

CHILDCARE/PRE-K PROGRAMS

Utah families face significant challenges navigating the landscape of childcare and education, especially as it relates to accessibility, affordability, and high-quality services. These challenges often result in children lacking the academic, social-emotional, or physical development necessary to enter kinder-garten ready to learn. Increasingly, parents are forced to drop out of the workforce to address these needs, leading to financial instability for families. A Bolder Way Forward's [Childcare/Pre-K Programs Spoke](#) is focused on improving things, and we need your help. Learn how you can be part of building opportunities for Utah children and families and supporting the needs of Utah's workforce.

KEY FACTS

- 64% of Utah families have all available parents working, and nearly 60% of parents working part-time would work more hours if they had access to affordable, quality childcare.
- In 2023, infant care in Utah cost anywhere from \$9,000 to \$11,000 per year, toddler care was \$8,000-9,500, and preschool care was \$8,000-8,600. By the time a Utah child enters kindergarten, parents have paid anywhere from \$42,000-50,000 on care.
- Despite the high costs of childcare, childcare workers earn \$15 per hour, significantly less than the median hourly wage of all occupations in the state. One in five childcare workers has an additional job (or jobs) to cover basic living expenses.
- In 2022, Utah ranked behind most of the country when it came to providing education for preschoolers.

DEFINITION

"High-quality child care and early learning programs are proven to dramatically improve a child's opportunities for a better future while offering parents improved job stability and overall economic security."

First Five Years Fund

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

- High-quality early childhood education has a long-term effect on children's cognitive and socioemotional development through kindergarten and beyond. It's also shown to help children improve attentiveness, regulate their emotions, and develop social connections.
- For every dollar we spend on positive interventions for children under six, we can save between \$7 and \$10 in later years (through reduced reliance on government benefits, lower utilization of special education and fewer instances of criminal justice involvement).
- An additional \$1.4 billion could be added into Utah's economy each year if childcare inadequacies are addressed.

Click [here](#) to view sources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Share resources about childcare solutions with Utah employers and employees.

See [Childcare Solutions for Employers \[Spanish\]](#) and [Working Parent Childcare Resources \[Spanish\]](#).



Learn and share information about the importance of early childhood learning and development.

See resources from the [Office of Early Childhood Utah](#), [Voices for Utah Children](#), and [Envision Utah](#).



Talk to your legislators about supporting research-based public policy related to expanding childcare and early childhood education programs.

Find links to resources on the [Childcare & Pre-K Programs Spoke webpage](#).

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Spoke Resources

- [Childcare/Pre-K Programs Video](#)
- [Childcare/Pre-K Programs Spoke Page](#)
- [Living Room Conversations – Childcare in Utah](#)
- [Introductory Podcast](#)

Research-Based Reports & Resources

- [Childcare—What Utahns Need to Know Now: A 2023 Update \(Podcast\)](#)
- [Childcare/Pre-K Programs Research Summary](#)
- [Childcare Solutions for Employers](#)
- [Family-Friendly Workplaces: A Guide for Utah Business Leaders](#)
- [Untapped Potential in UT](#)
- [The Complex Childcare Landscape: Public Policy Solutions for Utah](#)
- [The Current Status of Women & Girls](#)
- [What Are My Childcare Options?](#)
- [Working Parent Childcare Resources](#)

Organizations

- [Care About Childcare](#)
- [Care for Kids](#)
- [ChildCare.gov \(Utah\)](#)
- [Children’s Service Society of Utah](#)
- [Envision Utah](#)
- [First Five Years Fund](#)
- [The Promise Partnership](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [Utah Community Action](#)
- [Utah Community Builders](#)
- [Utah Office of Childcare](#)
- [Parent Resources](#)
- [Provider Resources](#)
- [Head Start](#)
- [Voices for Utah Children \(Early Learning and Care\)](#)
- [YWCA Utah](#)