

Child Care in North Dakota

EDND

November 2008

Leading the Way for Child Care in North Dakota

All across the Nation, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies respond in unique ways to local child care needs. CCR&Rs were first organized in the 1970s to support women who were entering the workforce for the first time. During the 1980s and 90s, the work of CCR&Rs expanded from helping families find child care to providing training and technical assistance to child care providers to strengthen the quality of care in communities.

Today, 800 CCR&Rs respond to the increasing and changing demands of families who are looking for child care, child care providers who are caring for American's children, and communities impacted by lack of quality child care. Each year CCR&Rs conduct over 5 million referrals and train 500,000 child care providers.

The North Dakota Legislature established a statewide network of CCR&R services in 1992. Supported by public and private funding, CCR&R works with all parts of the child care delivery system – families, child care providers, educators, business and policymakers.

North Dakota has two CCR&R agencies. One is housed with Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership to coordinate CCR&R activities in the eastern part of the state. The other, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND), coordinates CCR&R activity in the western part of the state. The CCR&Rs work in partnership to deliver the following services in a consistent, efficient manner.

Helping Families

CCR&R assists families in their search for quality child care by supplying families with individualized referrals to all types of licensed child care as well as resources to help parents evaluate and choose appropriate care for their children. In the past year, CCR&R helped 4,190 families find child care for 5,304 children.

Helping Child Care Businesses

CCR&R supports individuals and programs that care for children by coordinating meaningful training opportunities and resources, technical assistance to become licensed or to improve quality, and assistance in filling vacancies.

Training and Professional Development

Child Care Resource and Referral sponsors a wide variety of training classes, workshops and conferences designed specifically for people working in early childhood settings. Educational and innovative trainings, usually delivered in the evening and on Saturdays, are offered for child care providers from both family and center-based programs, educators, parents, foster care providers, and those interested in the development of children age birth through twelve years of age. In the past year, CCR&R held 346 training events (total 1,194 hours of professional development) which were attended by 5,062 (duplicated) people.

Child Care Consultation

CCR&R has developed a series of structured consultation services designed to raise the quality of child care. Childcare development is a key area of work and delivering expert guidance and support to new providers is one of our areas of expertise.

CCR&R's Quality Improvement Projects annually deliver individualized on-site consultation and training to 30 infant-toddler child care centers classrooms and 24 family child care programs who volunteer for the project. Over the course of six months, providers participate in intensive training and consultation. Care quality, as measured pre- and post-assessment using nationally accepted child care environmental rating instrument, has increased as much as 20% in participating programs.

CCR&R's Business Center helps individuals interested in starting a child care business as well as child care business owners working to improve the business side of their child care programs. CCR&R's business advisers are specialists in child care business start-up, producing realistic business plans, and giving support in developing a sustainable program.

CCR&R nurses assist child care programs in implementing health and safety practices that protect children and their families.

In the past year CCR&R, responded to 1,870 requests from child care providers for technical assistance or consultation.

Helping Communities

CCR&R builds connections in communities to generate support for child care issues by providing reliable data and encouraging partnerships to expand the child care capacity. CCR&R helps the public understand the important connection between the quality of care children receive in the early years and school success.

Western ND Contact

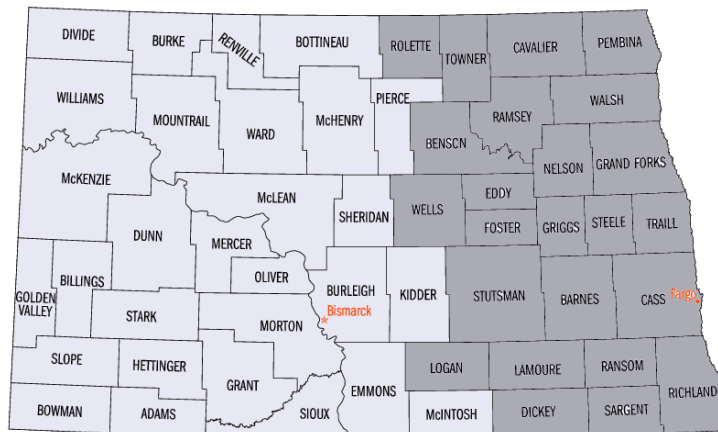
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If individuals care for six or more children, including their own under 12 years, they are required by state law to be licensed. Licensed providers receive annual inspections and must comply with minimum health and safety regulations. North Dakota has approximately 1,500 licensed facilities able to care for 32,000 children.

