

Newell Region

Childcare and Early Childhood Education Report



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Prepared by Grasslands Regional FCSS

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INTRODUCTION

Affordable, quality childcare is an important factor of a community's socio-economic health. The availability of affordable, quality childcare programs and services that meet the needs of parents and children is a key component of a family's ability to seek and keep work and to help ensure that a community provides optimum early childhood options for its children. Childcare is an integral part of a community's early childhood programs and services with early childhood development (ECD) education programs supporting young children's preparation for kindergarten. The Muttart Foundation¹ commissioned a series of research papers and community discussions on early childhood education. One of the research papers² discussed the importance of integrating childcare and early childhood education which traditionally have had very different mandates and are governed or licensed by different provincial ministries.

In Canada, research and ongoing discussions occur on the pros and cons of a national childcare policy, how best to support parents and provide quality, affordable early childhood education programs. Recently the Globe & Mail³ commissioned a series of articles that reviewed childcare policies and best practices throughout Canada and internationally. While there is no agreement on how to proceed nor on the merit of the various approaches that Provinces have taken, there is consensus on the challenges of escalating childcare costs, the lack of licensing criteria consistency and the potential dangers of unlicensed, unregulated childcare provision. There is also increased understanding of how quality, affordable childcare and early childhood development education programs support Canada's economic goals and reduce the cost of social and justice programs and services. Children's first years of development set the foundation for their success in school and future well-being. Children's development during these early years affects their learning, behaviour, and physical and emotional health throughout adulthood.

The childcare needs within the Newell Region (includes the City of Brooks) are not unique. Like other communities in Alberta, some of the main employers (JBS Foods Canada, Oil and Gas Industry, Service Sector) provide employment which is often non-traditional working hours (such as evening/night shifts, extended hours up to 12 hours per day, weekend rotations and/or

¹ www.muttart.org

² Integrating Childcare and Early Education: A central Theme in Early Learning and Care, October 2012

³ The articles can be found at http://www.nacy.ca/globe-mail-series-child-care-canada?utm_source=G%26M+series+on+Child+Care+in+Canada&utm_campaign=G%26M+series+on+child+care+O ct2013&utm_medium=email

weeks away). The rural areas have unique childcare needs as farming/ranching does not easily allow for traditional childcare programs. Many families in the Newell Region have one parent working away for weeks or months at a time in the Oil and Gas Industry. There are several early childhood development education programs which provide a variety of programs for children ages zero to six years. Some programs appear to be underutilized despite a population with many children, begging the question of how to encourage parents to access these valuable ECD programs.

Within the Newell Region, The City of Brooks, in particular, is home to recently arrived immigrants and Temporary Foreign Workers who work at JBS Foods. As they settle into a new community and maintain employment, workers may face conflicting needs as they seek to provide the best care for their children. Canadian legal and socially accepted childcare practices and early childhood education may be different than beliefs and practices regarding raising children in the newcomer's home country. Childcare has been identified by key informants as an ongoing issue as families struggle to meet their financial obligations both in Canada and to families left "back home", in refugee camps or other challenging situations.

The Newell Region Childcare and Early Childhood Education Report includes background information, a summary of the existing childcare services and early childhood education programs in the Newell Region, key informant responses regarding the challenges faced by service providers and parents and an analysis of gaps and needs relevant to childcare in our region. The report focuses on childcare assets and challenges to complement the Early Childhood Education Mapping Coalition and its work on mapping Early Childhood Education programs.

METHODOLOGY

The research conducted used an exploratory approach to gather qualitative and statistical information on childcare and early childhood education programs in the Newell Region. The report writer met with early childhood education providers, researched the availability of programs, looked at existing municipal and provincial legislation and used Federal Census and National Household Survey data to explore the extend of needs and gaps in the community.

DEFINITIONS

Childcare⁴:

The temporary care and supervision of a child by an individual other than the child's parent or guardian, but does not include residential care;

Early Childhood Education⁵:

Education or development programs for young children. It usually includes children aged 5 years old in Kindergarten.

Age Definitions:

Infants –children under 19 months of age.

Toddlers – children between the age of 19 months and three years of age.

Preschool children – children who are between three and four and a half years of age.

School aged children – children in grades one to six.

Childcare Programs Definitions:

Childcare Program: a licensed program provided to infants, preschool children, and kindergarten children for four or more consecutive hours in each day the program is provided. According to the Childcare Licensing Act⁶ a “childcare program” means a program with the primary purpose of providing childcare to 7 or more children, but does not include the following:

- i. An education program provided under the School Act;
- ii. A day camp, vacation camp or other recreational program that operates for less than 12 consecutive weeks;
- iii. Supervision of children at a recreational facility, retail centre or other commercial establishment where the parents of the children remain on the premises and are readily available;

⁴ Childcare Licensing Act 2007 Chapter C-10.5 Province of Alberta

⁵ Integrating Childcare and Early Education: A central Theme in Early Learning and Care, October 2012, p4

⁶ Childcare Licensing Act 2007 Chapter C-10.5 Province of Alberta

Family Day Home Program: a program where a local Child and Family Services Authority has entered into an agreement with a family day home agency to coordinate and monitor the provision of childcare in the private residence of one or more childcare providers. Family day home programs do not provide care for more than six children in each private residence.

Group Family Childcare Program: a licensed program provided in the private residence of the license holder to infants, preschool children, kindergarten children and school-aged children.

Out of School Care Program: a licensed program provided to kindergarten and school-aged children in any or all of the following periods: before-and-after school, during the lunch hour, or outside regular school hours of operation. This may include before and after school, school vacations and professional development days.

Preschool Program: a licensed program provided to preschool children and kindergarten children for four hours per child in each day that the program is provided.

Subsidy Program Definition:

The Province of Alberta provides a subsidy to qualifying parents based on criteria established by the provincial government and designed for parents whose children attend an early childhood education program. The Ministry of Human Services provides financial assistance to eligible lower-income families using:

- Licensed day care centres
- Licensed group family childcare
- Approved family day homes
- Licensed out-of-school care centres
- Licensed preschools and
- Approved early childhood development programs.

The Programs that do not qualify for government subsidy include childcare programs and activities where parents remain on-site (e.g., bingo halls, exercise facilities, etc.) and services that currently provide cost-free programs (e.g., Parent Link Centres).

The maximum subsidy rates vary by program type and the age of child attending childcare. Eligibility criteria include:

- Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status of Canada
- Alberta resident
- Children are 12 years of age or younger and are not yet attending Grade 7.
- Primary Caregiver is currently working, attending school, looking for work or has special needs

- Stay-at-home parent who child (ren) is enrolled in a licensed preschool or approved early childhood development program.

Kin Childcare Funding Program: If relatives care for children, funding of up to \$400 per month is available to eligible low and middle-income families with children under the age of seven and not yet attending Grade 1, and \$200 for school-age children (Grades 1-6).

Extended Hours Childcare Subsidy: Parents who work or attend classes during evenings or weekends may access extended hours subsidy up to \$100 per month per child. Families must provide proof of extended working or school hours (outside of the time of Monday to Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Stay-at-Home Parents Support: Eligible families who have one parent who stays at home or works, volunteers or attends school less than 20 hours per week may qualify for a subsidy of up to \$1,200 per year for each preschool-aged child who attends a licensed preschool or an approved early childhood development program.

