

Orleans County

THE CHALLENGE

In Orleans County, **52% OF PRESCHOOLERS** (3-4 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And **85% OF INFANTS** (BIRTH TO 2 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 Vermonter to create **88 new child care spaces** and **improve the quality of 148 spaces**. And **705 people** in Orleans County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$948,980** in Orleans County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

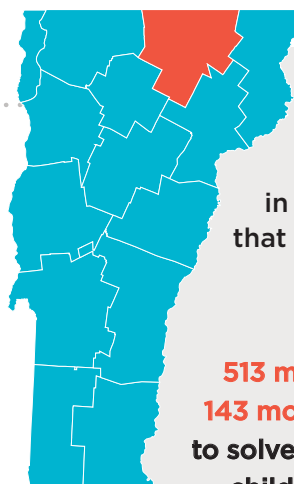
But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$1.48 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Orleans County children, forever.

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



PHOTOS: CHILD CARE DURING COVID-19 AT MOUNTAIN VIEW FAMILY CHILD CARE, NORTH TROY, VT



ORLEANS COUNTY HAS
439 child care spaces
for children under 5
in 47 child care programs
that offer full-time, full-year
child care (as of 2019).

ORLEANS COUNTY NEEDS
513 more child care spaces &
143 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

Newport Early Childhood Center

NEWPORT, VT

In the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, child care is hard to find. At the same time, many families in Newport are struggling economically—the city's median household income is just \$38,576.

But Michelle Faust, the director of Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS), realized that she could do something to help.

In September of 2019, NEKLS opened the Newport Early Childhood Center in a repurposed Vermont Teddy Bear factory and warehouse.

The center now houses Ready, Set, Grow, a child care center with room for 72 children; the region's Head Start program; as well as the state's Children's Integrated Services program, which serves children with developmental needs. And, it will soon be home to the brand new Kingdom Children's Museum.

Michelle worked with Let's Grow Kids staff throughout the process, and received a grant made possible by our generous supporters. Donations from local businesses like Casella Waste Systems, the Newport Rotary, and North Country Hospital, plus a federal grant, helped make her vision into a reality.

What makes the Newport Early Childhood Center unique? Now, families can access multiple child-centered services all in one place, and the programs can share administrative and operational costs.

Plus, Michelle's collaborative approach means she's able to set tuition at about 75% of market rate, making it affordable for more parents. At the same time, educators receive a starting wage of \$15 per hour. The center also offers internship opportunities for aspiring early educators through arrangements with the Community College of Vermont and North Country Career Center.

"The more we can lift each other up," Michelle said, "the more we're going to be able to lift up the entire field."

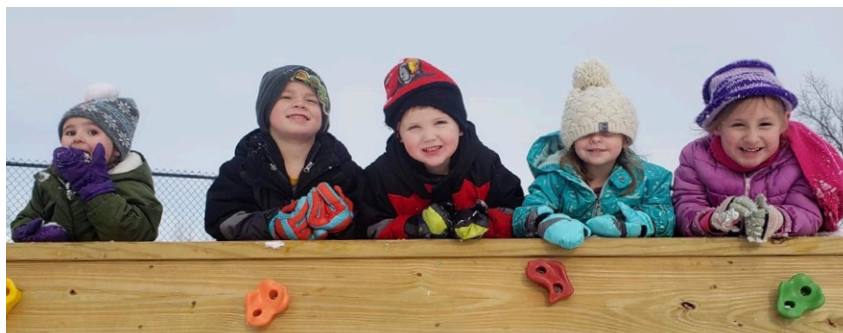


PHOTO: NEWPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, NEWPORT, VT

CHILD CARE IS COLLABORATIVE

Jenn, an early educator, describes one value of child care programs sharing services. "At any child care center, you have your own cook, janitor, substitute teachers," she explains.

"Imagine if we had high-quality child care centers with a system of substitutes. They could hire five full-time staff members. Those substitutes would be shared across centers, rather than having part-time staff who might quit if they could find full-time work."

JENNIFER PHILLIPS

Early Educator | Jay, VT



PHOTO: LITTLE ADVENTURES FAMILY CHILD CARE, TROY, VT



We have 15 children on our waiting list and have turned away 14 children in the last year due to lack of space. The Let's Grow Kids grant helps us expand to serve more toddlers and hire more staff.



KRISTIN URIE

Craftsbury Saplings | Craftsbury, VT

The Whole Picture

THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

INFANTS (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD)

- » **66% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **85% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

- » **36% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **71% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS OLD)

- » **52% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.*
- » **76% 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.

ORLEANS COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

354 Infants
200 Toddlers
398 Preschoolers

THE NUMBERS GAP

Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 234 for Infants
- 72 for Toddlers
- 207 for Preschoolers

Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 12:00 AM
- Most programs open: 6:00 AM
- Most programs close: 5:00 PM
- Last program closes: 11:45 PM

Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

143 Lead Early Educators



PHOTO: LISA DUNCAN OF LITTLE ANGELS CHILD CARE, NEWPORT, VT, AT THE 2019 RALLY FOR KIDS

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