



# CHILD CARE BY THE NUMBERS: CANADA

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 Canadian 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, Canada**

Type of child care arrangement	Percentage
Daycare centre, preschool, or childcare centre (CPE)	51.9
Care by a relative other than parent	25.6
Care by a non-relative in the child's home	5
Family child-care home	20.4
Before- or after-school program	9.3
Other child-care arrangement	3.1

Of Canadian children under age six, about **40 percent** are in parental care only.<sup>1</sup>

Less than **3 percent** of Canadian children under age six are in parental care because the parent could not find another option.<sup>1</sup>

Source: Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0005-01: Type of Child Care Arrangement, Household Population Aged 0 to 5 Years."  
 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, Canada**

Parent and/or guardian's reasons for using main child-care arrangement	Percentage
Location	60.7
Characteristics of the individual providing care	52.5
Hours of operation	41.3
Affordable cost	40.1
Program characteristics	34.7

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

Of **all** Canadian 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

**Canada 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>.