Early Childhood Development Programs Definitions:

Approved Early Childhood Development Programs:

These are community-based services that provide opportunities for preschool children to participate in activities that promote healthy child development including:

- Programs that promote parent and child literacy
- Play-based early childhood programs (e.g., Moms and Tots programs)
- Educational programs that help parents meet their child's learning and developmental needs (e.g., Positive Parenting, Nobody's Perfect); community-based recreational programs (e.g., Swim and Learn, Baby Steps)
- Licensed preschools.

Non-approved Programs:

These include programs such as the ones run by faith groups for mothers and their toddlers or the early childhood education programs for children with special needs offered by school districts.

CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN ALBERTA

BACKGROUND:

Childcare Services:

Child and Youth Services, under the Human Services Ministry set the standards for licensed childcares, preschools and out-of-school care programs. These standards safeguard the health and well-being of the children these facilities service.

A **licence** is required under the Childcare Licensing Act⁷ to operate a childcare program that provides care for seven or more children except:

- An education program provided under the School Act;
- A day camp, vacation camp or other recreational program that operates for less than 12 consecutive weeks;
- Supervision of children at a recreational facility, retail centre or other commercial establishment where the parents of the children remain on the premises and are available; or
- Private babysitting in a private home for six children or less. The caregiver's own children are not included in the maximum capacity regulation
- Approved family day homes are not required to be licensed as they are monitored by the family day home agency.

The Childcare Licensing Regulation⁸ sets out the minimum standards that must be met in a licensed childcare program to ensure the health, safety and developmental needs of children. The Child and Family Service Authorities (CFSA) licence, monitor and issue enforcement actions.

There is a difference between 'licensing' and 'accreditation' – by definition, each performs different functions. "Licensing' provides a legislated 'floor' below which childcare or out-of-school care programs are not permitted to operate. It typically includes factors such as space, range of equipment, number and ages of children, staff/provider-child ratios and training requirements for staff/providers. "Accreditation" builds on this legislated "floor" to look at factors that determine quality. The emphasis is on staff/provider practices and actual

⁷ Childcare Licensing Act 2007 Chapter C-10.5 Province of Alberta

⁸ http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=2008_143.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779735570

outcomes for children and families. It shifts the focus from meeting minimum standards to continuously striving towards providing optimum levels of care⁹

The purpose of accreditation is to promote and recognize standards of excellence in Early Learning and Care Services through research, education and evaluation. The Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services¹⁰ offers on behalf of the Alberta Government, the first province-wide accreditation program for early learning and care services in Canada. Preschools are not accredited at the moment.

Accreditation is a self-assessment process for early learning and care programs in Alberta. This self-assessment process is designed to help parents, staff and owner/operators to recognize the level of quality in their program and to continuously improve and promote quality care. By going through this rigorous accreditation process childcare programs are committing to raising the standard of care children receive in Alberta.

Licensing of preschool programs is optional within school settings. While some school boards have chosen to license their preschool programs. Grasslands Public School Division and Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Boards have not identified a need to license their Early Childhood Education programs (PUF and EELL) which are part of the Early Childhood Services funded by the Province.

Early Childhood Services

Early Childhood Services (ECS) includes options for educational programming for children as young as 2½ years old. The School Act¹¹ states that a board or an approved school authority may provide an ECS program to a child who is younger than 6 years of age as of September 1 each year. Under Alberta Education Early Childhood Services Policy 1.1.3¹² children identified with disabilities/delays are eligible for up to three years of ECS programming, depending on age, severity of the disability/delay and its impact on the child's ability to function within an ECS environment. Kindergarten programs are included by the Province as part of its Early Childhood Services (ECS).

Program Unit Funding (PUF) which is in addition to Base Instruction Funding is available to approved ECS operators for young children from 2½ to age 6. These children have been

⁹ <http://www.aelcs.ca/>

¹⁰ <http://www.aelcs.ca/>

¹¹ Province of Alberta School Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter S-3 May 27, 2013

¹² <http://www.education.alberta.ca/parents/ecs.aspx>

assessed with a severe disability/delay. Children who meet the coding criteria must be at least 3½ years and less than 6 years of age on September 1 of each year.

Kindergarten is a program that not only helps prepare children for entry into Grade 1, but also provides a foundation for later success. The purpose of Kindergarten is to provide learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate in order to meet the diverse needs of children and promote a positive attitude toward lifelong learning. A child whose developmental needs have been met is more likely to grow into a self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing member of society. Funding is provided for the child to attend Kindergarten for 475 hours in one curriculum year.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Parent LINK Centres – in addition to the Early Childhood Services offered by Alberta Education, Human Service Ministry’s Child and Youth Services supports forty-six (46) parent link centres across the province that are specifically designed to support parents and their children up to the age of 6 years. At a Parent LINK Centre in their community, parents can access information about community services, obtain referrals, meet other parents and families, and take part in quality learning activities with their children.

Early Childhood Development Mapping Project

The provincial government has identified early childhood development as a priority and has initiated a series of public conversations on early childhood development called *Together We Raise Tomorrow*¹³. The province is supporting the ECDMAP (Early Childhood Mapping) Project to ensure that young children in Alberta have access to quality early childhood development programs. The Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Initiative, led by Alberta Education, and also involving the Ministries of Health and Wellness, and Human Services, is a five-year research and community development activity that includes implementation of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) in kindergarten classes across the province. The purpose of the ECD initiative is to help Albertans to better evaluate the development of young children and to work together to support their healthy development.

¹³ www.earlychildhood.alberta.ca

In the Newell Region, the ECMAP (Early Childhood Development Mapping Initiative)¹⁴ Coalition has the potential to bring together early childhood education service providers, community members and parents to research, plan and advocate for early childhood education programs that meet the needs of all children and their parents.

¹⁴ www.brooksnewellecd.ca

The Provincial ECD Mapping Initiative gathers data on child development from three sources:

- gauging the ‘readiness to learn’ of 5-year old children as measured by the Early Development Instrument (EDI)
- collecting information on the socio-economic factors that influence children’s development, and
- taking inventory of the local services, programs and facilities for families with young children in each community across the province

The data is ‘plotted’ on maps for every community in the province. This type of information can help to reveal things such as: where children and families live; the differences across communities in child development; and where strengths and gaps exist in programming, facilities and services. Communities can then use this information to work together to meet the needs of their young children and families.

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is an early child development questionnaire developed by Dr. Dan Offord and Dr. Magdalena Janus at the Oxford Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University¹⁵The questionnaire has 104 questions and measures five core areas of early child development that are known to be good predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes. The questionnaire, completed by kindergarten teachers, collects information on children’s development in five areas:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communication skills and general knowledge.

The EDI Instrument is administered to children only after teachers get to know their students (normally in February) to ensure teachers are able to answer the questions knowledgeably. Although Kindergarten teachers complete an EDI questionnaire for each of their students, the results are not used to evaluate individual children; results from the EDI are designed to be interpreted at the group level. It is a population measure, similar to a census, rather than measuring each individual child. The EDI instrument was administered throughout the Newell Region, including the City of Brooks, to students in all kindergarten classes.

¹⁵ <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi/>

The Brooks & County of Newell ECD Coalition¹⁶ is the local coalition that is using the EDI results to improve early learning results in children. The findings for Brooks & County of Newell can be found in Appendix A.