Family Child Care

In licensed family child care, the provider is the owner/operator of her own home-based business. Normally, children of all ages are together in a family setting, but providers are limited to no more than seven (7) children.

Group Child Care

Providers with a group license may be home based or in a public or privately owned building. The maximum group size is 18, and group providers will have additional staff when the number of children in attendance exceeds their adult-child ratios.

Center Child Care

Programs caring for more than 18 children must be licensed as centers. The number of children a center can provide care for at any given time is based on square footage.

School-age Care Programs

Licensed school-age programs provide care exclusively for school-age children before and after school, during school holidays and summer vacations.

Total Licensed Child Care Program Type and Capacity, 2007				
	Family/Group	Center	School-Age*	Total
Number of Programs	1,220	150	53	1,423
Licensed Capacity	14,389	11,382	4,288	30,059
Open before 7:00 a.m.	421	72	7	500
Open beyond 6:00 p.m.	121	14	0	135
Open on weekends	42	7	0	49
Size of Workforce	1,534	2,060	343	3,937

Unregulated care

If individuals care for five or less children, including their own under 12 years, they are not required by state law to be licensed. Unlicensed providers do not receive annual inspections. Low income families using Affidavit of Standard Compliance or relatives providers are eligible for Child Care Assistance.

Family, Friends, and Neighbors

No agency oversees these informal care settings or collects data regarding the total number of family and friend providers. Consequently, little information or data exists regarding informal care providers.

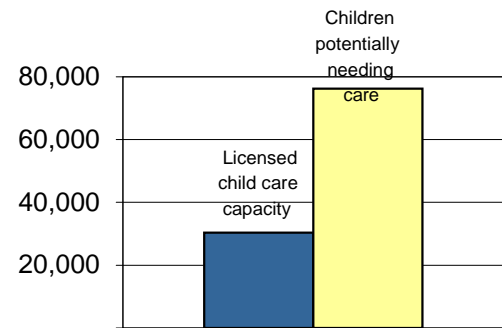
Reservation child care

Tribal child care providers and tribally owned child care centers have authority to provide care granted by the Tribal Council or designated Tribal Agency. Not all regulated facilities are in the state system.

The child care industry and the parents and children using the services face the child care *trilemma*; availability, affordability, and quality.

The challenge of availability of programs

In North Dakota, 83% of women with children ages 0 to 6 and 87% of women with children ages 6 to 17 are in the labor force. Maintaining an adequate supply child care is difficult. There are 203 centers/school-age programs and 1,220 in-home licensed child care businesses with a total capacity to care for 30,059 children. The current supply of licensed child care meets only 39% of the potential demand.



The challenge of availability of staff

Maintaining an adequate supply of trained child care workers is also difficult. High turnover and untrained staff reduce the quality of care and put a tremendous strain on the children and families they serve. While turnover is detrimental in any industry, it is devastating to children, particularly the most vulnerable children, infants and toddlers.

There is low profitability in child care due to high labor expenses required by high staff/child ratios.

Appropriate staff-child ratios play a vital role in the protection of children and must be maintained. Labor costs constitute the majority of expenses for a child care business; to keep costs down, firms pay low wages resulting in a lower skilled workforce and high staff turnover.

- Child care workers earn 63% of ND median hourly wage or an average hourly wage of \$7.50 an hour
- 60% of child-care providers in centers have been at their current job less than a year
- The family/group child care provider turnover rate is approximately 16%.

