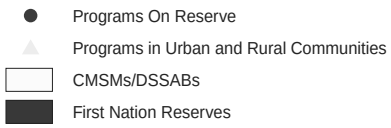
EarlyON Child and Family Centres

EarlyON Child and Family Centres o er free drop-in programs for caregivers and children from birth to six years old. The centres are open to all families in Ontario and o er a range of services:

Indigenous-led Programs and Programs On F

As part of Ontario's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous people, the ministry established or enhanced 67 on reserve programs (5 enhanced, 62 new) and 61 programs in urban and rural communities (10 child care programs, 14 joint child care and child and family programs, and 37 child and family programs). (See Figure 12.)

Figure 12: Indigenous-led Child Care and Child and Family Programs



Data sources: Ontario Ministry of Education; Statistics Canada

Early Years Developmental Health and Well-B

Information on children's developmental health and well-being prior to Grade 1 is collected throughout the province using the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI is a questionnaire that teachers complete about the skills and abilities of each of their Year 2 (senior) kindergarten students. It measures developmental health and well-being across ve domains:

- physical health and well-being
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive development
- communication skills and general knowledge.

The EDI is used as a population measure (i.e., a measure of whole populations based on geographical or administrative boundaries) by the ministry, municipalities, school boards, and community organizations to inform decision-making and plan early years programs and services. The ministry uses the EDI as a key indicator to monitor the state of young children in Ontario.

Since 2004, the EDI has been collected across the province in three-year cycles:

- over a three-year period for Cycle 1 (2004-06), Cycle 2 (2007-09), and Cycle 3 (2010-12)
- in a single year, every three years, for Cycle 4 (2015) and Cycle 5 (2018).[11]

EDI results can be compared over time to get a sense of how young children's developmental health and well-being is changing in Ontario. Examining the percentage of vulnerable children[12] by domain is a way of monitoring areas where children's level of difficulty in meeting age appropriate developmental expectations may change over time (see Figure 13). The results can also be combined to look at all those who are vulnerable on one or more of the ve domains (see Figure 14). Combining domains in this way provides a fuller picture and captures those children who may be vulnerable in single domains or in multiple domains.

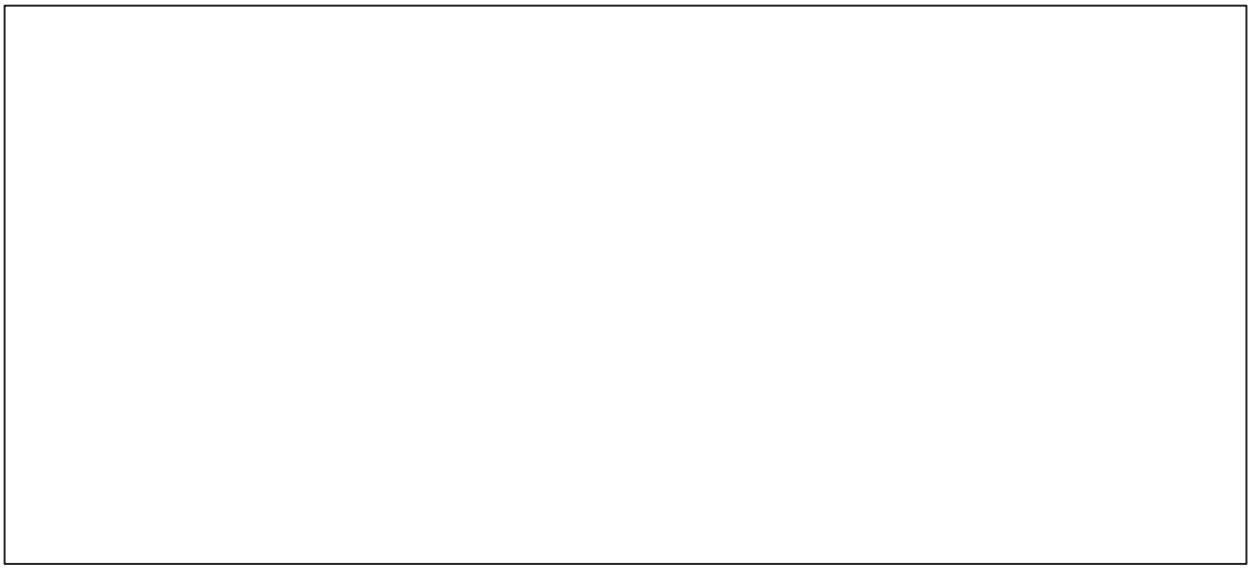
11. 113,323 EDI questionnaires were analysed for Cycle 1; 110,916 for Cycle 2; 119,494 for Cycle 3; 125,858 for Cycle 4; and 123,912 for Cycle 5.