Results of the Early Childhood Instrument indicate that in Brooks - Newell County, 30.19 percent of kindergarten children are experiencing great difficulty in one or more areas of development as compared to 26.85 per cent of kindergarten children in Alberta and 25.40 per cent in Canada. Although the majority of children in Brooks - Newell County are developing appropriately, a large percentage are experiencing difficulty or great difficulty, particularly in the developmental areas of communication skills and general knowledge (37.55 per cent) and language and thinking skills (27.55 per cent)¹⁷.

PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Human Services is currently sponsoring Grant MacEwan University and Mount Royal University as community partners to develop a “made in Alberta” curriculum framework for childcare educators working in centre- based childcare and family day home settings with children 0-5 years of age. The curriculum framework is based on a holistic view of children and will build common language across diverse delivery settings around the importance of play in early learning, emergent program planning and responsive care. It is hoped that the project will be ready for implementation by March 2014.

Of interest to the Brooks early childhood education community is a unique, two-year Immigrant Childcare Staff Preparation Project recently implemented at Edmonton’s Intercultural Daycare Centre. The 23 High School students participating in the project attend class for 3 hours each week, complete assignments with children in their playroom, and work with a volunteer English language mentor. At the end of the two years, students will be able to apply for PLAR credit (Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition) for up to four Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) courses in participating Alberta post-secondary programs.

Knowledge gained from the project will help inform training models for immigrant childcare educators that are culturally sensitive, provide core areas of knowledge and skill and include English as a Second Language component.

¹⁶ ecdbrooks@gmail.com

¹⁷ www.brooksnewellecd.ca

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION

The socio-economic data used is provided by the 2011 Federal Census¹⁸ and 2011 National Household Survey (NHS)¹⁹ for the Brooks Census Agglomeration (Brooks CA). The Brooks Census Agglomeration area includes Bassano (Town), Brooks (City), Duchess (Village), Newell County (Municipal district), Rosemary (Village) and Tilley (Village). Some information is also available for the City of Brooks individually and this will be noted where relevant.

There are twenty-three thousand, four hundred and thirty (23,430) persons living in the Brooks Census Agglomeration which includes thirteen thousand six hundred and seventy-six (13,676) residents in the City of Brooks. 21.9% of the population in the Brooks CA are fourteen (14) years or younger. There are two thousand one hundred seventy-five (2,175) children ages six years or younger. The number of children zero to four (0-4) years is one thousand nine hundred (1,900) or 8.11% of the population in the Brooks CA - of this number, one thousand ninety-five children (1,195), live within the City of Brooks.

Alberta Health Services data reports the number of births for Brooks and the County of Newell in 2012 as four hundred and sixty-seven (467).

According to the 2011 Federal Census there are six hundred and ten (610) lone parent families or 14% of total families. Three-quarters of the 610 lone parent families are headed by a female parent. Within the family composition, approximately one thousand two hundred and fifty (1,250) of the children in Brooks CA live in lone parent families or 17.2%.

35.1% of families (married and common-law) have one child, 40.3% have two children and 23.9% have three or more children.

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, three thousand and twenty (3,420) or 15.2% of the population of the Brooks CA were foreign-born (immigrants), eighteen thousand five hundred and seventy-five (18,575) or 82.4% were Canadian-born and five hundred and fifty-five (555) or 2.5% were non-permanent residents (Temporary Foreign Workers, visitors, students). In comparison, the proportion of the population in Alberta who were immigrants was 18.1%, 80.3% were born in Canada and 1.7% were non-permanent residents.

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. 2013. Brooks, CA, Alberta (Code 806) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Released September 11, 2013. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. 2013. Brooks, CA, Alberta (Code 806) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Released September 11, 2013. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Of the 3,420 immigrants living in the Brooks CA in 2011, one thousand and twenty-five (1,525) arrived in Canada between 2006 and 2011. These recent immigrants made up 44.6% of the immigrant population in the region.

The most common countries of birth for immigrants living in the City of Brooks were the Philippines (14.5%) and Mexico (8.9%).

According to the 2011 Federal Census, among Brooks CA immigrant population, 54.2% spoke English and/or French most often at home with the three most frequently reported non-official languages spoken most often at home by immigrants in Brooks were Tagalog, German and Spanish. The 2011 NHS estimated that three thousand sixty hundred and seventy-five (3,675) individuals in the Brooks CA belonged to a visible minority group, accounting for 16.3% of its total population. In comparison, visible minorities comprised 18.4% of Alberta's population. The largest visible minority groups living in Brooks CA were Black and Filipino. In Alberta, the largest visible minority groups were South Asian and Chinese.

The median after-tax income of economic families in Brooks CA in 2010 was \$73,844, the median for couple families was \$78,169 and for lone-parent families, \$40,161. For persons not in economic families (persons living alone or with non-relatives only), the median after-tax income was \$34,900. These compare to the medians in Alberta of \$80,271 for after-tax family income of all economic families, \$85,786 for couple families, \$49,270 for lone-parent families and \$32,451 for persons living alone or without relatives.

In Brooks CA, based on their after-tax income adjusted for family size, 55.5% of the population was in the top half of the income distribution, below the rate of 60.1% in Alberta. In Brooks CA, the percentage of the population in the lowest income decile group at 7.5% was similar to that in Alberta (8.4%). The percentage of the population in the highest decile group was 8.8%, lower than in Alberta (17.1%).

Based on the after-tax income low-income measure, the proportion of the population in low income in Brooks CA was 10.7%, identical to the rate of 10.7% observed in Alberta. In Brooks CA, compared to the population of all ages, for persons under 18 years, the rate was higher (14.6%) which is the same as in Alberta.

Brooks (Census agglomeration) includes Bassano (Town), Brooks (City), Duchess (Village), Newell County (Municipal district), Rosemary (Village) and Tilley (Village)²⁰

Age characteristics	Percentage	Total	Male	Female
Total population by age groups		23,430	12,145	11,285
0 to 4 years	8.11%	1,900	950	950
5 to 9 years	6.82%	1,610	800	805
10 to 14 years	6.98%	1,635	820	815
15 to 19 years	6.64%	1,555	815	740
Median age of the population		34.9	35.2	34.5
% of the population aged 15 and over	78%		78.8%	77.2%
% of the population age 14 and under	22%			

Family Composition	Percentage	Number
Total couple families by family structure and number of children		5,580
Married couples	84.32%	4,705
Without children at home		2,185
With children at home		2,520
1 child		840
2 children		1,030
3 or more children		645
Common-law couples	15.69%	875
Without children at home		440
With children at home		435
1 child		215
2 children		160
3 or more children		60
Total lone-parent families	14.16%	790
Female parent	75.32%	595
1 child		330
2 children		195
3 or more children		75

²⁰ The data is gathered from the 2011 Federal Census and National Household Survey. The data is subject to the rounding and suppression rules of Statistics Canada. It should also be noted that due to the changes brought to the 2011 Census in making the long form census no longer mandatory and its replacement with volunteer compliance in filling out the National Household Survey, some of the data is no longer available.

