

Child Care in Lane County: Parent Perspectives



Experiences, Needs, & Recommendations

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- Early Childhood Hub of Lane County Oregon
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County
- United Way of Lane County

Overview

This report, supported by United Way of Lane County and the Early Childhood Hub of Lane County, contains key findings of the *Child Care in Lane County: Parent Perspectives* survey and focus group interviews, conducted by the Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oregon in partnership with parents, child care providers, and community groups. Data were collected in November and December 2022. Lane County parents (n=711) completed a survey and 74 parents/caregivers¹ participated in 8 focus group conversations – 4 in English, 4 in Spanish. Participants were invited by United Way, EC Cares, Saint Vincent DePaul, and other early learning sector and community leaders. Surveys and interviews were completed on-line, in person and via Zoom. The focus group interviews were designed to learn about parent experiences with child care, factors that contribute to being comfortable with child care services, child care needs, service barriers, and parent and caregiver recommendations. The survey covered a range of questions with emphasis on parents' child care experiences, needs, and issues surrounding access to care.

Focus group interviews were 90-minutes on average. The conversations were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim for careful review.

Focus group Interview questions included:

1. What has been your overall experience with child care in this community?
2. What are the most important things a child care or preschool program can do to make you feel comfortable sending your child there?
3. What do you need in a child care or preschool?
4. What gets in the way of meeting those needs or what are the biggest barriers to the kind of child care you want for your child(ren)?
5. Ideally what hours of the day and days of the week would your child care provider be available?
6. What do you want funders and decision makers to most know/ understand about child care needs for you and your family?



¹ Parents and caregivers are being used interchangeably to reflect the child's primary caregiver – this may be a biological parent, other relative, adoptive parent, foster parent and many additional caregiver arrangements.

Overall Experiences with Child Care in Lane County

Responses from Focus Group Interviews

Across Lane County, 74 parents and caregivers participated in focus group interviews conducted in English and Spanish. Participants shared about their overall experiences with child care and preschool, child care needs and preferences, barriers to accessing services, and workforce and policy recommendations.



What has been your overall experience with child care in this community?

Overall parents indicated that, when they have received child care services, they have generally had good experiences, with some exceptions (i.e., concerns about staff-child ratio, child cleanliness, proper nutrition). Participants, however, overwhelmingly indicated that they have felt frustration with long waitlists, no or few child care options in their area, and inadequate access to affordable services when and where needed. One participant reflected the view of many: “When I find a service, that option is not available.” Others expressed concern about waitlist fees and poor communication once placed on a waitlist, i.e., I’m on a waitlist, but no communication, no updates, and no one in touch with me. They have my money (waitlist fee), though nothing is happening.”

Many shared concerns about local access:

“I work from home outside of Veneta. I would have to drive 40 minutes into Eugene, drop my kid off... 2 ½ hours of driving for child care.”

“I tried to get into Head Start, but we’re \$50 over the income level. So, I just have my 16-year-old daughter and friends provide the child care.”

Factors That Contribute to Feeling Comfortable and Confident with Child Care Services

What are the most important things a child care or preschool program can do to make you feel comfortable sending your child there?

“To be able to trust the people you leave your kids with – it’s the scariest part of it.”

Four factors emerged as most important for feeling comfortable with child care services: 1) safety and structure, 2) communication, 3) accountability, and 4) well trained staff. Participants often indicated that they are more likely to believe a facility is safe if there is structure, accountability, and skilled staff, i.e., “I need a structured establishment with accountability, including an app and cameras where I can see my child.”

“Being able to see my child would relieve a lot of stress, especially with smaller kids who can’t really communicate about what’s going on.”

“I want a good sense of what their day is going to look like – and good relationships with providers. I will give a new center a chance if there is structure there. I want to know the process of pick up, drop off, and whether there’s always someone at the door so that no kids are unattended.”

Participants also frequently discussed the importance of knowing that the provider is licensed, that background checks are reliably completed, that the home/center is clean, safe and child-proofed, and that incidents are documented and communicated.

(I am most comfortable when I know that my child is with) “well trained and highly skilled teachers that fit the needs of the child – responsive language, engaging children in activities, fostering independence, and creating a language-rich environment.”

Many others indicated that they assess whether a center or in-home provider respects diversity and treats their children fairly – and that this is core to being comfortable with child care. As described by one participant and reflecting the sentiment of many: “As a black person I want a teacher that creates a welcoming environment; kind to my kids, no discrimination or targeting. Not minimizing systemic racism... sorting out their subconscious beliefs and how that is affecting how they treat my kids.”

Many participants expressed concern about “in-home” care. These concerns were primarily centered around safety and quality control. Several participants worried about pets being in the home, i.e., “are they safe?” and others worried about services provided: “A lot of home-based sites don’t have the same standards and requirements, so it’s hard for me to even look at in-home places.” It is important to note this perception reflected by several of the participants, although according to the Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division, the standards for certified and registered in-home child care programs are similar to the licensing requirements for center-based care (<https://oregonearlylearning.com/providers-educators/become-a-provider/licensed-childcare/>).