1,553 people work in licensed family or group child care programs, 2,060 work in licensed child care centers.

Potential Demand for Child Care

County	Children Ages 0 to 5 Error! Bookmark not defined.	Children Ages 6 to 12	% of Women with Children Ages 0 to 6 in Labor Force	% Women with Children Ages 6 to 17 in Labor Force	Children Ages 0 to 5 potentially needing child care	Children Ages 6 to 12 potentially needing child care	Capacity of licensed child care	Extent licensed care meets potential demand
North Dakota	43,340	52,199	76.1%	84.9%	32,806	44,282	30,197	39%
Adams	99	182	84.3%	86.4%	83	157	113	47%
Barnes	628	798	77.1%	86.7%	484	692	373	32%
Benson	798	821	67.5%	72.3%	539	594	162	14%
Billings	46	52	69.0%	81.6%	32	42	-	0%
Bottineau	320	473	79.6%	86.7%	255	410	174	26%
Bowman	159	232	92.3%	92.6%	147	215	71	20%
Burke	99	138	83.0%	92.0%	82	127	36	17%
Burleigh	4,810	5,899	79.5%	86.9%	3,824	5,126	4,321	48%
Cass	9,782	10,205	77.0%	86.2%	7,536	8,801	9,294	57%
Cavalier	204	301	70.8%	87.9%	144	264	116	28%
Dickey	396	442	77.2%	92.1%	306	407	286	40%
Divide	89	137	76.5%	91.0%	68	125	63	33%
Dunn	181	299	66.2%	87.0%	120	260	18	5%
Eddy	143	195	69.5%	83.7%	99	163	80	30%
Emmons	198	342	82.2%	88.0%	163	301	107	23%
Foster	218	297	87.2%	82.3%	190	244	109	25%
Golden Valley	90	161	71.8%	85.7%	65	138	61	30%
Grand Forks	4,598	4,958	71.3%	83.6%	3,277	4,146	4,343	59%
Grant	104	183	78.7%	83.2%	82	152	25	11%
Griggs	111	175	75.7%	95.9%	84	168	95	38%
Hettinger	102	176	67.3%	80.0%	69	141	66	32%
Kidder	136	173	77.1%	80.6%	105	139	48	20%
Lamoure	239	310	70.3%	84.2%	168	261	112	26%
Logan	108	156	83.5%	81.2%	90	127	60	28%
McHenry	304	410	73.0%	81.7%	222	335	169	30%
McIntosh	125	183	89.0%	87.8%	111	161	75	28%
McKenzie	337	546	67.9%	80.4%	229	439	29	4%
McLean	415	650	70.3%	76.6%	292	498	132	17%
Mercer	429	703	67.8%	80.3%	291	565	163	19%
Morton	1,694	2,289	83.6%	82.6%	1,416	1,891	1,122	34%
Mountrail	507	602	73.2%	76.3%	371	459	92	11%
Nelson	146	202	77.3%	86.8%	113	175	63	22%
Oliver	87	144	72.7%	82.8%	63	119	18	10%
Pembina	428	582	72.3%	84.7%	309	493	302	38%
Pierce	236	351	78.5%	89.4%	185	314	146	29%
Ramsey	795	937	86.2%	84.6%	685	792	849	57%
Ransom	363	820	71.4%	85.9%	259	705	138	14%
Renville	141	174	86.2%	86.6%	122	151	37	14%
Richland	1,140	1,412	80.8%	85.8%	921	1,211	683	32%
Rolette	1,565	1,555	61.6%	81.5%	965	1,267	207	9%
Sargent	249	364	81.5%	81.1%	203	295	129	26%
Sheridan	55	97	57.7%	65.8%	32	64	30	31%
Sioux	511	555	67.8%	73.7%	346	409	13	2%
Slope	53	53	81.3%	60.7%	43	32	0	0%
Stark	1,369	1,847	81.2%	84.6%	1,112	1,563	866	32%
Steele	84	171	75.9%	89.0%	64	152	0	0%
Stutsman	1,189	1,507	81.2%	89.7%	965	1,352	848	37%
Towner	114	172	81.6%	89.0%	93	153	86	35%
Traill	484	663	75.9%	83.5%	367	553	326	35%
Walsh	740	920	79.7%	86.6%	590	797	354	26%
Ward	4,706	5,259	71.0%	84.3%	3,341	4,433	2,600	33%
Wells	211	309	80.9%	86.2%	171	266	158	36%
Williams	1,205	1,617	75.7%	88.8%	912	1,436	429	18%