Male parent	20.25%	190
1 child		125
2 children		40
3 or more children		25
Total children in census families in private households		7,140
Under six years of age		2,175
Average number of children at home per census family		1.1

	Percentage	Total
Detailed mother tongue		23,140
Single responses		22,810
English		17,785
French		275
Non-official languages		4,760
Selected Aboriginal languages		5
Selected non-Aboriginal languages	20.4%	4,710

Mother Tongue by Number of Speakers	Rank	Number
German	1	1,475
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	2	555
Spanish	3	330
Arabic	4	265
Chinese, n.o.s.	5	235
Oromo	6	220
African languages, n.i.e.	7	185
Somali	8	145
Dutch	9	140
Khmer (Cambodian)	19	105
Amharic	11	85
Panjabi (Punjabi)	12	75
Urdu	12	75

Labour	Total	Male	Female
Participation rate	76.2%	85%	66.4%
Employment rate	72.1%	79.8%	63.3%

Unemployment rate	5.5%	6%	4.7%
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Low Income	% of residents
Prevalence of low income in 2010 based on after-tax low-income measure (%)	10.7%
Less than 18 years (%)	14.6%
Less than 6 years (%)	14.5%

Shelter costs	Number
Total number of owner and tenant households with household total income greater than zero, in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings by shelter-cost-to-income ratio	7,895
Spending less than 30% of household total income on shelter costs	6,280
Spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs	1,620
% of owner households with a mortgage	65.3%
% of owner households spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs	17.4%
Median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings	\$1,038
Average monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings	\$1,129
Median value of dwellings (\$)	\$230,003
Average value of dwellings (\$)	\$258,989
Number of tenant households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings	1,770
% of tenant households in subsidized housing	15.8%
% of tenant households spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs	31.4%
Median monthly shelter costs for rented dwellings	\$895
Average monthly shelter costs for rented dwellings	\$907

Income	Number
Median family income (\$)	\$84,328
Average family income	\$94,494
Median after-tax family income	\$73,844
Average after-tax family income	\$79,898
Average family size	3.1
Couple-with-children economic families	3,060
Median family income	\$102,922
Average family income	\$105,074
Median after-tax family income	\$87,830
Average after-tax family income	\$88,585
Average family size	4
Lone-parent economic families	610
Median family income	\$41,840
Average family income	\$46,946
Median after-tax family income	\$40,161
Average after-tax family income	\$42,749
Average family size	2.6

Birth rate (Alberta Health Services Community Health Services)

Year	Number
2008	432
2009	447
2010	425
2011	392
2012	467
2013 (to date ²¹)	349

²¹ October 2013

CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE NEWELL REGION

LICENSED PROGRAMS

Licensed Day Care Centers:

There are two licensed Day Care Centers in the Newell region, both located within the City of Brooks. The Newell Integrated Childcare Society (NICS) has operated in the community for many years and currently is licensed for fifty four (54) children) ages thirteen (13) months to 6 years. This childcare operates as a not-for-profit society and was developed to be inclusive for children with special needs. However, according to NICCS staff, there have not been children with special needs attending the childcare center for a number of years. The Little Ducklings Day Care Limited is a private business opened in January, 2010 and provides childcare to children ages nineteen (19) months to six (6) years. It is licensed for forty-five (45) children. This childcare is located within a seniors assisted- living complex and has built intergenerational programming into their activities.

Both daycare centers have waiting lists for children of all age levels. They also both offer KinderCare for children attending kindergarten.

There are currently two initiatives that potentially might increase childcare spaces in the region:

- There have been discussions between the Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College and a daycare provider as to the feasibility of developing a childcare center at the Brooks Campus.
- The Bassano Playgroup Society has had serious discussions on the creation of a daycare center in conjunction with their Preschool. They are looking for a suitable building and have approached the Newell Foundation to include childcare space in the new health building that is in the planning phase in Bassano.

For many years, there has been widespread recognition of the need for childcare for employees of JBS Food Canada. A few years ago, staff from the Southeast Alberta Child & Family Services Authority approached Lakeside Packers (now JBS Food Canada) to explore the development of childcare at the plant. However, providing childcare on site was not seen as feasible by plant management at that time.

Before and After School Care:

The only Before and After School Care Program is the Newell Integrated Childcare Society which has space for nineteen (19) children. This program is accredited and offers services during professional days and school holiday programs. The SPEC Association for Children & Families offers an afternoon Kids Club which acts as an After School Childcare Program. They are licensed for sixty (60) children but currently have 81 registered children as not all children attend every day. The program has not sought voluntary accreditation and does not operate during professional days and school holidays. Kids Club operates for 2 hours after school during the school year. Buses deliver children attending Grasslands Public School Board Brooks schools to the Kids Club. Neither Christ the Redeemer Catholic or Francophone School Boards deliver their students to the Kids Club.

Family Day Homes:

In Alberta, childcare is offered in private homes that are licensed and accredited if they are registered with an approved agency. There are two such agencies that serve Brooks and the region: Apple Blossom Family Day Homes and the New Horizon Day Homes. Long-time running Apple Blossom Family Day Homes is based out of Medicine Hat and has five homes in the City of Brooks and two homes in Duchess; the agency cares for children from 0 months to twelve (12) years. The New Horizon Day Homes agency is based in the City of Brooks and is licensed for up to seven (7) homes. It has been operating for the past six (6) years caring for children from twelve (12) months to twelve (12) years with a focus on helping newcomers find appropriate childcare.

The agencies support the childcare providers, sets policies and practices and may provide appropriate materials such as toys, ideas for activities and support to parents.

Preschool programs:

Preschools are licensed through the Childcare Licensing Act²² with regulations similar to childcare programs. Preschools however, focus not on providing care while parents are at work/school, but on providing children with socialization and kindergarten knowledge and skills

²² Childcare Licensing Act 2007 Chapter C-10.5 Province of Alberta

preparation. Typically, preschool programs provide classes to four (4) year olds two to three times per week. Classes are generally two to three hours in length. Three (3) year old children typically attend classes for one to two part-time days per week. Most preschools are inclusive and also provide an opportunity for a professional such as speech therapist to observe a child that may have developmental challenges. Preschools operate usually from September to mid-June with parents paying a monthly fee. Only stay at home parents or parents who work part time (less than 20 hours) can apply for their child to receive a provincial subsidy to attend preschool. Currently, there is no accreditation program for preschools in Alberta.

Brooks has two not-for-profit preschools - Brooks Preschool Society has served the community for over 20 years and Brooks Early Learning Academy (BELA) has operated for two years. The Francophone School Board Ecole de Ruisseau has started a licensed preschool this year to support children who will be attending the school with their French language development.

Brooks Preschool has experienced declining enrolment for the past three years and currently has one hundred and two (102) children. BELA currently has eighty (80) children in its second year of operation - this number includes twenty-one (21) children who are funded by the provincial Ministry of Education under the PUF or EELL program and has capacity to offer kindergarten programming.. Both preschools have capacity to enrol more children.

There are licensed preschool programs in Duchess, Tilley and Bassano. The Duchess Preschool operates in the Duchess Community Center, the Tilley Tiger Cub Preschool is housed within the Tilley School and the Bassano Playschool is located in a church facility. The Duchess Preschool faces challenges in terms of declining enrolment while Tilley and Bassano preschools have maintained enrolment. In rural areas preschool enrolment appears to be cyclical depending on the number of young families that are in the community and the number of children within these families.

