

ECE Sector Planning – Parent Survey Open-Ended Responses
“Is there anything else you’d like to share with us?”

Presented without edits or omissions except: general “thank you” or “none” comments were not included.

Oakridge is in DIRE need of child care but especially preschool services for families that do not meet the income requirements for head start. If there is ANYTHING you can do to help with this, it would make a HUGE impact in the Oakridge/Westfir communities in so many ways (allowing parents to work, and providing socialization for kiddos before kindergarten), and Lane County. Thank you!!!
Offering affordable childcare before school hours and after, for working parents who do not have family and friends to pick up children from school is very important.
Once I moved my son out of the license take care and into a EC Cares School I felt 100% more comfortable there. It was 5 because I live in Springfield and the school which fit him best was in Eugene. Transportation was stressful at first figuring out who could get my son on and off the bus while I worked. The school was also closed alot for holidays and breaks which made it 4 to find care.
Our school DESPERATELY needs before/aftercare that 1. Please. Most parents work and cannot afford 1k a month in childcare.
Our schools are important
Overall we've had a good experience with childcare. Cultural accommodations should be considered though, as well as access.
Please continue to advocate for truly accessible childcare and early education! Thank you!
Please do something to give our childcare workers a liveable wage. They are not paid well and are caring for our children. The future of our country.
Please make more affordable options! I am struggling to be able to afford to work because I just had twins and the infant rate is INSANE! So I can't afford to work, can't afford to not work. We are an average family but infant childcare is outrageous and very unaffordable! (Especially with two) and two older boys in school needing after school care.
Please note: The zipcode question is not working. Mine is 97405.
Please, please, PLEASE start a free or low cost preschool program at Walterville Elementary School! Please. We already know how important preschool is to future social and academic successes, why not have a preschool in the environment they will be expected to operate in for a full day the following year? Please. Even one step better would be a childcare facility near, or as an extension of the school. We aren't extremely far up river, but far enough to mean access to frequently offered afterschool programs at other schools is essentially out of the question for us. Yes, we are a small school, but we are still part of the district and are as deserving of the rest of the schools to receive access to programs. Schools in town have been entirely rebuilt, but our play structures are crumbling from rust in spots like ladders etc. At what point are those of us in the school district boundaries, but outside city limits, worth more than just a 'bandaid'? We want programs. We want access. We think education is important. We just ALSO happen to like having fields to run in.
Pre-school programming should be available to all families regardless of ability to pay.

Preschool that stops mid-day or has no after-care program is hard because I cant leave in the middle of work to take my kids somewhere else. Having to go to 3 locations for all 3 of my kids is also unreasonable.

Prices are a bit absurd for any trustworthy childcare facility, although I do understand that these prices reflect the needs of maintenance for said facilities.

Quality childcare for autistic children is very hard to find, especially for "high functioning" kids there are zero resources in our community. It also takes a ton of years to get them diagnosed (average age of diagnosis is 11yrs, yet they need help starting at age two). Additionally, if you don't receive OHP (but still qualify for DDS) the resources are even more limited because funding for most programs comes from OHP so you're basically excluded for not being "poor." On top of that all therapy you must personally pay out of pocket for at hugely inflated rates because OHP pays out on a percentage rate, self-pay or private insurance rate is huge like \$350. per psychologist's visit. There needs to be more specially trained childcare centers for autistic children, and pre-diagnosed children since we know they are effectively being ignored until age 11. Staff must be specially trained in how to teach social skills, be ok with very late potty training, understanding of different sensory preferences and provide a facility that supports the kids.

Right now we get subsidy but without the cost is 2200 which is what I make, childcare is way to expensive

Rural areas are extremely underserved with quality child care, but also with extracurricular options for recreation and for the arts. It would make a huge difference for the children in these areas to have access to more opportunity.

The child care system is broken. No one is thriving. We need subsidized universal child care. Family Forward Oregon is working on these issues!

The Co-op family center is a place we trust completely. We are so grateful.

The cost is preventing me from being able to prepare my son for kindergarten and gain access to early education

The cost of child care/preschool is so unaffordable, the age for enrolling kids makes life hard. My daughter will be 5, weeks after school starts an I have to wait a whole other year because of restrictions.

The cost of childcare is really expensive. I struggle to afford it. Also low availabilty and affordability of programs near me. I lose some work time/income from it. There is afterschool care at my childs public school but it is outrageously expensive, about the same as full time care for an infant/toddler/preschooler. Close to \$1000 per month.

The costs are incredible almost double than what we were paying in Salem with the same increase in housing, I wish I could move back to my hometown. Any help is appreciated especially during the summer!

