

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

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		
community nursery	daycare centre	<6years	PB	vary (full : +/-10h)	5d	12m	PRIOR	WRK
day -care/-nursery/-crèche	daycare centre	<6years	PR	vary (full : +/- 10h)	5d	12m	UNIV	NO
childminder (FDC)	family daycare	<6years	PR	varies on D*	varies on D*	varies on D*	UNIV	NO
playgroup	playgroup	2.5-<5years	PR	3-4h	4-5d	+/-183d	PRIOR	WRK
Naíonraí (Irish speaking)	playgroup	3-<6years	PR	3-4h	4-5d	+/-183d	UNIV	NO
early primary education	preschool	4-<6years	PB	app. 4,5h	4-5d	+/-183d	UNIV	NO
Montessori School/Steiner group	preschool	3-<6years	PR	(2/3 sessions, 1/3 full)	4-5d	+/-183d	UNIV	NO
Early Start	social program	3years	PB	2,5h	5d	+/-183d	PRIOR	ECO, SP
Traveller preschools	social program	2.4-<5years	1/2 PR	2,5h	5d	+/-183d	PRIOR	SP

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 : <6years = 0 to 71 months ; 2,5-<5years = 30 to 59 months ; 3-<6 years = 36 to 71 months ; 4-<6 years = 48 to 71 months ; 3years = 36 to 47 months ; 2.4-<5years = 28 to 59 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) o Regular (average) opening hours of the arrangement during the year :

a) **within a day** = number of hours (h) covered during the day ; ***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

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 ; **STU** = parent(s) in training

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