Number of Licensed Early Childhood Education Spaces - City of Brooks and County of Newell

	Brooks	Duchess	Rest of County of Newell
Childcare Centers	99	0	0
Family Day Homes (based on a max of 6 children/home)	30 + 43	12	0
Before School Care	19	0	0
After School Care	19 +60	0	0

Preschool	335	30	26
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Number of children 0-4 years old (2011 Federal Census)

	Duchess	Bassano	Tilley	Scandia	Brooks	Newell County No.4	Rolling Hills	Patricia	Rosemary
0 - 4 years old	80	70	20	20	1,195	500	10	10	30

UNLICENSED PROGRAMS

School Board Early Childhood Education Programs:

Grasslands Public School Board runs early childhood programs as part of its Early Childhood Services mandate for children who qualify for PUF (Program Unit Funding) to accommodate children with special needs and EELL for children who require English language learning. PUF children are bussed to these programs currently offered at Central School. The EELL children are not bussed. Currently there are 45 children in the PUFF program and 45 children in the EELL program in Brooks; in the rural schools, there are an estimated 20 children in the PUFF program and 10 children in the EELL program. In September 2014, the PUF and EELL programs will be dispersed to all the local Brooks elementary school as Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes are moved out of Central School.

Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Board also runs a PUF program at Holy Family Academy. They have six (6) children in the program this year.

These programs are meant to prepare children for Kindergarten and to support them in their development. Children in the PUF program have access to a number of professional to support their growth. Unlike licensed preschools, school preschool staff are not required to hold the Childcare Certification Level 1 to 3 and are usually Teacher's Assistants supervised by a Kindergarten teacher.

In rural schools, a number of Mennonite preschool children attend schools in order to facilitate their English acquisition. In the City of Brooks, the EELL children are Canadian born or new immigrant children who need to be immersed in an English environment. Rural PUF preschool children also attend their local school

The Conseil Francophone Sud (Southern Alberta Francophone School Board) at l'Ecole le Ruisseau runs a preschool program paid for by parents and is designed to increase the French language capacity of children who qualify to attend Francophone schools.

Parent LINK Program:

The Parent Link Center in Brooks is operated by the SPEC Association for Children and Families. The Parent LINK Coordinators have education and experience in Education, Early Childhood Education, Youth Care, Counselling and/or Social Work. They use their creativity to facilitate numerous parent and tot activities such as Lil Chefs, Story Time, Baby and Me, Exerplay, Messy Monkeys, and Mad Scientists. Activities meet the core areas of early childhood development: fine and gross motor, cognitive, communication, problem solving and social/emotional. The SPEC Parent LINK programs focus on the four core service areas laid out by the Province of Alberta: parent education, early childhood development and care, family support and information and referrals. The Province of Alberta funds Parent Link programs and most of the programs are offered free of charge to parents and their children. These programs usually run during the day and focus on supporting "stay at home" parents. The programs provide opportunities for parents to meet other parents, to socialize, to learn about parenting, to gain parenting and resources information from the LINK program's professional staff and to access other services. Learning opportunities are also provided for LINK parent attendees

Programs offered at the Parent LINK Center in Brooks and region include:

Parent & Tot - The parent & tot programs are an opportunity for parents and childcare providers to meet other parents and for children to interact with other children. Activities and toys are provided for children to learn through play. Sessions take place in Scandia (Salem Lutheran Church Basement), Rosemary (Community Hall), Rolling Hills (Library), Bassano (Community Hall), Cessford (Berry Creek School), Jenner (Iddesleigh Hall), Brooks (Lakeside Leisure Centre), and Tilley.

Little LINKS - This is an after school alternative for children in Kindergarten to grade 4. Little LINKS programs are in Rosemary (Community Arena), Duchess (School), and Tilley (School). These groups run once a week throughout the school year.

Brooks Playin' with Tots- Every Thursday there is a specialized Parent & Tot class designed to learn new ways to play. Structured activities include parachute, songs, rhymes, circle time, and games like duck-duck-goose. Parents are encouraged to

participate in this program located in the Flex Hall of the Leisure Centre in Brooks from 9:30-10:30.

Am I Growing? - Just like visiting the dentist, having an eye appointment or seeing a doctor, it is important to schedule a growth checklist for children. The Ages & Stages Questionnaires begin at four months and continue up to five years. Parents call and make an appointment to have a staff help complete the questionnaire at home, or at the SPEC office.

UNREGULATED/UNLICENSED CHILDCARE

It is impossible to know the extent of the unregulated/unlicensed care in Brooks and Region. Anecdotally, it is known that there are a large number of unregulated/unlicensed day homes in the region. Since there are only 100 licensed group daycare spaces and currently up to only 100 family day home spaces in the region catering to children 0 months to 6 years, the approximately 1,700 other 0-4 years old children residing in the region must either have a stay at home parent, be taken care of by a relative or be in unlicensed, unregulated care.

Some of the unlicensed/unregulated childcare providers use programs such as Parent LINK and the Brooks and Area Toy Library to provide play and educational opportunities for the children.

While parents cannot obtain a subsidy for unlicensed/unregulated care, interviews with licensed childcare providers indicate it appears that only a small number of licensed childcare users qualify for a government childcare subsidy. Therefore access to subsidy does not appear to be a deciding factor in the type of childcare parents choose. There is one list in the community to help parents find childcare providers. SPEC Association for Children and Families maintains a list of childcare and babysitting that includes unlicensed/unregulated providers. They note on their list that "SPEC does not conduct ANY type of screening or inspection of childcare providers on this list. It is the responsibility of each parent or guardian to interview and screen individual childcare providers and or childcare agencies". The government of Alberta provides a licensed childcare look up web site²³ and information on choosing childcare.

OTHER PRESCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

There are other programs that support preschool children in the Newell Region. These programs include respite care for children with special needs, and individualized programs that

²³ <http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/ChildCareLookup.cfm>

work with parents and children to support children's healthy development or provide health services such as immunization, hearing and eye tests.

The Child Development Society's programs (such as the Toy Library) and resources offer a valuable service to parents and childcare/preschool providers and supports early childhood education through lending of quality educational toys, parenting resources (books; videos; magazines) car seat program and its programming for parents, babies and tots. The annual Children's Garage sale is anticipated and attended by many residents. Many parents, children and service providers benefit from the resources of this organization available to all residents throughout the Newell Region.

Some churches offer mom & tots programs. The Brooks Evangelical Free Church²⁴ offers a well-attended program (MOP) with up to 25 moms and 47 children at their biweekly events. The Muslim community also runs its own programs for young children.

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY INTERVIEWEES

Newcomer Families

While all families in the region may face challenges in obtaining licensed affordable quality childcare, newcomer families face particular challenges. These challenges include: lack of English and knowledge of childcare licensing in Alberta; shift work at the JBS Food Canada plant or in another industry; limited income and financial constraints; cultural and family obligations; and non-exposure to the early childhood education environment in Alberta. The JBS Food Canada union UFCW local 401²⁵ has identified childcare as a major concern for families. In addition, results of a recent Grasslands Regional FCSS Transportation Study²⁶ identified the lack of transportation options as a barrier to many immigrant families accessing family support programs or transporting their children to childcare and preschool programs.

Preparation for Kindergarten in the Canadian context often includes an expectation that children have participated in a preschool program or other activity where they spent time with their peers supervised by an adult other than their parents and learn to participate in circle time, engaging in craft activities and playing at various stations. Children are also expected to

²⁴ <http://www.brooksefc.com/index.cfm?i=12381&mid=4&ministryid=29587>

²⁵ Conversation with the Union Representative.