The cultural idea and even norm in some circles misses the point that moms are designed to be with their children and the hoops people have to go through to make a different arrangement are indicative of this inherent design by God. What mom doesn't want to spend up-close, consistent time with her children?

The income guidelines for assistance is too high especially when gross is considered instead of net take home. We do not qualify for any assistance and with the cost of living in the area sky rocketing it makes it next to impossible to afford child care

The middle class struggles with child care costs the most. We don't qualify for assistance because we "make too much" yet we can hardly afford the astronomical bill. You either have to choose to work to pay daycare and be broke to invest in your families future or stay at home and be broke.

The most 4 area for my family regarding childcare is the cost. We make just too much to qualify for assistance yet we barely make enough to pay for childcare.

The survey asked if it was easy to find child care near where I work or live - it was (though I'm told I was lucky they had a spot), but not to find *affordable* care near where I work or live. I am able to cover the more conveniently located, less affordable care using my savings from before my daughter was born. I didn't want to drive all over town to access more affordable care (if I could find it), because I already work full time and don't get enough time with my kid. (I am a single parent.) Something that doesn't seem to exist is drop-in care, unless it's offered through a place where your child is already receiving care. A family member (paid) cares for my daughter part time, and I have to have her signed up at 1 a couple days a week so that I have their drop-in care as an emergency back-up option.

The waitlists are insane

There is not enough high quality childcare available in our area. I struggled to find infant care, and ended up in one where I was never comfortable leaving my child, and then later a preschool that had space available, which luckily is a great fit for my daughter and I.

There are not enough day care spaces at quality programs and the ones that are available are expensive enough that having two kids in care will be more than my full time paycheck from a good job and almost double my mortgage payment.

There aren't enough state or city run preschools available for all kids with learning disabilities or low income.

There is a lack of affordable childcare in the Eugene/Springfield area. The 211 line is pretty worthless when you are in a stressful situation.

There is no good certified Spanish Immersion preschool in our whole town. Lane county is doing a very poor job of supporting our culture. We would bend over backwards and pay a lot extra \$ to have a certified child center that is Spanish Immersion- even if it was just 50/50 English and Spanish. I used to be a single mom, and at that time I only had two choices. Find an affordable in-home daycare where I knew they were breaking ratio rules for staff to child OR spend my paycheck on almost nothing but childcare with insufficient hours. Now our family makes more money since I re-married. We are happy to pay more than our fair share, like a sliding scale tuition, for the opportunity to go to a preschool that is culturally informed and has kids from all socioeconomic backgrounds- ideally with some Spanish language spoken. It is a real unmet need in Eugene/Springfield. Also, it is really hard to find a quality preschool program with hours that allow me to do pick up/drop offs and work an 8-5 job. Nobody in the community ever even asked us what our needs were. Thank you for asking!

There is only one option in cottage grove that is not in home, and had hours before and after work and I'm a teacher it's not like I have crazy hours. There are zero options

There needs to be more check-ins with these programs. Some things are not up to regulations. I had to pull my child out of a location because of things that I didn't agree with. My oldest had the best experiences with pre school and I believe it is very important for early growth.

There needs to be more programs for children with disabilities.

There should be more options for school times in the AM. I do not work for us. But we were stuck with it.

This survey was written in a way that made it challenging to give you the information I think you really are looking for. I have one child who is now in school and uses after school child care a few days a week. It's at her school and is pretty easy and works well for our family. But, preschool was very challenging for us and for many of our friends. We had a hard time getting our daughter into any preschool at all. She was on a waitlist for years at one and the other places available didn't sound great or weren't great - and all were expensive.

