

Early Education

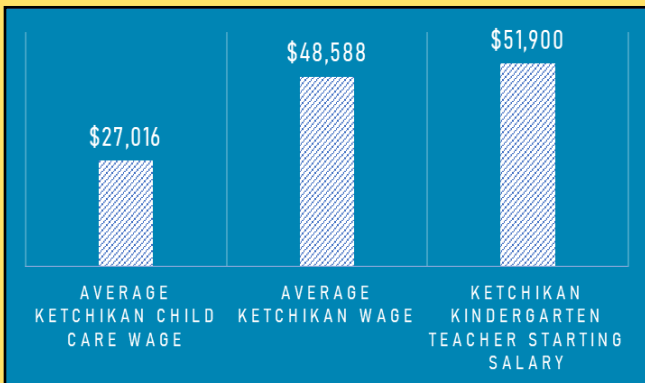
KETCHIKAN BY THE NUMBERS 2020

There is not enough child care to meet the needs of the community

There are **831** children in Ketchikan under the age of 5.5. Approximately **66%** of these children don't have a stay-at-home parent, and there are only enough child care slots for **three out of every ten** children in Ketchikan.

Low Wages Continue for Child Care Workers

In 2020, the average annual wage for child care workers was **\$27,016**, an increase of **17%** compared to the prior year. Despite this increase, wages for child care workers remain significantly lower than both the average wage for the city of Ketchikan and the starting salary for a kindergarten teacher. A decrease in enrollment and capacity has caused some programs to decrease the available hours for their workers, meaning child care workers are not seeing a full 17% increase in annual income. Also, some providers have added hazard pay to hourly wages, meaning some of these increases are likely temporary.



With an annual income of **\$42,960** needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Ketchikan, child care workers don't earn enough to pay rent. Low wages make it very difficult to attract and retain qualified child care professionals.

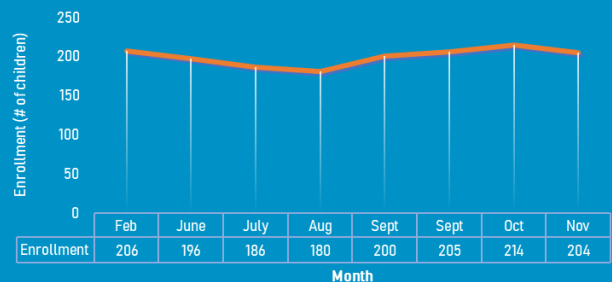
63% of Child Care Programs likely would have Closed without COVID-19 Funding Support



Enrollment Has Remained Consistent

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a slight decrease in child care program enrollment, only falling by **5%** from February to June. Ketchikan's child care programs fared relatively well, suffering no major decreases in enrollment. Enrollment was even higher in October than in February, by **4%**.

2020 KETCHIKAN ENROLLMENT RECOVERY



The COVID-19 Pandemic Led to Unprecedented Challenges

Since January, **20** child care workers left their jobs, **5** leaving due to COVID-specific reasons. The staff turnover rate was **69%**. Child care programs faced the financial burdens of heightened health and safety precautions and decreased capacity. On average, programs reported a **44%** reduction in revenue. The Ketchikan CARES program put **\$693,000** into the hands of local child care programs. On average, this amounted to **\$503** per child, per month.

Ketchikan Child Care By The Numbers

831	Population Under Age 5.5 ^{1,3}
285	Estimated Ketchikan Children Under Age 5.5 with a Stay-At-Home Parent ^{1,3}
545	Estimated Ketchikan Children Under Age 5.5 with All Parents Working ^{1,3}
9	Total Licensed Child Care Programs in Ketchikan ²
251	Total Licensed Child Care Slots in Ketchikan ²
342	Estimated Ketchikan Children Under Age 5.5 in Unknown Child Care Situations ^{1,2,3,6}
3 to 10	Ratio of Licensed Child Care Slots to Children Under the age of 5.5 ^{1,2,6}
91	Total Infant/Toddler Child Care Slots in Ketchikan ²
453	Infant/Toddler Population (Under 3) ¹
1 to 5	Ratio of Licensed Infant/Toddler Slots to Children under the age of 3 ^{1,2,6}
33%	% of Ketchikan Preschoolers Ready for Kindergarten ⁷
11	Child Care Workers with Child Development Assoc. or 12+ Credits ²
39 » 29	Average # of Child Care Workers Pre-Pandemic versus Current ²
\$7,872	Average Annual Child Care Cost Per Child ²
\$8,748	Average Annual Child Care Cost Per Toddler ²
\$27,016	Average Annual Child Care Wage in Ketchikan ²
\$48,588	Average Annual Wage in Ketchikan ⁴
\$51,900	Starting Kindergarten School Teacher Wage in Ketchikan ⁵

Sources: 1-US Census Bureau; 2-AEYC Survey of Childcare Programs; 3-American Community Survey 5-year Estimates Table B23008 2019 Estimates; 4-AK Department of Labor; 5-Ketchikan School District; 6-JEDC Analysis; 7-2020 Alaska Developmental Profile