



CHILD CARE BY THE NUMBERS: ONTARIO

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 Ontario 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, Ontario

Type of child care arrangement	Percentage
Daycare centre, preschool, or childcare centre (CPE)	45.6
Care by a relative other than parent	33.6
Care by a non-relative in the child's home	5.5 E
Family child-care home	15.3
Before- or after-school program	13.3
Other child-care arrangement	3.5 E

Of Ontario children under age six, about **46 percent** are in parental care only.¹

Less than **3 percent** of Ontario 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, Ontario

Parent and/or guardian's reasons for using main child-care arrangement	Percentage
Location	61.7
Characteristics of the individual providing care	51.6
Hours of operation	40.3
Affordable Cost	39.8
Program characteristics	35.0

Of Ontario parents who use non-parental child care, about **64 percent** report that they have no problem finding the care.¹

Of **all** Ontario children under age six (those in non-parental child care and those who are not), about **24 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.

Ontario 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>.