²⁶ October 2013 report by Grasslands Regional FCSS

have exposure to such skills as using a scissor, writing their name, holding a pencil etc. These expectations may not be the same as what immigrant families have experiences with.

It appears that most of the immigrant families working at JBS or for other employers choose to use unregulated, unlicensed care for their children. According to persons interviewed, reasons likely vary from family to family but may include the challenges of finding licensed childcare that fits in with the shifts at the plant, wanting their children to be in a childcare where the providers speaks their language/shares a culture, the cost of regulated childcare or not understanding the reasons why childcare is licensed.

Day Home Childcare Providers

The recruitment and retention of family day home providers was identified by key stakeholders as an ongoing challenge for the accredited, approved agencies. Also of concern is the high level of turnover with some providers deciding to offer unlicensed childcare and other providers leaving to pursue alternate work options. Alberta Works and the Southeast Alberta Child & Family Authority initiated a program three years ago to support immigrants on social assistance to obtain their Childcare Level 1 Certification to become a family day home providers. This program has had limited success.

A number of persons interviewed mentioned that some family day home providers do consider becoming licensed and working within an approved accredited agency but choose not to do so as they find the licensing requirements too onerous or feel that parents cannot pay the full fees suggested by the agency. They prefer to offer unlicensed care and charge a lower fee.

Early Childhood Staff Recruitment, Retention and Training:

Childcare and preschool providers mentioned the challenge in finding staff with the required childcare level certificate. There are currently no Childcare Levels 1, 2 or 3 courses in Brooks. The Childcare Level 1 course can be taken through distributive learning on the internet. An added challenge in Brooks is that the potential pool of childcare staff are newcomers to Canada, many with limited English. They have difficulties in completing the online childcare level 1 course and do not have the financial resources or time to attend further training outside of Brooks.

There are also limited employment opportunities in Brooks and the County for trained childcare staff and therefore not a great deal of incentive for staff or potential staff to pursue further training or accreditation.

Turnover of family day home providers and childcare staff is an issue. Family Day Home providers which traditionally have been moms looking for playmates for their preschool children while they make an income are finding other ways to earn an income and as their own children grow older, consider other employment outside of the home.

Alberta Works and Southeast Alberta Child & Family Services Authority initiated a program a few years ago to train immigrant women to become childcare providers. The program's success was limited as the women found it a challenge to be able to take the childcare level 1 course. Many did not continue to work as childcare providers after the end of the program.

Out of School Childcare

There are 19 licensed Before School childcare spaces in Brooks through the Newell Integrated Childcare Society. Childcare for school aged children is very different in Brooks and the County of Newell than in larger urban centers in Alberta. In urban districts, parents often leave work well before schools open and make arrangements to have their children taken care of and transported/walked to their school. Key stakeholders indicate that some families accommodate children's schedules by working opposite/different shifts to ensure there is someone at home to take care of their children. In Brooks and in the region, the majority of children travel to school by bus and parents who leave for work earlier than the school bus pick-up time appear to be leaving their children at home supervised by older siblings, unsupervised or with neighbours before and after school. Unlike urban areas, Newell school districts officials have not identified major concerns regarding children arriving early to school. Key informants did express some ongoing concerns regarding the number of latch key children in Brooks. However it is not possible to determine the number of latch key children, how many older siblings supervise their brothers and sisters or how many children are cared for in unlicensed/unregulated care.

There are 79 After School childcare spaces in Brooks. The Newell Integrated Childcare Society has 19 spaces and offers after school age care until 6:00 pm including professional days and school holidays (for an additional cost). The SPEC Association for Children and Families has 60 spaces through their Kids Club Program. The Kids Club runs for 2 hours in the afternoon until 5:30pm during school days and does not provide a program during professional days or school vacations. The Kids Club staff work closely with the school districts and include gym and

swimming activities as part of the programming. The Kids Club is a hybrid between a childcare and an after school club in the way the program operates and the fees it charges. The low fees charged by the Kids Club make it affordable for families to register their children but low fees necessitate ongoing fundraising to find other sources of funding to operate the program. The Kids Club does receive grants from funders such as Grasslands Regional FCSS but it is an ongoing challenge to sustain the after school program.

Lakeside Recreation Center offers some programming during school closures. For example for the November long weekend (Friday Nov 8-Monday Nov 12) it offered two different camps for children aged 5-12 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at a cost of \$25 per child per day. During the summer, several different summer programs are offered throughout the Newell Region, with different fees ranging from free to high cost programming.

While there have been discussions about the need for increased Out of School childcare programming, wait lists indicate the potential need for increased out of school childcare spaces. Feedback from key stakeholders also point to the need for new or expanded out of school programming to accommodate school professional days and vacations as well as education regarding the acceptable practices for out of school care of children.

Affordability

Affordability for childcare is an issue throughout Alberta and Canada. Recent articles in the Globe and Mail²⁷ described the problems for parents who often end up paying more than their housing cost for quality childcare. This is no different than the situation in Brooks.

Interviewees spoke of the difficulty for parents needing to balance affordability and easy access to quality childcare and early childhood development education programs. Full time childcare cost between \$500 and \$750 per month depending on the age of the children and the type of childcare. This is generally lower than in many urban centers in Alberta but is still problematic for families who may not qualify for subsidies. According to licensed childcare providers interviewed the proportion of their clients who qualify for childcare subsidies is generally around 20%.

Unlicensed/unregulated childcare is usually lower (around \$400/month) and parents may or may not get receipts from providers. As mentioned earlier, some family day home childcare providers chose to be unlicensed and are happy to charge less if it means less paperwork and regulations. Families who live outside of Brooks and Duchess do not have local access to licensed childcare space without travelling outside their communities nor do they qualify for childcare subsidies because of lack of licensing.

Late and Default Childcare Payments:

A number of childcare providers were forthright in mentioning an issue that they are facing - ensuring that parents pay the monthly fees on time. Since this was discussed openly by a number of providers, it is important enough to identify as a challenge. Some parents appear to believe that the amount of subsidy they receive from government is the only amount they should be paying and do not pay the remaining amount, other parents find that other bills are more pressing at the end of the month and default on their childcare payment. Childcare providers mentioned their reluctance to stop providing care for a child knowing that if the parent did not have childcare, they could not work and would be further in debt. Preschool providers work with parents to explore how fees can be paid.

²⁷ The articles can be found at http://www.nacy.ca/globe-mail-series-child-care-canada?utm_source=G%26M+series+on+Child+Care+in+Canada&utm_campaign=G%26M+series+on+child+care+Oct2013&utm_medium=email

Transportation:

An October 2013 report²⁸ by Grasslands Regional FCSS, details the lack of transportation options for some families and how it limits their ability to access many community services including childcare. A working mom/dad may not have access to a car to take their children to a childcare provider and then go to work. They may be depending on a carpool to the JBS Plant or other work location. The regulations for younger children regarding appropriate car seats makes it even more challenging for families who depend on carpools or friends for their daily transportation needs.

Currently, only children attending Grasslands Public School Board can access bus rides to the SPEC After School Kids Club which means that children from other schools must be old enough to walk to the Kids Club Program by themselves or have older siblings walk with them.

