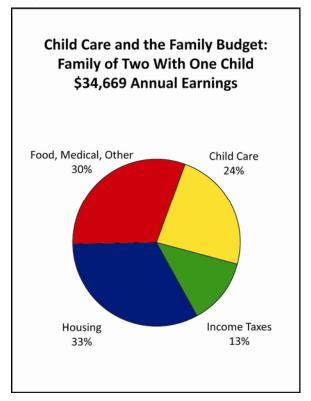
Child Care in Buncombe County

Did you know that...

- approximately **9,550** children under six in the county live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working? The need for child care is critical to the economic viability of these families.
- the county received and spent \$9,554,440 (not including Smart Start funding) to help parents pay for child care in fiscal year 2010-11? In December 2011, the county served 1,767 different children with child care subsidy and had 992 eligible children on the waiting list for subsidy.
- Buncombe County has 148 licensed child care programs? Of these, 113 are centers and 35 are
 family child care homes. Of all the licensed programs in the county, 65% of centers and 29% of
 homes have a 4 or 5 star rating. These businesses employ 1067 people directly, and also contribute
 to the economy through purchases of goods and services provided by other businesses in their
 communities and state.
- there are 4,250 birth to five year old and 1,524 school-age children currently enrolled in these child care programs.
- among birth to five year old children enrolled in centers in Buncombe County, 77% are in 4 or 5 star licensed centers. Among birth to five year old children enrolled in homes in Buncombe County, 35% are in 4-5 star licensed homes.
- 117 teachers, directors and family child care providers living in Buncombe County participated in the
 - T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in fiscal year 2010-2011 with **37** child care programs supporting their employees returning to school through this scholarship program?
- using federal guidelines for setting subsidy payment rates and data from a 2010-2011 market rate study, the 4-star center market rate for two year olds in Buncombe County is \$701 per month?
- most families in Buncombe County cannot afford the full cost of child care? Low-income families and families with more than one child have to pay a high percentage of their income for care. A single mother with one child earning \$34,668 or less per year can receive child care subsidy as funds are available. If funds are unavailable or if this parent's earnings exceed the income eligibility limit, a parent would pay 24% of her gross income (see chart) for child care offered at the county rate. Little is left in the family's budget for food, medical, clothing, travel or other basic living expenses. Due to the high cost of child care, parents such often make difficult choices. Some maybe forced to seek TANF. Others may seek cheaper, often inadequate child care or leave their children unattended.



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