

Early Childhood Landscape

Gunnison County

Cost of Child Care

Families in Colorado are paying almost 1.5 times higher than the annual cost of tuition at a four year public college

PUBLIC COLLEGE

\$10,645

VS

INFANT CARE

\$12,636

Number of Full Time Child Care Slots

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age	Gunnison	Crested Butte
Infant (0-12 months)	25	10
Toddler (12-36 months)	92	51
Preschool (3-5 years)	112	78
TOTAL 368 Full Time Slots	229	139

779

Children Under the Age of 5 in Gunnison County and ONLY

368

Full-Time Licensed Child Care Slots

102 Infants were born in 2017

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE



LOW WAGES

Director \$38,938
Lead Teacher \$29,099
Assistant Teacher \$23,275
Family Child Care Provider \$28,163
Average for 40+ hours/week



LITTLE TO NO BENEFITS

- Only 33% of providers in Gunnison County are able to offer paid sick/vacation time, a health care stipend/health coverage, and retirement plan options



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Early Childhood Coursework Requirements to obtain Lead Teacher/Director Qualifications
- 15 Hours continuing Education Each Year

Why Quality Child Care Matters



- 90% of brain development occurs before a child's first day of kindergarten
- A child's vocabulary at age 3 can predict third grade reading achievement, a strong indicator of life-long success.
- Limited access to high-quality child care and education means low-income and at-risk children can be developmentally 12-14 months behind their peers



- Providing quality child care is a good investment for our community, businesses & jobs. It allows parents to work full time jobs that are important to our community, while their children are in a safe, healthy learning environment.
- Economic growth and stability of a community depends on families having safe, stimulating child care options.

IS THIS REALLY AN ISSUE?

Quotes from Parents in the Valley

*"We **don't** always **trust** the person we leave our kids with, but it is out of **necessity** that we take our babies/children to a person to watch them."*

- February 2018 Focus Group

This community **NEEDS** more family child care and small center care for **children under 2.**"

-Gunnison County Parent's Response to Child Care Needs Survey conducted Fall 2015

"Finding childcare for my kiddos when they were little was one of the **most stressful** things about having kids in this valley. We were on all the **waiting lists**. When my daughter was 8 weeks old and I had to go back to work there were no spots open for her. Finding quality care for infants was by far the most **challenging** for us."

-Gunnison County Parent's Response to Child Care Needs Survey conducted Fall 2015