

2002 MANITOBA CHILD CARE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Most Canadian preschoolers spend some time in early childhood education and child care and this 2002 study will be useful for comparing information currently being collected in this area. This study looks at the distribution and type of child care and providers' experiences caring for children from the South Eastman region. This study was done in partnership with South Eastman Regional Health Authority, Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, Healthy Child Manitoba and Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

This 2002 Manitoba Child Care Study describes types of child care as: centre-based, home-based and unlicensed. Many studies look only at centre-based care, or only at licensed care. The participation of such a large number of unlicensed care providers presents valuable information on private home child care.

Over three-quarters of South Eastman's 60,000 population

live in communities with fewer than 1,000 residents or on rural homesteads scattered across 10,000 square kilometres. French culture and language are important, with 14 per cent speaking French at home (the highest percentage in the province). The regional economy is primarily agriculture-based. More than two-thirds of South Eastman women with preschool children are working – the fastest growing segment of the region's labour force. However, despite more than 2,500 working women with children under age six, South Eastman has only 500 licensed child care spaces.

This study examines the care available in more sparsely populated areas, information that can help shape better child care policy.

This study was jointly funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and Healthy Child Manitoba.



Parameters of the 2002 Manitoba Child Care Study:

- Child care is defined as the regular care of a child by an adult other than a parent for a half day or more per week. It can include paid or unpaid care in child care centres, care by a relative or other caregiver in a home, babysitting or nursery school.
- The study included 94 child care settings and 128 child care providers.
- Providers were drawn from six child care centres, 17 nursery schools, 16 family childcare homes, and 55 private home child care sites.
- The study attempted to represent the broadest range of child care in the South Eastman region in 2002 for licensed child care. It is less representative of unlicensed child care since no complete list exists. All child care centres and nursery schools agreed to participate in the study. Two family child care homes and 26 private home child care sites declined.
- Information was collected through face-to-face and telephone interviews.
- A comprehensive assessment of the quality of child care (such as the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale) was beyond the scope of this study.
- Informed consent on privacy was obtained from all study participants.

CHILD CARE CENTRES

Child care centres are defined as licensed, centre-based child care for children three months to 12 years old. Child care centres offer full-time care for children.

Language

When asked about the primary language used in child care centres:

- 50% reported English
- 33% reported French
- 17% reported that English and French were used equally

Activities

Child care centres reported doing the following activities daily with children in their care:

- 100% reading and story telling activities
- 100% physical play activities
- 100% song or music activities
- 100% crafts or art activities
- 17% television viewing or videos

Parental participation

Study participants said parents were involved in program decision making:

- monthly or occasionally – 83%
- never – 17%

Participants said parents discussed child's care with care providers:

