

Orange County

THE CHALLENGE

In Orange County, **76% OF INFANTS** (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care. And **65% OF TODDLERS** (2-3 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to a high-quality program.

OUR PROGRESS

Thanks to generous supporters like you, Let's Grow Kids has partnered with Vermonters to create **35 new child care spaces**. And **641 people** in Orange County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$955,214** in Orange County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

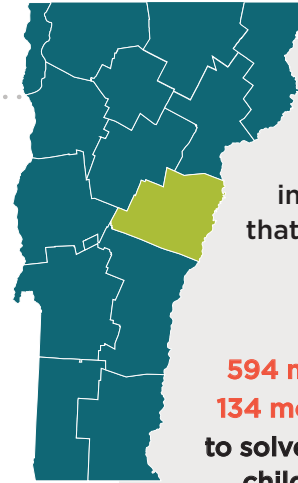
But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$1.53 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Orange County children, forever.

AND YOU CAN HELP! Join the movement by adding your name, making a gift, or volunteering at www.letsgrowkids.org.



PHOTOS: MY SECOND HOME, BRADFORD, VT



ORANGE COUNTY HAS :
390 child care spaces
for children under 5
in 26 child care programs
that offer full-time, full-year
child care (as of 2019).

ORANGE COUNTY NEEDS
594 more child care spaces &
134 more lead early educators
to solve the child care crisis for
children birth to 5 years old.



WHAT IS A CHILD CARE SPACE?

A child care "space" refers to a place for a child in a child care program. Let's Grow Kids uses "spaces" to track the availability of child care.

Not every family needs child care for a full week, so some spaces are shared between families who use part-time child care.

READ FULL REPORTS ON THE SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE IN VERMONT AT:
letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU...

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Orange County Parent Child Center

TUNBRIDGE, VT

In rural Orange County, geography is a significant barrier to accessing and affording child care.

Between the tiny towns and varied economic centers, **“It’s difficult to predict where child care will be accessed,”** says Orange County Parent Child Center (OCPCC) Executive Director Mary Ellen Otis.

Luckily, OCPCC provides comprehensive supports for infants, toddlers, and their families in Orange County and northern Windsor County. They also offer integrated programs for children in foster care and for families who need support with parenting, child development, and social-emotional challenges.

But, like the few other local programs, OCPCC’s waitlist for infant care was almost three years long.

OCPCC partners with Randolph Technical Career Center to offer hands-on learning opportunities for aspiring early educators. “We know this creates a rich level of care,” says Mary Ellen, and it provides additional support to teachers.

By partnering with Let’s Grow Kids in 2018, OCPCC added an additional infant classroom, deepening their commitment to quality child care (and cutting their waitlist in half).

Now, they are able to accept more children into their program, and offer age-appropriate, customized care for both younger and older infants.

OCPCC is a leader for sustainable, high-quality child care across Vermont. They’re leading the way for 60 children, ages six weeks to five years, in their year-round, full-day early education program.



PHOTOS: MY SECOND HOME, BRADFORD, VT

CHILD CARE IS HEALTH CARE

“Vermont’s lack of high-quality, affordable child care is one of the biggest challenges facing our rural economies.

“A safe, stimulating environment and consistent, nurturing relationships with caregivers not only change the way a child’s brain develops, but also affect their future learning and lifelong health in myriad and profound ways.”

DR. LOU DINICOLA | Pediatrician
Gifford Primary Care



If we don’t do professional development and training, we aren’t doing justice to the children. Many of us work with children and families 50+ hours a week. We wake up in the night strategizing ways to help.

It takes all of us.



MERI CARPENTER-SALADINO
My Second Home | Bradford, VT
2019 Early Educator of the Year

The Whole Picture

THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

INFANTS (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD)

- » **76% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **87% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

- » **46% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **65% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS OLD)

- » **53% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.*
- » **65% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.*

*Preschool child care data does not include universal pre-K.

ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

379 Infants
201 Toddlers
404 Preschoolers

THE NUMBERS GAP

Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 288 for Infants
- 93 for Toddlers
- 213 for Preschoolers

Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 6:30 AM
- Most programs open: 7:00 AM
- Most programs close: 5:30 PM
- Last program closes: 6:30 PM

Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

134 Lead Early Educators



PHOTO: MY SECOND HOME, BRADFORD, VT

READ FULL REPORTS ON
 CHILD CARE ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY,
 PLUS WORKFORCE DEMAND, AT:

letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Share your story, make a donation, sign our Petition,
 become a volunteer, and get involved at
www.letsgrowkids.org