

PF4.1: Typology of childcare and early education services

Definitions and methodology

Childcare and early-education services for children not yet of schooling age can be categorized in three broad groups.

Centre-based day-care: encompasses all childcare that is provided outside the home in licensed centres. The services provided can be full or part time and are most commonly referred to as nurseries, day care centres, crèches, playschools and parent-run groups. In general, these services are provided to children not yet 4 years of age provide care to children before commencing pre-school (please see country notes below for exceptions).

The type of childcare provision is mixed, depending upon the country. In many European countries provision is mainly public topped up by parental fees which are off-set by tax credits, child allowances and so on (please refer to indicator on cost of childcare). The ministry responsible for formal childcare and early education services for very young children (around age 2) is often the Ministry of Education, as for example, in Australia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, and Sweden), or the Ministry of Social Affairs, as, for example, in Denmark, Finland, France, and Japan. Private provision of early childcare is prominent in some countries e.g. Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, and the United States. Within the category of centre-based services a small proportion is group family childcare, mini-crèches and parental run childcare centres (see country notes for details). These have been developed by groups of parents (sometimes with informal beginnings) but have moved onto acquire accreditation and subsidies from the state.

Family day care (FDC) is traditionally provided in a home setting. This can be at the child-minder's home, or at the child's own home where a qualified or registered child minder looks after the child. The maximum number of very young children who can be cared for in this way is usually 3 or 4. This type of care is most common for children prior to pre-school i.e. those aged up to 3, and is sought either because the availability of places in crèche/nurseries is too limited or parents prefer a homely environment (particularly for very young children).

Pre-school early education programmes: this category includes centre-based (or often school-based) programmes designed to meet the needs of children preparing to enter primary (compulsory) education. In most countries, these programmes include at least a 50% educational content and are supervised by qualified staff. In some countries, these programmes are run on a full-time basis and offer out-of-school hours provision on the same premises (see forthcoming indicator on out-of-school-hours services). Some countries however have traditionally provided kindergarten programmes as part-time and are now looking to reform these programmes (see below for country notes). Others have effectively extended the primary school programmes by bringing in one or two years pre-school into primary schools, for example the 'Prep' year in Queensland, Australia, 'infant classes' in Ireland, group 1 (the first year in the former 'kleuterschool') in the Netherlands, the "Educacion infantil" in Spain, and 'Reception classes' in the UK.

Table PF4.1.A presents these three categories and also illustrates whether they are publicly or privately provided. The year of reference is between 2010 and 2016.

Other relevant indicators: Public spending on childcare and early education (PF3.1); and, Childcare support (PF3.4).
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Table PF4.1.A: Typology of Childcare

	Centre-based and/or family day care				Pre-school		Compulsory school	
Public*								
Private**								
Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Australia	Accredited centres and family day care available part-time (20hrs) or full-time (up to 50hrs)				Reception/ pre-school classes, with primary school (full-time, out-of-school-hours care also provided).		Compulsory schooling	
Austria	<i>Tagesmutter (FDC)</i> and <i>Krippen</i> (centre-based). Predominantly (95%) full-time (more than 30 hour per week); 66% more than 45 hours per week)			<i>Kindergarten</i> , Predominantly (95%) full-time (more than 30 hour per week); 52% more than 45 hours per week; compulsory attendance for 5-year-olds (18-20 hours per week).		Compulsory schooling		
Belgium	<i>Kinderdagverblijf</i> (centre-based crèches) and FDC; <i>Crèche</i> (centre-based) and <i>gardiennes encadrées</i> (FDC)			<i>Kleuterschool</i> , part-time or full-time, with out-of-school-hours care; <i>École maternelle</i> , part-time or full-time, with out-of-school-hours care (accessible on voluntary basis starting from age 2,5 (however on condition that the children are sufficiently hygienically developed)).		Compulsory schooling		
Canada	Centre-based and family day care				Junior Kindergarten Ontario	Kindergarten/Maternelles in Québec	Compulsory schooling	
Chile	Educación Parvularia (Sala Cuna)/ Pre-primary education (Centre-based care) part-time and full-time			Educación Parvularia (Nivel medio menor)/ Pre-primary education (Centre-based care) part-time and full-time				
Czech Rep.	"Care trades": provide family and household services (an occasional babysitting for children up to 3 years of age and individual care for children above 3 years of age. <i>Micro nurseries</i> available from the age of 6 months for over 30 hours a week; <i>Child groups</i> (available from the age of 1 year onwards), <i>Kindergartens</i> from the age of 1.			<i>Materska skola</i> (state kindergarten)		Compulsory schooling		
Denmark	<i>Dagpleje</i> (FDC) and <i>Vuggestuer</i> (creche) full-time (>32hrs)			<i>Børnehaver</i> (kindergarten) full-time (>32hrs)			Compulsory schooling	
	<i>Adlersintegrer</i> (age-integrated facility) full-time (>32hrs)				<i>Børne-haver</i> (>32hrs)			
Estonia	<i>Creche</i> up to 3 years of age (centre-based care) full-time basis			<i>Pre-school</i> up to 7 years of age (nursery schools) full-time bases			Compulsory schooling	
Finland	<i>Perhepäivähöito</i> (FDC) and <i>Paivakoti</i> (municipal early development centres), full-time (<50hrs)					<i>Esiopetus</i> pre-school	Compulsory schooling	
France	<i>Crèche</i> (centre-based care) and <i>Assistant maternelles</i> (FDC), FT Family home-based carers (private)			<i>Ecole maternelle</i> (pre-school)		Compulsory schooling		
Germany	<i>Krippen</i> (centre-based creche)			<i>Kindergarten</i> (pre-school)		Compulsory schooling		
	<i>Altersgemischte Kindertageseinrichtungen</i> (mixed-age ECEC settings) Family day care (mainly attended by 0 to 2 year-olds). Registered child minders are also publicly subsidised. More German children are enrolled in non-profit and for-profit government-dependent private settings (73%) than in public ones. (please cf. draft ECEC Both private (including: non-profit/gemeinnützig & for-profit/nichtgemeinnützig government-dependent ECEC settings) and public ECEC settings receive public subsidies.							

