

Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning & Child Care Agreement

2021-2022 Annual Report

Funded by the Government of
Canada through the Early Learning
and Child Care Agreement

Canada 

Saskatchewan 

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Introduction

This report provides a snapshot and year over year trend of Saskatchewan's progress toward achievement of targets established in the *2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*¹, which was signed on August 13, 2021. This report supports the provincial government's commitment under the agreement to publish investments and achievements for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022).

Saskatchewan is committed to building an early learning and child care (ELCC) system guided by a shared vision with Canada, under the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (Can-SK CW-ELCC) Agreement*. The agreement is focused on principles of affordability, accessibility, inclusivity, and quality. This investment is in addition to previous investments made through the *2017-2018 to 2020-2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*. Canada and Saskatchewan have also extended this agreement to 2024-2025 which includes a one-time workforce development investment to support the recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), as well as provincial investments in early learning and child care spanning decades. These investments are the foundation upon which the architecture of the *Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements* are built.

Report Highlights

As of March 31, 2022, Saskatchewan has:

- * reduced parent fees by 50 per cent, on average, which is a step towards achieving the province's commitment to reach an average of \$10 per day for children under the age of six by March 2026;
- * allocated 1,803 new child care centre spaces and 409 child care home spaces to 41 urban and rural communities for a total of 2,212 regulated child care spaces towards the province's commitment to add 28,000 spaces;
- * provided free training opportunities in 2021-2022 to increase the supply of ECEs;
- * provided wage enhancements of up to \$3.00 per hour and workforce enhancements for ECEs in recognition of the important services they provide in supporting families who require child care and to assist child care centres in providing improved wages in the recruitment and retention of ECEs;
- * initiated a review of current and best practices and options in the areas of early childhood education qualifications, staffing models, recruitment and retention approaches and compensation; and,
- * created child care supports for vulnerable and medically fragile children.

In 2022-2023, the provincial government will continue to support families and the child care sector by:

- * further reducing parents' out-of-pocket fees, on average, by 70 per cent;
- * conducting a major funding model review to ensure child care homes and child care centres remain viable in the delivery of early learning and child care services;
- * developing a regulated child care space expansion and strategy plan;
- * establishing a public awareness campaign aimed at attracting family home child care providers;
- * continuing supports to ECEs with free post-secondary training, professional development opportunities, and other programs;

¹ *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* available at: www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/saskatchewan-canada-wide-2021.html

- * supporting ECE recruitment and retention efforts by providing wage enhancement grants;
- * developing a wage grid for certified ECEs;
- * developing options to support a provincial long-term workforce strategy for the early learning and child care workforce; and,
- * developing an engagement plan with First Nations and Métis organizations to create a plan for a coordinated child care system.

The *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement* is a transformative plan that will take dedicated effort to achieve. Saskatchewan is committed to continuing to implement the commitments in the agreement that will provide flexibility and choice to Saskatchewan families.

Results

The *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement* established a shared vision in which Saskatchewan and Canada committed to collaborate on a universal, high quality early learning and child care system that is inclusive, affordable, flexible, and accessible to all Saskatchewan children and families.

Saskatchewan and Canada established key principles, as described below, to guide the actions and initiatives aimed at achieving the objectives under the agreement. Results achieved under each pillar are described in this report.

Affordability: The *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement* demonstrates a commitment to further expand the provision of average parent fees of \$10 a day, for child care for children under the age of six for all regulated spaces by the end of fiscal year 2025-2026.

Access: Saskatchewan and Canada agree to make investments directed towards increasing the number of spaces so that families have access to affordable, high quality early learning and child care opportunities.

Quality: Qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) are a significant factor predicting good outcomes for young children. Canada and Saskatchewan agree to focus on ensuring there is a qualified workforce to support the developmental outcomes of young children.

