IRELAND : Main types of Early Childhood Education & Care services for children below school age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Provision</th>
<th>Type of Arrangement</th>
<th>Ages Served</th>
<th>Sector of Provision</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
<th>Registration Criteria</th>
<th>Priority Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>community nursery</td>
<td>daycare centre</td>
<td>&lt;6 years</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>within a day</td>
<td>PRIOR</td>
<td>WRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>day-care/-nursery/-créche</td>
<td>daycare centre</td>
<td>&lt;6 years</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>within a week</td>
<td>UNIV</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>childminder (FDC)</td>
<td>family daycare</td>
<td>&lt;6 years</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>within a year</td>
<td>UNIV</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playgroup</td>
<td>playgroup</td>
<td>2.5-&lt;5 years</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>varies on D*</td>
<td>UNIV</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naonrai (Irish speaking)</td>
<td>playgroup</td>
<td>3-&lt;6 years</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>3-4h</td>
<td>UNIV</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early primary education</td>
<td>preschool</td>
<td>4-&lt;6 years</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>app. 4,5h</td>
<td>UNIV</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montessori School/Steiner group</td>
<td>preschool</td>
<td>3-&lt;6 years</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>(2/3 sessions, 1/3 full)</td>
<td>UNIV</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Start</td>
<td>social program</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2,5h</td>
<td>PRIOR</td>
<td>ECO, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveller preschools</td>
<td>social program</td>
<td>2.4-&lt;5 years</td>
<td>1/2 PR</td>
<td>2,5h</td>
<td>PRIOR</td>
<td>SP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*varies on D* : timetables vary according to the need of the families ;
b) within a week = number of days (d) covered during the week ;
c) within a year = number of days (d) or months (m) covered during the year

References:
OECD, Starting Strong II : Early Childhood Education & Care , 2006

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