

Step 1: Assess & Plan



Let's begin with a brainstorming exercise. Ask your core group to quickly identify the challenge(s) you need to address, along with potential solutions. Based on the group's experience, you probably have insight into challenges which might relate to infant care; toddler care; afterschool slots; children with special needs; child care during non-traditional hours; or other areas.

Identify the Challenge	CHALLENGE
<p>Identify the geographic areas to be included in your analysis. What does the child care landscape look like in your community? What specific needs are not being addressed? <i>These could be needs of parents, families, children, providers, schools, employers, etc.</i></p> <p>Reflect on what you know about the types, quality, cost, capacity, and location of child care in your area.</p>	
<p>Quickly describe the problem you are trying to solve.</p> <p>What are some initial solutions that come to mind? Think "doable," and then think "dream world."</p> <p></p> <p>Reflect on your major child care concerns, what is ideal, and what you need to do to get there.</p>	<p>SOLUTION</p>

Community Child Care Profile

Now that you have a “snapshot” based on group knowledge and observations, it’s time to identify key data points and sources to further inform your work. Collect the facts about families, providers, and available resources to get the fullest possible picture of supply and demand. Make sure the data you compile and examine is recent and reliable.

Identify Data Points & Sources	Data Point	Results	Notes
<p>How many families in your community need child care?</p> <p>Click US Census Bureau. Look at numbers of children under 5 with all parents in the workforce.</p> <p>The number will not include children over 5 who may need before/afterschool care.</p>	<p># of families with children under age 5 with all parents in the workforce</p>		
<p>How many infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children live in your community?</p> <p>Click Kids Count Data Center.</p> <p>Look at current numbers for each age range and the average birth rate per year for your locality.</p>	<p># of infants</p>		
	<p># of toddlers</p>		
	<p># of preschoolers</p>		
<p>How many school-age children live in your community?</p> <p>Contact the Local School Division or Child Care Aware of VA for information on numbers of school-age children (ages 5-12) who may need before/afterschool programs.</p> <p>Additional data sources on families needing child care include: Child Care Subsidy Program, Child Care Aware of VA, Head Start, National Survey on Early Care and Education, Planning District Commission.</p>	<p>Total # of children ages 5-12</p>		
	<p>Ages 5-6 (K)</p>		
	<p>Ages 6-7 (1st)</p>		
	<p>Ages 7-8 (2nd)</p>		
	<p>Ages 9-10 (3rd)</p>		
	<p>Ages 10-11 (4th)</p> <p>Ages 11-12 (5th)</p>		

It can be tricky to grasp how many children actually have an unmet need for child care; for example, children may be cared for by family, friends or neighbors.

What types of **child care** exist in your community?

Click [Search for Child Day Care](#).

Search for your **zip code** to find data on licensed and unlicensed child care programs.

Click the “**Current Subsidy Provider**” indicator to learn which programs participate in Subsidy.

On the **Search for Child Day Care page**, hover over each type of care to see the definition and additional information.

You may also want to consider whether Head Start and/or Virginia Preschool Initiative classrooms are **mixed-delivery** (public-private partnership enabling private preschool settings to deliver public preschool services to eligible children).

Type of Program	Ages Served (range)	Number of Slots	Hours of Operation	Participate in VA Quality?	Participate in VA Subsidy?	Transportation/ Location Notes
Licensed Child Day Centers						
Licensed Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)						
Religious-exempt Child Day Centers						
Regulated Family Child Care Homes						
License-exempt Family Child Care Homes						
Before/After School Programs						
Early Head Start Centers or FCCH						
Head Start classrooms						
Virginia Preschool Initiative classrooms						
Early Childhood Special Education classrooms						

How many child care providers in the community participate in the **Child Care Subsidy Program**?

Virginia Child Care Subsidy Program

Program Name	Program Type	Capacity	Vacancies	Ages Served	Quality Indicators	General Notes

What are the **barriers** to provider participation in the Child Care Subsidy Program?

Sources: Child Care Aware of VA, any available survey data, feedback from parents, providers and Child Care Subsidy team members at Local Departments of Social Services.

What is the **quality** of child care in your community?

Click [Virginia Quality](#).

Also consider recognized standards for quality and accreditation, Licensing, staff qualifications, parent surveys, etc.

Additional data sources include:
[Infant and Toddler Specialist Network](#)
[Child Care Aware of VA](#)

What do parents, grandparents, educators and other stakeholders think about the **quality of available care**?

- # of VA Quality participating programs:
- Types of VA Quality participating programs:
- Quality level of participating programs:
- # of accredited programs (NAEYC, Montessori, etc.):

Consider any opportunities to help parents and partners better understand the importance and the characteristics of quality child care.

