

Windham County

THE CHALLENGE

In Windham County, **71% OF INFANTS** (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And **48% OF PRESCHOOLERS** (3-4 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 **101 new child care spaces**. And, **1,438 people** in Windham County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$1.56 million** in Windham County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

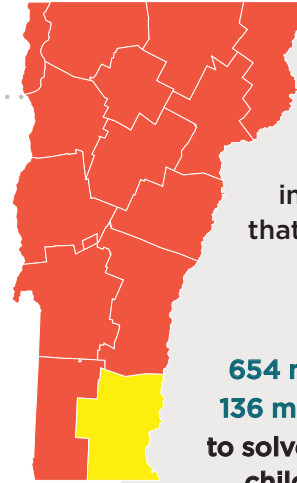
But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$2.09 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Windham County children, forever.

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



PHOTOS: BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN, BRATTLEBORO, VT



WINDHAM COUNTY HAS :

692 child care spaces for children under 5 in 34 child care programs that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

WINDHAM COUNTY NEEDS :

654 more child care spaces & 136 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

The Natural Child School

BRATTLEBORO, VT

Amaryah Pendlebury has run a home-based child care program in Brattleboro for nearly nine years. Since 2018, she's worked with Let's Grow Kids to get assistance improving her program's quality and expanding her capacity to care for more infants and toddlers.

She's been working in the field for 15 years, but Amaryah understands the importance of continued learning, and takes classes to keep her skills sharp. **"I am always working to improve myself and take courses to better my work with children."**

Amaryah is well-aware of the challenges that families face in finding child care in Windham County. When COVID-19 came to Vermont, those challenges became even clearer.

Immediately, Let's Grow Kids and our state partners started to contact early educators about providing child care to essential workers. **It just so happened that five of the six children in Amaryah's care were children of essential workers.**

"I think the biggest difference is just needing to be flexible," Amaryah told *Kids VT* recently.

She's implemented health and safety guidelines from the State of Vermont, like sanitizing surfaces and wearing masks. And she started opening her program 15 minutes early in order to accommodate parents' work at local hospitals.

Embracing that same flexibility, Amaryah adds, **"It's definitely an adventure. It's become our new normal."**

Thank you, Amaryah, for all you do to care for Windham County's children!



PHOTOS: BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN, BRATTLEBORO, VT

CHILD CARE IS GOOD BUSINESS

With the support of Let's Grow Kids staff and human resources experts, **Brattleboro Savings & Loan** is supporting their employees' child care needs with a floating bank teller position, to help employees who face emergency child care challenges.

"In our company, we have seen how high-quality child care acts as a fundamental support for our workforce. It allows parents to accept work and show up ready to work. When child care breaks down, our workforce breaks down."

DANIEL YATES | President & CEO



By adding one more classroom to our program, we will be able to enroll ten more children ages two to five and hire two more teachers. And we thank YOU for that!



RENATA SAWYER
Director, West River Montessori School
South Londonderry, VT

The Whole Picture

THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

INFANTS (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD)

- » **71% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **78% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

- » **20% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **33% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS OLD)

- » **41% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.*
- » **48% 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.

WINDHAM COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

- 529 Infants
- 267 Toddlers
- 550 Preschoolers

THE NUMBERS GAP

Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 377 for Infants
- 52 for Toddlers
- 225 for Preschoolers

Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 6:30 AM
- Most programs open: 7:30 AM
- Most programs close: 5:30 PM
- Last program closes: 11:00 PM

Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

136 Lead Early Educators



PHOTO: WINSTON PROUTY CENTER, BRATTLEBORO, 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