Inclusive: The *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement* supports inclusive programming for children that require additional supports to access early learning programs, as well as vulnerable children and children from diverse populations. The agreement focuses on working collaboratively with First Nations and Métis partners to ensure Indigenous children have access to affordable, high-quality, and culturally appropriate early learning and child care.

Affordability

Under the principle of affordability, Saskatchewan committed to reducing out-of-pocket parent fees for regulated early learning and child care spaces for children under the age of six by an average of 50 per cent from 2019 levels by the end of calendar year 2022. This commitment was met in 2021-2022.

Saskatchewan took a step towards making child care more affordable for children under the age of six as funding was provided to regulated facilities to reduce parents' out-of-pocket child care fees by about half on average, retroactive to July 1, 2021. This initial reduction was the first step towards reaching the 2025-2026 goal of, on average, \$10 a day regulated child care in Saskatchewan.

The impact of a 50 per cent reduction in out-of-pocket parent fees had a significant impact of families in 2021-2022. A comparison of the average monthly fees on March 31, 2021, and March 31, 2022, are included in Table 1 below. Work in 2022-2023 will continue to reduce parents' fees, as well as investigate opportunities to modify the current funding model of child care operators. This work will ensure child care operators have access to sustainable long-term funding to maintain their core operations and ensure child care quality is not impacted by lower parent fees.

2021-22 to 2022-23 Action Plan Targets – Affordability

- * By the end of calendar year 2022, parents' out-of-pocket fees will be reduced by an average of 50 per cent through ongoing core funding which will be provided to regulated non-profit child care operators. Approximately 22,000 are children expected to benefit by end of 2022-23.
- * By the end of 2025-2026, the average of \$10 per day child care fees will be reached through increased funding for operations combined with restructured fees for parents.

Table 1 – Affordability

Program Initiative	Indicators	Baseline (March 2021)	Targets	Funding Allocation (2021-22)	Funding Spent (2021-22)	Results (2021-22)
50% Parent Fee Reduction	Average daily parents out-of-pocket fee for regulated child care spaces.	Average monthly space fees: Centres Infant - \$790 Toddler - \$666 Preschool - \$612 Homes Infant - \$786 Toddler - \$735 Preschool - \$667	Fee reduction by an average of 50% by December 2022 for all children under the age of six. Fee reduction to an average of \$10/day by the end of 2025-26.	\$93.558M	\$32.242M	Average monthly space fees: Centres Infant - \$414 Toddler - \$351 Preschool - \$327 Homes Infant - \$434 Toddler - \$405 Preschool - \$371 Average monthly fee reimbursement to parents for full-time child care spaces was \$303. Reimbursements were issued for approximately 12,000 spaces per month. Estimated 18,500 children were impacted. Estimated average annual savings per child of \$3,915*.

* Actual savings for families will vary

Access

Increasing access to quality early learning and child care is fundamental to the *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement*. As of March 31, 2021, Saskatchewan had 17,665 regulated child care spaces. The majority (98 per cent) of Saskatchewan's early learning and child care spaces are in not-for-profit centres and homes.

Only not-for-profit child care centres are eligible to receive space development, start-up, operational, and provincial subsidy funding from the Ministry of Education. Regulated child care homes are eligible to receive various forms of funding such as one-time grants for start-up, monthly grants for nutrition, annual grants for equipment, and support for the inclusion of children with enhanced needs.

Under the agreement, Saskatchewan will increase regulated spaces for children under the age of six by at least 28,000 by the end of fiscal 2025-2026. This is the estimated number of new full-time equivalent spaces required to reach a 59 per cent coverage rate in Saskatchewan and to meet the expected demand for spaces in the province at the \$10 per day average price for child care targeted for 2025-2026.

In 2021-2022, 2,212 full-time equivalent (FTE) new spaces were added in 41 rural and urban locations across the province. 1,803 of the 2,212 spaces were allocated for development in existing and new child care centres. The remaining 409 new spaces were created in family child care homes.

