



Sussex County

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

KEY CHALLENGES



Affordability Gap for Families: 1 in 10 families earn too much to qualify for child care assistance, yet many can't afford the cost on their own.



Lack of Subsidized Spots: While 89% of children under 5 qualify for publicly-funded child care, there are spots for fewer than 1 in 3 of those eligible.



High Cost of Care: Families would need to earn about \$137,000 a year to afford care for one infant or toddler, and \$126,000 for one preschooler.



Insufficient Full-Day, Full-Year Options: Only 18% of children under 5 have access to full-day, full-year child care.



DEMOGRAPHICS



80%

of Children Age
0-6 Have all
Available Parents
in the Labor Force

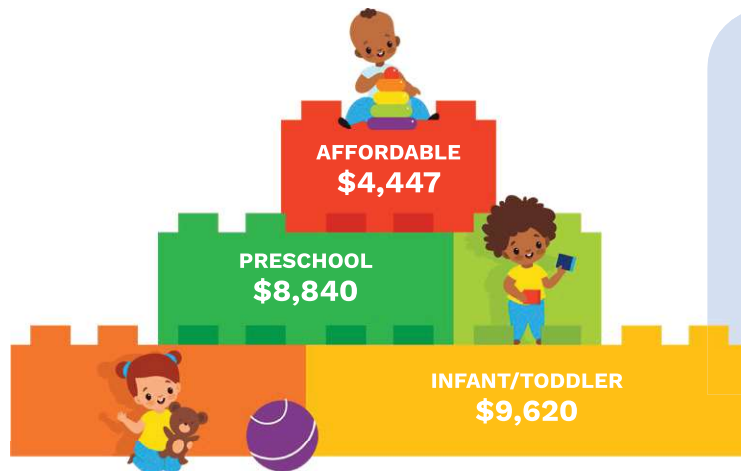


- 77.3% of children age 0-5 live <200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- 11.9% of children age 0-5 live between 200% FPL and 85% of State Median Income (SMI)
- 10.8% of children age 0-5 live >85% of SMI

Note: For a family of 3: <200% FPL: <\$53,300; 200% FPL - 85% SMI: \$53,300-\$95,676; >85% SMI: \$95,676+

Sources: Ready Regions ECCE Supply/Demand Dashboard, 2025, [Dataset], Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. (2025). CCDF Family Income Eligibility Levels by State [Review of CCDF Family Income Eligibility Levels by State]. Administration for Children and Families. 2025 U.S. Poverty Guidelines. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

\$ COST OF CARE



With a median income of \$63,530, paying **\$4,447 or less** per year for care is considered affordable (<7% of family income) for a family of 3.

Sources: Ready Regions ECCE Supply/Demand Dashboard, 2025, [Dataset], Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.
United States Census Bureau: Median Household Income. [Dataset]
Improving child care access, affordability, and stability in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), (2024, March 1). Federal Register.

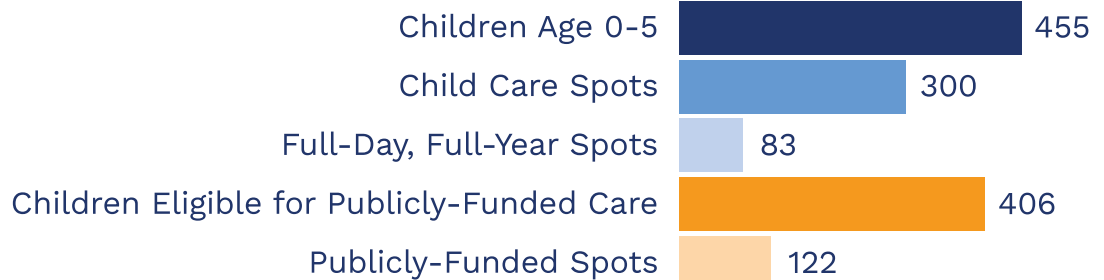


CHILD CARE SUPPLY



7

Child Care Sites



Source: Ready Regions ECCE Supply/Demand Dashboard, 2025, [Dataset], Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.



51%

of children under 5 are not demonstrating the minimum skills needed to be successful at the end of kindergarten.

High-quality early childhood education is critical for improved academic achievement, better economic prospects, and lower rates of behavioral problems later in life.

Sources: VKRP Kindergarten Division Report - Sussex County Public Schools, Fall 2025
Solang, D. J., Yunus, M., Rukminni, B. S., Kurnia, K., & Umam, K. (2024). The Impact of Early Childhood Education on Long-Term Outcomes. *the Journal of Academic Science.*, 1(4), 350-361. <https://doi.org/10.59613/7pvaa271>



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