

# Washington County

## THE CHALLENGE

In Washington County, **69% OF INFANTS** ( BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD ) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And **80% 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 **55 new child care spaces**.

And **1,112 people** in Washington County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$2.1 million** in Washington County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

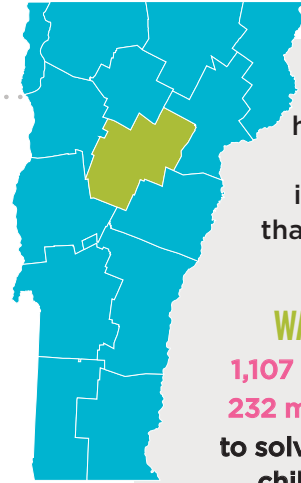
## But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$3.18 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Washington County children, forever.

**AND YOU CAN HELP!** Join the movement by adding your name, making a gift, or volunteering at [www.letsgrowkids.org](http://www.letsgrowkids.org).



PHOTOS: MISS ROBIN'S NEST, MONTPELIER, VT



## WASHINGTON COUNTY

has 925 child care spaces for children under 5 in 73 child care programs that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

## WASHINGTON COUNTY NEEDS

**1,107 more child care spaces & 232 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](http://letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS)

## THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU...

### SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

## Turtle Island Children's Center

### MONTPELIER, VT

For nearly forty years, Turtle Island Children's Center has been providing child care for children and families in Washington County.

In March, COVID-19 forced child care programs to close, except those providing care to the children of essential workers.

Vicky Senni, one of the co-directors of Turtle Island, knew that innovation and creativity would be essential to keep their child care business afloat—both during the closure period and when they reopened in June.

**So Vicky applied for a Let's Grow Kids technology grant to help Turtle Island's early educators continue their professional development from home, as well as stay in touch with the children in their care.**

And in June, when Turtle Island was allowed to reopen, Vicky found a creative solution: **a nearly entirely outdoor child care program for the summer.**

Vicky understood that not only would she be providing child care in the midst of a pandemic, but she would also be advocating for the well-being of her early educator employees.

**"Providing child care is an emotional, physical, exhaustive labor of love. On a regular day, most programs can't afford health care for their early educators. We need comprehensive health and safety measures,"** she said.

Thanks to early educators like Vicky, high-quality programs like Turtle Island, as well as thousands of Vermonters calling for change, Vermont's elected officials know that child care is essential. During the pandemic, they've secured unprecedented investments to keep Vermont's child care system stable. **Now, it's up to all of us to advocate for equitable, sustainable change for Vermont's child care system, forever.**



PHOTOS: MISS ROBIN'S NEST, MONTPELIER, VT

### CHILD CARE IS GOOD BUSINESS

"Addressing the need for high-quality, affordable child care improves employee morale and loyalty, reduces absenteeism, and increases business productivity, all while ensuring that children and families can achieve the best outcomes right from the start.

"This is more than a family issue — it's a small-business issue, too."

#### NICOLE GRENIER

Stowe Street Cafe | Waterbury, VT



**We were looking to expand when the closure of a local program was announced. With funds and help from Let's Grow Kids and National Life Group, we were able to preserve those child care spaces and expand our program. They have helped us create a truly exceptional early care environment.**



#### SAMARA MAYS

Montpelier Children's House  
Montpelier, VT

# The Whole Picture

## THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

### INFANTS ( BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD )

- » **69% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **88% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

### TODDLERS ( 2-3 YEARS OLD )

- » **39% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **80% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

### PRESCHOOLERS ( 3-4 YEARS OLD )

- » **48% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.\*
- » **75% 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.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

772 Infants  
410 Toddlers  
860 Preschoolers

## THE NUMBERS GAP .....

### Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 531 for Infants
- 159 for Toddlers
- 417 for Preschoolers

### Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 6:30 AM
- Most programs open: 7:00 AM
- Most programs close: 5:00 PM
- Last program closes: 5:45 PM

### Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

**232 Lead Early Educators**



PHOTO: CHILDREN WATCH A BUTTERFLY EMERGE FROM ITS CHRYSALIS AT MISS ROBIN'S NEST, MONTPELIER, VT

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

[letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS](https://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](https://www.letsgrowkids.org)