Work in 2022-2023 under the access principle will include numerous initiatives including the development of an expansion and strategy plan for child care spaces and a public awareness campaign aimed at attracting family home child care providers.

2021-2022 to 2022-2023 Action Plan Targets – Access

- * By the end of 2021-2022, 6,100 new full-time equivalent not-for-profit regulated spaces will be created for children under age six by using a range of flexible options including regulated not-for-profit child care centres, small child-care facilities, and family-based child care. A further 6,100 new full-time equivalent spaces will be created in 2022-2023.
- * By the end of 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will develop an expansion plan and strategy, informed by consultation with communities and partners, to guide the development of new spaces for the duration of the agreement.
- * The expansion and strategy plan will inform the second (2023-2024 to 2025-2026) action plan under this agreement with a focus on ensuring additional centre-based spaces will be available in more urban areas, as population warrants.
- * By the end of 2025-2026, 28,000 new full-time equivalent not-for-profit regulated spaces will be created for children under age six.

Table 2 – Access

Program Initiative	Indicators	Baseline (March 31, 2021)	Targets	Funding Allocation (2021-22)	Funding Spent (2021-22)	Results (2021-22)
Increased Infant, Toddler, and Preschool spaces	Increased spaces	17,665 full-time equivalent (FTE) regulated spaces.	<p>Total of 28,000 FTE spaces for children under age six by the end of 2025-26.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,000 new FTE spaces in 2021-22. • 6,100 new FTE spaces in 2022-23. • 15,900 new FTE spaces by end of 2025-26. 	\$16.326M	\$16.615M	<p>A total of 2,212 new child care centre and family child care home spaces in 41 different communities in the province in 2021-22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,803 new centre spaces allocated in 36 rural and urban communities; plus, • 409 new family child care home spaces in 8 rural and urban communities.

Quality

Supporting the quality of the early learning and child care system has always been a priority for Saskatchewan, and this priority was reaffirmed by Saskatchewan’s Early Years Plan² and the Ministry of Education Sector Strategic Plan. Investing in quality is important because it yields dividends for child outcomes. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Starting Strong III, “well-educated, well-trained professionals are the key factor in providing high-quality [early childhood education] with the most favourable cognitive and social outcomes for children.”

Supporting the development and maintenance of a strong early learning and child care sector workforce ensures that Saskatchewan will have the resources necessary to deliver high quality child care. Qualifications for child care centre directors and child care workers, as well as for family child care homes are established in *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*. As of March 31, 2022, there were 4,033 discrete child care positions in 358 centres. Of this total, 69 per cent hold ECE Level I, II, or III.

Much of the work to enhance and advance quality in 2021-2022 was funded under the *2017-2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement Workforce Annex*. Initiatives include, but are not limited to, implementing partnerships with Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions to develop and deliver accelerated early childhood education training opportunities. It also includes providing funding to support a wage increase of up to \$1 per hour, \$2 per hour, and \$3 per hour for ECE certification level I, II, and III respectively. The one-time increase recognized the important services ECEs provide in supporting families who require child care and to assist child care centres in providing improved wages in the recruitment and retention of ECEs. Saskatchewan is committed to the development of a wage grid by the end of 2022-2023.

While funded under an alternate agreement, the investments made from the *2017-2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement Workforce Annex* increased certification levels among Early

² Saskatchewan’s Early Years Plan available at: [Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan | Early Years and Child Care | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

Childhood Educators. This agreement also funded accelerated certificate or diploma training, supported high school students and adult learners pursuing careers in early childhood education, and supported continuous professional learning and skills enhancement opportunities for ECEs, and more. All key initiatives will support and advance the *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement* priorities.