Several participants also worried about risk due to non-approved people entering the child care space:

“It’s really hard – especially if they’re in a home – anybody can come over anytime and visit and not have a background check. You don’t know... you don’t know who is going to be in their house.”

“In-home child care is available nearby, though I’m just not comfortable with that. What are they like when people aren’t watching?”



Needs/Expectations of Child Care Centers and Child Care Providers

What do you need in a child care or preschool?

Many of the factors that parents and caregivers identified as important for feeling comfortable with child care were also named as central needs and expectations. Three needs and expectations were most prominent: 1) access to affordable and flexible care, 2) quality of care, and 3) communication and relationships.

Affordable and Accessible When Needed

Participants, not surprisingly, very frequently expressed a need for affordable and flexible care. Several, additionally, expressed a need for transportation support.

“Quality child care is crazy expensive.”

“I’m priced out – I can’t have quality child care. It’s crazy. I have a neurodivergent child and, outside of affordability, I’m trying to find a space where he’s not going to get kicked out. He’s already been kicked out...”

Parents also overwhelmingly expressed a need for flexible hours and multiple time slot options to match their real-world working lives. This included a need for affordable after school options, access to care before and after work shifts, services close to work and/or home, child care provided at the workplace, and night shift options.

“I need hours that match working parents. I must work – and be there by 7:30; we need centers that start at least by 7:00 am... (and flexibility). I’m on call; I can’t always anticipate the need.”

“I need options for partial child care – having the ability for two day or three days instead of paying for the four or five days when not needed.”

“I need Monday through Friday – My child care doesn’t provide that, so I pay for two separate places for my daughter because I work full time. I’m acquiring more debt just to work full time.

“I work at Jack in the Box – late. There are no options. And, when it’s a no-school day, I’m always last minute trying to find something else.”

Quality of Care

Participants overwhelmingly emphasized the importance for high quality early learning and age-appropriate instruction. They expressed expecting that staff are well-trained, experienced, and have expertise in early childhood education. Many others associated high quality care with staff knowledge of equity and inclusion: “Support bilingual education and language development; hire bilingual staff.” Regarding equity, one participant reflected the view of many: “I want my culture and my tradition respected and I don’t want my kids being judged for being different.”

“I want to see diversity in what they are taught. For my daughter, I want a doll that looks like her... Support all kids regardless of their background.”

Parents and caregivers also expected instruction that is carried out in spaces that allow age-appropriate play and opportunities for being outside, regardless of the weather. Others highlighted the importance of appropriate child-teacher ratios, active and stimulating learning opportunities, and the importance of meals and nutrition.

“It’s a huge help and relief if they provide meals.”

Good Communication and a Relationship Orientation

Participants widely valued effective communication and positive relationships with their child care provider. This included transparency – beginning with the waitlist process, user-friendly communication systems, and information about their child on a routine basis.

“Understand that I’m entrusting my child to you – provide feedback.”

Participants indicated that a caring relationship with their child care provider is also a high priority, i.e., “Show that you care about me, that you truly care about my child.” Others indicated that it is important to know the staff on a first name basis and to know their child well: “I want them to listen to my child – listen and build on my child’s personality.”

Barriers to Child Care in Lane County

What gets in the way of meeting those needs or what are the biggest barriers to the kind of child care you want for your child(ren)?

“At minimum wage, my entire paycheck goes to child care costs for my two kids.”

Two barriers were very frequently identified by participants: 1) cost and access to services, and 2) “systems navigation.” Regarding costs, participants consistently shared that affording high-quality child care is difficult for families in middle+ income brackets, and often out of reach for families with low income:

“Housing costs are crazy. Rent is crazy. Even if you’re making \$25.00/hour, you’re barely able to afford housing alone... Acquiring debt while I work full time is my life.”

Many others indicated that a key barrier is very few child care options and poor access to services when and where needed, e.g., “the child care we were able to get is 6 hours – we work 8, at least.” And “It’s so difficult... do I pay my rent or mortgage or child care? It’s a struggle.” And “we need weekend child care.”

“My husband and I talked about him going down to 28 hours/week or so – so that he can come home from work in time to get them (the children) from child care.”

“I find myself working at night to make up for hours missed since I had to get pick up my kids at child care – and that’s when they’re healthy. When they get sick, it’s even more of a struggle.”

“Systems navigation” – or knowing where and how to find and secure suitable child care – was named as a high challenge and source of frustration by many participants. This included struggling to have the time to do the research to identify care, i.e., “The time it takes to find a proper center, to learn about the center, to ensure it is the right place, to ensure it is good for my child.” Many others shared that they didn’t know where to turn to identify good options – finding this “overwhelming,” “hard,” and “discouraging.” This challenge was expressed by people in many income brackets, i.e., “Navigating the system is overwhelming and hard. We don’t qualify for income-based support (and can’t afford child care).”

Several parents indicated that some medical providers didn’t have useful information, i.e., “Our pediatrician... not helpful at all in finding child care.” And – “Just getting a pdf of listings isn’t useful...”

