



Child Care & Early Years

TBDSSAB manages the child care and early years system in the District of Thunder Bay. Our Child Care & Early Years Programs help families by managing the child care wait list and offering child care fee subsidies to offset the costs of child care. We also provide operational funding and resources to Child Care operators and EarlyON programs throughout the District of Thunder Bay.

System Overview

As service system manager, TBDSSAB values the importance of investing in the physical, social, emotional, and economic health of our communities by supporting child care and early years programs that are accessible, affordable, inclusive, responsive and of high quality. TBDSSAB manages the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program, which funds licensed spaces creating affordable child care for families.

TBDSSAB funds:

- Operating costs for licensed child care centres and EarlyON child and family programs.
- Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program (CWELCC)
- Professional Learning for Educators
- Capacity Building Process for Programs
- Child Care Fee Subsidy
- Special Needs Resourcing
- Licensed Home Child Care



2916 licensed spaces



49 child care programs



16 EarlyON programs



420+ Program staff / educators



2596 children placed in programs



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Impact Highlights

October 2024

2024 Highlights*

100% of licensed programs opted-in to CWELCC in 2023.

52.75% reduction of child care fees through CWELCC for children ages 0-5 since 2020 (on average)

36 licensed private home spaces in partnership with Our Kids Count as the licensed private home child care operator for our district.

160 children supported through the **Special Needs Resource Program** in partnership with Children's Centre Thunder Bay.

2418 unique children served at **EarlyON** programs.

414 fee subsidy recipients.

* YTD as of Sept 30, 2024

Workforce Impacts

Our child care service system needs 130 more educators to fill existing spaces. Hundreds more will be needed to support the families on the wait list.

TBDSSAB has partnered with Confederation College to invest in the next generation of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). Through this partnership, students can access:

1. Free Pre-ECE certificate
2. ECE Program Bursaries
3. Fast Track ECE Program to support those working in the field with prior learning and work experience on their path to become a registered ECE.



130 educators

needed to operate at capacity



3476 children on

wait list for the district



109 students

receiving bursary for ECE program for 2024/25 school year



12 graduates from

Fast Track program in 2023/24 school year