2021-2022 to 2022-2023 Action Plan Targets – Quality

- * As the Government of Saskatchewan registers regulated providers and administers the fee reduction grant, the government will ensure that the regulatory regime achieves the same or higher standards of quality, including safety and qualifications for operators, as mandated in its current regulatory requirements.
- * The Government of Saskatchewan will also continue to consult with child care providers, parents, and stakeholders on requirements and opportunities to access further training, professionalization, and career development opportunities.
- * In 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will work to develop a wage grid and increase compensation of certified child care staff through enhanced operating funding, which is expected to benefit 1,800 ECEs.
- * Saskatchewan will take more immediate actions by investing \$11 million in 2022-2023 to provide sufficient increases to centre-based operating funding to support appropriate compensation of ECEs by December 31, 2022. This will build on planned investments in increased compensation as part of the *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Childhood Workforce Agreement*.
- * In 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will invest \$3.55 million to continue building a qualified workforce. Investments in supporting a qualified workforce and continuous professional development is expected to result in providing 150 bursaries and supporting up to 500 ECEs with a training support grant.
- * In 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will invest \$1.15 million in continuous professional learning and skills enhancement, which is expected to benefit 50 per cent of existing child care staff.
- * By 2025-2026, Saskatchewan will increase the percentage of child care workers providing regulated child care in the province who fully meet Saskatchewan’s certification requirements by 15 percentage points.

Table 3 – Quality

Program Initiative	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Funding Allocation (2021-22)	Funding Spent (2021-22)	Results (2021-22)
Support Quality for new Play and Explore supports	Funding provided for new centers and homes in 2021-22.		N/A	N/A	\$0.366M	Provided \$0.366M in one-time grants for the purchase of equipment and resources to enhance early learning environment and active play for 2,212 new spaces in homes and centres across 41 communities across the province.

Increased support for ECEs	<p>Per cent of current child care staff supported.</p> <p>Number of facilities that receive Workforce Enhancement Grant.</p> <p>Number of certified staff that receive additional support.</p>		<p>Develop a wage grid by 2022-23.</p> <p>Support certified staff in 2021-22 (Workforce Development Funding).</p> <p>Support an estimated 1,800 ECEs.</p>	<p>* Funded by the <i>Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning & Child Care Agreement Workforce Agreement</i> (Workforce Development Funding).</p>	<p>Provided one-time Wage Enhancement to 78% of the certified ECEs working in regulated child care centers.</p> <p>Workforce Enhancement Grant provided to 355 centres to support recruitment and retention of certified staff.</p> <p>More than 1,900 staff (78%) of certified staff received additional support through the Workforce Development Funding.</p>
Build a qualified workforce	<p>Per cent of child care centre staff positions that hold ECE certification.</p>	<p>On March 31, 2021, 70% of staff positions in child care centres had ECE credentials.</p>	<p>15%-point increase of staff working in regulated child care programs who fully meet certification/ educational requirements.</p> <p>Up to 500 ECEs with training support grant.</p>	<p>* Funded by the <i>Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning & Child Care Agreement Workforce Agreement</i> (Workforce Development Funding).</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2022, 69% of staff positions in child care centres had ECE credentials.</p> <p>In March 2022, 105 educators were supported in 153 courses.</p>
Continuous professional learning and skill enhancement	<p>Number of participants in professional learning and skills enhancement.</p>		<p>50% of child care staff participate in continuous professional learning and skills enhancement.</p>	<p>* Funded by the <i>Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning & Child Care Agreement Workforce Agreement</i> (Workforce Development Funding).</p>	<p>216 participants attended various programs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Collège Matthieu.</p> <p>Additional micro-credentials were developed in 2021-22 that will significantly increase the offerings in 2022-23.</p>

Inclusion

Child care should be responsive to the unique needs of all children and families taking into consideration culture, identity, language, and individual needs.

As detailed below, Saskatchewan will work with a range of partners to develop plans and options to ensure that vulnerable children from diverse populations will have equitable access to regulated child care that meets their unique needs.

To facilitate parental choice and relevant child care options, beginning in 2021-2022, Saskatchewan started to define a range of child care options that best meets the needs and interests of our diverse population. This range of options will continue in 2022-2023 and will inform the space development for vulnerable families such as newcomers to Canada, Black and racialized children, and official language minorities, to ensure that the choices are flexible yet responsive to families who may not be best served by traditional child care models in later years of the agreement. Saskatchewan will draw on the expertise of early childhood experts, families, and service providers to define the range of relevant models that meet unique needs.

