

Child Care



Manitoba supports young children and their families. You can find good quality, licensed, play-based early learning and child care (ELCC) programs in different communities in Manitoba.

Types of Child Care

You can find licensed and unlicensed child care in Manitoba. Costs for both kinds of child care vary and different child care centres have different rules. Your child must attend some child care centres full-time. Other child care centres allow part-time and drop-in child care. Sometimes there are long waiting lists.

Licensed Child Care

The Community Child Care Standards Act makes sure all licensed child care facilities in Manitoba follow certain rules. The Act has regulations that define the types of child care that need licensing. It sets standards to guide child care centres in these areas: supervision, staff qualifications, space, equipment, health and safety, nutrition, programming and behaviour management. The government inspects licensed child care centres to make sure they meet health, safety and caregiver training standards. Licensed child care may be in a private home, a school, a community centre or a separate facility. Some licensed child care centres are private. Others are co-ops, where parents help with child care or other duties.

- Learn more about child care options: https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/families/guide_childcare/

Unlicensed Child Care

Some child care is not licensed by the government. People can provide private home child care without a licence. They can care for four children under the age of 12. Only two children can be under the age of two. These numbers include the caregiver's own children. If more than four children receive care, the home must become licensed as a family or group child care home. If they do not want to become licensed, they must reduce the number of children that receive care. The other choice is to close their child care centre.

Child Care Subsidies

The Child Care Subsidy Program helps with the cost of child care by reducing child care fees for children from the ages of 12 weeks to 12 years. If you cannot afford to pay for child care, you may be able to receive this help.

- More information at the Department of Families: https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/families/childcare_subsidies.html



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Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

The CCB helps parents or guardians with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age. It is a tax-free monthly payment from the federal government. Any person responsible for the primary care of a child can receive this benefit, but you must apply.

- More information at Service Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/canada-child-benefit-indigenous.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/canada-child-benefit.html>

Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba

The Early Learning and Child Care Program supports licensed early learning and child care in the province. Manitoba is committed to the well-being of children and their families by supporting quality, licensed, play-based early learning and child care (ELCC) programs for children from 12 weeks to 12 years of age.

- Learn more:

<http://www.manitoba.ca/fs/childcare/about/index.html>

Kindergarten

Most Kindergarten programs are half days from Monday to Friday. Some Kindergartens are full days, and others are every second day. You may need to find child care. Ask the school or school division office about the Kindergarten programs near you. Most Kindergarten programs include both a teacher and an early childhood educator.

- Information about Kindergarten:

https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/docs/newcomer_parent_kindergarten.pdf

Did You Know?

Many child care centres want caregivers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) diplomas. ECE is important because it teaches caregivers about the early development of learning skills in children. With help, children can become expert learners when they are young and do better in school when they are older.

Remember: There are two types of child care in Manitoba; licensed and unlicensed. You can choose what is best for your family.