

Early Care & Education in Tulare County:

Vast Unmet Need, Urgent Parent Demands & Collaborative Solutions

Early Care and Education (ECE) is care provided by someone other than a child's parent or primary care giver.

Data shown are from the 2026 Tulare County ECE Needs Assessment, unless otherwise referenced.

ECE Boosts:



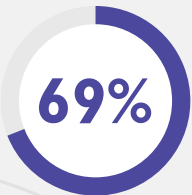
High School
Graduation



College
Attendance

Source: ReadyNation.org, Business Case for Early Childhood Investments, 2012

Tulare County parents need ECE, especially during non-traditional hours



Need ECE to
Go to Work



Need ECE to Go to
School or Get Training

"High-quality childcare drives the U.S. economy by allowing more adults to enter and stay in the workforce, providing a critical boost to businesses."

— Maple, Harvard Business Review, 2023

Without ECE:



of parents miss at least
1 workday per year



of parents miss 5 or
more workdays per year



47%

Parents say ECE
costs too much

Most Parents Do Not Have the ECE They Need

With ECE



Only 0.3 of 5 Infants & Toddlers have ECE
19,895 ARE WITHOUT ECE

94%



Only 1.6 of 5 Preschoolers have ECE
14,680 ARE WITHOUT ECE

68%

Without ECE

Did you know?

24%

of children ages 0-5 have an available ECE space (10,924 spaces for 46,000 children)

50%

of ECE workers cannot afford the basic cost of living in their community (such as housing, food, and ECE they provide for others)

How can we make it possible for all children to get great ECE in Tulare County?

Improve communication, understanding, and collaboration within the ECE sector

Increase awareness and education for parents about the importance of ECE



Increase support for ECE salaries and workforce

Increase awareness about ECE throughout Tulare County



Increase support for ECE at the state level



The Tulare County Council on Child and Youth Development seeks to advocate for ECE that is available, of high quality, and affordable for all children!

**Tulare County
Office of Education**

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

For more information, please contact:
Child & Youth Development Council Manager
(559) 651-1723

For more information or references, please see the 2026 Tulare County ECE Needs Assessment available at <http://www.tularecountykids.org>

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