

Infant and Toddler Care in Wake County

www.earlyyearsnc.org
919.967.3272

- Approximately **25,663** infants/toddlers in Wake County live in families where their sole or both parents work.

- **287 centers** and **133 homes** in Wake County provide early care and education to infants and/or toddlers.

- In June, **10,191** infants/todders in Wake County were enrolled in centers. This number compares to **9,596** enrolled in centers prior to the pandemic*.

- In June, **337** infants/toddlers in Wake County were enrolled in family child care homes. This number compares to **428** enrolled in homes prior to the pandemic*.

- **75%** of infants/toddlers in Wake County are enrolled in high quality care (at 4- and or 5-star rated center or home). This compares to **64%** enrolled in high quality care statewide.

- Market rates in high quality programs in Wake County are as follows:

	Centers		Homes	
	5 Star	4 Star	5 Star	4 Star
Infants	$1573	$1525	$1083	$1056
Toddlers	$1573	$1525	$997	$991
Twos	$1378	$1343	$986	$975
Three-Fives	$1275	$1256	$925	$900

The market rate is obtained through a survey administered to all child care providers statewide. Though market rates do reflect a higher cost of care for younger children, at all age groups, they only reflect what parents can afford to pay, not the true cost of care.

- **37%** of children (birth through 5) in Wake County receiving subsidy are infants/toddlers. This compares to **36**% of infant/toddlers receiving subsidy statewide.

- The infant/toddler teaching staff make on average **$11.00** per hour compared to the three to five year old teaching staff who make on average **$12.45** per hour.

- Infant/toddler teachers and assistants tend to have less education than their counterparts teaching three to five year olds. **Fifty-three** percent (**53%**) of the infant/toddler teaching staff have an associate degree or more in any field compared to **69%** of three to five year old teachers.

*February 2020 data reflect pre pandemic numbers.

---

think babies™
Think Babies™ NC Alliance

The Think Babies™ NC Alliance partnered with Child Care Services Association to produce the infant-toddler fact sheets. For more information about Think Babies™ NC, please visit www.ThinkBabiesNC.org

The information reported on Infant and Toddler Care factsheets is updated quarterly (approximately every three months), depending on data availability. Until the new quarter, a factsheet with duplicate data is produced each month. While considering the data on this factsheet, please note that many of these data points may differ significantly from previous months or years. This may be due to the impacts of COVID-19 on both the information reported and the data collection process.

© 2025 Early Years. Figures derived using the most recent available data from Early Years, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Child Resource and Referral Council, NC Head Start State Collaboration Office, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Updated June 2025