



*It starts
with kids*

CONNECTING HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN YORK REGION

A resource package for home child care providers

york.ca/homechildcare

June 2022

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1-877-464-9675
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York Region

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Child care in Ontario

The Regional Municipality of York (York Region) is the Service System Manager for the child care and early years system in York Region.

York Region is responsible for planning and managing the system of services for children ages 0 to 12 years, such as child and family programs and licensed child care services. This includes Child Care Fee Subsidy and funding for child care operators.

Families in Ontario have access to different kinds of child care options for their children: licensed child care centres, licensed home child care programs and unlicensed/informal child care.

LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES

These centres care for infants, toddlers, pre-school and school-aged children. Examples include nursery schools, full-day and extended hours care and before and after school programs. Centres operate in different locations such as workplaces, community centres, schools and places of worship.

Child care centres are licensed on an annual basis by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and are dispersed across York Region. As of , January 2021 there were 576 licensed child care centres across York Region. At least once a year, the Ministry of Education inspects child care centres to ensure they meet specific provincial health, safety and developmental standards.

LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE

This involves individual home caregivers caring for children in their own homes. Caregivers may care for infants, toddlers and pre-school aged children, and may include full-day and extended hours and before and after school care for children.

Individual home child care providers or caregivers are not licensed by the Ministry of Education, but are contracted by home child care agencies that are licensed by the Ministry. At least once per year, the Ministry of Education inspects licensed home child care agencies, and some home child care locations, to ensure they meet the [licensing standards](#).

UNLICENSED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed caregivers are not inspected by the Ministry of Education, and are not required to meet most provincial standards; however, there are limitations on the number of children that can be in an unlicensed home that is different than in a licensed home. The Ministry of Education does investigate all complaints from the public about child care providers who may be operating illegally.

Learn more about the types of child care available in Ontario at [ontario.ca/page/types-child-care](https://www.ontario.ca/page/types-child-care)

Licensed home child care in York Region

The Ministry of Education licenses home child care agencies that contract individual providers or caregivers who offer child care out of their own homes. Home child care agencies recruit, screen, approve and supervise caregivers who provide child care in their own homes for children from birth to age 13.

HOME VISITORS

Home visitors work for home child care agencies and they screen, approve and monitor licensed home child care providers. Home visitors are trained in early childhood education, child development and/or family studies. They have to check all homes to make sure they are safe for children before children are enrolled. They also check in routinely to make sure caregivers are following the provincial requirements and the agency's policies and procedures.

Home visitors help providers in a number of ways, such as:

- Planning activities for children at different stages of their development
- Giving advice about nutritious meal planning
- Helping choose toys and equipment that are safe and suitable for the children

LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE AGENCIES

As of January 2022, York Region works with **16 licensed home child care agencies** and currently 118 homes are actively offering licensed home child care services to families.

The licensed home child care agencies that work with York Region are included below. Please look at their websites and contact them to inquire about becoming a home child care provider.

1. **Better Than Home** (betterthanhomedaycare.ca)
Email: info@betterthanhomedaycare.ca / Telephone: 416-831-1217
2. **Circles in the Sun** (circlesinthesun.com)
Email: info@circlesinthesun.com, happycircleday@hotmail.com / Telephone: 416-694-0414
3. **Daycare Consulting Services Inc.** (daycareconsultingservices.ca)
Email: info@daycareconsultingservices.ca / Telephone: 416-494-5898
4. **Family Day Care Services** (familydaycare.com/hiring/be-a-home-child-care-caregiver/)
Email: mlmaher@familydaycare.com / Telephone: 416-922-9556 / 416-922-3434
5. **Hand-in-Hand Home Child Care Services Inc.**
Email: bhanee@hotmail.com / Telephone: 416-282-2790