Many parents also shared that they were unaware of referral systems and tools to identify care centers: “I’ve never heard of a resource and referral network... It seems like there’s nothing out there that helps parents navigate the process – a friendly way to understand the challenges we’ll face when moving your baby through the child care system.” These challenges, expressed by several parents, are compounded by a largely monolingual system.

Many also expressed concern about short response time windows when slots do come available:

“Once a spot opens, you have to respond right away – even if you don’t really have a chance to sit down and weigh your options. If you wait, you miss out.”

A Call to Action to Funders and Decision Makers

What do you want funders and decision makers to most know/understand about child care needs for you and your family?

“Where are we as a culture? Why are we having to kill ourselves just to have our children in care? We must make changes. I don’t know for sure where it starts – but it seems like child care.”

Parents and caregivers focused their comments to funders and decision-makers on two primary areas: 1) child care workforce, and 2) policy change.

Workforce

Calls to workforce change centered on building up employer-based care, promoting conditions that bring high quality staff into the child care workforce, offering accessible classes for people interested in becoming child care providers, and direct trauma-informed support for providers. Regarding employer-based care, one parent raised a question shared by many: “Who is providing child care at work? Peace Health and Lane County – do they have employer-based child care? I don’t think so.” Parents generally believed that few employers in Lane County provide on-site child care – and urged this as one part of a child care system solution.

Others advocated building up the child care workforce by increasing salaries, ensuring benefits, and providing support for child care providers who do valuable and hard work every day, i.e., “attract quality people with a wage that reflects the work they’re doing.” Another parent emphasized the importance of training and support for child care providers – and especially given the challenges and unique skill sets needed for working effectively with young children:

“Provide support (for child care staff) for hard child behaviors. I see kids being bothered in the classroom when some kids are throwing chairs or clearing tables and shelves. Everybody, even the teacher, is running around... we don’t want anyone to get hurt. It’s very hard to calm down a 3-year-old who is terrified, and one who is trying to hurt others or themselves. They don’t know how to manage that behavior. There needs to be more support for teachers and children.”

Policy

“It’s just getting worse – address the underlying issues of basic support for families.”

Parent participants very directly advocated for policy changes that they believe will improve their situations, enhance the child care workforce, and foster child well-being. This included each of the following priorities:

- Paid parental leave – “Catch up with many other countries.”
- Reduce disparity – “Follow the lead of some other states (e.g., WA).”
- Equity – “Be sure it is a system that everyone can access.”
- Affordability – “Child care subsidies – prioritize it.”

Others highlighted the importance of a reliable and enduring child care workforce with much less staff turnover:

“You want them to love your child, like you love your children... though it’s a new teacher every few months – and then another teacher, and another new teacher...”



Parents also urged two key changes toward increasing access and affordability: 1) income limits, and 2) sliding scale options.

“Income limits must be looked at. Whether low income and middle income – still can’t afford it.”

“Things need to be on a sliding scale.”

Finally, one parent described the intersecting challenges of child care workforce, child care cost, and reliable access to care, when and where needed, in this way:

It’s shocking that in America where we have so much of everything – but not the one thing that we need the most... You have a situation where children are in child care that isn’t long enough for parents’ jobs or isn’t dependable enough to maintain a job because when a teacher is sick there is no substitute – so they cancel. You then can’t go to work. So – you have a downward spiral of keeping people in poverty that are already in poverty... we hold them in poverty because they can’t afford to work due to child care costs and lack of reliable care.

Parents also urged policy makers and business owners to understand and promote the benefits of child care access for their businesses and for the overall good of the economy, family well-being, and improved child outcomes.

“High quality child care provides a foundation of experiences that fosters the growth and development of children in a safe and nurturing environment.”

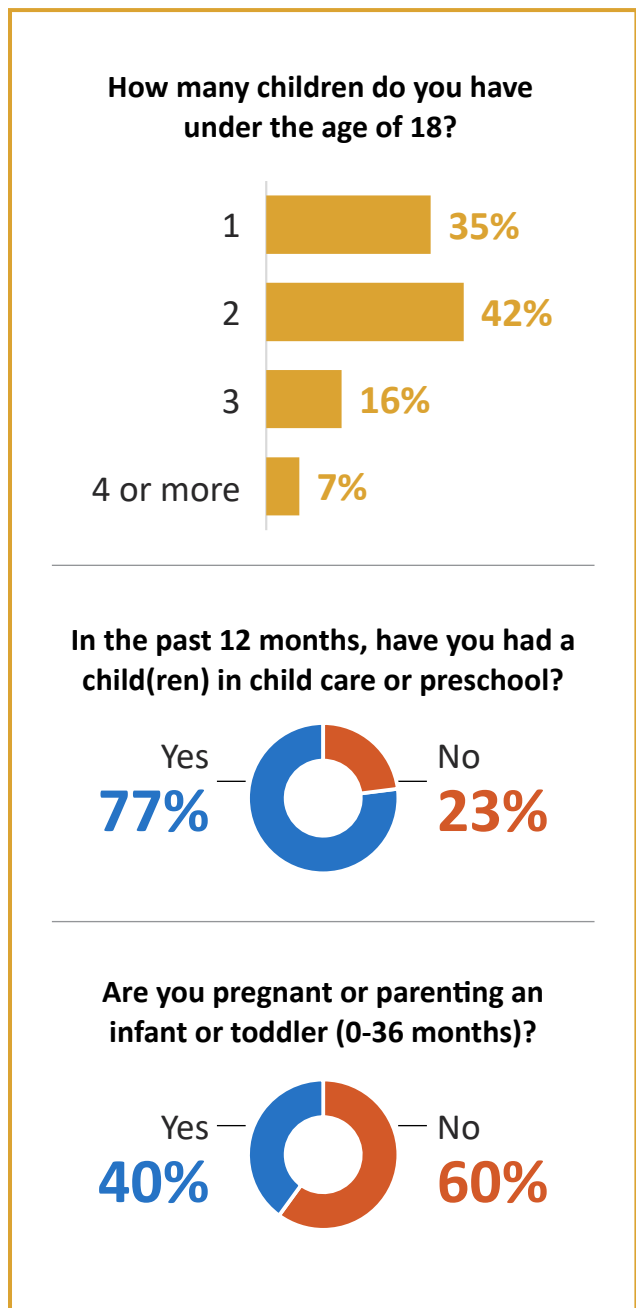
Child Care in Lane County: Parent Perspectives Survey

