

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies at
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Table 1.22: Early Childhood Education and Care Policy Dimensions and Programs in Selected Countries

Country	Locus of Policy Making - National or Local	Admin. Auspice - Ed., Health, Welfare	Age Group Served	Eligibility Criteria - Universal, Poor, With special needs., Working parents	Funding strategies (Government, Employer, Parent fees, Combination)	Delivery strategies (Supply, Demand)	Locus of Care	Quality	Access/Coverage (%) ^(a)
Austria	State/local	Welfare	3 - 6	Working parents	State and local govt and parent fees.	Supply	Preschool	No national standards; Vary by state: Staff child ratios 3:20.	80%
			0 - 3				Centers	1.7:14 FDC Home, max 7 staff.	3%
Belgium	State	Education	2 1/2 - 6	Universal	Govt.-free to parents.	Supply	Preschool	1:19; 1.5:20-25.	97%
		Welfare (Center and FDC)	under 3	With working parents, With special needs, Poor	Multiple incl. govt, employer, parent fees, income-related.	Mixed		2.5:7 (incl. .5 nurse) in centers; 3-4 ch. max in FDC Homes.	30%
Canada	State	Education	5 - 6	Universal	Govt -free.	Mixed	Preschool	Set by province	50%
		Welfare	under 5	With special needs, Poor, Working parents	Mixed, largely parent fees		Centers and FDC Homes		45%
Denmark	National and local (primarily)	Education	5 - 7	Universal	Govt.	Supply	Preschool	Set locally. generally, 1:5.5, 3-6	
		Welfare	6 mos. - 6 years	Working parents	Govt (local) Parent fees income-related - max. 20-30% of costs.		Centers and FDC Homes (esp. for under 3s)	1:2.7, under 3	
Finland	National and local	Education	6	Universal	Nat'l and local govt	Mixed	Centers and FDC Homes (also for under 3s)	1:7, 3-7 year olds	3-6: 73% ^(d)
		Welfare	1 - 7	Universal - Priority for working parents	Parent fees income related @ 10% of costs.			1:4, under 3s FDC Homes, max 4 preschoolers	1-3: 48%

^(a) The age of entry and access/coverage need to be seen in the context of the duration of the maternity/parental leave.

^(d) All children under 7 with working parents, now guaranteed a place in subsidized care if they wish.

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France	National (primarily) and local	Education	2 - 6	Universal	Govt-free to parents.	Supply	Preschool	National health, safety, and staffing standards.	3-6: 99%
		Health/welfare	3 mos. - 3 years	Working parents, With special needs	Mixed local govt, family allowance funds, and parent fees income related, max 25% of costs.	Mixed	Preschool, centers and FDC Homes	1:10 2 year olds 1:27 others staff = teachers 1:8 toddlers; 1:5 infants 1:3 FDC	2-3: 35% 0-3: 29%
Germany	State	Education	3 - 6	Universal	State and local govt plus parent fees (income related, max 16-20% of costs).	Supply	Preschool	1:10-14	85% ^(c)
		Welfare	under 3	With special needs, Poor, Working parents			Center and FDC (largely)	1:5-7.5	5% (West German States) 50% (East German States)
Israel ¹	State/Voluntary	Welfare	0-3	Universal- priority for working parents	Combination	Demand + Supply +	Centers	No national standard	Age 2: 49.7% 3: 69.7% 4 5
	State/Local	Education	4-6	Universal	Parents and Government Subsidy	Supply	Preschool	National Supervision	
Italy	National	Education	3 - 6	Universal	Nat'l govt, free.	Supply	Preschool	3:25	95%
	Local	Health/welfare	under 3	Working parents	Local govt and parent fees, income related, average 12% of costs, max 20%.		Center	no national standards 1:3 under 3s is customary in most regions.	6%
New Zealand	National	Education	Under 5	Universal	National govt and parent fees.	Supply			

^(a) The age of entry and access/coverage need to be seen in the context of the duration of the maternity/parental leave.

^(c) Coverage in kindergarten for all children 3-6 is the goal.

¹ Source: Center for Research and Public Education at the National Council for the Child, Israel (2000).

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Spain	State/Local	Education	0-6	Universal (3-6)	Govt, free. Govt and parent fees, Income related; max 20% of costs.	Supply Modest tax Benefit for low Income parents For under 3's.	Preschool	National standards 1:25 3-6 year olds	3-6: 84%
			Under 3				Center	1:18 2-3 year olds 1:10 toddlers 1:7 infants 1/3 staff "trained"	0-3: 5%
Sweden	National and local (primarily)	Education	0 - 6	Universal, Working parents, With special needs	National and local govt. Parent fees, income related; about 13% of costs.	Supply	Center	No national standards; local government sets standards.	3-6: 79%
							Centers and FDC Homes	2: 3 1/2 children 3-6 1:3-5 children under 3 FDC: 1:4-8	1-3: 48% ^(a)
U.K.	National/local	Education	3 - 4	With special needs, poor	Govt, free	Supply and demand.	Preschool	2:26	3-4: 60%
		Welfare	0-4		Free or income related fees		Centers and FDC Homes	National standards 1:4 for 2-3s 1:3 for under 2s	
U.S.	National/local	Education	5	Universal	State and local govt.	Largely demand, also supply.	32 states require :4 ratios for infants. Half the states have 1:5 or lower ratios for toddlers	95% of 5 year olds @50% of 3-4 year olds in either preschool or center care 0-3: 26%	
		Education and welfare	0 - 4	With special needs, Poor, Welfare, Working parents	Federal/state/local govt. Parent fees cover @ 76% of costs.				

Source: Adapted from: Sheila B. Kamerman (2000). *Early childhood education and care: an overview of developments in the OECD countries*, International Journal of Educational Research, 33, pp 7-29. New York: Elsevier Science Ltd.

^(a) The age of entry and access/coverage need to be seen in the context of the duration of the maternity/parental leave.