Supply of Licensed Child Care and Size of Workforce

County	Licensed Family/Group Programs						Licensed Center Programs					
	Total Programs	Licensed Capacity	Open before 7:00 a.m.	Open beyond 6:00 p.m.	Open on week-ends	Size of Workforce	Total Programs	Licensed Capacity	Open before 7:00 a.m.	Open beyond 6:00 p.m.	Open on week-ends	Size of Workforce
	North Dakota	1,229	14,527	429	121	42	1,553	150	11,382	72	14	7
Adams	8	113	6	1	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnes	14	165	7	1	1	20	3	208	3	0	0	24
Benson	5	57	0	0	0	8	2	105	0	0	0	16
Billings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottineau	14	174	1	3	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bowman	4	71	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burke	2	36	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burleigh	178	1764	46	16	3	181	21	1872	11	0	0	292
Cass	286	3247	81	13	8	400	51	4514	24	3	1	748
Cavalier	5	56	1	1	0	6	1	60	0	0	0	16
Dickey	18	286	3	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Divide	1	18	0	0	0	1	1	45	0	0	0	3
Dunn	1	18	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eddy	5	50	0	0	0	5	1	30	1	1	1	11
Emmons	9	107	0	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foster	5	59	2	1	0	5	1	50	0	0	0	8
GoldenValley	4	61	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Forks	121	1280	58	23	2	130	13	1476	7	1	0	312
Grant	2	25	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Griggs	5	62	1	1	1	12	1	33	0	0	0	8
Hettinger	4	66	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidder	3	48	2	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lamoure	9	112	2	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan	4	60	2	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
McHenry	11	169	3	1	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
McIntosh	6	75	2	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
McKenzie	2	29	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
McLean	10	132	3	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	11	163	6	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morton	55	592	24	1	1	57	7	530	4	1	0	124
Mountrail	6	92	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson	6	63	3	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oliver	1	18	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembina	10	134	2	0	1	18	2	168	0	0	0	13
Pierce	6	96	5	1	1	6	1	50	1	0	0	9
Ramsey	33	420	19	10	2	33	4	339	8	3	2	46
Ransom	9	138	8	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renville	3	37	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richland	43	498	18	1	1	57	2	120	1	1	0	29
Rolette	8	102	3	1	1	11	13	105	0	0	0	11
Sargent	10	129	5	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheridan	2	30	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sioux	1	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stark	71	866	34	13	5	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steele	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stutsman	42	447	22	2	2	50	5	326	3	0	0	44
Towner	3	46	1	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traill	11	135	2	1	0	18	2	136	0	0	0	26
Walsh	16	211	5	4	1	18	4	143	0	0	0	22
Ward	105	1450	36	11	7	141	13	992	8	3	2	281
Wells	8	113	1	1	1	10	1	45	1	1	1	8
Williams	33	394	9	3	1	44	1	35	0	0	0	9

Supply of Child Care and Size of Workforce (continued from previous page)