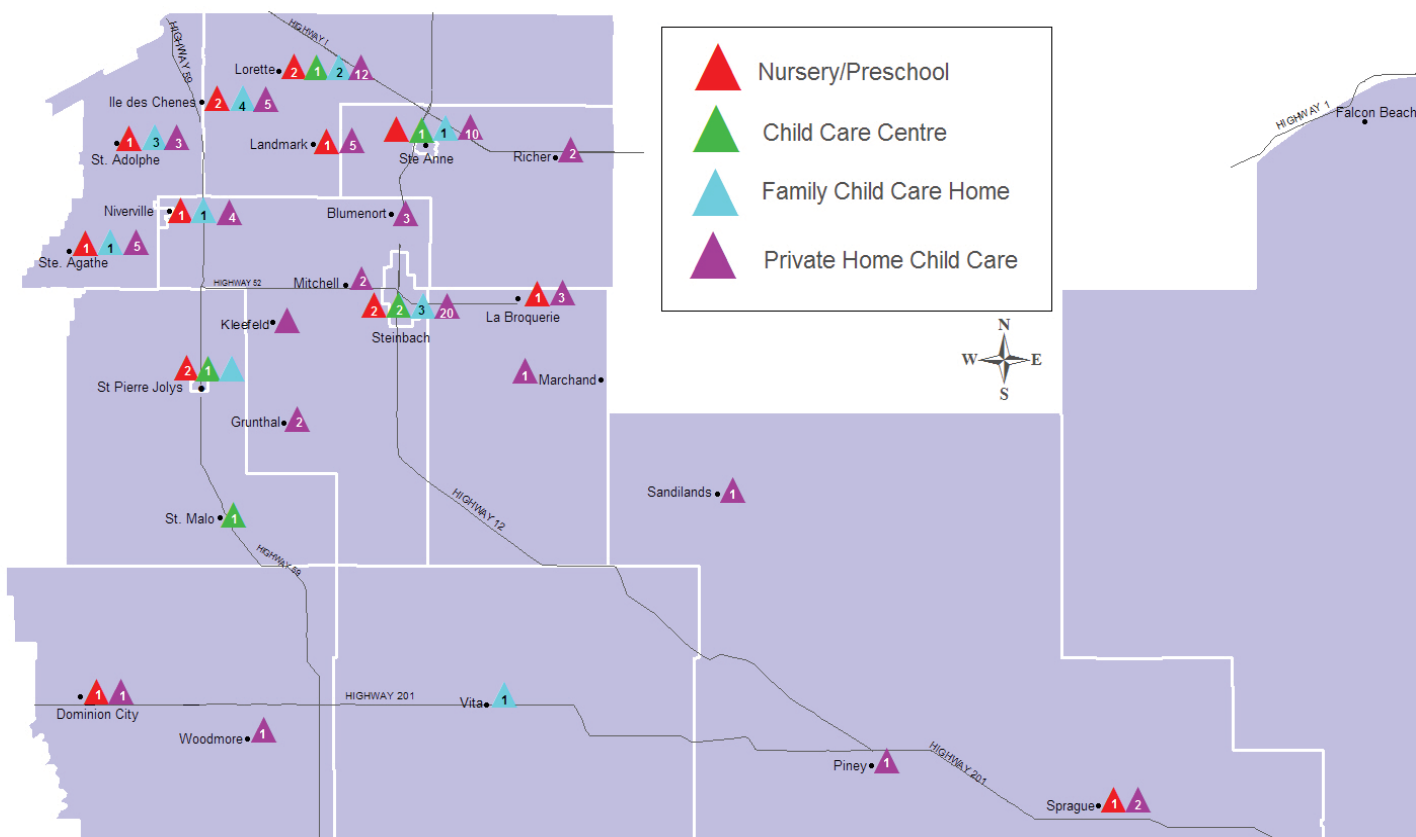
- daily or weekly – 83%
- monthly or occasionally – 17%

Care providers' education

Education levels of child care providers who worked in centres included:

- 84% completed high school
- 6% university degree (in any field)
- 44% early childhood development diploma or certificate
- 84% CPR and/or first aid training

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD CARE BY TYPE OF SETTING IN 2002, SOUTH EASTMAN, MB.



NURSERY SCHOOLS

Nursery schools are licensed, centre-based child care for children under six years of age. Nursery schools can also be unlicensed but located in a school and under the jurisdiction Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. The care at nursery schools is part-time, usually about two to three hours a day, two to five days a week.

Language

When asked about the primary language used in nursery schools:

- 59% reported English
- 29% reported French
- 12% reported that English and French were used equally

Activities

Nursery schools reported doing the following activities daily with children in their care:

- 94% reading and story telling activities
- 59% physical play activities
- 94% song or music activities
- 100% crafts or art activities
- 0% television viewing or videos

Parental participation

Participants said parents were involved in program decision making:

- monthly or occasionally – 65%
- never – 35%

Participants said parents discussed child's care with care providers:

- daily or weekly – 41%
- monthly or occasionally – 59%

Care providers' education

Education levels of child care providers who worked in nursery schools included:

