

Exhibit 3: Types of Early Childhood Education

Reported by National Research Coordinators

| Country | Universal Early Childhood Education Programs Available | | | Description of Targeted Early Childhood Education Programs |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | Early Childhood Educational Development Programs (Children Under 3) | Preprimary Education Programs (Children 3 or Older) | Number of Years Students May Attend Programs | |
| Armenia | ○ | ● | 2–4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Australia | ○ | ● | 2 | The targeted coverage varies by state but entails either specific funding to attend universal early childhood education programs, or provision of special programs for children from low SES background, from refugee families, Indigenous children, multiple birth children, and/or children under child protection programs. |
| Bahrain | ● | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Belgium (Flemish) | ○ | ● | 3 or 4 | Children with special needs (of specific kinds) can attend special education schools at the preprimary level. |
| Botswana | ○ | ○ | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Bulgaria | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Canada | ○ | ● | 2 | Alberta, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and Quebec provide targeted coverage. In these provinces, these services (or classes) are offered to children with a learning disability or delay, children with English as an additional or second language, or children considered to be minorities (African Canadians, Acadian Francophones, or anyone else needing support based on assessment data). |
| Chile | ○ | ● | 4 | There are settings which target children from low income families during both ECED and PPE. About 75% of children in both ECED and PPE come from low income families. No data is collected about the percentage of children with disabilities, percentage of children where the home language is different from the national language, or the percentage of children from minority ethnic groups. |
| Chinese Taipei | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, legislation dictates that public preschools give priority enrollment to disadvantaged children. |
| Croatia | ● | ● | 6 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, ECED and PPE are organized for all groups of children including certain subgroups, such as children from low income families and children from minority groups. |
| Cyprus | ○ | ● | 3 | Children with special educational needs can be registered at preprimary schools. |
| Czech Republic | ○ | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Denmark | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted coverage may be provided for children of parents with low income, for social reasons, for physical or psychological reasons, and for children with siblings by free place contributions. Parents with lower income can get extra coverage from the local county, dependent on income. Contributions are also provided to children with siblings in preschool. Social contributions are granted when the municipal council considers the child's stay in daycare as necessary due to social or educational reasons and the question of payment complicates or hinders the child's stay in daycare. A free place contribution for physical or psychological reasons is granted when a child with significant or permanent impairment or reduced physical/psychological functional capacity is in daycare. |
| Egypt | ○ | ● | 2 | – |
| England | ● | ● | 4 | Some children are eligible for free ECED provision from the school term after their second birthday if their parents meet prescribed means-tested criteria or if the child has special educational needs, has a disability, or is in public care. The local authority has a duty to ensure that sufficient places are made available for a minimum of 570 hours per 12 month period, spread over at least 38 weeks. |
| Finland | ○ | ● | 1 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, providing a place in preprimary education free of charge for all children is a statutory duty for municipalities. PPE exists for children with special needs and different languages, but often these children are integrated into groups with all other children. |

● Yes
○ No

A dash (–) indicates data not provided.

SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – TIMSS 2015

Exhibit 3: Types of Early Childhood Education (Continued)

| Country | Universal Early Childhood Education Programs Available | | | Description of Targeted Early Childhood Education Programs |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | Early Childhood Educational Development Programs (Children Under 3) | Preprimary Education Programs (Children 3 or Older) | Number of Years Students May Attend Programs | |
| France | ○ | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. Preprimary education can enroll children from 2 years old. 100% of 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds, and 12% of 2-year-olds attend this école maternelle. |
| Georgia | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Germany | ● | ● | 4 | The provision of education and care is to be adjusted to the individual child's age and developmental stage, linguistic and other capabilities, life situation and interests, and take account of the child's ethnic origin. In terms of pedagogy and organization, the range of services offered should be based on the needs of the children and their families. |
| Hong Kong SAR | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Hungary | ○ | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Indonesia | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Iran, Islamic Rep. of | ○ | ● | 2 | There is a one-month program before starting first grade for children of low income families and for children who speak a different language than the language of instruction (Farsi) at home. |
| Ireland | ○ | ● | 3 | The Early Start Programme is a one-year preventative intervention scheme offered in selected DEIS schools (schools that receive support under the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) Action Plan for Educational Inclusion). The objective of the Early Start Programme (managed, funded, and evaluated by DES), is to tackle educational disadvantage by targeting children who are at risk of not reaching their potential within the school system. There are also DES funded preschools for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. |
| Israel | ○ | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. PPE is universal, provided, and accessible to all children age 3, regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, or ethnic background. |
| Italy | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Japan | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Jordan | ○ | ● | 2 | The Ministry of Education provides KG2 education in remote areas and for the economically disadvantaged. |
| Kazakhstan | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Korea, Rep. of | ● | ● | 4 | Education must be provided for socially vulnerable children, including babies under age 3, handicapped children, children with parents from foreign countries, and children from low income families. Some programs targeted for the National Basic Livelihood Security Act and multicultural families are supported, but no exceptional programs are available. |
| Kuwait | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. The government provides some ECED and PPE programs for special needs children. |
| Lebanon | ○ | ● | 3 | The ECED program is new in Lebanon; it has only been implemented in public schools until now. |
| Lithuania | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Malaysia | ○ | ● | 1 | Public schools provide PPE for children from low income families. |
| Malta | ● | ● | 4 | ECED is free for children of parents who are both in education, training, or in employment. PPE is a legal entitlement to all children who are age 2 years 9 months and older. |
| Morocco | ○ | ● | 2 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Netherlands | ○ | ○ | n/a | Free ECED programs are offered for children with a deficiency in language skills between the age of 2.5 and 4. These programs are offered by nurseries or daycare centers. The local authorities decide which children can take part in these programs. The length of the programs differ and are not compulsory. |
| New Zealand | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, free hours are available to all, regardless of family income or the family or child's immigration status. |
| Northern Ireland | ● | ● | 4 | Sure Start is a government program which provides a range of support services for parents and children under age 4 who live in disadvantaged areas across Northern Ireland. It aims to support parents from pregnancy and to give children the best start in life. The aims of Sure Start are to complement the work of existing local services and provide young families with advice on where to go and who to speak to if they have more specialized needs or difficulties. |

