Child Care in
Cowlitz County

Trends in Child Care
In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers and capacity for children declined several years ago, but since 2013 the number of providers has become more stable.

In Cowlitz County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 73 with capacity for 2252 children in 2012, to 47 providers with capacity for 1955 children in December 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, 3,998 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.
Approximately 70% of licensed child care providers in Cowlitz 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.
Helping Families Find Child Care in 2016

In 2016, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 15,753 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Cowlitz County alone, we helped 121 families with 189 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 166 times.

Data Sources:
Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at http://wa.childcareaware.org.

*Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only

2Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2016-2017
3U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2015
4U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2015
5Washington State Employment Security Department; U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2016 (not seasonally-adjusted)
6Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2015 Child Care Survey

Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Cowlitz County is in DEL Region 6 which includes: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Hbr, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum.

7Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2015-2016

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