

Surveys received: 48



The Town of Estes Park is conducting a survey to help the community identify existing gaps in the child care system. This process is two-fold. The survey will help us identify child care needs. The second step will include a community meeting on May 21st at the Estes Park Conference Center (Holiday Inn) at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the survey results and open dialogue to identify steps that might be taken to address the needs. The town is facilitating this meeting to encourage the community to work toward solutions for child care.

1. Please indicate when you need childcare. You can select more than one.

Weekdays? 48
 Weekday evenings? 5
 Weekend days? 8
 Weekend evenings? 3
 Overnight? 1

2. What are your biggest concerns about securing child care?

	Big Concern	Moderate	Somewhat	None
Availability of Care	39	6	3	1
Cost	19	19	10	1
Location	9	20	18	2
Special Needs Care	3	5	8	26
Cleanliness/Orderliness of Setting	29	15	3	0
Time Care is Available	31	9	5	0
Warmth and Caring of Provider	44	4	0	0
Education Value of Program	32	15	1	0
Consistency of Care	39	6	1	0
Professional Training of Provider	27	17	3	0
Experience of Provider	30	15	2	0
Other Concerns:	0	0	0	5
• Age: Pre Potty Trained				
• Sanitation				
• Safe/ Secure facility				

3. Quality early childhood programs and adequate supervision during out of school time are proven ways to ensure greater success in school and life. In our community, the availability and accessibility of such programs for working families are:

Adequate 8
 Inadequate 31
 Don't Know 9

- Need more facilities, more choices

4. What type of care are you currently using on a routine basis in Estes Park? You may choose more than one.

Child Care Center?	19
Relative?	16
Licensed Family day care home?	11
Unrelated person in your home?	6
School-based after school programs?	5
Unlicensed day care?	6
Care provided outside of Estes Park?	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unpaid leave 5 months with mom and dad because the safety and care of our child comes first.	

5. What type of care would you prefer in Estes Park?

Licensed family day care home	13
Child care center	33
Other _____	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any infant care• Private Nanny up to 3 children• Caring Environment• YMCA Consistency• Preschool oriented (academic)• Recreational care programs• For younger children children-under 2 years	

6. Are you satisfied with your current child care arrangements?

Yes	33
No	19

Why or why not?

- Not flexible
- Weekend care
- Availability
- No other family to provide care
- Single mom can't afford
- Don't stop school program
- It is great for a 2-5 year-old
- Limited availability – only 2-days/week
- But would appreciate more options
- But dissolving this year
- No consistency, no weekend availability.
- Educational program (songs, #'s, colors, crafts, letters, etc.)
- My daughter loves it and is learning a lot @Park Place Elementary School.
- Trying “new” daycare set up and not sure how its going to work out. Need to find full time summer care for new full time job.

- Cost overall is great, but the cost is tremendous. Having one of us not work is not an option, as Estes is an expensive place to live.
- It works for now but offers very little flexibility and is very expensive.
- Dad enjoys having child after school (at his office) but sometimes dad is very busy and child becomes very bored.
- There was very little choice for my infant (pleased with current arrangements)
- School program closes June 2007
- Inconsistent, would prefer child care center
- After switching providers, noticed experienced unlicensed provider seems to give better care than licensed provider.
- We are struggling to find childcare that is available on a drop-in not regular basis
- Wants to be at the YMCA but confusion at end of summer and after school was going to offer it 2-days before school yes to after school but no care for no school days and long holidays.
- My provider is caring & flexible
- But it was somewhat hard to come by, and luckily I'm only working part time with flexible hours because I have to work around her availability (full on some days).

7. Have you ever been on a waiting list for enrollment at a child care program in Estes Park?

No	35
Yes	12

If yes, for how long?

- **Couple of weeks**
- **3 weeks**
- **1-2 months**
- **2-3 months & still on it**
- **4 months for full-time care**
- **3-6 months**
- **6 months**
- **Many months for infant/toddler care. Several weeks for pre-school care.**
- **Currently w/Hugs & Kisses since 4/30. Advised when new center opens, owner will have availability. Awaiting bldg permit. If Town could get the permit to her, many people would have quality licensed care for the summer-July is too long to wait.**

8. Next are some common problems experienced by parents who need or use child care. Please let us know about your level of concern with these problems.

	Big Concern	Moderate	Somewhat	None
Finding care for child under 1 year	31	1	1	10
Finding care for child 1-2 years	29	4	1	9
Finding care for child 3-5 years	10	14	6	9
Finding before/after school care	10	9	8	10
Finding summer/holiday care	14	5	7	14

Other Concerns:

- Care for Premies
- Quality
- My children are 10 & 12 years old. I don't like having them at home alone after school but they are too old for the existing child care.
- Work hours begin at 7:30 a.m. and sometimes go until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.
- Finding affordable care
- Finding care for non-potty trained child. Only one place (circle of friends) as far as I know that offers this.
- How about a preschool program for a child who will start kindergarten the next year. One we don't have to pay \$400 a month.
- A safe, secure environment for learning.