Maintaining Preschool Enrolment

Preschools are licensed and, therefore, must hire and retain staff who have the required training and certification. Preschools offer an early childhood education program primarily to three and four year old children which focuses on school readiness and socialization. At this time, preschool programs are not accredited through the Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services unlike childcare centers who are both licensed and accredited.

Preschools rely on parental fees and must also engage in fundraising activities. All of the preschool providers interviewed mentioned that they ask parents to participate in between 1-3 fundraising activities per year. One preschool asked parents for a \$50 check that would be returned to them if they participated in fundraising activities.

Consistent with provincial government regulations, subsidies for preschool program are currently available only to families where one parent is a “stay at home” parent. Children of working parents can access “free” preschool programs only if they are identified as special needs or with poor English language skills. These children who qualify for PUF or EELL funding can then participate free of charge to programs run by School boards or those accredited by the Ministry of Education such as the BELA preschool.

The lack of subsidies for working parents and the availability of free programs through other organizations creates a challenge for preschools in our communities who rely on parental fees.

²⁸ TRANSPORTATION NETWORK STUDY, AN EXPLORATION OF EXISTING TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS IN BROOKS AND COUNTY OF NEWELL – Phase I

CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE PROGRAMS IN BROOKS AND REGION:

1. In communities like Brooks where major employers have evening and night shifts, ECD and Childcare programs could include evening and weekend programs.
2. Currently, licensing by the Child & Family Services Authority is voluntary for school boards. Preschool programs operated by the Grasslands Public and Christ the Redeemer Catholic school boards are not licensed, choosing to hire teacher assistants under the supervision of a teacher, with some teachers having Childcare Level 1-3 qualifications and early childhood education training. Preschools operating outside the school systems are required to be licensed. Consistency in licensing and regulatory requirements would be helpful to decreasing the confusion and complexity of early childhood education programming.
3. Organizations involved in early childhood education (childcare, preschools, pre-K programs, Lakeside Recreation Center, Parent LINK) could coordinate scheduling of programs to facilitate participation by all parents/children. For example in some communities, the Parent Link programs operate at the same time as the local preschool splitting the number of children between both programs and in some cases making the preschool difficult to operate. Scheduling of programs during the evenings and weekends might be considered.
4. There are a number of spaces already equipped for early childhood education programs such as churches "Sunday School rooms", and existing preschools that are not fully utilized and could be used to house other programs such as group childcare, childcare for parents attending English as a Second Language Classes and other drop in programs.
5. Consider exploration of the development of one new daycare in Brooks and link it to PUF and EELL funded programs to provide parents whose children who qualify for PUF and EELL funded programs a seamless childcare/pre-K program.
6. Explore funding opportunities to hire for the region one ECD/ Childcare Coordinator with knowledge of early childhood education who can work with parents to educate and help them find quality childcare that meet their needs and also help them to access subsidies. This person would also work with licensed childcare providers to ensure cultural and diversity competency and with unlicensed/unregulated childcare providers to upgrade

their knowledge of early childhood education and resources available to them such as the Toy Library.

7. Explore the development of a daycare center/expansion of existing services with spaces for infants under 19 months of age that is integrated/inclusive. Conduct focus groups with parents to determine how the childcare program should be organized.
8. Explore the feasibility of developing or expanding After School programming that is open until 6:00pm and that also provides programs during professional days and school holidays.
9. Increase access to childcare subsidies to more closely reflect the cost of childcare so that licensed childcare is seen as the preferred option and the cost of putting children in licensed care is no longer a consideration.
10. Re-approach JBS Foods Canada to explore the possibility of developing childcare for their employees in order to support employee retention and limit absenteeism due to childcare problems.
11. Use existing transportation networks to transport children to preschool programs.
12. There are a number of considerations that impact possible programming for these families. They include ensuring that early childhood education programming fits in with the shift work of families, provide support for cultural values and consider the financial and transportation constraints of families.
13. The EDI results for Brooks and Region indicate that close to 30% of the children have developmental difficulties with communication skills and general knowledge (37.55 per cent) and language and thinking skills (27.55 per cent). These children would benefit from preschool programming and more universal programming; transportation supports may be required to make these programs accessible to working parents.
14. A key informant suggested that early retirees with homes suitable for day home use might make good family day homes providers since they have childrearing experience, may be interested in making extra income and often have the desire to continue to contribute to the community.

Appendix A EDI Results for Brooks and County of Newell

Brooks - Newell County

What does the EDI tell us about young children's development in Brooks - Newell County?

The following EDI results show how kindergarten children are developing in [name] in each of the five main areas of development. In the pie charts, green identifies the percentage of children who are developing appropriately in each area of development, blue the children who are experiencing difficulty and orange the children who are experiencing great difficulty.

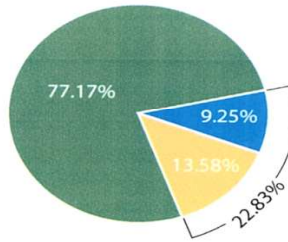
Did you know?

Although the majority of children in Brooks - Newell County are developing appropriately, a large percentage are experiencing difficulty or great difficulty, particularly in communication skills and general knowledge (37.55 per cent) and language and thinking skills (27.55 per cent).

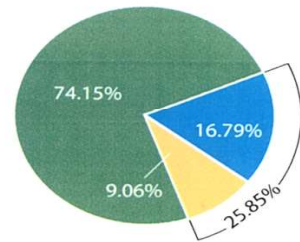
Total number of EDI questionnaires: 669
Number of questionnaires analyzed: 530
Percentage of children with diagnosed severe disabilities out of total number of questionnaires: 9.57

EDI results for Brooks - Newell County 2010, 2011 and 2012

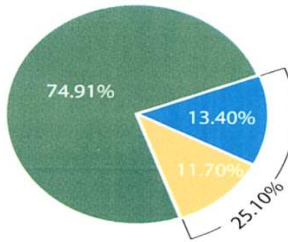
Physical Health and Well-being



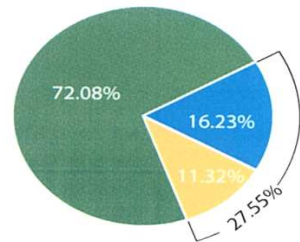
Social Competence



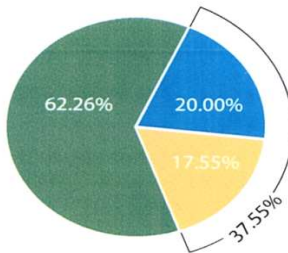
Emotional Maturity



Language and Thinking Skills



Communication Skills and General Knowledge



- Developing appropriately
- Experiencing difficulty
- Experiencing great difficulty

Number of EDI questionnaires analyzed: 530

Please note: Missing data may mean that percentages don't always add up to exactly 100 per cent.