The purpose of the 35-item online survey was to assess what Lane County families want and need when they are looking for child care or preschool and some of the barriers families face in that search—and what their experience with child care has been overall. 711 Lane County parents and caregivers responded to the survey; a copy of the survey is included in the appendix. Sixty-three respondents complete the survey in Spanish.

Parent and Caregiver Demographic Characteristics

Eighty-four percent of respondents identified as mothers (biological, adoptive, or step), 12% were fathers, 3% were other relatives or legal guardians, and 1% were foster parents. When asked about their family structure at home, 76% indicated their family consisted of a mother and father with child(ren), and more than 1 in 5 (21%) were single parents/guardians. Twenty-five percent of respondents identified as parents of color. The majority stated that they work full-time (67%), and one third of respondents reported their annual household income at \$50,000 or under. Thirty-five percent had one child, 42% had two children, and 23% had three or more; 39% had at least one child under the age of 3.

Race/Ethnicity of Participants	
0.7%	American Indian or Alaska Native
2.7%	Asian
0.1%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
1.7%	Black or African American
5.5%	Hispanic or Latinx
74.4%	White
22.2%	More than one race/ethnicity



Child Care Needs and Preferences

Seventy-six percent of participants expressed a need for child care or preschool for their child(ren) while they work or attend school. Of those, 66% need child care 5 days per week or more. Sixty-eight percent of participants indicated a need for their child to attend 4 hours or more per day, and 57% stated they would require before and/or after care in order for their child to attend preschool if a program ran less than 8 hours per day. An additional 18% stated that although they do not need child care or preschool in order to work or attend school, they would like their child(ren) to have the social/emotional and educational experience.

Participants indicated that when considering child care or preschool providers, the top two things they look for are 1) a high quality rated program (72%) and 2) affordability (72%). Additionally, 70% of parents and caregivers stated that they look for the teachers' skills and style, and 69% said it is important that the child care or preschool provider is near their home. Among parents who were pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler, 88% shared that it is very or extremely important to them that their child care provider has specialized training in infant and toddler care. Seventy-five percent indicated that it is very or extremely important that their child care provider allows flexible pick up and drop off times.



Where are you most comfortable taking your child to child care or preschool?

(Select all that apply)

67%	A child care center
61%	Public or private school (Elementary, Middle, or High School)
48%	Family or friend's house
29%	A licensed child care program in a home
13%	Faith-based program
12%	None of these – I prefer to stay at home with my child
5%	Other

When you look for child care or preschool, what do you look for?

(Select all that apply)

72%	High quality rated program
72%	Is affordable
70%	The teachers' skills and style
69%	Is close to my home
39%	The program philosophy (e.g., Waldorf, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, etc)
39%	Is close to my work
15%	Accepts ERDC (Employment-Related Day Care) subsidy
7%	Other



Challenges Accessing Child Care and Preschool

Parents and caregivers reported that the biggest challenges to enrolling their child in child care or preschool were 1) the associated cost of the program (65%) and 2) little or no availability of programs in the area (59%). Several parents shared that they had been on long waitlists at one or more child care locations; one waited for up to two years at a Eugene-area provider. One focus group participant stated that even though their child was offered a spot at a local preschool, enrollment was not possible due to a staff shortage: “We qualified, and they accepted her in a preschool, but they put her on a waitlist because they don’t have enough teachers... one of the biggest issues is the lack of staff.”

