



About the New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care System

What is the New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care system?

The New Brunswick early learning and child care system is comprised of licensed facilities across the province that offer services for children from birth to age 12 while parents/guardians are working or studying. In New Brunswick, an operator is required to obtain a license from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to offer services to more than six children.

What is a Licensed Early Learning and Child Care Centre (or day-care centre)?

Licensed early learning and child care centres, also referred to as day-care centres, are approved by government to provide daycare services for seven or more children from infants to 12 years of age. They may be licensed for a maximum of 60 spaces. These centres may be for-profit (commercial) or not-for-profit (governed by board of directors).

Centres can use a variety of names as part of their business. For example, centres may refer to their facility as day cares, pre-schools, early learning centres, etc. In this Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan initiative, the term **early learning and childcare centre** is used.

Licensed early learning and child care centres must follow legislation to ensure that their services are safe, secure and healthy for children while in non-parental care and that they are respecting quality standards. They are subjected to annual inspections and spot checks by the department to ensure these criteria are met for the well-being of children. A Certificate of Approval, also referred to as a license, is required to operate a facility. Certificates of Approval are issued for a twelve-month period.

What is a Community Daycare Home?

A Community Daycare Home is approved to provide child care services for six or fewer children from aged 0 to 12 years of age in an individual's home. These are for-profit (commercial) facilities.

A Certificate of Approval, also referred to as a license, can be provided to an individual who wishes to operate a Community Daycare Home. By doing so, they become eligible for a wage grant from government and parents using their services may benefit from financial aid to help pay for their child care fees.



Licensed community daycare homes must follow the legislation to ensure that their services are safe, secure and healthy for children while in non-parental care and that they are respecting quality standards. They are subjected to annual inspections and spot checks by the department to ensure these criteria are met for the well-being of children. Certificates of Approval are issued for a twelve-month period.

What age groups do licensed facilities serve?

Licensed facilities (day-care centres or community daycare homes) may offer services for:

- infants (0-24 months)
- preschool aged children (2 to 4 years old)
- school aged children (5 to 12 years old)

What is an early learning and child care administrator?

An early learning and child care administrator is an operator or individual appointed by the operator responsible for the managing the day-to-day activities of an early learning and child care centre. This can include a director of a facility who is an employee of the owner (commercial) or of a board of directors (not-for-profit) or an owner.

What is an early learning and child care educator?

An early learning and child care educator is a staff member of an early learning and childcare centre who is at least 16 years of age and who works directly with children.

For Information

1 888 762 8600

