



## Profile of licensed child care in East Metro Minnesota (Anoka, Ramsey and Washington Counties)

The State of Minnesota licenses family child care homes and child care centers to protect the health, safety, and well being of children.

### Availability (supply) of child care

The availability or supply of licensed child care can be described as both the number of different types of child care settings and the number of children that can be cared for in these settings (capacity). Vacancies provide another way of measuring how much licensed care is available. The type of child care families use depends on their options, whether there are vacancies, and often on the age of their children. Many families choose unlicensed care by family, friends, or neighbors.

### Supply of child care providers (2/1/2006)

- 2,025 family child care providers
- 207 child care centers
- 126 preschools
- 153 school-age care programs
- 303 offering non-standard hours care

Licensed family child care* (2/1/2006)		
Age of child**	License d capacity	Number of full-time vacancies
Infant	3,836	531
Toddler	5,861	881
Preschool	1,506	2,182
School age	924	1,845

Total licensed capacity and vacancies * (2/1/2006)		
	Licensed capacity	Number of reported full-time and/or part-time vacancies
Family child care providers	22,314	3,560
Child care centers	18,236	3,217

Child care centers* (2/1/2006)		
Age of child**	Licensed capacity	Number of full-time vacancies
Infant (6 wks-15 mos)	1,919	286
Toddler (16 mos-32 mos)	3,502	613
Preschool (33 mos-5 yrs)	8,731	1,506
School age (kindergarten-12 yrs)	4,084	924

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 For more information see [www.mnchildcare.org](http://www.mnchildcare.org) or call 651-290-9704  
 Sources: NACCRRAware; MNCCR&R Data Tracking Program  
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\* Licensed capacity minus the number of vacancies may not equal enrollment because providers may prefer not to operate at full capacity.

\*\* The total is not the sum of individual age group numbers due to variability in age groups (case mix) within licensing rules.

## Affordability of child care

Child care costs make up a significant percentage of a family's budget – from 10 percent for higher income families to 28 percent for low-income families. The cost of child care for one year often exceeds the cost of college. Given the importance of child care to families and children as well as to the state's economy, it is important to understand the cost of child care and ways families might be helped to afford it.

### Average weekly full-time rates for child care

Age of care	Family child care providers	Child care centers
Infant	\$138.00	\$241.00
Toddler	\$129.00	\$203.00
Preschool	\$121.00	\$179.00
School age	\$110.00	\$157.00
<b>Average total</b>	<b>\$114.00</b>	<b>\$144.00</b>

### Financial assistance to help families with child care costs

Out of 2,294 providers:

- 30% currently care for Child Care Assistance (CCA) children
- 60% currently are willing to care for CCA children
- 10% are not willing to care for CCA children now or in the future

Out of 2,294 providers (multiple responses):

- <1% of providers offer scholarships available for families
- <1% of providers/programs offer a sliding fee tuition



## Quality of child care

Quality child care is important for the social, emotional, and cognitive development of children. Key indicators of child care quality include the education, training, and experience of the child care provider. For some families, quality also depends on having providers who share their cultural values and language. Other important indicators of quality for families to consider include small group size, fewer children per provider, providers who are responsive to children's needs, and those that have been accredited by a national association.

### Education (multiple responses)\*

Level of education achieved	Family child care providers	
	N	%
High school diploma/GED	1,865	92%
<b>Formal training in child development:</b>		
Child related degree 2 years	77	4%
Child related degree 4 years	159	8%
RN or LPN license	33	2%
Special education degree	23	1%
Competence based training/child development courses	541	27%
CDA	23	1%
1 year certificate	63	3%
MA or higher – child related	15	<1%
College graduates with no formal training in child development (BA/BS or higher)	255	13%

\* Data on center based staff not available

**1,429 family child care providers have six or more years of experience in child care**

### Training in child care\*

Training in child care*	Family child care providers	
	N	%
Culturally responsive training	191	9%
Infant/toddler training	223	11%
Special needs training	216	11%
More than 12 training hours per year (any training)	860	42%

\* Data on center based staff not available.