Child Care in
Whatcom County

Trends in Child Care
In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers has dropped over the past few years while the total capacity for children has been relatively stable since June 2014.

In Whatcom County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 153 with capacity for 3870 children in 2008, to 120 providers with capacity for 3235 children in June of 2015.*

Early Achievers
Early Achievers is Washington’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), which gives training, technical assistance, coaching, awards, scholarships, and other benefits to child care providers to improve the quality of their care.

Statewide, 2,758 child care providers have joined since July 2012.

Approximately 52% of licensed child care providers in Whatcom County are enrolled in Early Achievers. Early Achievers will provide families with valuable child care program quality information so they can make informed child care choices.

Child Care Provider Type
- Centers: 32%
- Family Child Care: 50%
- School Age Only: 18%

Acceptance of State Subsidy
- Accept: 82%
- Do not accept: 18%

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation
- Total: 65
- Child Care Centers: 21
- Family Child Care: 29
- Head Start & State Preschool Sites: 15
Start Date: 7/1/13
Enrollment as of: 8/26/15
**Demographics**

**Population**
- Total Population in 2014: 207,600
- Change since 2010: 6,460
- Children under 5 yrs: 11,235
- Children under 15 yrs: 34,677
- K-12 Enrollment: 26,177

**Economics**
- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 17.1%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 53.4 to 60.6%
- Median Household Income: $53,682
- Unemployment Rate: 5.8%

**Compensation in 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy Rate</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>$25,824</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$33,960</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider</td>
<td>$37,107</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher</td>
<td>$25,824</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Helping Families Find Child Care in 2015**

In FY2015, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 16,027 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Whatcom County alone, we helped 476 families with 698 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 672 times.

**Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy Rate</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$951</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$912</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$815</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>$760</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$693</td>
<td>$745</td>
<td>$657</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$481</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$637</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Family Child Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy Rate</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$813</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$813</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$854</td>
<td>$701</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$715</td>
<td>$619</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$381</td>
<td>$596</td>
<td>$561</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Sources:**
- Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at [http://wa.childcareaware.org](http://wa.childcareaware.org).
- *Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only*
- Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2014-2015
- U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2013
- U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2013
- Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2012 Child Care Survey
  - Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Whatcom County is in DEL Region 3 which includes: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom.
- Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, K-12 Data and Reports Builder, 2012-2013

**For more information, go to [http://wa.childcareaware.org](http://wa.childcareaware.org)**