Appendix B: Newell Regional Childcare and Early Childhood Development Resources

Name	Type of Service	Age Range	# of Children	Kinder Care	Total # Licensed for	Waiting List	Licensed	Accredited	Hours	Cost	Type of Organization	Contact/ Phone Number	Email/Website/ Address	Notes
Newell Integrated Childcare Society	Childcare	13mths – 6yrs	53	Yes	54	Yes, depends on age	Yes	Yes	6:45am – 6:00pm	\$705/\$680 for KC	Not for Profit	Verlynn Keeping 403-362-6559	niccs@telus.net 327 3 rd Street West Brooks, AB T1R 1B7	Takes children requiring support
Newell Integrated Childcare Society	Before & After School Care	Grade 1-6	19		19	Yes	Yes	Yes	6:45am – 6:00pm	\$250 for before or after, \$300 for both. PD-\$35/day	Not for Profit	Verlynn Keeping 403-362-6559	niccs@telus.net 327 3 rd Street West Brooks, AB T1R 1B7	Operates during professional days and summer. Charge weekly rate during summer for Grade 1-6.
Little Ducklings Day Care Ltd	Childcare	18mths – 6yrs	45	Yes	45	Yes, about 50	Yes	Yes	6am – 6pm		Private	Sandra Burns 403-794-2121	1235 – 3 rd Street West Brooks, AB T1R 0P7	Located in senior care home and children benefit from intergenerational programming. Owner is considering expansion in a new location
Kids Club/SPEC	After School Care	Grade 1-6	60	No	60		Yes	No	3:30 – 5:50pm	\$75/month or \$115/family/month. NO PD and holiday programs	Not for Profit	Desirae Seitz 403-362-5056	desirae.seitz@spec.ab.ca www.spec.ab.ca 101, 327 – 3 rd Street West Brooks, AB T1R 0E7	Offers only after school year and is run more like a Kids Club than an after school care program. Fees charged reflect the above.
Apple Blossom Family Day Homes	Family Day Home Agency	0mths – 12yrs	7 Day Homes in Brooks and 2 in Duchess	Yes	6 per home but limits on # of babies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caters to A Shift mostly, some to B Shift	\$525/child with 10% to agency. Top up for under 19 months of \$155 from Government	Private	Lisa Nickel 403-526-8194 1-877-842-7753	lisa@appleblossomdayhomes.com www.appleblossomdayhomes.com 20042 Kensington Postal Outlet Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8M4	Family Day Homes located throughout the region (over 48) with 27 years' experience
New Horizons Day Homes	Family Day Home Agency	12mths – 12yrs	Currently 7 homes, 43 children. Licensed for 70	Yes	6/home but limits on # of babies	No	Yes	?	2 homes provide 24hr care and 5 are 6am – 6pm	\$500 with infants, \$550 for the other children. 12% goes to the agency	Not for Profit – Sudanese Women's Association of Brooks	Veronica Lissa 403-793-2545	vlissa62@yahoo.com #3, 324 – 9 th Street East Brooks, AB T1R 0K2	Most Childcare providers are new immigrants with limited English. Parents are mostly from immigrant community working at Lakeside
Grasslands Public School Board	PUF Program	From age 3.5 years	45 in Brooks, 10-20 in County			No	No	No	Operates only during school schedule	Free for qualified children. Funding from the Ministry of Education.	Government	Kathleen Jensen 403-793-6700	kathleen.jensen@grasslands.ab.ca www.grasslands.ab.ca 745 – 2 nd Avenue East Brooks, AB T1R 1L2	Offers preschool programs only for children who qualify for PUF Funding based on their level of English. Currently offered at Central School but will be moved to the other elementary school in Sept 2014 when Upland School opens. Children need to be transported by parents.
Grasslands Public School Board	EELL	From age 3.5 years	45 in Brooks, 10 in County			No	No	No	Operates only during school schedule	Free for qualified children. Funding from the Ministry of Education.	Government	Kathleen Jensen 403-793-6700	kathleen.jensen@grasslands.ab.ca www.grasslands.ab.ca 745 – 2 nd Avenue East Brooks, AB T1R 1L2	Offers preschool programs only for children who qualify for EELL Funding based on their level of English. Currently offered at Central School but will be moved to the other elementary school in Sept 2014 when Upland School opens. Children need to be transported by parents.
Christ the	PUF	From age				No	No	No	Operates only	Free for qualified	Government	Alynn Cary	acary@redeemer.ab.ca	Offers preschool programs only for

Redeemer Catholic School Board	Program	3.5 year							during school schedule	children. Funding from the Ministry of Education.		403-995-4825	www.redeemer.ab.ca Holy Family Academy 440 First Street West Brooks, AB T1R 0L7	children who qualify for PUF funding.
Name	Type of Service	Age Range	# of Children	Kinder Care	Total # Licensed for	Waiting List	Licensed	Accredited	Hours	Cost	Type of Organization	Contact/ Phone Number	Email/Website/ Address	Notes
Les P'tits Tresors-Pre-maternelle	Preschool	3 - 4 years Old	5	No	7 per class	No	Yes	N/A	Operates only during school schedule	\$150 for 3 mornings/week. \$110 for 2 mornings/week and \$260 for 5 mornings/week	Government	Carine Ouellet 403-362-2010	www.conseildusud.ab.ca/ecoles/leruisseau/ Ecole Le Ruisseau 830 – 4 th Avenue West Brooks, AB T1R 0B5	New preschool for francophone families to help children learn French. Parents can obtain subsidies. ECE instructor supervised by teacher in kindergarten class.
Duchess Preschool Society	Preschool	3 – 4 years old	30	No	30	No	yes	N/A	Sept to June. Morning & Afternoon classes T-Th	\$42.66/month for one day and \$105/month for 2days	Not for Profit	Tammy Poole	tlpoole@explornet.ca 255 Margaret Avenue Duchess, AB T0J 0Z0	Operates in Duchess Community Center. 3 year olds – one day/week - one class. 4year olds – twice/week – 2 classes
Bassano Playgroup Society	Preschool	3 – 4 years old	27	No	14	No	Yes	N/A	Mon & Wed or Tues & Thurs mornings. Mixed classes or 3 & 4 year olds	\$70/month	Not for Profit	Andrea Aimes 403-641-2672	Knox Presbyterian Church 334 – 3 rd Avenue Bassano, AB T0J 0B0	Enrollment is cyclical depending on the # of young families and birth in areas. Have explored the possibility of moving into a new building and establishing a group daycare.
Tilley Tiger Cubs Preschool	Preschool	3 – 4 years old	12	No	12	No	Yes	N/A	2 mornings a week, Sept to June	\$60/month	Not for Profit	Trina Baisley 403-377-2824	tilleytigerscubs@hotmail.ca 148 – 1 st Street East Tilley, AB T0J 3K0	Has maintained enrollment of 9 – 12 kids. Some fundraising required by board of five persons. Program is located in dedicated space in the Tilley school. Uses qualified EDE staff.
Brooks Preschool Society	Preschool	3 – 4 years old	101	No	168	No	Yes	N/A	2hrs per day, one or two days per week. Closed July & August	\$398.21 for 1clas/week and \$796.43 for 2 classes/week	Not for Profit	Anita Bruce 403-362-4848	bpsteachers@brookspreschool.com www.brookspreschool.com 327B 3 rd Street West Brooks, AB T1R 0E7	Preschool enrollment has been decreasing for the past 3 years. Well established program in the community.
Brooks Community Enrichment Foundation – Brooks Early Learning Academy (BELA)	Preschool	3 – 4 years old	94	no	160	no	Yes	N/A	3hrs per day, twice or three times a week. Closed July & August.	\$1290 - \$1920/year	Not for Profit	Jody Rutherford 403-501-0019	jody@brooksearlylearning.ca www.brookslearning.ca #1 – 500 Cassils Road East Brooks, AB T1R 1M6	Blended classes of 3/4 year olds. Ministry of Education funding is eligible for children as school is accredited by Ministry.