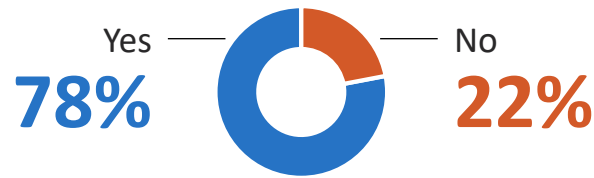
Twenty-two percent of participants expressed difficulty with transporting their child to and from child care or preschool. Of those, 74% stated that the pick-up and/or drop-off schedule conflicted with their work or school. Additionally, 41% explained that the cost of gas or a taxi/ride share was too high. When asked about transportation options that may alleviate some of these challenges, 53% said they would benefit from a gas card, and 87% stated that access to a school bus for pick-up and drop-off would make it more possible for their child to attend child care or preschool.

What are the biggest challenges to getting your child enrolled in child care or preschool?

(Select all that apply)

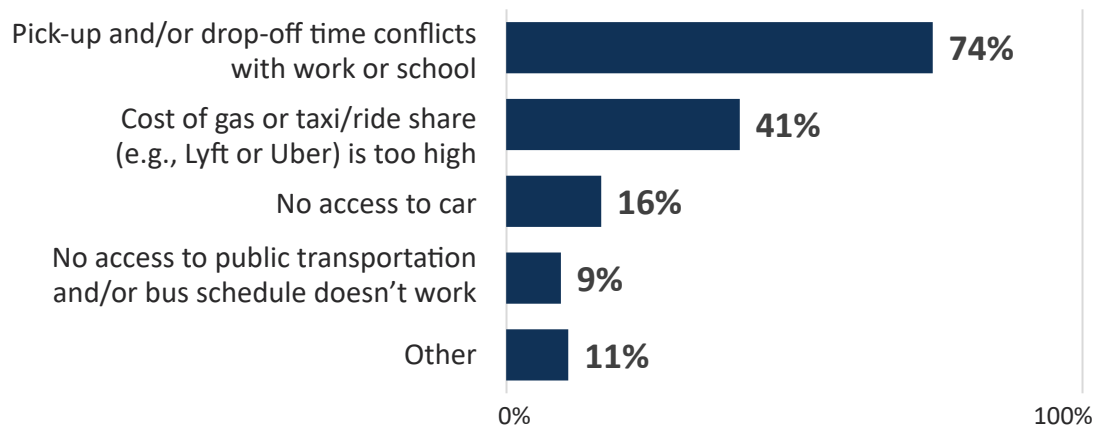
65%	Cost of program
59%	No/low availability of programs or providers in my area
29%	Days and hours of most programs don’t work for me
21%	I don’t trust people that I don’t know to care for my child
9%	I don’t have a way to get them there
8%	Not applicable – I don’t have any challenges
6%	I don’t know where to find child care or preschool for my child
5%	My child has behavioral/emotional needs, no child care or preschool programs in my area can work with them
5%	No child care or preschool programs in my area that share my family’s culture or values
2%	My child has specific medical needs, no child care or preschool programs in my area can work with them
2%	My child has a disability or IFSP, no child care or preschool programs in my area can work with them
2%	No child care or preschool programs in my area that speak my language
5%	Other

Is transporting your child to/from child care or preschool difficult for you?



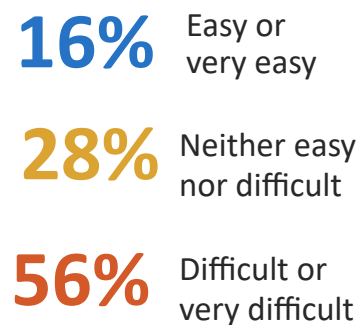
Why is transportation to/from child care or preschool difficult?

(Select all that apply)



One focus group participant explained, “I need for my child to be able to take the bus to school, but there’s no bus for him, so I have to take him. I want him to be more independent, but there’s no bus.” Over half (56%) of participants shared that they had had a difficult or very difficult time finding child care near their home or workplace. Twenty-three percent of participants said they need to travel at least ten miles one-way to child care or preschool; 6% needed to travel twenty miles or more.

How easily or difficult have you found child care near to where you live or work?



Summary

Overall, Lane County parents and caregivers shared generally positive experiences with child care in the community, although many participants expressed having had difficulty accessing affordable, high quality care when needed. Participants frequently cited long waitlists and few available options, if any, especially in rural areas: “It was so difficult to find a preschool for my child that he didn’t end up going—he just went straight to kindergarten.” When asked about needs and preferences related to child care, parents frequently expressed a desire for a safe, structured environment with well-trained, communicative staff who practice accountability and intentionally create a welcoming space for

children of all backgrounds. The most commonly reported barriers to accessing child care were related to high costs and difficulty navigating complex systems and networks to identify available providers. Participants were quite vocal when asked what they want funders and decision-makers to know about their experiences with child care in Lane County; many of their statements centered on proposed changes to child care workforce, including increased availability of employer-based care and trauma-informed support for child care providers. Parents were adamant about the need for policy change in key areas related to paid parental leave, increased focus on equity, and affordability of care.



Lane County Child Care & Preschool Survey

Thank you for taking the time to answer a short survey about your experience of getting child care or preschool for your child(ren). All answers are anonymous and confidential. If you'd rather share your thoughts over the phone, please contact education@unitedwaylane.org to set up a phone interview.

