

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

Table 1.23: Main institutional day care for children in 8 European countries

	Denmark	Sweden	Finland	Netherlands	England	France	Germany	Israel¹
Schemes	Vuggestue Bornehave Aldersintegreret	Daghem	Palvakoti	Kinderdagverbiljven	Day nursery	Creche Ecole maternelle	Krippe Kindergarten	Day Care Kindergarden
Scope of application	0-2 years (vuggestue) 2-7 years (bornehave) 0-7 years (aldersintegreret)	0-6 years	0-7 years	0-4 years	0-4 years	0-2 years creche 3-6 years ecole maternelle	0-3years (Krippe) 3-6 years (Kindergarten)	0-3 Day Care 4-6 Kinderga
Eligibility criteria	Age and eligibility of places	Parents in employment, education or children with special needs	Age and availability of places	Local authority (LA): parents in employment, single parents or social needs. Private: ability to pay and sometimes employee position	Local authority (LA) day nursery: children in need Private: ability to pay	0-2 years: by age and need 3-6 years: all children	0-2 years: need 3-6 years: all	All
Responsibility	Municipality	Municipality	Municipality	LA	LA	0-2 years: municipality 3-6 years: Ministry of Education	Municipality	0-3 Ministry Labor & Soci Affairs 4-6 Municipa
Assessment	Municipality	Municipality	Municipality	LA	-	-	-	-
Provision % of places	Municipality and independent institutions under contract	Municipal (88%), private (12%)	Municipal (94%), private (6%)	For and non-profit	LA (11%), Independent (89%)	0-2 years: voluntary nonprofit, municipality 3-5 years: municipality	1-2 years: Welfare Associations	0-3 80% publ 20% priv; 4-6 95% publ 5% priv;

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

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Opening hours	7 AM to 6 PM all year	6:30 AM to 6 PM all year	7 AM to 5 PM all year	7:00AM to 6:00 PM all year	LA: 7:30 AM to 6 PM all year	8:30 AM to 4:30 PM during term time. Wednesday afternoon closed	50% places in West, morning and afternoon places without care during lunchbreak	0-3 07:30-16:00 4-6 07:30-13:20
Average attendance hrs.	3-6 years, 7-8 hours per day	31.3 hours/week	4-10 hours per day	17.9 per week	60% attend full-time on weekdays	3-6 years: 26 hours/week	-	-
Coverage in FTE places	0-2 years: 17.5% 3-6 years: 64.5%	0-2 years: 31% 3-6 years: 54%	0-2 years: 10% 3-6 years: 38%	04 years: 6%	6%	3-6 years: 98%	0-2 years: 4.5% in West, 33% 3-5 years: 65% (1994)	-
Group size	0-2 years: 10 children 3-6 years: 15-20 children	16.9 children	30-50 children in the whole centre	LA: Group size: 9-10 children dependent on age	No more than 26 per group. Average size 19	3-6 years: 20-28	-	0-3 15-12 chi 4-6 25-32 chi
Staff Qualifications	0-2 years: 50% of staff trained (3.5 years of training) 3-6 years: 60% trained staff	Pre-school teachers (3 years of training), child care attendants (3 years). 98% of staff hold qualifications	Kindergarten teachers (university), nursery school teacher (3.5 years) and day care nurse (2.5 years)	95% have training or hold qualifications	LA: mainly nursery nurses (2 yers training) Independent: 50% are nursery nurses	0-2 years: nurse (4 years), assistant nurse (1 year work experience), pedagogue (2 years) 3-6 years: teacher (5 years), teacher assistant (1 work experience)	Social teachers (3-4 years), nursery school teachers (3-5 years) and nursery nurses (3 years).	0-3 none 4-6 teachers
Staff ratio (per child)	0-2 years: 2.60 3-6 years: 1:5.27	1:5.41	1:3.8	1:6.7, not including volunteers and trainees	LA: 1:4 children	Creche: 1:5 children who cannot yet walk 1:8 children otherwise Ecole maternelle: 1:27	No national standards, but regional. Average: 0-2 years: 5-7.5 3-6 years: 10-14 West, 18 East.	4-6 1:17

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	Denmark	Sweden	Finland	Netherlands	England	France	Germany	Israel
Financing	Municipality and client fees 0-2 years: clients 29% 3-6 years: 30%	State (2%), LA (85%), client (13%)	State (27%), LA (54%), client (20%)	Public (33%), employer (25%), clients (42%)	LA nurseries: LA 94%, clients (6%). Independent: clients (100%)	0-2 years Local insurance office, municipality and user fees. 3-6 years Ministry of Education	Municipality and Lander	0-3 User fees Government 4-6 Governm + municipalit
Formula of fees	Fees related to income for low-income parents, and number of children. Average monthly fee for 0-2 year olds DKK 2,075. 3-6 years: DKK 1,159	Based on income and number of children and hours of day care	Income-dependent, hours of attendance and number of children. Average monthly fee FIM 450.	Parental fees for 0-4 years from NLG 97 to 1,176 monthly depending on income	LA day nurseries: means-tested but often waived. Independent: £55-£160 per week. Average hourly cost is £1.30.	Creche: 28% of costs Ecole maternelle: free	16-20% of costs 0-2 years: 0-300DM 3-6 years: 0-240 DM	-
Tax relief	No	No	No	No	If day care arrangement is approved an income related Working Parent Families Tax Credit cover some child care costs.	No	No	No
Regulation	Social welfare board	National Agency for Education	Social board	Local Health services and local Fire department	Children Act Inspectors under the Social Services Dept or OFSTED, the inspection unit under the Dept of Education for the 4 year olds.	Local social centre	Local youth Welfare Centre	-

Source: Tina Rostgaard & T. Fridberg (1998). *Caring for Children and Older People: A Comparison of European Policies and Practices*, Social Security in Europe 6. Copenhagen: Danish National Institute of Social Research 98:20.