9. At what age do you feel comfortable leaving children home alone?

- **9 years old**
- **4 agree on 10 years old**
- **2 agree on 11 years old**
- **10 or 11 years old**
- **11-12 years old**
- **8 agree on 12 years old**
- **4 agree over 12 years old**
- **9 agree on 13 years old**
- **4 agree on 13 or 14 years old**
- **Depends how long - teens**
- **Never**
- **Not sure**

10. What is your total family income before deductions?

\$10,000 - 19,999	3
\$20,000 - 29,999	3
\$30,000 - 39,999	9
\$40,000 - 59,999	9
\$60,000 - \$79,999	14
\$80,000 - \$99,999	4
Over \$100,000	7

11. How many people live in your household?

1- 0
2- 4
3- 22
4- 18
5- 3
6- 3
7- 0
8- 0
9- 0

12. Are you Single 5 or Married 43

13. Are you Male 4 or Female 41

14. What is your race?

White 41
Black 0
Hispanic 2
Asian 0
Other Specify _____

15. Is there anything you wish to add about child care in Estes Park that we have not asked in this survey?

- **History of short fall in quality child care needs resolution**
- **Elementary School Program should remain in business as a valuable community resource.**
- **EVICS is a wonderful short-term program but Estes Park needs a long-term program. County salary range still not able to assist single parent.**
- **Is there money available to start up new childcare program educational based from Town funded Kreative Kids in previous years?**
- **Perhaps a child care center modeled after Kreative Kids would be worth pursuing.**
- **Concerned that families are leaving Estes Park due to limited day care.**
- **Estes Park severely lacking in child care for children under 2 ½.**
- **Home day care has the highest risk and more eyes and awareness when multi-care takers are available at the same time.**
- **I think the big need is for toddler/infant, but even then most people don't need it full time. Preschool age seems to have openings.**
- **Is the YMCA to be in this discussion?**
- **Park Place program is being cut. Educational quality to match a big concern. Also care givers consistency.**
- **Affordability, reliability, quality of care and availability are very important. It's impossible to work when you have concerns about any of these things! Working parents need help and need to feel good about where they are leaving their children!**
- **Town needs low or no cost child care for EP's working families paid for by tax dollars! Families work and live in EP year round need it if you want us to keep towns economy.**
- **Thank you for doing this!**

- I would like to see a place my children could go after school that is supervised but is age appropriate. My children are 10 & 12 years old. I have for the last couple of years scrambled to find day care for the summer. Usually it is a high schooler coming to my home. Often they can only do it for a few weeks as they have other commitments and/or jobs, vacation. The YMCA has a program for the summer but it cost me over \$200 a week for my children to go for the summer. That is over half my pay for the week.
- The cost of living in E.P. is very high. Most people don't qualify for assistance because the income amounts are very low for this area. It would be beneficial to have some assistance for those families "in the middle." Ones that make too much too qualify, but make barely enough to make it. We supplement our income with additional jobs in the summer to afford daycare.
- Is there an approved daycare directory in E.P.? I am aware of E.V.I.C.S. and I support their role in providing suitable, educational and licensed daycare facilities for our community. I greatly appreciate the town's efforts to address the early childhood educational needs in EP.
- Colorado needs to have a pre-school program, 3 half days FREE so the kids aren't so challenged in kindergarten.
- Thank you for taking this time to ask these questions. I think that the older kids get, the more options there are, but more options are always better.
- EVICS has been a great resource for us, but I would like to see un-licensed providers listed somewhere/nannys listed – a central place for families to find childcare providers willing to come to their homes & vice versa.
- Part of what makes daycare so hard to afford in the town is the "drop in" rates (school closure days) and regular daycare becomes difficult to afford when you have to pay whether your child is there or not – like sick days – etc. If you have more than one child in daycare it makes it impossible to work, because you wind up making LESS than minimum wage ☹.
- Town needs low or no cost child care for Estes Park's working families paid for by tax dollars! Families that work and live in EP year round need it if you want us to keep towns economy going and workers not only free day care for town employees!
- Maybe having more daycare assistance for the non-Hispanic people in town too.
- I heard there is additional town funding remaining since Kreative Kids has no longer been active. How do you go about applying for this money for quality childcare programs? What can EVICS do to help the program in place for teachers? Is there money available to start up a new childcare program which is educationally based?



Thank you for filling out this survey. Please return it by **Monday, May 14th** via one of the following convenient methods:

-Dropping it in the Utilities Payment Drop Box at MacGregor Avenue and Park Lane

-Dropping it off at Town Hall, 170 MacGregor Avenue

-Faxing it to 970-586-2816

-Mailing it to Town Hall, PO Box 1200, Estes Park, CO 80517