We're raffling off five (5) \$100 gift cards as a thank you for taking the survey. To enter the raffle, please provide your contact information on the last page of the survey.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at: education@unitedwaylane.org or call 541.741.6000.

Thanks again!

Your Family's Child Care Wants & Needs

1. **How many children do you have under the age of 18?** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 or more
2. **What are the ages of your child(ren)?** (Select all that apply) 0-12 months 13-24 months 25-36 months
 3 - 5 years old 6-8 years old 9-11 years old 12-17 years old
3. **What is your relationship to this child or these children?**
 Mother (Bio, Adoptive, or Step) Grandfather Other relative Other (please specify): _____
 Father (Bio, Adoptive, or Step) Aunt Foster parent _____
 Grandmother Uncle Other legal guardian _____
4. **In the past 12 months, have you had a child(ren) in child care or preschool?** Yes No
5. **Is your child on an IFSP/IEP, receiving services from Early Childhood CARES, and/or has identified special needs?**
 Yes No I don't know
6. **Where are you most comfortable taking your child to child care or preschool?** (Select all that apply)
 A child care center Public or private school (Elementary, Middle, or High School)
 A licensed child care program in a home Faith-based program
 Family or friend's house None of these – I prefer to stay at home with my child
 Other (please specify) _____
7. **Of those, please rank your top two choices** 1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____
8. **Why does your family need child care or preschool?**
 I need child care or preschool for my child(ren) while I work or attend school.
 I do not need child care or preschool because I work or attend school, but would like my child(ren) to have the social/emotional and educational experience.
 N/A, I do not want or need child care.
9. **How many days a week do you need child care or preschool?**
 1 day 2 days 3 days 4 days 5 days 6 days 7 days
10. **How many hours a day do you need your child to attend child care or preschool?**
 2 hours 3 hours 4 hours 6 hours 8 hours Other (please specify) _____
11. **When do you need child care or preschool?** (Select all that apply)
 Mornings Afternoons Evenings Weekends Overnight Other (please specify) _____
12. **If a program ran less than 8 hours a day, would you need before and/or after care in order for your child to attend preschool?** Yes No

13. When you look for child care or preschool, what do you look for? (Select all that apply)

- High quality rated program
- Accepts ERDC (Employment-Related Day Care) subsidy
- Is affordable
- Other (please specify) _____
- Is close to my home
- Is close to my work
- The teachers' skills and style
- The program philosophy (e.g., Waldorf, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, etc)

14. What are the biggest challenges to getting your child enrolled in child care or preschool? (Select all that apply)

- Cost of program
- No/low availability of programs or providers in my area
- Days and hours of most programs don't work for me
- I don't have a way to get them there
- My child has specific medical needs, no child care or preschool programs in my area can work with them
- My child has a disability or IFSP, no child care or preschool programs in my area can work with them
- My child has behavioral/emotional needs, no child care or preschool programs in my area can work with them
- No child care or preschool programs in my area that speak my language
- No child care or preschool programs in my area that share my family's culture or values
- I don't know where to find child care or preschool for my child
- I don't trust people that I don't know to care for my child
- Not applicable – I don't have any challenges
- Other (please specify) _____

Transportation

15. Is transporting your child to/from child care or preschool difficult for you? Yes

No (please skip to Question #16)

16. Why is it difficult? (Select all that apply)

- Pick-up and/or drop-off time conflicts with work or school
- No access to car
- Other (please specify) _____
- No access to public transportation and/or bus schedule doesn't work
- Cost of gas or taxi/ride share (e.g., Lyft or Uber) is too high

17. What mode of transportation do you use to get your child to child care or preschool? (Select all that apply)

- Walk or bike
- Public transportation
- School bus
- My own vehicle
- Child care/preschool van or bus
- My friend or relative transports my child
- Taxi, Lyft, or Uber
- I am unable to get my child to preschool
- Other (please specify) _____

18. Would any of the following transportation options make it possible for your child to attend child care or preschool?

- School bus pick-up/drop-off
- Gas card
- City bus pass
- Does not apply – I can get my child to child care or preschool
- Other (please specify) _____

19. How easily or difficult have you found child care near to where you live or work?

- Very easy
- Easy
- Neither easy or difficult
- Difficult
- Very difficult

20. How many miles (one-way) do you need to travel to get your child to child care or preschool? _____

Infant & Toddler Care

21. Are you pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler (0-36 months)?

- Yes
- No (please skip to Question #25)

How important is it that your child care provider	Not at all important	Not so important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Not applicable
22. Supports you in exclusive breastfeeding or bottle feeding with expressed breast milk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23. Has specialized training to care for infants or toddlers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Allows flexible pick up and drop off times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

25. How interested are you in receiving home visits from your child care provider as a resource and support to you and your family?

