

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENROLLMENT

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States

In 1999, 64 percent of children ages 3 to 5 were enrolled in center-based preprimary education in the United States. The enrollment rate in center-based preprimary education was higher in the United States than in Canada, but it was lower than the rates in France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. In France and Italy, there was nearly universal enrollment of 3- to 5-year-olds in preprimary education in 1999 (figure 5a).

Enrollment rates in preprimary education were higher in the United States than in the United Kingdom, but the United Kingdom had nearly universal enrollment of 5-year-olds in primary education. Overall, enrollment rates of 3-to-5-year-olds in preprimary and primary education were therefore higher in the United Kingdom than in the United States (figures 5a and 5b).

The enrollment rate in preprimary education in the United States was 38 percent for 3-year-olds and 67 percent for 4-year-olds in 1999. The United States had lower enrollment rates in preprimary education for 3- and 4-year-olds than all other countries presented, except Canada (figure 5b).

The enrollment rate of U.S. 5-year-olds in preprimary education was 89 percent in 1999. In addition, about 5 percent of 5-year-olds in the United States were already enrolled in primary education, bringing the total net enrollment rate of 5-year-olds in the United States to 94 percent. This rate was lower than the rates in all other countries presented, except Canada and Germany (figure 5b).

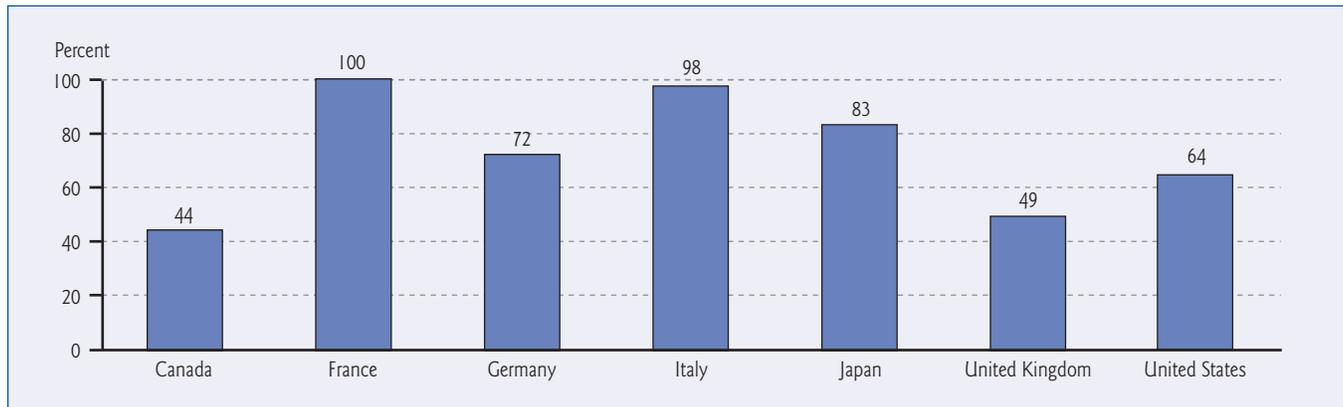
Definition and Methodology

The percentage of the population at a given age enrolled in education is called an “enrollment rate” in international comparisons. In this indicator, the term “enrollment rate” refers to “net enrollment rate.” Net enrollment rate is defined as the number of students in a particular age group divided by the population of that same age group. Enrollments include all full-time and part-time students ages 3, 4, and 5 in public and private schools in 1999. Enrollment figures only include children who attend cen-

ter-based institutions. They exclude children in home-based early childhood education.

Preprimary education in the international classification includes kindergarten and prekindergarten (see ISCED 1997). To conform to the international standard, the United States placed enrollment in kindergarten and prekindergarten classes in elementary schools in preprimary education.

