

Service provider organisation—service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Service activity type (early childhood education and care)
METEOR identifier:	762656
Registration status:	Early Childhood , Standard 05/07/2022
Definition:	The main type of activity available from or provided by an early childhood education and care service provider, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Service provider organisation—service activity type
Value Domain:	Early childhood education and care service activity type code N[N]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[N]
Maximum character length:	2

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Centre based day care
	2	Occasional care
	3	Outside school hours care
	4	Vacation care
	5	Family day care
	6	In-home care
	7	Early childhood education program
Supplementary values:	99	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

CODE 1 Centre based day care

Centre based day care (known as Long day care prior to 2 July 2018) is a centre-based form of child care service providing all-day or part-time care for children of working families and the general community (services may cater to specific groups within the general community). For-profit and not-for-profit organisations, local councils, community organisations and employers may run these services.

Centre based day care primarily provides services for children aged 0–5 years. Some centre based day care may also provide early childhood education and kindergarten programs and care for school children before and after school and during school holidays, where state and territory government regulations allow this. The service may operate from stand-alone or shared premises, including those on school grounds.

CODE 2 Occasional care

Occasional care, comprises services usually provided at a centre on an hourly or sessional basis for short periods or at irregular intervals for parents who need time to attend appointments, take care of personal matters, undertake casual and part time employment, study or have temporary respite from full time parenting. These services provide developmental activities for children and are aimed primarily at 0–5 year olds. Centres providing these services usually employ a mix of qualified and other staff.

CODE 3 Outside school hours care

Outside School Hours Care, comprises services that provide care for school aged children before school, after school, during school holidays, and on pupil free days. Outside school hours care may use stand-alone facilities, share school buildings and grounds and/or share facilities such as community halls.

CODE 4 Vacation care

Vacation Care, comprises services provided for school aged children during school holidays only.

CODE 5 Family day care

Family day care, comprises services providing small group care for children in the home environment of a registered carer. Care is primarily aimed at 0–5 year olds, but primary school children may also receive care before and after school, and during school holidays. Educators work in partnership with scheme management and coordination unit staff.

CODE 6 In-home care

In-home care, comprises services where an approved carer provides care in the child's home. Families eligible for in-home care include families where the parent/s or child has an illness or disability; families in rural or remote areas; parents working shift work or non-standard hours; families with more than two children from a multiple birth and/or more than two children under school age; and families where a breastfeeding mother is working from home.

CODE 7 Early childhood education program

[Early childhood education program](#), comprises services providing a structured, play-based learning program, aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full-time schooling. The terms most commonly used to describe early childhood education programs which are subject to the PRA in states and territories are:

- Kindergarten – Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania.
- Preschool – New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory.

Submitting organisation: Department of Education
Steward: [Early Childhood Policy Group \(ECPG\)](#)

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: In conjunction with the data elements Management type (ECEC) and Service delivery setting (ECEC), this data element provides information on the different models of early childhood education program delivery.

Collection methods: Only one code should be selected to represent the 'main' type of activity available or provided.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Department of Education
Steward: [Early Childhood Policy Group \(ECPG\)](#)
Origin: Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) 2021. Preschool Reform Agreement. Canberra: CFFR, viewed 4 August 2022
<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/preschool-reform-agreement>
Reference documents: Australian Government (2018). National information agreement on early childhood education and care. Canberra: Australian Government

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Service provider organisation—service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N\[N\]](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 05/07/2022

See also [Service provider organisation—management type, early childhood education and care, code N\[N\]](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 05/07/2022

See also [Service provider organisation—service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N\[N\]](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 05/07/2022

See also [Service provider organisation—service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 05/07/2022

See also [Service provider organisation—service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Recorded 24/05/2024

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2022](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 15/08/2023
Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2023](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 15/08/2023
Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2024](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Recorded 24/05/2024
Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

[National Preschool Attendance Collection DSS 2024](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Recorded 16/05/2024