County	School-Age						Total					
	Total Programs	Licensed Capacity	Open before 7:00 a.m.	Open beyond 6:00 p.m.	Open on week-ends	Size of Work-force	Total Programs	Licensed Capacity	Open before 7:00 a.m.	Open beyond 6:00 p.m.	Open on week-ends	Size of Work-force
North Dakota	53	4,288	7	-	-	343	1,432	30,197	508	135	49	3,956
Adams	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	113	6	1	0	19
Barnes	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	373	10	1	1	44
Benson	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	162	0	0	0	24
Billings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottineau	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	174	1	3	3	12
Bowman	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	71	1	0	0	5
Burke	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	36	0	0	0	2
Burleigh	3	685	0	0	0	123	202	4321	57	16	3	596
Cass	23	1533	3	0	0	163	360	9294	108	16	9	1311
Cavalier	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	116	1	1	0	22
Dickey	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	286	3	0	0	32
Divide	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	63	0	0	0	4
Dunn	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	0	0	0	4
Eddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	80	1	1	1	16
Emmons	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	107	0	2	0	8
Foster	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	109	2	1	0	13
Golden Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	61	1	1	0	4
Grand Forks	12	1587	2	0	0	12	146	4343	67	24	2	454
Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	25	1	0	0	4
Griggs	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	95	1	1	1	20
Hettinger	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	66	2	1	0	7
Kidder	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	48	2	1	0	8
Lamoure	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	112	2	0	0	12
Logan	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	60	2	2	0	6
McHenry	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	169	3	1	0	11
McIntosh	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	75	2	1	0	6
McKenzie	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	29	0	0	0	3
McLean	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	132	3	0	0	7
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	163	6	0	0	9
Morton	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	1122	28	2	1	181
Mountrail	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	92	1	0	0	19
Nelson	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	63	3	1	0	9
Oliver	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	0	0	0	2
Pembina	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	302	2	0	1	31
Pierce	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	146	6	1	1	15
Ramsey	3	90	0	0	0	10	40	849	27	13	4	89
Ransom	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	138	8	0	0	19
Renville	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	37	0	0	0	5
Richland	2	65	0	0	0	0	47	683	19	2	1	86
Rolette	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	207	3	1	1	22
Sargent	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	129	5	1	0	9
Sheridan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	0	0	0	2
Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	1
Slope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stark	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	866	34	13	5	89
Steele	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stutsman	4	75	0	0	0	9	51	848	25	2	2	103
Towner	1	40	0	0	0	4	4	86	1	1	0	12
Traill	2	55	0	0	0	12	15	326	2	1	0	56
Walsh	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	354	5	4	1	40
Ward	3	158	2	0	0	10	121	2600	46	14	9	432
Wells	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	158	2	2	2	18
Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	429	9	3	1	53

The challenge of affordability

Operating licensed child care programs, even at a minimum level, can be costly, and for child care business owners interested in going beyond minimum licensing, for those who are interested in providing the best care for children, the business costs are higher. Staff training and education, safe facilities, low caregiver-child ratios and other factors that improve the quality of child care will increase child care expenses. Child care owners must turn to their primary source of income, the parents they serve.

Many parents struggle to afford quality child care. One year of care for a baby costs more than one year of tuition at one of North Dakota's universities.

Parents with more than one child often face child care fees that exceed their monthly rent or house payment. The average annual tuition for child care in North Dakota ranges from \$5,000 to \$6,500 per child per year.

Child care costs vary by type of setting, age of the child, and geographic location (care in urban areas is generally more expensive than in rural areas).

Child care fees for an infant are higher than the average amount that families spend on food.

Child care fees for one child exceed the median rent in North Dakota (\$466) and for two children exceed the average monthly mortgage payment (\$902).

Child care for two children in North Dakota would comprise 27% of the annual median income of families with children ages 0-17 (\$44,640). This family would not qualify for child care assistance.