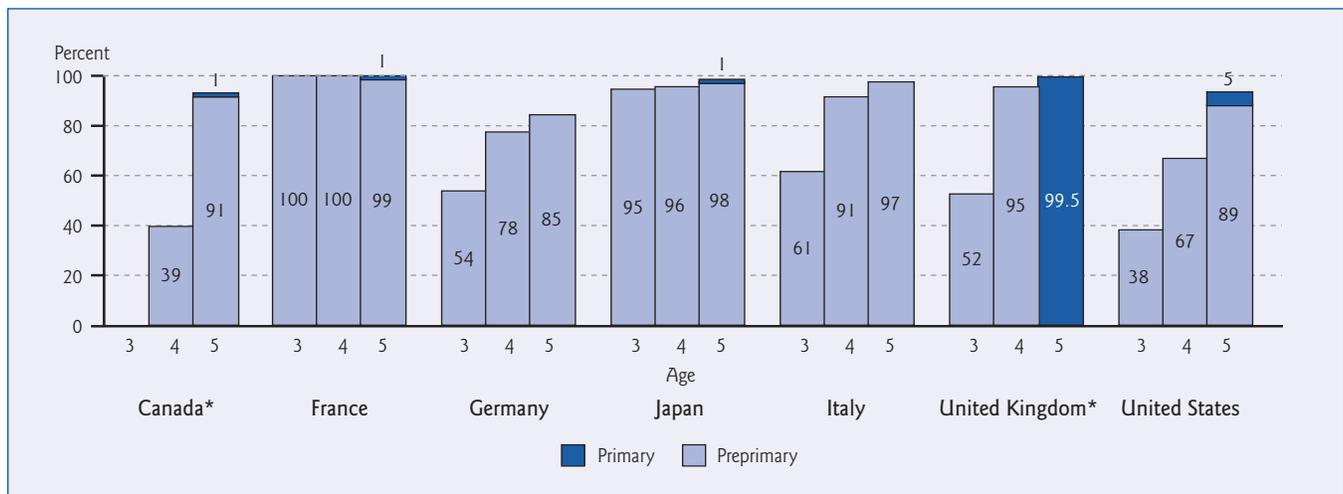
Figure 5a. Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in preprimary education, by country: 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. To conform to the international standard, figures for preprimary education for the United States include enrollments in kindergarten and prekindergarten classes in elementary schools in preprimary education. Figures for the U.S. are from the Current Population Survey and do not correspond with figures published previously by OECD. Only 0.2 percent of 5-year-olds in the United Kingdom are enrolled in preprimary education; over 99 percent are enrolled in primary education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 1998.

Figure 5b. Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in preprimary and primary education, by selected age and country: 1999



*The preprimary enrollment for 3-year-olds in Canada and for 5-year-olds in the United Kingdom rounds to zero.

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. To conform to the international standard, figures for preprimary education for the United States include enrollments in kindergarten and prekindergarten classes in elementary schools in preprimary education. Figures for the U.S. are from the Current Population Survey and do not correspond with figures published previously by OECD. Only 0.2 percent of 5-year-olds in the United Kingdom are enrolled in preprimary education; over 99 percent are enrolled in primary education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 1998.

Early Childhood Enrollment – Data Tables

Table A-5a. Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in preprimary education, by country: 1999

Country	Percentage enrolled
Canada	44
France	100
Germany	72
Italy	98
Japan	83
United Kingdom	49
United States	64

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. To conform to the international standard, figures for preprimary education for the United States include enrollments in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes in elementary schools in preprimary education. Figures for the U.S. are from the Current Population Survey and do not correspond with figures published previously by OECD. Only 0.2 percent of 5-year-olds in the United Kingdom are enrolled in preprimary education; over 99 percent are enrolled in primary education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 1998.

Table A-5b. Percentage of children enrolled in preprimary education, by selected age and country: 1999

Country	Percentage of 3-year-olds enrolled	Percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled	Percentage of 5-year-olds enrolled
Canada	0.01	39	91
France	100	100	99
Germany	54	78	85
Italy	95	96	98
Japan	61	91	97
United Kingdom	52	95	0.2
United States	38	67	89

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. To conform to the international standard, figures for preprimary education for the United States include enrollments in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes in elementary schools in preprimary education. Figures for the U.S. are from the Current Population Survey and do not correspond with figures published previously by OECD. Only 0.2 percent of 5-year-olds in the United Kingdom are enrolled in preprimary education; over 99 percent are enrolled in primary education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 1998.

Table A-5c. Percentage of children enrolled in primary education, by selected age and country: 1999

Country	Percentage of 3-year-olds enrolled	Percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled	Percentage of 5-year-olds enrolled
Canada	0	0	1
France	0	0	1
Germany	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	1
Japan	0	0	0
United Kingdom	0	0	99.5
United States	0	0	5

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. To conform to the international standard, figures for preprimary education for the United States include enrollments in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes in elementary schools in preprimary education. Figures for the U.S. are from the Current Population Survey and do not correspond with figures published previously by OECD. Only 0.2 percent of 5-year-olds in the United Kingdom are enrolled in preprimary education; over 99 percent are enrolled in primary education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 1998.