



# Infant and Toddler Care in North Carolina



www.childcareservices.org  
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- Approximately **229,861** infants/toddlers in **North Carolina** live in families where their sole or both parents work.
- **2,764 centers** and **1,303 homes** in **North Carolina** provide early care and education to infants and/or toddlers.
- In **February**, **42,096** infants/toddlers in **North Carolina** were enrolled in centers. This number compares to **64,532** enrolled in centers prior to the pandemic\*.
- In **February**, **1,939** infants/toddlers in **North Carolina** were enrolled in family child care homes. This number compares to **3,299** enrolled in homes prior to the pandemic\*.
- **65%** of infants/toddlers in **North Carolina** are enrolled in high quality care (at 4- and or 5-star rated center or home).
- Market rates in high quality programs in **North Carolina** are as follows:

|             | Centers |        | Homes  |        |
|-------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
|             | 5 Star  | 4 Star | 5 Star | 4 Star |
| Infants     | \$1222  | \$962  | \$867  | \$800  |
| Toddlers    | \$1222  | \$962  | \$802  | \$758  |
| Twos        | \$1122  | \$867  | \$780  | \$758  |
| Three-Fives | \$1049  | \$819  | \$715  | \$693  |

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.

- **31%** of children (birth through 5) in **North Carolina** receiving subsidy are infants/toddlers. This compares to % 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.

*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.*



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](http://www.ThinkBabiesNC.org)