12. "Vulnerable" describes children who score below the 10th percentile of the Ontario EDI baseline population scores. This indicates that they are struggling in comparison to the baseline population.

Overall, results remained relatively stable between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5. In 2018, 70.4% of children were considered developmentally ready when they entered Grade 1, compared to 70.6% in 2015.

Additional information about the EDI is available from the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University.

Figure 13: Percentage of Vulnerable Children by EDI Domain, 2004-18



PART 3: Indicators under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

The federal government committed $400 million in their 2016 budget, and an additional $7 billion over 10 years in their 2017 budget, to establish a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework with provinces and territories.[13] Under the framework, the federal government and these provinces and territories agreed to work together over time to achieve broad long-term goals for early learning and child care systems that are high quality, accessible, a ordable, exible, and inclusive. These provinces and territories also agreed to report annually on progress made in relation to the framework and on the impact of federal funding, while re ecting the priorities of each jurisdiction in early learning and child care.

On June 16, 2017, Ontario was the rst province to sign an agreement under the framework, known as the three-year Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Under the agreement, the federal government agreed to allA4BT 8.03 0 0 8.03 210.736 345.9106 Tm (13)Tj ETj2

- $6 million to support innovative approaches that provide access to high quality training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce.

This section highlights Ontario's progress in working towards increasing quality, accessibility, a ordability, exibility, and inclusion in early learning and child care under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. For more about the indicators that are being used to measure Ontario's progress, see Appendix: List of Indicators under the Agreement.

Expenditures and Actions

Under the agreement, Ontario received $146. million in federal funding in the 2018-19 fiscal year, of which $6.2 million was carried forward to the 2019-20 fiscal year. Ontario's actual expenditures in the 2018-19 fiscal year were $158.8 million.[16]

The 2018-19 funding supported the following three action areas:

- increasing access to a ordable, high quality licensed child care
- increasing access to EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- innovative approaches to providing access to high quality training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce.

16. Figure is subject to change upon the completion of the 2018-19 audit.

Table 5: Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement Expenditures and Actions for

Areas	Federal Allocations	Actions	Actual Expenditur
Licensed Child Care	Ontario allocated $100 million of the federal funding for increased subsidies and access to licensed child care in Ontario. There are two components to this investment, including $80 million for children aged 0-6, and $20 million to support access to a ordable child care across the system based on local priorities.	The federal funding was provided to service system managers through provincial-municipal service agreements. Updated service agreement schedules, including funding under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, were provided to service system managers on June 7, 2019.	$100 million
EarlyON Child and Family Centres	Ontario allocated $40 million of the federal funding to support the integration of child and family programs across the province into what became the EarlyON Child and Family Programs.	The federal funding was provided to service system managers through two-year service agreements. On June 7, 2019, service system managers received revised guidelines and con rmation of their funding allocations. Funding in this category also included a capital funding investment, which enabled the ministry, in 2017-18, to approve 84 new EarlyON Child and Family Centre rooms in 47 locations.*	$54 million
Professional Development	Ontario allocated $2 million of the federal funding to increase the number of students supported Lang (en-US)/MCID 1024 >>BDC T* [(t)6(o2 millionl 0.005 T* [(number ofa)CID3		

A home child care visitor is an employee of a home child care agency who monitors and provides support at licensed home child care locations. A home child care visitor shall be a person who:

- is a member in good standing of the College of Early Childhood Educators, has at least two years of experience working with children under 13 years old, and is approved by a director; or
- is, in the opinion of a director, capable of providing support and supervision at a home child care premises.

