



Infant and Toddler Care in Watauga County



www.childcareservices.org
919.967.3272

- Approximately **667** infants/toddlers in Watauga County live in families where their sole or both parents work.
- **12 centers** and **7 homes** in Watauga County provide early care and education to infants and/or toddlers.
- In March, **192** infants/toddlers in Watauga County were enrolled in centers. This number compares to **223** enrolled in centers prior to the pandemic*.
- In March, **21** infants/toddlers in Watauga County were enrolled in family child care homes. This number compares to **18** enrolled in homes prior to the pandemic*.
- **82%** of infants/toddlers in Watauga County are enrolled in high quality care (at 4- and or 5-star rated center or home). This compares to **65%** enrolled in high quality care statewide.
- Market rates in high quality programs in Watauga County are as follows:

	Centers		Homes	
	5 Star	4 Star	5 Star	4 Star
Infants	\$822	\$802	\$716	\$689
Toddlers	\$822	\$802	\$826	\$679
Twos	\$879	\$787	\$737	\$589
Three-Fives	\$770	\$731	\$737	\$688

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.

- **43%** of children (birth through 5) in Watauga County receiving subsidy are infants/toddlers. This compares to **41%** 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.



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.