

Accessibility of childcare services in Canada for children aged 0 to 5 with disabilities:

Environmental scan of current laws and regulations

Context and objectives

The Government of Canada committed in 2021 to establish, in the coming years, a learning and childcare system aimed at providing families across the country with access to high-quality, affordable, and inclusive childcare services. These childcare services will also be tailored to the specific and unique needs of young children with disabilities. The current research project aims to provide scientific evidence regarding the accessibility of childcare services in Canada for children aged 0 to 5 with disabilities.

More precisely, this project is intended to meet three specific objectives, namely:

- 1** Identify the laws and regulations currently in force in each province and territory of Canada that pertain to the accessibility of childcare services for these children ;
- 2** Identify solutions that may promote accessibility of childcare services for young children with disabilities ;
- 3** Describe the experiences in childcare services in Canada from the perspective of workers and parents.



To address the first specific objective, an environmental scan was conducted on various websites.

Highlights

A total of 28 documents specific to young children with disabilities who attend a childcare service were retained. None of these documents contain legally binding content.

There is no uniformity across the country regarding regulations in place or the provision of services for young children with disabilities in childcare services.

Nevertheless, the retained documents present solutions related to individualized services offered to these children, as well as various funding programs in place. This information should be highlighted so that Canadian provinces and territories can draw inspiration from each other in the development of policies or regulations.

During the selection process, it was observed that many documents could also apply to our target population even though they were not specifically directed towards our target population. An additional 137 documents were retained. Knowledge of what exists or applies to more general population categories can be very useful for the development of new standards or guidelines specific to young children with disabilities attending childcare services.

Use of results

Ultimately, this project will support the development of the next generation of Canadian standards for childcare accessibility. Indeed, the project will provide a better understanding of the situation in Canada and provide essential evidence for establishing useful and realistic standards.

To access the full report, please follow [this link](#).