6. **Happy Kids Family Daycare Agency** (happykidsfamily.ca)
Email: info@happykidsfamily.ca / Telephone: 416-804-6457
7. **Hopscotch Home Daycare Agency** (hopscotchdaycare.com)
Email: info@hopscotchdaycare.com / Telephone: 289-466-1111
8. **L'Agence Francophone de Garderie Familiale**
Email: hjaouich@yahoo.com / Telephone: 647-619-6443
9. **Learning Happens Child Care Inc.** (learninghappenschildcare.com)
Email: nadia@learninghappenschildcare.com / Telephone: 416-855-4242
10. **Magic Tree Childcare Inc** (magictreechildcare.com)
Email: mtreechildcare@gmail.com / Telephone: 416-358-8481
11. **Wee Watch – Quality Licensed Home Child Care** (weewatch.com) Telephone: 905-479-9671
 - a. Aurora Day Care Services Inc. (Aurora/King) (weewatch.com/provider/aurora/)
Email: sandra@weewatchvaughan.com / Telephone: 647-933-1153
 - b. Main Street Day Care Services Inc. (Newmarket) (weewatch.com/location/newmarket/)
Email: newmarket@weewatch.com / Telephone: 905-953-9902
 - c. Terrace Woods Day Care Services Inc. (Vaughan) (weewatch.com/provider/vaughan-2/)
Email: sandra@weewatchvaughan.com / Telephone: 647-933-1153
 - d. The York Region Day Care Hotline Inc. (Markham/Stouffville/Unionville)
(weewatch.com/location/unionville/)
Email: unionville@weewatch.com / Telephone: 905-479-9671
 - e. Trothen Circle Day Care Services Inc. (Richmond Hill/Thornhill)
(weewatch.com/location/markham/)
Email: markham@weewatch.com / Telephone: 905-479-9671
12. **York Professional Care and Education Inc.** (ypce.com/home-child-care)
Email: kelly@ypce.com, inquiries@ypce.com / Telephone: 905-841-1314 ext. 332
13. **Bright Minds Care Inc.** ([Bright Minds Care - Licensed Home Child Care Agency](http://BrightMindsCare-LicensedHomeChildCareAgency.com)
(brightmindcare.com)
Email: urvasi@brightmindcare.com / Telephone (647) 947-7791

Benefits of licensed home child care

There are countless benefits to providing home child care services in your home. Families enjoy great flexibility in their child care arrangements, the ability to place siblings together and the small group sizes of children among other benefits. Licensed home child care providers enjoy many financial, administrative and support benefits, thanks to their agencies, such as professional development opportunities, support and monitoring, funding and child care fee subsidies, among others.

These benefits allow licensed home child care providers to focus on what's most important: providing high-quality care to the children in their care, spending more time with their children and concentrating on building relationships with families. Agencies remove many burdens associated with running a business, allowing providers to prioritize the delivery of quality child care.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Licensed home child care providers can access funding from York Region through their home child care agencies, such as:
 - The Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCCG) to support wage increases of licensed home child care providers
 - General Operating Grant to support the costs of operating licensed child care programs to reduce wait times, stabilize or reduce service fees, strengthen service levels and access to high quality care
 - Licensed Home Child Care Base Funding to increase compensation for home child care providers
 - Special Purpose Funding to support the transformation and stabilization of the licensed home child care system through Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding, and Capacity Building and Professional Learning Funding

Licensed child care agencies may receive funding from York Region and distribute funding to their licensed home child care providers accordingly.

- Providers are not penalized with wage reductions for taking children receiving Child Care Fee Subsidy through York Region
- Providers receive the benefits of tax credits so parents can file their child care claims
- Agencies collect payment from parents so providers don't have to deal with the trouble of collecting late or delinquent payments
- Providers are guaranteed a paycheque from agencies on a consistent basis and may be covered for portions of payment periods for absences of sick children

ADMINISTRATIVE BENEFITS

- Licensed home child care agencies play an important part in supporting providers such as:
 - Sharing important reminders with providers to help reduce any missed administrative duties, such as maintaining daily logs and attendance sheets
 - Notifying providers about important policy changes or news from the Ministry of Education and amendments to the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA)

