

Early Years Programs Fact Sheet 2024

Child Care Fee Subsidy:

[Child Care Fee Subsidy](#) is available for families with children 0-12 years who are financially eligible, live in Waterloo Region, have an eligible reason for care, and are enrolled in an eligible program. For children ages 0-4, subsidy is available for those attending CWELCC child care programs, in addition to reduced fees through CWELCC. For children ages 4-12, subsidy is available for those attending licensed before and after school programs or summer camps that have a service agreement with the Region of Waterloo.

The following table shows the number of children receiving Child Care Fee Subsidy in December 2024:

| Infant | Toddler | Preschool | Kindergarten (4-5) | School Age (6-12) | Total (0-12) |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 148 | 409 | 853 | 456 | 971 | 2,837 |

In 2024, eligible reasons for families to receive Child Care Fee Subsidy included: working (62%), attending school (18%), a child with an identified social/special need (7%), or other reasons (13%). Nearly half of families (47%) receiving subsidy had a household net income of less than \$20,000 per year.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres:

[EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#) offer free, play-based programs for children from birth to 6 years old, as well as supports and resources to their parents and caring adults. As of December 2024, there were 7 permanent centre/school-based EarlyON sites and 12 other locations that provided services across the community.

| Children (0-6) | | Parent/Caregiver | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Participants | Total Visits | Participants | Total Visits |
| 11,607 | 76,889 | 10,863 | 66,201 |

Special Needs Resourcing:

The [Special Needs Resourcing \(SNR\) Collaborative](#) partners with child care programs to support all children to fully participate in licensed child care. Services are provided by resource consultants, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and behaviour therapists. Supports may be focused on the whole classroom and/or caregiver home, a small group of children, or one child to promote inclusion, including capacity building and training for staff, individual assessments and plans to support child development, transition supports for children moving from child care to kindergarten, information and support to families, and additional staffing for child care programs.

For more information about the tiered service model, please [visit the SNR website](#).

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|---|--|---|--|
| <p>1,697 total children (0-12) were served with individual (Tier 1) or targeted (Tier 2) special needs supports in 2024.</p> | <p>262 child care programs (centre-based and home-based) were supported by SNR in 2024.</p> | <p>55 full-time equivalent special needs resourcing staff were employed in 2024.</p> | <p>54,333 total hours of additional staffing support above ratio were provided in 2024.</p> |
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