Child Care in
Pierce County

August 2016

Child Care Aware of Washington
Our mission is to support families and caregivers, shape policy, and build communities that promote the learning and development of children and youth throughout Washington State through a strong statewide network of local child care resource and referral programs.

Since 1989, our regional member programs and statewide Family Center have enhanced the quality of child care and helped families by:

- Delivering training, technical assistance, & consultation to child care providers
- Supplying families with consumer education & referrals for child care

(child formerly the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network)

Pierce County is served locally by Child Care Aware of Tacoma-Pierce County a program of Child Care Resources

1501 Pacific Ave Ste 305
Tacoma, WA 98402

http://www.childcare.org/
253.591.5471

Trends in Child Care
In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers declined from 2011-2013, but the number of providers and total capacity for children has stabilized in the last few years.

In Pierce County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 707 with capacity for 20,367 children in 2011, to 559 providers with capacity for 17,321 children in June of 2016. *

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, 4,011 child care providers have joined since July 2012.

Approximately 66% of licensed child care providers in Pierce County are enrolled in Early Achievers. Early Achievers provides families with valuable child care program quality information so they can make informed child care choices.

Child Care Provider Type
Centers 33%
Family Child Care 56%
School Age Only 11%

Acceptance of State Subsidy
Accept 75%
Do not accept 25%

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation
Total 366
Child Care Centers 153
Family Child Care 169
Head Start & State 44
Preschool Sites

Enrollment as of 8/10/16
Helping Families Find Child Care in 2016

In FY2016, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 16,723 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Pierce County alone, we helped 2487 families with 3666 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 3520 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2016

For more information, go to http://wa.childcareaware.org