- Not at all interested Not so interested Somewhat interested Very Interested Extremely interested

Demographic Questions

26. What is your zip code? _____

27. What gender do you identify as? Male Female Prefer to self-describe: _____
 Prefer not to answer

28. How do you identify your race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, country of origin, or ancestry? _____

29. Please indicate you and your child(ren)'s race and ethnicity in the table below.

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latino	White/ Caucasian	Other (please specify)
You	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child #3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child #4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child #5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child #6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

30. What is your annual household income? Under \$25,000 \$25,001 - \$50,000 \$50,001 - \$100,000
 \$100,001 - \$200,000 Over \$200,000 Prefer not to answer

31. What is your family structure at home?

- Single mother/female guardian with child(ren) Mother & father with child(ren) Grandparent(s) with child(ren)
 Single father/male guardian with child(ren) Same sex couple with child(ren) Foster parent(s) with child(ren)
 Other (please specify) _____

32. What is your employment status? Part-time Full-time Unemployed Student Retired
 Other (please specify) _____

33. What is/are the primary languages spoken at home? _____

34. What is your child(ren)'s primary language? _____

How Did You Hear About Us?

35. Where did you hear about this survey?

- Friend/family member Child care or preschool provider Human service agency Other (please specify): _____
 Community organization School teacher or administrator Early Learning Alliance _____
 Social media Healthcare provider (Early Learning Hub) _____

36. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us? _____

Raffle

37. Are you interested in entering the raffle for one of five \$100 gift cards?

- a. Yes (*please complete raffle form on other side*)
 b. No – thank you for completing the survey!

Lane County Child Care & Preschool Survey Raffle Entry Form

Thank you for completing the Lane County Child Care & Preschool Survey! We really appreciate your participation.

Please fill out the information below to be entered into the raffle for one of five \$100 gift cards.

The drawing will be held on Friday, December 2nd. If you are a winner, we will contact you and ask for your gift card preference (Walmart, Target, Amazon, Fred Meyer, etc.)

If you have any questions, please email us at: education@unitedwaylane.org or call 541-741-6000.

Thanks again!

To submit your survey & raffle form, please send it:

By mail: United Way of Lane County, 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield, OR 97477

By fax: 541-726-4150

By email: education@unitedwaylane.org

**We will separate all surveys & raffle forms so your answers remain anonymous and confidential.
You can also mail, fax, or email separately.**

Please enter your contact information below.

Name _____

City _____

Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Question 3:

To what extent are families from priority populations getting their needs and preferences met?

INSTRUCTIONS: Summarize how families from priority populations rank their top needs and preferences in the table below. Also include families' preferred language of instruction and preferred type of ECE provider settings (e.g., home-based, center-based, friend/family/neighbor care, etc.)

	"Priority Population 1: - Children of color"	"Priority Population 2: - Children who are emerging language learners"	"Priority Population 3: - Children with special needs"	"Priority Population 4: - Children who live in rural/geographically isolated communities"	"Priority Population 5: - Children living in socially complex families, including children of teen parents, parental incarceration or in treatment for substance abuse; parents who have cognitive limitations/intellectual disabilities; student parents "
1st Need/ Preference	Sixty-five percent of families with a child of color indicated a need for child care or preschool 5 days per week. The majority of families (92%) stated they need child care or preschool during the morning and/or afternoon. Seventy-two percent need their child to attend 4 hours or more per day, and 60% stated they would need before and/or after care in order for their child to attend preschool if a program ran less than 8 hours per day. Seventy-six percent of parents who were pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler shared that it is very or extremely important to them that their child care provider allows flexible pick up and drop off times.	N/A	Over two thirds (67%) of families with a child with special needs stated they need child care or preschool 5 days per week. Ninety-two percent expressed a need for child care or preschool during the morning and/or afternoon. Sixty-seven percent of families need their child to attend 4 hours or more per day, and 65% indicated that if a program ran less than 8 hours per day, they would need before and/or after care in order for their child to attend preschool. Sixty-five percent of parents who were pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler stated it is very or extremely important to them that their child care provider allows flexible pick up and drop off times.	Fifty-two percent of families living in rural Lane County expressed a need for child care or preschool 5 days per week. The majority of families (92%) stated they need child care or preschool during the morning and/or afternoon. Seventy-five percent need their child to attend 4 hours or more per day, and over half (52%) stated they would need before and/or after care in order for their child to attend preschool if a program ran less than 8 hours per day. Seventy percent of parents who were pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler stated it is very or extremely important to them that their child care provider allows flexible pick up and drop off times.	Fifty-nine percent of socially complex families indicated a need for child care or preschool 5 days per week. Eighty-nine percent expressed a need for child care or preschool during the morning and/or afternoon. Seventy-nine percent of families need their child to attend 4 hours or more per day, and over half (53%) stated they would need before and/or after care in order for their child to attend preschool if a program ran less than 8 hours per day. Sixty-five percent of parents who were pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler stated it is very or extremely important to them that their child care provider allows flexible pick up and drop off times.
2nd Need/ Preference	Seventy-two percent of families stated a need for child care or preschool close to their home or workplace. When asked how easy or difficult it was to find a provider that met this need, 57% said they had a difficult or very difficult time finding a provider nearby.	N/A	Seventy-one percent of families explained that when looking for child care or preschool, they look for a provider close to their home and/or workplace. Over half (56%) stated they had a difficult or very difficult time finding a provider that met this need.	Seventy-five percent of families shared that when looking for child care or preschool, they look for a provider close to their home and/or workplace. Sixty-five percent stated they had a difficult or very difficult time finding a provider close by.	Seventy-five percent of families explained that when looking for child care or preschool, they look for a provider close to their home and/or workplace. Fifty percent shared they had a difficult or very difficult time finding a provider close by.
3rd Need/ Preference	Seventy-four percent of families expressed a need for affordable child care or preschool.	N/A	Sixty-six percent of families expressed a need for affordable child care or preschool.	Eighty percent of families expressed a need for affordable child care or preschool.	Seventy-seven percent of families expressed a need for affordable child care or preschool.

