

Child Care Information Action Project Update: Greater Victoria

*****REVISED FEBRUARY 13TH, 2008*****
(To Replace January 31st Update)

From March 2007 to January 2008, the Child Care Information Action Project compiled statistics from the VIHA Licensing public pink sheets on three occasions: March 30th 2007, July 18 2007 and January 23 2008. These statistics are shared in the table below.

Within less than a 10 month period, our region has witnessed:

- a decrease of approximately 60 spaces for children aged birth to 5
- no new Group Child Care (Under 36 Months) centres created
- a net loss of 9% of Group Child Care spaces for infants and toddlers
- a decrease of approximately 133 spaces for children aged birth to 12
- an increase of 53 preschool spaces

Numbers of Licensed Child Care Spaces by Care Category for BC's Capital Region

Type of Care (Category)	30-Mar-07 # of Spaces	18-Jul-07 # of Spaces	23-Jan-08 # of Spaces	Change from March 2007 to Jan 2008 net loss / net gain
Group Child Care (Under 36 Months)	443	433	404	-39
Group Child Care (30 Months to School Age)	1824	1803	1801	-23
Preschool	1234	1259	1287	53
Family	1640	1635	1574	-66
Group Child Care (school age to 12 years)	4252	4198	4187	-65
Multi-Age	0	0	15	15
License Not Required	88	88	80	-8
Grand Total	9481	9416	9348	-133
Total Spaces excluding school age and LNR	5141	5130	5081	-60

Source information provided by VIHA. Significant manual compilation and tracking required to provide summary table above, which represents a best estimate of regional child care capacity.

The Understanding the Early Years is a project of PLAY (www.playvictoria.org), and is sponsored by the Community Council of Greater Victoria (www.communitycouncil.ca).

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The collection of child care statistics began in February 2007 for the purposes of establishing baseline information for not only child care, but important early childhood information to support planning and monitoring for our region. All baseline data was used for the development of *The Early Years Report Series for BC's Capital Region*, a product of the work of the Understanding the Early Years initiative.

With child care a priority area for PLAY's coalition work in early childhood, additional research was undertaken during 2007 which culminated into the second report PLAY has produced on child care, *Child Care Information Action Project: 2007 Report on Child Care in the Capital Region*. Data provided in this February 2008 update is a follow through on the commitment the project made to monitoring available indicator data.

The Child Care public list produced by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) Community Care Licensing branch has provided the main source of data for monitoring of statistics of child care spaces. While child care spaces is not the only indicator for monitoring child care provisioning, it is the only available data that is accessible and importantly, regularly updated.

The research team has thoroughly reviewed and edited our initial March 2007 baseline data from VIHA. The July 2007 and January 2008 databases have also been reviewed and cross-checked using VIHA Community Care Licensing monthly reports of closures and openings. All final calculations and formulas have been cross-checked by researchers.

The next update will be produced in June 2008.