Table 6: Staff/Child Ratios, Group Sizes, and Proportion of Employees That Must Be Qualified Emplo Different Age Categories in Licensed Child Centre–Based Care

Age categories	Age range	Ratio of employees to children	Maximum number of children in group	Proportion of employees that mus qualified employee
Infant	Younger than 18 months	3 to 10	10	1/3
Toddler	18 months or older but younger than 30 months	1 to 5	15	1/3
Preschool	30 months or older but younger than 6 years	1 to 8	24	2/3
Kindergarten	44 months or older but younger than 7 years	1 to 13	26	1/2
Primary/junior school age	68 months or older but younger than 13 years	1 to 15	30	1/2
Junior school age	9 years or older but younger than 13 years	1 to 20	20	1/1

The ministry monitors and enforces sta quali cation requirements in all licensed child care centres and home child care agencies. Centres and agencies meet the requirements by employing supervisors, sta , and home child care visitors who are RECEs, or through director approvals as described above.

It is estimated that:[17]

- 79% of licensed child care centres employed RECEs for supervisor positions.
- 96% of licensed home child care agencies employed RECEs for all home child care visitor positions.

17. Data source: Child Care Licensing System, Ontario Ministry of Education, as of March 31, 2019.

Affordability

The funding under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement supports new full and/or partial fee subsidies and increased access through the following priorities:

- Supporting children aged 0-6 years through additional fee subsidies, increased access, broadly reducing licensed child care fees and by increasing a ordability, and/or not-for-pro t community-based capital projects (excluding capital projects for child care programs that run during

Flexibility and Inclusion

Non-standard Hours

Flexibility in child care service delivery is important for meeting the needs of parents and caregivers who work non-standard schedules. In Ontario, a small proportion of licensed child care centres and home child care providers o er care during non-standard hours.[23]

- 10% of child care centres reported the availability of weekend care, and less than 1% reported the availability of care during the evening or overnight.
- 10% of home child care providers reported the availability of weekend care, 12% reported the availability of evening care, and 7% reported the availability of overnight care.

Special Needs Resourcing

The province provides Special Needs Resourcing funding to service system managers and First Nations to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings, including home child care, camps, and authorized recreation programs, at no additional cost to parents/guardians. Under Ontario Regulation 138/15, a "child with special needs" means a child whose cognitive, physical, social, emotional, or communicative needs, or whose needs relating to overall development, are of such a nature that additional supports are required for the child. A total of 30,794 children were funded through Special Needs Resourcing between January 1 and December 31, 2017, the most recent year of data available.[24]

Indigenous-led Child Care Centres

A total of 27 licensed child care centres reported that 0.1(T tha)4.1(tBDC BT 11 0 0 n <</Lang(e

of licensed child care spaces in the province, and data on the distribution of families across income levels from Statistics Canada.

As of March 31, 2019, there were 446,596 licensed child care spaces for children aged 0-12 in Ontario. Approximately 21% of families with children in the province earned a family income below $40,000, 40% earned between $40,000 and $100,000, and 39% earned above $100,000.[26]

It is estimated, based on the income distribution, that:

- more than 93,000 spaces are used by children from families with income below $40,000
- more than 178,000 spaces are used by children from families with income between $40,000 and $100,000
- about 174,000 are used by children from families with income above $100,000.

26. Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016104.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres Indicators

Access, Affordability, Flexibility, and Inclusion

As of March 31, 2019, there were 1,187 EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations across Ontario, of which 393 were main EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations and 794 were mobile/satellite EarlyON Child

to pay up front and be reimbursed. In 2018-19, a total of 1,570 applications were approved under the Early Childhood Educators Quali cations Upgrade Program.[30]

Centres of Excellence for Early Years and Child Care

Centres of Excellence for Early Years and Child Care are being funded as part of Ontario's action plan under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. The Provincial, Indigenous, and Francophone Centres of Excellence have been established to support professional learning across the province. They also serve to connect practitioners, educational institutions, and service providers through innovative specialized networks across Ontario. A secretariat is in place to coordinate engagement and communication strategies for the centres.

The Centres of Excellence were established to:

- support alignment with How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years and promote cohesion in pedagogical approaches and practices across early years programs
- build the pedagogical leadership capacity of program sta in the early

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