- Advertising available spots for providers and covering applicable marketing costs and planning
- Providing support for protocols and assisting with serious occurrences to help relieve stress during emergency situations
- Families are provided with agency reports after home visits in addition to their provider's monthly reports, which updates parents about their child's development. This allows providers and parents to plan towards the development of each child collaboratively
- Home vacancies are actively filled with children already registered with agencies so providers don't have to worry about filling any spaces in their homes

SUPPORT BENEFITS

- Licensed home child care providers enjoy many support benefits, such as:
 - Having the independence and freedom to run their own business from home
 - Using agency equipment and resources that are maintained and replaced under agency costs
 - Accessing resources from home visitors (agency area supervisors or Registered Early Childcare Educators (RECE)) during home visits such as information about Ontario's *How Does Learning Happen* Pedagogy, asking questions providers may have about their children or families
- Agencies provide support in numerous ways, including:
 - Maintaining open communication with providers through frequent newsletters
 - Encouraging ongoing educational and professional development opportunities with capacity building and networking workshops
 - Covering sick days/vacations so providers don't have to find cover for days off
 - Assisting with startup information for home businesses with agency manuals and training

ACCESSING YORK REGION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Licensed home child care providers can also provide equal opportunities to children of all abilities, thanks to York Region programs and services such as Child Care Fee Subsidy, Early Intervention Services - Inclusion Support Services program and professional development opportunities.

Child Care Fee Subsidy is a first-come-first-served program that reduces the amount of money families have to pay licensed child care providers to care for children under the age of 13. Families receiving fee subsidy can use licensed home child care for their children. Learn more at york.ca/childcaresubsidy

The **Inclusion Support Services** program supports children with special needs from birth to age 13 who attend licensed child care, including licensed home child care. Support provided includes child development screening, individual program plans for children, consultative program visits, recommending activities that teach children new skills and promote development, referrals to community agencies, transition to school support and more. Learn more at york.ca/specialneeds

Licensed home child care providers can also attend **training for early learning and child care professionals** to support ongoing learning and development. These trainings build capacity of providers to provide high-quality and inclusive child care early learning and family-centred programs and services.

Becoming a licensed home child care provider

If you are interested in becoming a licensed home child care provider, here are some steps to guide you the process.

1. RESEARCH AND CONTACT LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE AGENCIES

As of January 2022, York Region works with licensed home child care agencies that have providers in all nine local cities and towns. The current list is included on page three. Research the agencies thoroughly and identify those that you wish to work with. Check out their websites, send inquiry emails and call and ask questions about their screening and registration processes.

2. GATHER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY SCREENING

After researching and talking to the agency of your choice, gather the requirements you need to become a licensed home child care provider as per their screening processes. Some include:

- A police vulnerable sector check (this process may take seven to 10 business days)
- A current certificate in Standard Aid with Child and Infant CPR
- Child care liability insurance
- Automobile liability insurance
- Health assessments and immunizations recommended by a local medical officer of health for residents and private children in the home

Requirements and screening processes vary among agencies.

3. GET INFORMED ABOUT REGULATIONS, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND BUSINESS PLANNING AND FINANCING

The online links section provided at the end of this resource package includes websites filled with information about laws and regulations, health and safety and business planning and financing. This information will help you better prepare yourself as a home child care provider and what this entails.

4. BUILD YOUR TOOLKIT AND DELIVER QUALITY CHILD CARE

Now that you have completed your research, identified the licensed home child care agency that you want to work with and have submitted all the documents required for the screening process, you are ready to start your successful home child care business. It's time to build your toolkit and get prepared to deliver quality child care in your home.

York Region is here to support you in providing quality child care. York Region supports children, families, child care providers and the community in providing high-quality services so children have the best start in life and grow to become part of strong communities.

Visit york.ca/children to learn about children's services and programs that can help you deliver quality child care and help you create an accessible, high-quality and inclusive early learning environment. Some examples are included below.

