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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Public College</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>Infant Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,645</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12,636</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Full Time Child Care Slots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gunnison</th>
<th>Crested Butte</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant (0-12 months)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler (12-36 months)</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool (3-5 years)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL 368 Full Time Slots</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

2017 EC Workforce Survey, SW Colorado

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 Parent’s in the Valley

“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

“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

“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