Average annual tuition for infant care
\$ 5,781

Average annual tuition for preschooler
\$ 5,235

Annual tuition fees for state university
\$ 6,130

Total cost of child care from birth to 2nd grade
\$41,392

Annual Fees of Licensed Child Care in North Dakota					
FAMILY/GROUP	Average	Highest Reported Rate	CENTERS		Highest Reported Rate
			Average	Highest Reported Rate	
Ages 0 to 11 months	\$ 5,255	\$ 6,813	Ages 0 to 11 months	\$6,307	\$7,384
12 to 24 months	\$ 5,225	\$ 6,813	12 to 24 months	\$6,260	\$7,308
Age 2	\$ 5,030	\$ 6,813	Age 2	\$5,912	\$6,944
Ages 3 to 5	\$ 4,950	\$ 6,813	Ages 3 to 5	\$5,521	\$6,521
School-Age	\$ 4,803	\$ 6,813	School-Age	\$5,042	\$5,904

Cost of Licensed Child Care in North Dakota

County	Average Annual Cost of Child Care					Average Annual Cost of Child Care					Median Income of Families with Children Ages 0-17, 2000	% of Income for One Infant in Family/ Group
	Licensed Family/Group Programs					Licensed Center Programs						
	Ages 0 to 11 months	12 to 24 months	Age 2	Ages 3 to 5	School-Age	Ages 0 to 11 months	12 to 24 months	Age 2	Ages 3 to 5	School-Age		
Adams	\$ 3,690	\$ 3,690	\$ 3,668	\$ 3,578	\$ 3,623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,250	10%
Barnes	\$ 4,860	\$ 4,931	\$ 4,699	\$ 4,606	\$ 4,578	\$ 4,946	\$ 4,946	\$ 4,592	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400	\$ 42,679	13%
Benson	\$ 4,514	\$ 4,514	\$ 4,334	\$ 4,334	\$ 4,334	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,375	\$ 28,458	12%
Billings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,417	0%
Bottineau	\$ 5,099	\$ 5,099	\$ 4,893	\$ 4,851	\$ 5,408	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,595	14%
Bowman	\$ 5,580	\$ 5,220	\$ 5,220	\$ 5,220	\$ 5,220	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,708	15%
Burke	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,727	12%
Burleigh	\$ 5,588	\$ 5,546	\$ 5,389	\$ 5,333	\$ 5,206	\$ 7,384	\$ 7,308	\$ 6,944	\$ 6,521	\$ 5,904	\$ 53,062	15%
Cass	\$ 5,733	\$ 5,676	\$ 5,291	\$ 5,164	\$ 4,785	\$ 6,903	\$ 6,875	\$ 6,405	\$ 5,858	\$ 5,168	\$ 51,288	16%
Cavalier	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,750	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ 44,844	15%
Dickey	\$ 4,557	\$ 4,573	\$ 4,369	\$ 4,350	\$ 4,332	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,147	13%
Divide	\$ 6,188	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 6,750	\$ 6,750	\$ 6,188	\$ 6,188	\$ 3,938	\$ 37,292	17%
Dunn	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,750	0%
Eddy	\$ 5,243	\$ 5,243	\$ 5,130	\$ 5,130	\$ 5,130	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 43,875	14%
Emmons	\$ 4,523	\$ 4,523	\$ 4,433	\$ 4,275	\$ 4,568	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,841	12%
Foster	\$ 5,265	\$ 5,265	\$ 5,265	\$ 5,265	\$ 5,265	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 5,513	\$ 47,841	15%
Golden Valley	\$ 4,573	\$ 4,573	\$ 4,573	\$ 4,573	\$ 4,151	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,365	13%
Grand Forks	\$ 5,461	\$ 5,482	\$ 5,330	\$ 5,163	\$ 4,873	\$ 6,914	\$ 6,771	\$ 6,281	\$ 5,874	\$ 5,151	\$ 46,123	15%
Grant	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,500	10%
Griggs	\$ 5,158	\$ 5,158	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,063	\$ 41,458	14%
Hettinger	\$ 4,365	\$ 4,365	\$ 4,365	\$ 4,365	\$ 4,365	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,050	12%
Kidder	\$ 4,725	\$ 4,725	\$ 4,725	\$ 4,725	\$ 4,883	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,578	13%
Lamoure	\$ 4,680	\$ 4,680	\$ 4,478	\$ 4,478	\$ 4,410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,328	13%
Logan	\$ 4,095	\$ 4,095	\$ 4,095	\$ 4,095	\$ 4,095	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,982	11%
McHenry	\$ 4,475	\$ 4,475	\$ 4,397	\$ 4,397	\$ 4,412	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,684	12%
McIntosh	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,410	\$ 4,410	\$ 4,410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,911	12%
McKenzie	\$ 4,455	\$ 4,455	\$ 4,455	\$ 4,455	\$ 4,455	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,856	12%
McLean	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,445	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,415	15%
Mercer	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,707	16%
Morton	\$ 4,915	\$ 4,897	\$ 4,829	\$ 4,799	\$ 4,838	\$ 5,569	\$ 5,569	\$ 5,507	\$ 5,174	\$ 5,068	\$ 45,468	14%

