

Did you know?

Many children in Shasta County are in some type of child care and/or preschool while their parents are at work, going to school, or involved with other activities. Supervision, care, and learning experiences provided to young children by adults other than their parents or primary caregivers is known as "early care and education."

How are Shasta County's children doing? Are their early care needs being met? Do parents have adequate early care and education options?

These survey results offer some answers. Results come from First 5 Shasta's Parent Survey 2002 and 2004.



Children in early care

Out of a population of 9,643 young children living in Shasta County (U.S. Census 2000), almost **4,000** children ages 0-to-5 are in some type of child care and/or preschool.

41%

of Shasta County children ages 0-to-5 are in early care.

Quality CHILD CARE gives children a safe environment for exploring and learning!

Hours in early care

Forty-four percent of Shasta County parents using early care place their child in care for 30-40 hours a week.

% Parents (w. children 0-5) Using Child Care	Hours per Week
13%	41-60 hrs
44%	30-40 hrs
12%	20-30 hrs
31%	20 hrs or less

Cost of care

Shasta County parents report paying about \$440 per month for full-time care for one child under age five!

Shasta County's median household income is just over \$34,000 per year (U.S. Census 2000). This means **approximately 15%** of the household income could be spent on early care for one child.

15%

of household income may be spent on early care for one child under age five.

First Facts Web Library

More information about early care for young children is

online at first5shasta.org/firstfacts

or call 229-8300.

First Facts Early Care and Education

Quality early care

Quality care provided by an experienced, educated caregiver can contribute positively to a child's early development. 67 percent of parents surveyed say they are very satisfied with their early care provider's knowledge of child development.

A nurturing learning environment and consistent care from the same caregiver are some indicators of quality.

67%

of Shasta County parents are very satisfied with their provider's knowledge of child development.



...that means 3 out of 10 are not!

Looking for quality?
Looking for quality?

- ★ **Seek** care delivered consistently from the same provider over time.
- ★ **Seek** caregivers experienced and educated in early child development.
- ★ **Seek** care delivered in an environment where learning is emphasized.
- ★ **Seek** an environment offering a range of toys and activities that meet the interests of young children.
- ★ **Seek** caregivers that respect and support parents.

Education of providers

The education level of early care providers is also an indicator of quality care. Shasta County providers offering care in licensed centers or family child care have the following degrees in higher education:

- 30% Associate in Arts degree
- 16% Bachelor of Arts degree or higher

Accredited providers

Accredited early care and education programs meet special standards of quality. Providers volunteer to take extra training and offer a high level of early care services to become accredited by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children* and the *National Association for Family Child Care Foundation*.

9.4%

of Shasta County family care providers are accredited.*

...that means 9 out of 10 are not!

6.9%

of Shasta County early care centers are accredited.*



For information about early care and education providers in Shasta County, call **(530) 225-2999**.

*Data courtesy of Shasta County Office of Education, Early Childhood Services