

PF13: 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 "Education infantile in Spain", and 'Reception classes' in the UK.

Table PF13.1 presents these three categories and also illustrates whether they are publicly or privately provided

Other relevant indicators: Public spending on childcare and early education (PF9); and, Childcare support (PF11).

Table PF13.1: Typology of Childcare

	Centre-based care		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</i> (FDC) and <i>Krippen</i> (centre-based). Part-time (25hrs)		<i>Kindergarten</i> , (part-time, 25hrs). Out of school care provision under development.				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				Compulsory schooling		
Canada	Centre-based and family day care				Junior Kindergarten Ontario	Kindergarten/ Maternelles in Québec	Compulsory schooling		
Czech rep.	<i>Crèche</i> (centre-based care), FT		<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)				<i>Børne-haver</i> (>32hrs)	Compulsory schooling	
	<i>Adlersintegrer</i> (age-integrated facility) full-time (>32hrs)								
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		<i>Ecole maternelle</i> (pre-school)				Compulsory schooling		
Germany	<i>Krippen</i> (centre-based creche)		<i>Kindergarten</i> (pre-school)				Compulsory schooling		
Greece	<i>Vrefonipiaki stahmi</i> (crèche for children <2.5 and nursery school for >2.5)						Compulsory schooling		
					<i>Nipiagogeia</i> (kindergarten)				
Hungary	<i>Bölcsöde</i> (creches), full-time (40hrs)		<i>Ovoda</i> (kindergarten)				Compulsory schooling		
Iceland	Day-care centres and “day mothers”(FDC)		Pre-school				Compulsory schooling		
Ireland	Regulated FDC and nurseries (centre-based)		Early Start and Infant school (pre-school), with primary school				Compulsory schooling		
			Pre-school playgroups						
Italy	<i>Asili nidi</i> (creches) part-time (20hrs) and full-time (<50hrs)		<i>Scuola dell'infanzia</i> (pre-school)				Compulsory schooling		
Japan	Centre-based care						Compulsory schooling		
	Family day care		Kindergartens						
Korea	Childcare centres						Compulsory schooling		
			Kindergartens		<i>Hakwon</i> (pre-school)				
Luxembourg	<i>Crèche</i> (centre-based care) and <i>Tagesmutter</i> (FDC)		<i>Enseignement pre-scolaire</i> (pre-school)				Compulsory schooling		
Mexico	<i>Educación inicial</i> (centre-based creche)			<i>Compulsory 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	Child care centres and some home-based services (FDC)		Community-based Kindergarten, Playcentres				Compulsory schooling		

Table PF13.1: Typology of Childcare (continued)

	Centre-based care		Family day care		Pre-school		Compulsory school	
Public*								
Private**								
Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Norway	<i>Barnehage</i> , including rural familiebarnehager, full-time (40 hrs)						Compulsory schooling	
Poland	Nurseries		Pre-school/ Nursery schools				Compulsory schooling	
Portugal	<i>Creche familiare</i> (FDC) and centre-based creches		<i>Jardins de infancia</i> (pre-school)			Compulsory schooling		
Slovakia	Nursery schools		Kindergarten			Compulsory schooling		
Spain	Educación Pre-scolar (Centre-based)		Educación infantil (Pre-school), with primary school			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. Krippen, varies across cantons (centre-based)		Pre-school, mandatory in some cantons.			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*.