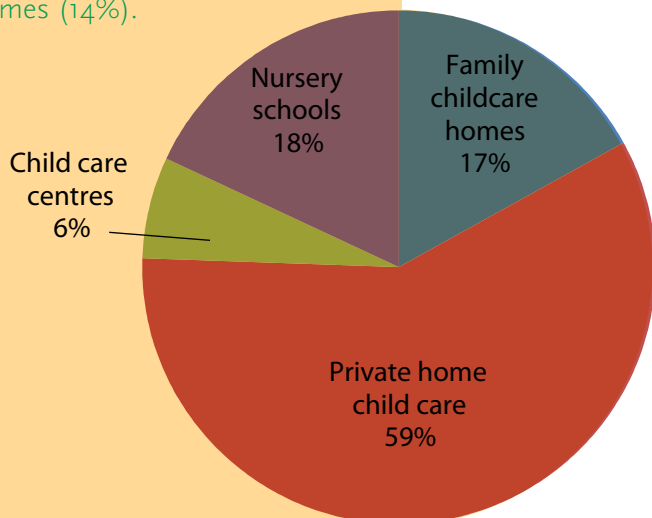
- 83% high school
- 13% university degree (in any field)
- 35% early childhood development diploma or certificate
- 91% CPR and/or first aid training





Types Of Child Care Settings In South Eastman

As shown in the pie chart below, most (59%) of the child care settings in South Eastman are private child care sites. Child care centres make up a small percentage (6%) of available child care. All the child care providers in each setting were also interviewed. The majority of them work in private home child care sites (43%), followed by child care centres (25%), nursery schools (18%) and family childcare homes (14%).



FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Family child care homes are licensed care, based in the providers' homes. There is one child care provider and a maximum of eight children, however this report includes group child care homes, with more than one caregiver and a maximum of 12 children, in this category.

Language

When asked about the primary language used in family child care homes:

- 75% reported English
- 19% reported French
- 6% reported that English and French were used equally

Activities

Family child care homes reported doing the following activities daily with children in their care:

- 88% reading and story telling activities
- 100% physical play activities
- 75% song or music activities
- 69% crafts or art activities
- 56% television viewing or videos

Parental participation

Participants said parents were involved in program decision making:

- daily or weekly – 13%
- monthly or occasionally – 19%
- never – 69%

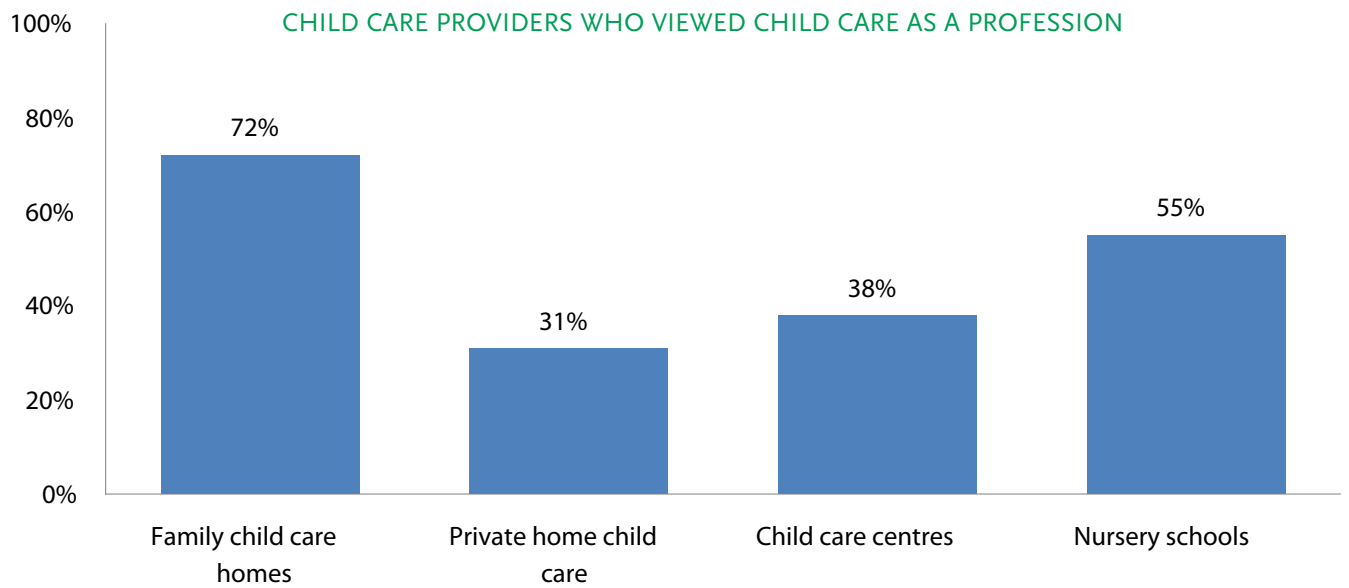
Participants said parents discussed child's care with care providers:

- daily or weekly – 75%
- monthly or occasionally – 25%

Care provider's education

Education levels of child care providers who worked in family child care homes included:

- 78% high school
- 11% university degree (in any field)
- 11% early childhood development diploma or certificate
- 94% CPR and/or first aid training



PRIVATE HOME CHILD CARE

Private home child care is unlicensed care offered in care providers' homes or the children's homes. Providers included grandparents, relatives, neighbours, friends and regular babysitters.

Language

When asked about the primary language used in private home child care:

- 78% reported English
- 16% reported French
- 6% reported that English and French were used equally

Activities

Private home child care providers reported doing the following activities daily with the children in their care:

- 64% reading and story telling activities
- 91% physical play activities
- 60% song or music activities
- 56% crafts or art activities
- 71% television viewing or videos

Parental participation

Participants said parents were involved in program decision making:

- daily or weekly – 11%
- monthly or occasionally – 29%
- never – 60%

Participants said parents discussed child's care with care providers:

- daily or weekly – 71%
- monthly or occasionally – 20%
- never – 9%



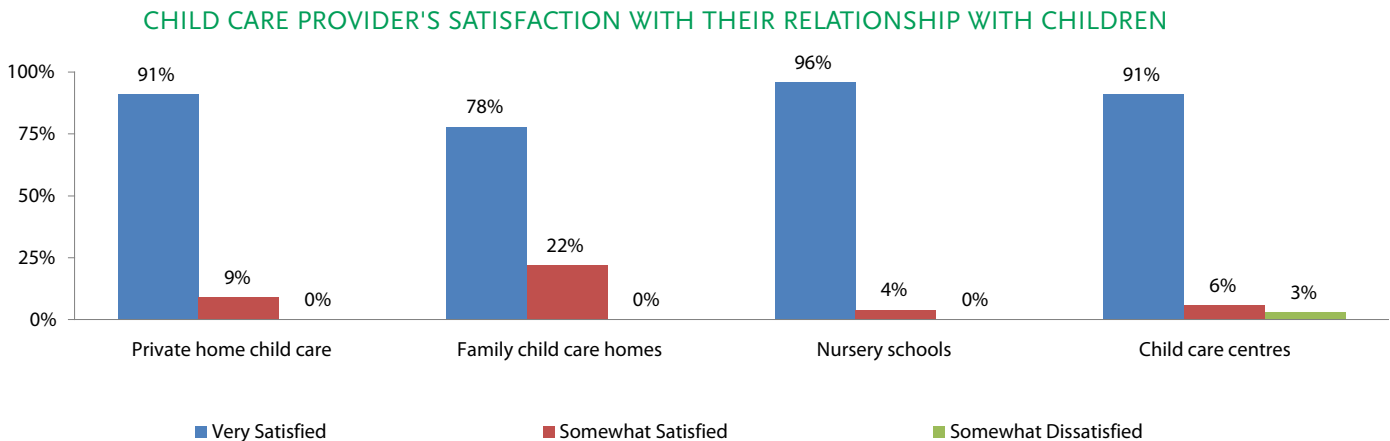
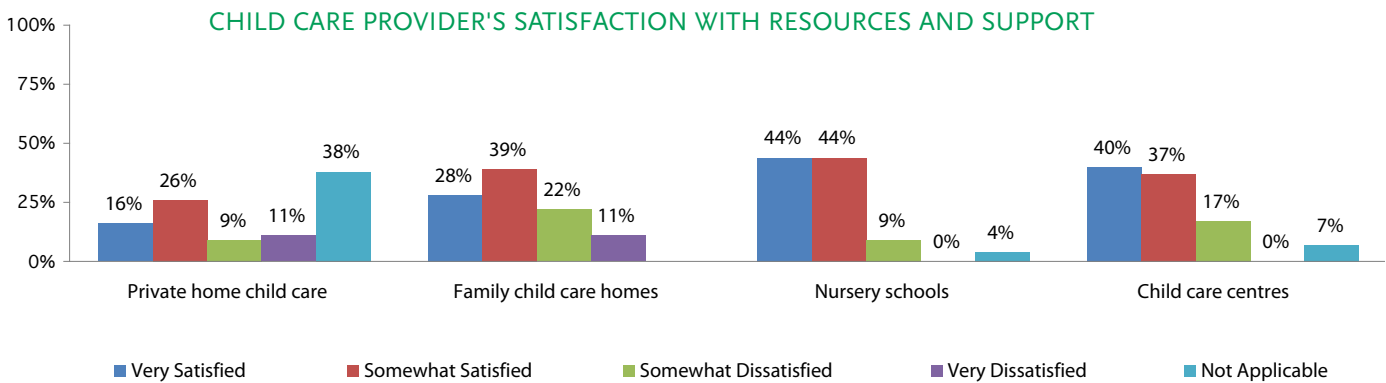
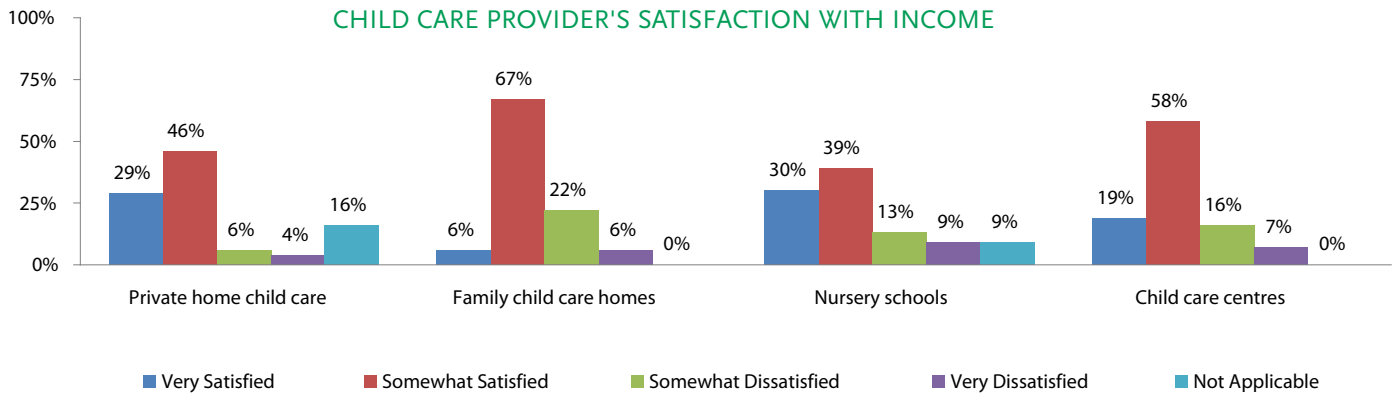
Care providers' education

Education levels of child care providers who worked in private home child care included:

- 69% high school
- 4% university degree (in any field)
- 2% early childhood development diploma or certificate
- 66% CPR and/or first aid training

Job Satisfaction for Child Care Providers

The following charts shows how child care providers rated their own satisfaction in several areas. Overall, they were very satisfied with their jobs, especially in their relationships with children. All were least satisfied with resources/support and income.





What's happened since 2002?

In 2002 the Manitoba government instituted its five-year plan for child care. Here are some of the ways child care in Manitoba has changed since then:

- a 15% salary increase for early childhood educators
- a 12% revenue increase for family child care providers
- 265 more early childhood educator graduates
- 4,302 more spaces funded, 414 in the South Eastman Region
- 251 training grants for family child care providers and child care assistants

Training initiatives and supports have included

- an annual \$250 training grant for child care assistants to begin training
- a tuition support program for students enrolling in ECE at Manitoba colleges
- a staff replacement grant to cover the cost of a substitute to replace a currently employed child care assistant attending ECE college workplace training.

CONCLUSION

The information collected in 2002 shows general characteristics of each type of care. Parents, practitioners and policy makers can use this information to make informed decisions to benefit South Eastman's children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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