

BELGIUM : Main forms of Early Childhood Education & Care services for children below school age obligation

Name of Provision ¹	Type of Arrangement ²	Ages Served ³	Sector of Provision ⁴	Opening Hours ⁵			Registration Criteria ⁶	Priority Criteria ⁷
				within a day	within a week	within a year		
crèche/ kinderkrippe	day nursery	<3years	PB & 1/2PR	>=10h	5d	>=44w	UNIV ^a	WRK, ECO, SP
kinderdagverblijf / maison communale d'accueil de l'enfant	daycare centre	<6years	PB & 1/2PR	>=10h	5d	>=44w	UNIV ^a	WRK, ECO, SP
zelfstandig kinderdagverblijf / maison d'enfants	daycare centre	<6years	PR	vary ^b	vary ^b	vary ^b	UNIV	NO
diensten voor onthaalouders / servide d'accueillantes conventionnées / tagesmütterdienst	family day care services	<3(6)years	PB & 1/2PR	vary ^b	vary ^b	vary ^b	UNIV ^a	WRK,ECO,SP
zelfstandige onthaalouders / accueillante autonome / selbständige tagesmütter	family day care	<3(6)years	PR	vary ^b	vary ^b	vary ^b	UNIV	NO
kleuterschool/école maternelle/kindergarten	preschool	2,5(3)-<6years	PB & 1/2PR	vary : <=8h	4,5d	vary : around 37w	UNIV	NO (GEOG ^y)

Name of Provision¹ : Original name of main institutional arrangements providing early childhood education and care within the country

Type of Arrangement² : Basic nomenclature of early childhood education and care services

Ages Served³ : <3years = 0 to 35 months ; <6years = 0-71 months ; 1,5-<3years = 18 to 35 months ; 2,5-<6years = 30 to 71 months

Sector of Provision⁴ : According to the provider of care, **PB** when = the government (local/regional or national/federal); **1/2 PR** when= the non profit private sector; **PR** when = the for profit private sector

Opening Hours⁵ = Regular (average) opening hours of the arrangement during the year :

a) **within a day** = number of hours (h) covered during the day ; b) **within a week** = number of days (d) covered during the week ; c) **within a year** = number of weeks (w) covered during the year

Registration Criteria⁶ = Terms defining the families/children who are entitled to register in that type of arrangement :

UNIV = there are no criteria restricting the admission ; **PRIOR** = see "priority criteria"

Priority Criteria⁷ = Terms defining the families/children who are entitled to register in priority in that type of arrangement :

WRK = working parent(s) ; SP = special needs of the child or family ; ECO = financial situation of the family ; NO = no priority criteria of access to registration ; GEOG = home location

Additional Notes : (a) Due to a shortage of places for the <3years old, priority criteria are usually applied ; (b) The structure chooses its own opening hours, which are generally equivalent to a full time : around 10h/day, 5days/week, >=44w/year ; (y) Sometimes admission may be conditioned to living near the structure

References :

- Beckers, B. & al. *Starting Strong : Early Childhood Education & Care Policy. Country Note : Flemish Community of Belgium*, OECD Directorate for Education, 2000
- Bennett, J. & al. *Starting Strong : Early Childhood Education & Care Policy. Country Note : French Community of Belgium*, OECD Directorate for Education, 2000
- Centre d'Expertise & de Ressources pour l'Enfance, *Vade-Mecum relatif au plan régional Crèches 2007-2009 du Ministère de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale*, June 2007
- Cleveland, G. & Krashinsky, M. *Financing ECEC services in OECD countries*, Thematic Workshops & Documents, OECD, 2003
- De Henau, J. Meulders, D. O'Dorchaï,S. *The Childcare Triad? Indicators Assessing Three Fields of Child Policies towards Working Mothers in the EU-15*, Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis, Special issue, Jan 2006
- Eurydice - The information Network on Education in Europe, Official Website : <http://www.eurydice.org>, Last Access : 22/05/2008
- Gouvernement de la Communauté française, *Arrêté du gouvernement de la Communauté française portant réglementation générale des milieux d'accueil* 27 February 2003
- Kamerman, S. *Early Childhood Education and Care. An overview of developments in OECD Countries*, Columbia University, 2000
- Kind en Gezin, Jaarverslag, 2006, Official Website : www.kindengezin.be
- Laerwers, F. & al. *Early Childhood Education & Care. Background report : Flanders (Belgium)*, OECD Directorate for Education, 2000
- Ministère de la Communauté française, *Examen thématique « Politique d'éducation et de garde des jeunes enfants » en Communauté française*, Ministère de la Communauté française, CGRI, ONE, 2000
- Ministerium der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft - Abteilung Beschäftigung, Gesundheit und Soziales, Official Website : www.dglive.be
- Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance, *Rapport annuel*, 2006 , Official Website : www.one.be
- OECD, *Starting Strong : Early Childhood Education and Care*, OECD Publishing, 2001
- Schiffliers, L. Etude sur les mesures prises au niveau de l'accueil des jeunes enfants pour réduire les inégalités : Communauté germanophone de Belgique, Eurydice, mars 2008

Author :

Gaëlle Amerijckx
Unité Politiques & Services à l'Enfance (UPSE)
Ecole de Santé Publique (ESP)
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
route de Lennik 808, CP597
1070 Bruxelles, Belgique
gaamerij@ulb.ac.be

Validation by national expert : (May 2008)

Perrine C. Humblet
Unité Politiques & Services à l'Enfance (UPSE), dir.
Ecole de Santé Publique (ESP)
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
route de Lennik 808, CP597
1070 Bruxelles, Belgique
phumblet@ulb.ac.be