Guides and resources

- A [Public Health Guide for Child Care Providers](#) with information on how to provide a safe and healthy environment for children in a child care setting
- The [Red Flags Guide](#), which is quick reference tool to assist early years and health care professionals in knowing when and where to refer children from birth to the age of six years for whom there are potential health, growth and development concerns
- [Nutrition resources](#) for child care settings such as:
 - Menu Planning and Supportive Nutrition Environments in Child Care Settings Practical Guide
 - Menu and Nutrition Environments Self-Assessment Tool for Child Care Settings
 - Paint Your Plate with Vegetables and Fruit - A Toolkit for Ontario Child Care Providers
 - Sample weekly menu planning forms including a four-week preschooler menu and a one-week menu planning form for before and after school programs
 - Online learning modules
 - Workshops for groups of child care providers (minimum of 10 participants) including nutrition for children in child care settings, paint your plate with vegetable and fruit workshop and menu planning for healthy meals and schools

Tools and newsletters

- Sign up for the [Connections](#) quarterly e-newsletter for child care and early years professionals, which is filled with helpful information about programs and services, funding opportunities, best practices in child care and much more
- Use the [Early Years Program Finder](#), an online map for parents and caregivers to search for licensed child care centres, family drop-in programs and EarlyON Child and Family Centres in York Region

Programs and services in the community

- [EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#), which offer free drop-in programs for caregivers and children from birth to six years of age in Ontario. EarlyON centres are welcoming places where you and your child can
 - Join fun activities – reading, storytelling, sing-alongs, games and more
 - Get advice from professionals trained in early childhood development
 - Find out about other family services in your community
 - Connect with other families and caregivers with young children
- Through [Early Intervention Services](#), children with special needs and their families and caregivers can access programs at home and in licensed child care settings, including licensed home child care

Frequently asked questions for providers

What experience do I need to become a licensed home child care provider?

Home child providers should have experience with children, such as taking care of family members, working with children or volunteering with children.

Who should I contact if I want to become a licenced home child care provider?

Contact your licensed home child care agency of choice and ask them about their screening processes and how to become a licensed provider. Agencies acquire and hold the licenses from the Ministry of Education for their licensed home child care providers.

How many children can a licensed home child care provider care for?

As of July 1, 2019, under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, a licensed home child care provider can care for a maximum of six (6) children under the age of 13. Providers must care for a maximum of only three (3) children under the age of two (2) (including their own children).

Does a provider have to count their own children?

Yes. Licensed home child care providers must count their own children under the age of four (4). As of July 1, 2019, providers no longer need to count their own children aged four (4) and older.

Can a home-based child care provider care for more children if another adult is present?

No. The maximum number of children applies regardless of the number of adults in the home.

What should I consider when preparing my home for a child care business?

Prospective licensed home child care providers should consider their hours of operation, how many children they wish to care for, safe indoor and outdoor spaces, equipment, early learning activities and supplies in order to provide high-quality licensed home child care.

How will I get paid?

Licensed home child care agencies collect fees from families and determine a payment schedule for providers once contracted. Agencies have their own payment schedules. Be sure to discuss any financial questions you may have with your agency.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Here are some helpful links with information about laws and regulations, health and safety and business plans and financing.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014: ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11

Child Care Licensing Resources: edu.gov.on.ca/earlyyears/licensing-resources.html

Home Child Care Licensing Manual (updated September 2019): edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/pdfs/child-care-licensing-manual-en.pdf

Ontario Ministry of Education: ontario.ca/page/ministry-education

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Canada's Food Guide: food-guide.canada.ca/en/

Canadian Immunization Guide: Part 3 Vaccination of specific populations (child care workers, workers in educational settings): canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html

Consumer product safety: canada.ca/en/services/health/product-safety.html

Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Settings Protocol, 2018: health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Immunization_Schools_Child_Care_Protocol_2018_en.pdf

Smoke-Free Ontario Act: ontario.ca/laws/statute/17s26

Vaccines for children at school: ontario.ca/page/vaccines-children-school

BUSINESS PLANNING AND FINANCING

Canada Revenue Agency: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html

Canada Small Business Financing Program: ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csbfp-pfpec.nsf/eng/Home

Starting a business: canada.ca/en/services/business/start.html

What Home Child Care Agencies and Providers Need to Know for Agency Affiliated and Privately Placed Children: edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/hcca_privately_placed_fact_sheet_en.pdf