In 2021-2022, Saskatchewan focused on supporting vulnerable children who are not currently engaged or who have minimal involvement to make smooth transitions to child care. This was accomplished through partnerships between early childhood development programs working with vulnerable families and child care to support children to transition to developmentally appropriate child care programs. This action focused on identifying children for transition, creating awareness amongst families about the importance and value of early learning and care, and helping families to navigate supports and services.

In 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will continue to engage with First Nations and Métis organizations to develop a plan for a coordinated system that reflects the needs and demands of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis peoples that is centred on children, grounded in culture, guided by leaders in Indigenous early learning and child care in the province. The resulting plan will guide the actions for access to affordable, high quality and culturally relevant early learning and child care in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

2021-2022 to 2022-2023 Action Plan Targets – Inclusion

- * The planned consultations and investments in the first two years of this agreement will inform the development of an inclusion plan and investments for the subsequent action plan for 2023-2024 to 2025-2026. These future investments will work toward the objective of ensuring that all vulnerable children and children from diverse populations – no matter where in the province they live – have access to regulated child care by the end of fiscal year 2025-2026. In aiming to provide spaces to all children that want spaces, it is anticipated that vulnerable children and children from diverse populations, including but not limited to children with disabilities, children living in low income; Indigenous children; Black and other racialized children; children of newcomers to Canada, and official language minorities, will have equitable access to regulated child care spaces, in proportion to their presence in the population.
- * Saskatchewan will establish baseline data to determine future need for space development for official language minorities.
- * In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will invest in engaging with First Nations and Métis organizations to develop a plan for a coordinated system that reflects the needs and demands of Saskatchewan's First

Nations and Métis peoples that is centered on children, grounded in culture, guided by leaders in Indigenous early learning and child care in the province.

- * Saskatchewan will invest \$1.95 million in the first two years of the agreement to support 300 vulnerable children to make smooth transitions to child care.
- * From 2021-2022 to 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will provide additional investments through the enhanced accessibility grant to support the full inclusion of children in the care program. 200 children will benefit from this grant.
- * In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, Saskatchewan will invest \$0.502 million to build capacity within the child care sector to fully engage children with disabilities in child care programs by leveraging the skills, tools, and existing relationships with early childhood development partners. This will facilitate program planning for ECEs working directly with children with disabilities. This will benefit approximately 200 children.

Table 4 – Inclusion

Program Initiative	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Funding Allocation (2021-22)	Funding Spent (2021-22)	Results (2021-22)
First Nations and Métis Engagement/ Consultation	Coordinated system plan is developed.		Consultation to develop a plan for a coordinated system.	\$0.400M	\$0	Two meetings were held in 2021-22 to discuss available opportunities.
Develop a range of flexible options for children with disabilities, newcomers, Black and other racialized and official minorities	Establish child care facilitator positions across the province. Establish Developmental Consultants to build capacity.		N/A	\$0.250M	\$0.456M	Funding provided to fund five Child Care Facilitator positions in Early Years Resource Centres in 5 communities (Prince Albert, Battlefords, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon). Supports provided to fund Developmental Consultants in Regina & Saskatoon to build capacity for regulated child care homes and centres.
Transitioning Vulnerable Children	300 vulnerable children will be supported by end on 2022-23.		150 children in 2021-22	\$0.975M	\$0.400M	Funding provided to sustainably embed staff with additional skills specific to caring for children under 6 with medically complex needs.
Children Experiencing Disability	200 children will benefit by end of 2022-23.		100 children in 2021-22	\$0.251M		Positions funded above in 2021-22.
Enhance Accessibility	200 children will benefit by end of 2022-23.		100 children in 2021-22	\$0.200M	\$0.310M	Enhanced Accessibility and Inclusion Grants are funded from Provincial Grants, Can-Sask Bilateral ELCC Agreement, and the <i>Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement</i> . In total, 487 children were supported in 2021-22. 46 children were supported under the <i>Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement</i> .