	"Priority Population 1: - Children of color"	"Priority Population 2: - Children who are emerging language learners"	"Priority Population 3: - Children with special needs"	"Priority Population 4: - Children who live in rural/geographically isolated communities"	"Priority Population 5: - Children living in socially complex families, including children of teen parents, parental incarceration or in treatment for substance abuse; parents who have cognitive limitations/intellectual disabilities; student parents "
4th Need/ Preference	Seventy-four percent of families stated a need for a high quality rated child care or preschool program, and 70% indicated a preference for a teacher whose skills and style align with their needs.	N/A	Sixty-five percent stated a preference for a high quality rated program. Sixty-nine percent of families indicated a preference that their child attend a child care or preschool where the teacher's skills and style align with their needs.	Sixty-six percent of families shared that they look for a high quality rated program when considering child care providers or preschools, and 64% preferred a setting where the teacher's skills and style align with their needs.	Sixty-five percent of families expressed a need for a high quality rated program. Seventy-percent of families stated a preference for a child care or preschool where the teacher's skills and style align with their needs.
Preferred language(s) of instruction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Preferred type of provider setting	Over two thirds (67%) of families with a child of color stated they were most comfortable taking their child to a child care center. In addition, 61% indicated a preference for a public or private school setting (Elementary, Middle, or High School).	N/A	Sixty-six percent of families with a child with special needs indicated they were most comfortable taking their child to a child care center. Additionally, 66% stated a preference for a public or private school setting (Elementary, Middle, or High School).	Among families living in rural Lane County, 61% stated they were most comfortable taking their child to a provider situated in a public or private school setting (Elementary, Middle, or High School). Families also indicated a preference for a family or friend's house (56%) and a child care center (55%).	Sixty percent of socially complex families stated they were most comfortable taking their child to a child care center. In addition, 54% expressed a preference for a public or private school setting (Elementary, Middle, or High School), and 50% had a preference for a family or friend's house.
DATA SOURCES AND NOTES					The data above represent the views of survey respondents who identified as foster parents, student parents, and/or parents whose annual household income was \$50,000 or below.
DEFINITIONS OF NEED/PREFERENCE CATEGORIES					

Key Takeaways

1. Across all priority populations, the majority indicated a need for child care or preschool 5 days a week, 4 hours per day or more during the morning and/or afternoon. The majority of families who were pregnant or parenting an infant or toddler stated the importance of having a provider that allows flexible pick up and drop off times.
2. Finding child care near to where parents live or work was very important for all priority populations.
3. When asked about the top qualities they look for when considering child care providers or preschools, the majority of parents across all priority populations listed 1) affordability, 2) a high quality rated program, and 3) a setting where the teacher's skills and style align with their needs.
4. Across all priority populations, the two most preferred provider settings were 1) a child care center and 2) a public or private school setting. Families in rural Lane County and socially complex families (see data sources and notes above) indicated an additional preference for family or friend care.

High Quality Early Learning and Child Care Reports Lane, South Lane, and Oregon (not exhaustive)

1. ECE Sector Planning: Family Engagement, Parent Forum
2. ELD Household Survey (2020) [<https://oregonearlylearning.com/PDGAassessment>]
3. Quality Care Connects – Lane County Child Care Status, December 2021 (ppt)
4. Quality Care Connections – 2022 Survey (designed for early educators and child care professionals)
5. Our Children Oregon – Child Care Issue Brief: Child Care is as Complex as it Is Underfunded
6. Prenatal to Grade 3 Alignment Initiative ([PSU](#))
7. Oregon Preschool Development Grant: Strengths and Needs Assessment ([2022](#))
8. Oregon Preschool Development Grant: Strengths and Needs Assessment ([2020](#))
9. Oregon Preschool Development Grant: Strengths and Needs Assessment ([2019](#))
10. The Child Care Crisis (United Way)
11. [Child Care for Oregon](#) (videos, personal stories)
12. Child & Family Well-Being Measures Workgroup Final Report and Recommendations (2015)
13. Hearing from Oregon’s Families About Child Care Needs: Key Findings from Statewide Family Listening Sessions (2019-2020)
14. The Effects of COVID-19 on Oregon’s Early Care & Education Workforce and Programs (2021)
15. State of Child Care in Oregon and Lane County: Peace Health Community Collaboration Committee (2021)
16. [Oregon by the Numbers](#) (2022). The Ford Family Foundation

Note: This partial list does not include Head Start’s 50+ year history of deeply embedding parent engagement as a matter of routine practice.