Table PF4.1.A: Typology of Childcare (continued)

	Centre-based and/or family day care			Pre-school		Compulsory school		
Public*								
Private**								
Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Greece	Vrefonipiaki stahmi (crèche for children <2.5) and nursery school for >2.5) - Centre-based care available full time						Compulsory schooling	
				Nipiagogeia (kindergarten)				
Hungary	Bölcsőde and családi napközi: Creches and family day care available part time or full-time from the age of 20 weeks of the child. Creches (mainly public) are opened 10-12 hours per day and the service is available also for 4 to 6 hours, or more. Family day care centres (mainly private) for occasional or regular care, including during holidays.			Óvoda (kindergarten), full-time basis. 10 % of the institutions are provided by private maintainers.		Compulsory schooling: Legally the obligation for school education is effective from the age of 6 . However, the actual school starting age is flexible depending on the school maturity of the individual child.		
Iceland	Day-care centres and “day mothers”(FDC)			Pre-school		Compulsory schooling		
Ireland	Regulated FDC and nurseries (centre-based)					Compulsory schooling		
				Pre-school playgroups (available from the second anniversary)				
Italy	Asili nidi (creches) part-time (20hrs) and full-time (<50hrs)			Scuola dell'infanzia (pre-school)		Compulsory schooling		
Japan	Nursery school (Private: Approx. 3/5) (Full-time)					Compulsory schooling		
	Nursery school (Public: Approx. 2/5) (Full-time)							
	Family day care			Kindergartens (Private: Approx. 2/3 and Public (1/3) (Part-time (20hours), out-of-school-hours care also provided)				
Korea	Childcare centres					Compulsory schooling		
				Kindergartens				
				Hakwon (pre-school)				
Latvia	Registered providers of child supervision services (full-time; mainly private) Centre based educational and developmental child-care centres (babies' schools) - developmental centres and developmental and playing rooms (part-time, private) Developmental centres (3 months/1 year - 5 years old children) (part-time/full-time; private).			Pre-school education institution or another education institution which implements a licensed pre-school education programme (full-time; mainly publicly provided)		Compulsory schooling		
Lithuania	Ikimokyklinis (pre-school), usually full-time (30 hours and more)					Priešmokyklinis (pre-primary), compulsory education, usually full-time (30 hours with 20 hours publicly funded)		Compulsory schooling

Table PF4.1.A: Typology of Childcare (continued)

	Centre-based and/or family day care				Pre-school		Compulsory school	
Public*								
Private**								
Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Luxembourg	<i>Crèche</i> (centre-based care) and <i>assistance parentale</i> (FDC) -				<i>Enseignement précoce</i> (pre-school) non-compulsory 3 to 4 and compulsory for ages 4 to 6)		Compulsory schooling	
Mexico	<i>Educación inicial</i> (centre-based creche)				<i>Compulsor y educación preescolar</i> (pre-school)		Compulsory schooling	
Netherlands	<i>Gastouderopvang</i> (FDC), <i>Kinderopvang</i> (child care centres) and Playgroups				Group 1, with primary school		Compulsory schooling (group 2 onwards)	
New Zealand	Part-time or full-time: Education & Care services; formal Home-based Services (FDC) Full-time: <i>Kōhanga Reo</i> Part-time: Playcentres						Compulsory schooling	
	Part-time: Te Kura (distance provision) and hospital-based centres (for children in hospital)							
	Community-based Kindergarten, Playcentres							
Norway	<i>Barnehage</i> , including rural <i>familiebarnhager</i> , full-time (40 hrs)						Compulsory schooling	
Poland	Crèches, Child minders, Nannies (full-time); Kids clubs (part-time)			Nurseries Pre-school/ Nursery schools				Compulsory schooling
Portugal	<i>Creche familiare</i> (FDC) and centre-based creches, full-time			<i>Jardins de infancia</i> (pre-school), full-time			Compulsory schooling	
Slovak Rep.	Nursery schools			Kindergarten			Compulsory schooling	
Spain	Educación Infantil. Primer ciclo (on a voluntary basis)			<i>Educación infantil. Segundo ciclo</i> (voluntary, universal and free)			Compulsory schooling	
Sweden	<i>Forskola</i> (pre-school) full-time, 30 hours, some <i>Familiedaghem</i> (FDC) particularly in rural areas.						<i>Forskoleklass</i> (pre-school, PT)	Compulsory schooling
Switzerland	Crèche. Family day care, Krippen, varies across cantons (centre-based)			Pre-school, mandatory (except in very few cantons for age 4 to 6).			Compulsory schooling	
Turkey	Crèche			<i>Ana Okullari</i> (kindergartens)			Compulsory schooling	
UK	Nurseries, child minders and playgroups			Playgroups and nurseries, PT:	Reception class, with primary school	Compulsory schooling		
US	Child care centres and FDC			Educational programmes, incl. pre-K, private kindergartens, Head Start (State Kindergartens)			Compulsory schooling	

*Provision is largely publicly funded and managed (more than 50% of enrolments are in publicly operated facilities).

** Provision is largely managed by private stakeholders (both for-profit and not-for-profit providers) and is publicly and privately financed.

Sources and further reading; *OECD Babies and Bosses* (various issues); *OECD Starting Strong* (2 issues and various country notes); and, *OECD Education database*.