Very much appreciate those who do make school/education for many children. Your superheroes to single moms like me. Thank You!
We are currently homeless and are staying in a hotel. I would like assistance finding a place for me and my two children.
We are so lucky to have landed where we did with our current provider. And so lucky to be able to afford care. I hope that more, quality and affordable programs come available in our area.
We are very fortunate, but know a lot of parents who struggle with finding quality, affordable child care with people that they trust.
We are very pleased with our current child care provider and it is in a very convenient location in walking distance to OT home. However, it was extremely 4 to find full-time care for an infant. We had to go on a waiting list when I was 4 months pregnant and it still took a year on the list before there was space. Even by beginning our childcare search so Early, we only found one center with availability for when we would need it, in a much less convenient location high we used for several months until our preferred center became available.
We did need all day care for our older child when she was younger but our situation allowed us to have a stay at home parent for our younger. Our main focus for our children was educational
We found availability of infant care to be quite limited. If you can afford it, the wait lists can be long for high quality childcare facilities. My husband and I both work and we can afford the monthly childcare bill albeit it leaves us with a very tight budget, but I cannot imagine what we would do if we couldn't afford the payment as we do not have family in town. And I suspect the monthly cost is not affordable for everyone in our community. Our daycare offers sliding scale for some families, but it was our observation many others do not. All this is to say that I think we need more accessible and affordable daycare especially infant care in Lane County - for all families.
We have a stay at home parent and one working parent. We have two children, one under one and one age 3. One has Down syndrome and has many therapies and dr. Apts. one of the most stressful pieces of our life right now is finding childcare for the younger one when our older one has appointments. There doesn't seem to be any place to turn.
we love congregational preschool in SE EUG!
We LOVE our daycare and are loving school through Early Education Program both here in Junction City. I love that my son will be taught and cared for in the same community as his home.
we love our son's preschool. Wish there are more structured learning.
We need affordable safe child care
We need better security for our children in school, what is set in place isn't cutting it. There are tons of retired law enforcement and military that would protect our kids free of charge!
We need more accessible care for no school day
We really need childcare at the rural schools such as Walterville
We really need help finding a trustworthy licensed caregiver for our infant my amazing one retired and most are so expensive and I don't know how trustworthy it's frustrating finding good affordable full time daycare.
We will enroll in preschool next year

When my son was preschool age, there was a dearth of options for us. Our income was just too high for Headstart, yet other programs were astronomically expensive. As we are atheist, the free church programs were not appropriate for us. My son had to completely miss out on preschool, because there was NOTHING that fit our needs and budget. I was gutted.

When we moved here, we found multiple preschools that felt good (and skipped many that didn't). Finding one that was open until six and actually had openings, though, was WAY harder than expected. In the end, we didn't exactly choose her preschool--it was the only one of the ones we visited that had openings (though we were selective about who we visited).

Wish there was a before school program easily accessible

Without our Childcare Center we could not go through with my husband's study. It would not be possible for me to work and I am the main breadwinner.

Would be nice to have American Sign Language volunteering and work with children who are hard of hearing and parents.

Would really be great to offer more speech therapy and to extend early childhood cares to 3 and half to 4 hours as other preschools are longer and these children are sensitive to toxins therefore they should receive organic foods without all of the exitotoxins like msg or free glutamates that are in the processed foods and the county should be looking more into the science of exitotoxins effecting these children that way these kids can get better rehabilitation from the cdrc and schooling rather than there denial of research because there are MANY scientific studies showing links between heavy metals free glutamates or msg and a link to autism including msg and aluminum adjuvants in vaccines and mercury in the flu vaccine and yes peacehealth has confirmed this you can see right on their website about the thermosil still in the flu vaccine and they are pushing the flu vaccine on pregnant women at a fetuses most vulnerable developmental time and this calamity in our children needs to be addressed because all the toxins in the air food and water and especially msg added to 95 percent of the processed foods even baby food is causing neurological and behavior damage and the food industry disguises ingredients in a way that is allowed by the fda and these children need to be detoxed and have a better diet and at times i feel the research is not so independent but instead paid for to obtain certain results which no longer makes it accurate science because those on the boards came from big industry to begin with where lining a companies pockets is what they care about so they look for short cuts and the real independent science is supressed because ive read many of studies and think some action should be taken because they say theres no cure for autism yet those detoxing and changing their childrens diet are having much improvement because it comes down to these exitotoxins changing the balance in the brain and causing swelling. Dr blaylock is just one with much research. Thanks :)

Spanish language Survey Responses

el programa de preescolar es muy bonito y los ninos aprenden y van adaptandose a ir a la escuela, socializan mas y conocen mas ninos. pero en mi personal que yo no califico a donde iria mis ninos.

es importante que todas los ninos acudan a un cuidado de ninos, para aprender coasa de su edad ya que en algunas lugares de cuidado no ay esa educacion. Les ayuda a los ninos para un aprendizaje mas efectivo. Es un trauma para los ninos que rechasan por avansados o inperativos.

Estaria bein tener el propio espacio de pequenines encantado seria bein.

Estoy muy agradecida y contenta con los servicios que tiene el programa de prescolar que tiene mi hijo.

Lo mas importante para mi en una escuela preescolar es qué también la enseñanza de los modales aparte de la educación

Me Gusta Siempre Saber Q Aiga Informacion Y Siempre Aprender Lo Q Nuestro Hijo Le Ayude Para Bien Gracias

Muy bonito programa solo en mi casa no aplico por el ingreso en mi caso que me sugieren.