Cost of Licensed Child Care in North Dakota

County	Average Annual Cost of Child Care					Average Annual Cost of Child Care					Median Income of Families with Children Ages 0-17, 2000	% of Income for One Infant in Family/ Group
	Licensed Family/Group Programs					Licensed Center Programs						
	Ages 0 to 11 months	12 to 24 months	Age 2	Ages 3 to 5	School-Age	Ages 0 to 11 months	12 to 24 months	Age 2	Ages 3 to 5	School-Age		
Mountrail	\$ 4,676	\$ 4,553	\$ 4,553	\$ 4,553	\$ 4,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,901	13%
Nelson	\$ 4,389	\$ 4,389	\$ 4,228	\$ 4,228	\$ 3,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,729	12%
Oliver	\$ 6,813	\$ 6,813	\$ 6,813	\$ 6,813	\$ 6,813	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,147	19%
Pembina	\$ 4,883	\$ 4,883	\$ 4,725	\$ 4,613	\$ 4,613	\$ 5,388	\$ 5,219	\$ 5,219	\$ 4,907	\$ 4,532	\$ 46,964	13%
Pierce	\$ 5,288	\$ 5,288	\$ 5,288	\$ 4,950	\$ 4,838	\$ 5,693	\$ 5,693	\$ 5,310	\$ 5,310	\$ 5,310	\$ 35,302	15%
Ramsey	\$ 4,928	\$ 4,928	\$ 4,726	\$ 4,677	\$ 4,562	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,592	\$ 5,325	\$ 5,379	\$ 5,506	\$ 42,041	14%
Ransom	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,375	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,847	11%
Renville	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,355	\$ 4,770	\$ 4,770	\$ 4,770	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,905	15%
Richland	\$ 4,940	\$ 4,960	\$ 4,763	\$ 4,693	\$ 4,578	\$ 5,309	\$ 5,309	\$ 5,226	\$ 4,944	\$ 4,463	\$ 46,889	14%
Rolette	\$ 5,091	\$ 4,881	\$ 4,716	\$ 4,716	\$ 4,836	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,063	\$ 4,770	\$ 4,388	\$ 26,377	14%
Sargent	\$ 4,640	\$ 4,509	\$ 4,690	\$ 4,637	\$ 4,513	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,500	13%
Sheridan	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,375	14%
Sioux	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,938	\$ 3,938	\$ 3,938	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,458	12%
Slope	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,125	0%
Stark	\$ 5,076	\$ 5,056	\$ 4,960	\$ 4,946	\$ 4,849	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,008	14%
Steele	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,676	0%
Stutsman	\$ 4,783	\$ 4,783	\$ 4,775	\$ 4,781	\$ 4,781	\$ 5,020	\$ 5,020	\$ 5,020	\$ 4,783	\$ 4,765	\$ 44,477	13%
Towner	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,238	16%
Trail	\$ 5,409	\$ 5,368	\$ 5,246	\$ 5,246	\$ 4,950	\$ 5,375	\$ 5,375	\$ 5,375	\$ 4,875	\$ 4,125	\$ 45,671	15%
Walsh	\$ 4,723	\$ 4,635	\$ 4,362	\$ 4,318	\$ 3,960	\$ 5,078	\$ 5,016	\$ 4,766	\$ 4,641	\$ 4,391	\$ 42,241	13%
Ward	\$ 4,866	\$ 4,828	\$ 4,661	\$ 4,594	\$ 4,657	\$ 5,823	\$ 5,732	\$ 5,439	\$ 4,913	\$ 4,928	\$ 41,189	13%
Wells	\$ 4,590	\$ 4,590	\$ 4,388	\$ 4,388	\$ 4,320	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,813	\$ 41,250	13%
Williams	\$ 5,296	\$ 5,215	\$ 4,935	\$ 4,695	\$ 4,695	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,625	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 37,479	15%

