Child Care in
Whatcom County

January 2017

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 Whatcom County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 147 with capacity for 3555 children in 2012, to 110 providers with capacity for 3367 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 74% of licensed child care providers in Whatcom 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 Aware of Washington
Child Care Aware of Washington provides thorough and independent information and support:
• For families seeking quality child care
• For child care programs seeking to improve quality and
• For effective policymaking

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

(Formerly the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network)

Whatcom County
is served locally by
Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington
a program of
The Opportunity Council
1111 Cornwall Ave, Ste 200
Bellingham, WA 98225
http://www.oppco.org/ccrr/
888.444.1862 x227

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Child Care Centers</th>
<th>Family Child Care</th>
<th>Head Start &amp; State Preschool Sites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
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Enrollment as of 2/28/17
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 Whatcom County alone, we helped 471 families with 660 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 588 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2016

Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

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