



CHILD CARE BY THE NUMBERS: BRITISH COLUMBIA

Child-care policies should be equitable for all families, regardless of the type of care they choose. Universal child-care systems fail to recognize the diverse care needs of BC parents and their reasons for the type of care they choose.

Type of child-care arrangement among children in non-parental child care, household population aged 0 to 5 years, BC

Type of child care arrangement	
Daycare centre, preschool, or childcare centre (CPE)	56.2
Care by a relative other than parent	34.8
Care by a non-relative in the child's home	8.5 E
Family child-care home	12.8
Before- or after-school program	7.6 E
Other child-care arrangement	2.9E

Of BC children under age six, about **42 percent** are in parental care only.¹

About **5 percent** of BC children under age six are in parental care because the parent could not find another option.¹

Source: Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0005-01: Type of Child Care Arrangement, Household Population Aged 0 to 5 years"
E: use with caution
Respondents selected all that applied, resulting in a sum that exceeds 100 percent

Top five reasons for using main child-care arrangement, household population aged 0 to 5 years, BC

Parent and/or guardian's reasons for using main child-care arrangement	
Location	53.9
Characteristics of the individual providing care	52.0
Hours of operation	45.5
Affordable Cost	39.3
Program characteristics	31.0

The majority of BC children under age six will receive no benefit from funds designated for centre-based spaces.

Of all BC children under age six (those in non-parental child care and those who are not), about **32 percent** are in centre-based care or preschool.²

Source: Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0006-01: Parent/Guardian Reasons for Using Main Child Care Arrangement, Household Population Aged 0 to 5 Years."
Respondents selected all main reasons from twelve options.

BC should take a neutral, evidence-based approach and respect the diversity of care that parents use.

1. Source: Statistics Canada, "Early Learning and Child Care for Children aged 0 to 5 years: A Provincial/Territorial Portrait," <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019013-eng.htm>.
2. Calculations based on Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0004-01 & Table 42-10-0005-01: Early Learning and Child Care for Children aged 0 to 5 years: A Provincial/Territorial Portrait," <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019013-eng.htm>.