Consultation With Stakeholders

Ongoing engagement and communication with provincial organizations within the early learning and child care sector and stakeholders such as families and those employed in the sector is a priority for Saskatchewan. Engagement and feedback throughout are vital in helping to develop various initiatives in the early stages of the *Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement*.

Continued consultation and engagement is planned for 2022-2023 to gather information and feedback. This will be used to shape the foundational work and policies required to implement the transformational plan to build a Canada-wide, community-based system of high-quality early learning and child care.

Census

In Saskatchewan, the early learning and child care system is framed by Saskatchewan's comprehensive approach to early learning and child care, as described by Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide³, which is the foundational curriculum to guide quality practice and approaches in the sector. The guide lays out the principles of holistic, responsive, and developmentally appropriate early learning and child care programs. High quality programs focus on the healthy development of the whole child – social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual development. These programs engage children and their families through healthy, safe, culturally sensitive and stimulating programs that promote children's abilities and interests. Saskatchewan's vision is that all programs will reflect the vision, principles and quality elements described in the Play and Exploration curriculum, which has the flexibility to adapt to the needs of children and families they serve and the community context in which they operate.

This provincial early learning framework places good child outcomes at the centre of the work of educators, families, and communities. Saskatchewan recognizes its role in supporting good outcomes for young children and their families as part of the extended community in which children grow and learn. The child care sector in Saskatchewan is diverse and reflects the various needs and choices of families. In addition to child care centres, there are also numerous other arrangements in the province, such as family child care homes, private preschools, and before and after-school child care programs.

Other Additional Information

A Canada-wide child care system requires significant expansion of data and reporting to ensure a system that is accessible, affordable, inclusive and of high-quality for all families. The table below provides additional data that is currently available and data gaps that will be addressed in the future. The collection and reporting of data will help monitor progress, identify gaps in the system and inform policy development to support the Canada-wide child care vision.

³ Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide available at: [Publications Centre \(saskatchewan.ca\)](https://publications.saskatchewan.ca)

Other Canada-Wide ELCC Reporting Indicators

Canada-Wide ELCC Indicators

Principle	Outcome	Indicator	Results												
Affordability	Decrease the average daily child care fee.	Average daily parental out-of-pocket fee for regulated child care spaces at the end of each Fiscal Year.	<p>Average daily parental out-of-pocket fees were reduced by 50% by March 31, 2022, resulting in reimbursements to parents for full-time child care of approximately \$303 per month.</p> <p>Average fees on March 31, 2022:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Centres</th> <th>Homes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infant</td> <td>\$414</td> <td>\$434</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler</td> <td>\$351</td> <td>\$405</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>\$327</td> <td>\$371</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Centres	Homes	Infant	\$414	\$434	Toddler	\$351	\$405	Preschool	\$327	\$371
			Centres	Homes											
Infant	\$414	\$434													
Toddler	\$351	\$405													
Preschool	\$327	\$371													
Number of children under age six receiving fee subsidies, broken down by families receiving partial and full subsidies.	All parent fees paid to regulated child care providers were reduced, impacting an estimated 18,500 children.														
Access	Increase number of ELCC spaces available.	Total number of ELCC spaces available during the Fiscal Year - broken down by age groups of child and type of setting.	<p>Regulated space for 358 centres on March 31, 2022:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Centre Spaces by Age Group</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infant</td> <td>1,507</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler</td> <td>3,384</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>7,484</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flexible</td> <td>2,103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>14,478</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>On March 31, 2021, there were 2,403 active family child care home spaces. Of this number, it is estimated that 1,800 (75%) are allocated to children aged 0 to 6.</p>	Centre Spaces by Age Group		Infant	1,507	Toddler	3,384	Preschool	7,484	Flexible	2,103	Total	14,478
		Centre Spaces by Age Group													
Infant	1,507														
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Total	14,478														
Number of new spaces created during the Fiscal Year - broken down by age groups of child and type of setting.	In 2021-22, 1,803 new child care centre spaces were allocated and 409 child care home spaces to 41 urban and rural communities for a total of 2,212 regulated child care spaces towards the province's commitment to add 28,000 spaces.														