<p>What is the cost of child care in your community?</p> <p>Click Building CC Supply and review the Child Care Cost Spreadsheet for data on rates for age ranges for Child Care Centers and Family Day Homes.</p> <p>Additional data sources include: Contacting child care providers directly for current rates and fees. Child Care Aware of VA.</p> <p>Interested in Child Care Subsidy Maximum Reimbursable Rates for your locality? See Appendices F & G in the Child Care Subsidy Manual.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Average Weekly Rate-Center:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infant</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School-age</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Average Weekly Rate-Family Child Care Home:</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Infant</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School-age</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Average Weekly Rate-Center:		Infant	\$	Toddler	\$	Preschool	\$	School-age	\$	Average Weekly Rate-Family Child Care Home:		Infant	\$	Toddler	\$	Preschool	\$	School-age	\$	<p><i>How does the cost of care for an infant, toddler, preschool or school-age child compare to the average annual income in your locality?</i></p>
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<p>What do the mapping tools show?</p> <p>Virginia Early Childhood Foundation Map</p> <p>View the Fall 2019 Readiness Report for your locality, including Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program assessments and access data for publicly-funded early childhood programs.</p> <p>Child Care Aware of VA--Request Data.</p>		<p>Visit the ALICE Research Center to review County populations, poverty levels, average wages and more.</p>																				
<p>What type of care do families want?</p> <p>Child care centers, family child care homes, relative care, licensed, license-exempt, full-time, part-time, care during non-traditional hours or out-of-school hours, drop-in, enrichment, therapeutic or inclusive care.</p> <p>Do preferences vary according to the age of children needing care?</p> <p>Do preferences vary depending on the cost of care?</p> <p>Does the need for care change during the year, for example, during summer or winter breaks?</p>		<p><i>Parents, providers, educators and the Infant & Toddler Connection of VA can help illuminate the need for care for children who have special behavioral, physical or psychological needs.</i></p>																				

<p><u>Where and when</u> do families need care?</p> <p>Where do families <u>live and work?</u></p> <p>Consider where parents and guardians work and how they travel to get there.</p> <p>Are most families in your community in rural areas, urban areas or a mixture?</p> <p>Do these patterns differ by socio-economic status?</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Host a Parent Forum to learn what families really want. Child care clients, parents, grandparents and providers are your premiere partners—include them in every step of your work. Find out what they think, what they need, and why, and keep the conversation going.</i></p> </div>
<p>What <u>barriers</u> are families experiencing to accessing child care?</p> <p>Do families have transportation concerns, need care for multiple children of different ages, have language barriers or need care during non-traditional work hours?</p> <p>The local Workforce Development Board or Economic Development organization can provide workforce data such as non-traditional work hours.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>When conducting focus groups or a parent/provider forum, map out housing and industry areas, as well as the most traveled routes. Are buses, shuttles or ride-sharing options available? How could your group collaborate with local government to rally community support and create transportation solutions?</i></p> </div>
<p>What are the main concerns or unmet needs as voiced by <u>community members?</u></p> <p>What do parents, grandparents and guardians say?</p> <p>What do educators (including child care providers, afterschool educators, elementary school teachers, community college professors) say?</p> <p>What do local business leaders say?</p>	
<p>What are the helpful <u>local and regional data</u> sources specific to your area?</p> <p>Think Smart Beginnings, VA Partnership for Out-of-School Time, United Way, Workforce Investment Board, Community College Early Childhood Education Programs (How many students are in the program? What are the trends?)</p> <p>Contact your Planning District Commission for local data.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Call on these stakeholders not only as data sources, but as potential members of your building child care supply work group.</i></p> </div>

Assess the Data

What are the **unmet child care needs** in your community?

Consider the data sources and results identified in the previous activities. Watch for duplications.

Look closely at child care supply and demand. Compare ages and numbers of children with available child care slots.

Where do **gaps exist?**

- Which age groups have waiting lists?
- What is the need for care for children who have special needs?
- What is the need for non-traditional hours of care, afterschool hours and summer hours?

Based on the information gathered, note the:

- 1) **Age groups** of children who have the greatest need and least amount of child care options available to them (infants, toddlers, preschool, school-age children), and,
- 2) **Types of care** needed and extent to which the supply meets the demand

After viewing all available information, what **questions** do you have?

Outcomes/Notes

Once you know how many slots exist in your community, talk to providers to find out how many vacancies exist.

Be sure to include Early Head Start (birth to age 3), Head Start (age 4) and Virginia Preschool Initiative (age 4), keeping in mind that these programs' schedules may not cover full day or year-round services.

Consider vacancy rates when mapping the child care landscape. If existing quality providers have open slots, it is important to fill and sustain those programs prior to building new programs. Child care businesses need to maintain full enrollment, set accurate tuition rates, and collect full tuition in order to survive.

Unregulated care, such as family, friend and neighbor care, plays an integral part in meeting child care needs. Word-of-mouth may be one of your best bets in tracking this type of care.