● Yes
○ No

SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – TIMSS 2015

Exhibit 3: Types of Early Childhood Education (Continued)

| Country | Universal Early Childhood Education Programs Available | | | Description of Targeted Early Childhood Education Programs |
|----------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | Early Childhood Educational Development Programs (Children Under 3) | Preprimary Education Programs (Children 3 or Older) | Number of Years Students May Attend Programs | |
| Norway | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, all children have the right to preprimary education by law. The municipality is responsible for providing preprimary education, either by running public kindergartens or by supporting privately run kindergartens. |
| Oman | ○ | ○ | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Poland | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Portugal | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Qatar | ● | ● | 2 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Russian Federation | ● | ● | 4 | There are kindergartens for children with impaired hearing, vision, physical health, and mental development. |
| Saudi Arabia | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Serbia | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, kindergartens have special groups where instruction is provided in the languages of minorities. |
| Singapore | ○ | ● | 4 | In addition to outreach programs to promote all students enrolling in preprimary education, Singapore also provides financial support for PPE and ECED programs for lower and middle-income families. All children enrolled in childcare centers (which also provide ECED programs) receive a government subsidy, with working mothers receiving a higher subsidy. |
| Slovak Republic | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Slovenia | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. However, programs exist to help low income families cover expenses for preprimary education. |
| South Africa | ● | ● | 1 | The approach favors the most disadvantaged in society. |
| Spain | ○ | ● | 3 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. Programs are available for all children. |
| Sweden | ● | ● | 4 or more | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. It is the responsibility of the municipalities to ensure that there are preschools and that children are offered a place. Municipalities should provide preschooling for children from age 1 when parents are working, studying, unemployed, or on leave of absence. |
| Thailand | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Turkey | ● | ● | 4 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. Individualized Education Programs are prepared for children who are mentally disabled and need special education. |
| United Arab Emirates | ● | ● | 3 | Public ECED and PPE programs are free for citizens, and expatriates can pay for programs in private schools. |
| United States | Varies by state | Varies by state | 4 | There are targeted entitlements offered by the Early Head Start Program, which targets low income families who meet specific requirements. There are also targeted entitlements within the United States for children with disabilities. The specifics of the services delivered by the Head Start or Early Head Start programs differ across states and are shaped by the needs of the local communities being targeted. |

Benchmarking Participants—Responses Pertain to Benchmarking Provinces/Emirates/States

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Buenos Aires, Argentina | ○ | ○ | 4 | Targeted early childhood programs are not provided. |
| Ontario, Canada | ○ | ● | 2 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. All students may attend full-day kindergarten. |
| Quebec, Canada | ● | ● | 4 | About 80 kindergarten classes are offered to 4-year-old children from disadvantaged groups. Some children may also attend half-time kindergarten. |
| Abu Dhabi, UAE | ○ | ● | 2 | Targeted early childhood education programs are not provided. |
| Dubai, UAE | ● | ● | 3 | Public ECED and PPE programs are free for citizens, and expatriates can pay for programs in private schools. |
| Florida, US | ○ | ● | 2 | There are targeted entitlements offered by the Early Head Start Program, which targets low income families who meet specific requirements. There are also targeted entitlements within the United States for children with disabilities. The specifics of the services delivered by the Head Start or Early Head Start programs differ across states and are shaped by the needs of the local communities being targeted. |

● Yes
○ No

SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – TIMSS 2015