Canada-Wide ELCC Indicators

Principle	Outcome	Indicator	Results												
		Information about waiting lists to access regulated ELCC spaces.	Wait list information is not collected at this time.												
Quality	Increase quality early learning and child care.	Number and percentage of staff working in regulated child care programs in Saskatchewan who fully meet the province's certification/ educational requirements.	As of March 31, 2022, 2,763 (69%) of child care staff positions in regulated child care centres have Early Childhood Educator credentials (ECE Level I, II, or III).												
		Wages of the early childhood workforce according to the categories of certification, including any wage enhancements, top-ups and/or supplements.	<p>Average Hourly Wages for full-time positions:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>March 31, 2021</th> <th>March 31, 2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ECE I</td> <td>\$15.69</td> <td>\$16.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ECE II</td> <td>\$18.78</td> <td>\$20.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ECE III</td> <td>\$22.44</td> <td>\$24.77</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Wage enhancement grants provided in 2021-22 increased compensation for certified ECEs working in regulated child care centres of up to \$1.00, \$2.00, or \$3.00 per hour for ECE I, ECE II or ECE III, respectively.</p>		March 31, 2021	March 31, 2022	ECE I	\$15.69	\$16.68	ECE II	\$18.78	\$20.52	ECE III	\$22.44	\$24.77
			March 31, 2021	March 31, 2022											
		ECE I	\$15.69	\$16.68											
ECE II	\$18.78	\$20.52													
ECE III	\$22.44	\$24.77													
Annual public expenditure on training and professional development of the early childhood workforce.	Public expenditure on training and professional development was funded from provincial dollars and the <i>Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement Workforce Agreement</i> (Workforce Development Funding) in 2021-22.														
Average child-to-staff ratio among regulated child care service providers.	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Child-to-Staff Ratio</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infant</td> <td>3:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler</td> <td>5:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>10:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Age</td> <td>15:1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* As reflected in <i>The Child Care Regulations, 2015</i>.</p>	Child-to-Staff Ratio		Infant	3:1	Toddler	5:1	Preschool	10:1	School Age	15:1				
Child-to-Staff Ratio															
Infant	3:1														
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Canada-Wide ELCC Indicators

Principle	Outcome	Indicator	Results
Inclusivity	Increase number of inclusive spaces.	Number of inclusive spaces created/converted – broken down by age group of child and type of setting.	Inclusive spaces are funded from the provincial government, <i>Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning & Child Care Agreement Workforce Agreement</i> (Workforce Development Funding), and the <i>Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement</i> . In total, 487 children were supported in 2021-22.
		Number of children receiving the Enhanced Accessibility Grant.	46 children were supported with Enhanced Accessibility Grants under the <i>Can-SK CW-ELCC Agreement</i> in 2021-22.
		Number and proportion of centers/providers that provide flexible arrangements (i.e. non-traditional arrangements such as flexible/irregular hours, weekend and emergency services; and geographic distribution of spaces).	Data not currently available
		Number of children under age six and 6-12 years with disabilities and children needing enhanced or individual supports that are in regulated ELCC spaces.	Data not currently available
		Number or proportion of child care service providers who provide services that are adapted to the needs of children with disabilities and children needing enhanced or individual supports.	Data not currently available
		Number of Indigenous children under age six years in regulated ELCC spaces, distinction based (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) where possible.	Data not currently available
		Number of racialized children, including Black children under age six in regulated ELCC spaces.	Data not currently available