The challenge of quality

Early care has a decisive, long lasting impact on how people develop, their ability to learn, and their capacity to regulate their own emotions.

Research has repeatedly shown that quality child care—care that provides a safe, stable, enriching environment—helps children enter school ready to succeed. Children who receive quality child care demonstrate higher thinking skills, stronger language skills, and fewer behavioral problems than children who receive low quality care. These differences hold true for children from a range of family backgrounds, particularly for children from families earning low incomes.

Experts have determined that child care can benefit children. However, they also clearly state that the level of child care program quality must be high for positive

outcomes. Children in full-time care spend half of their waking hours away from their parents. In short, a majority of children in North Dakota spend fifty percent of their waking hours, half-a-childhood, in child care.

Researchers define quality child care as much more than simply meeting state health and safety licensing regulations. Quality child care provides:

A majority of children in North Dakota spend fifty percent of their waking hours, half-a-childhood, in child care.

- Safe, interesting settings and materials to satisfy curiosity and stimulate learning
- Time and freedom to explore and play
- Time to establish secure and trusting relationships where adults talk to children, read to them, and are genuinely f

School success does not come from programs that promise to teach reading, writing and math or from programs that provide the latest, state-of-the-art equipment. In fact, when child care is too academic, children may actually develop behavioral problems because they're not capable of listening for long periods of time. Real learning comes through personal experiences, reading, going to the park and just hanging out with friends and loving, nurturing adults.

Throughout the nation, the availability of quality child care is limited. A national study on the quality of child care, *The Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study* reported:

- 8% of infant-toddler programs rated high enough to protect health and safety and support children's learning and development
- 52% of infant-toddler programs were rated as mediocre with children's basic health and safety needs met; a little warmth and support is provided by adults; there are few learning experiences
- 40% infant-toddler programs were judged inadequate with basic health and safety needs not met; no warmth or support from adults is observed; no learning is encouraged

Right from the Start A Child Care Quality Improvement Project Conducted by Child Care Resource & Referral

Fifty-seven (57) licensed family child care programs voluntarily participated in six-month quality improvement efforts that included:

- An objective pre-assessment of their program using the Family Day Care Rating Scale
- Intensive training
- Monthly on-site consultation visits
- A post-assessment after six months

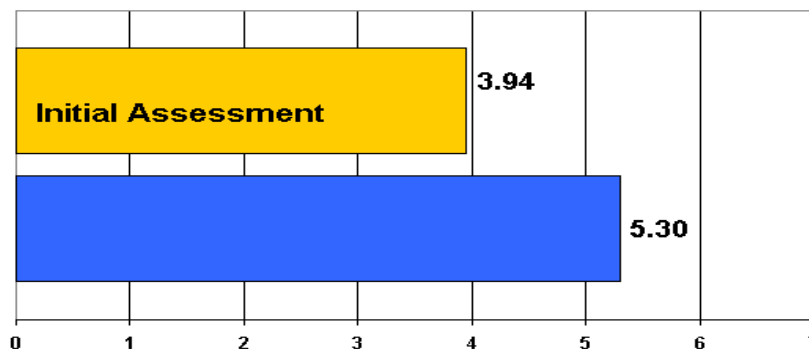
The tool assess 40 elements of care uses a seven point scale:

1 = inadequate: care does not meet custodial care needs

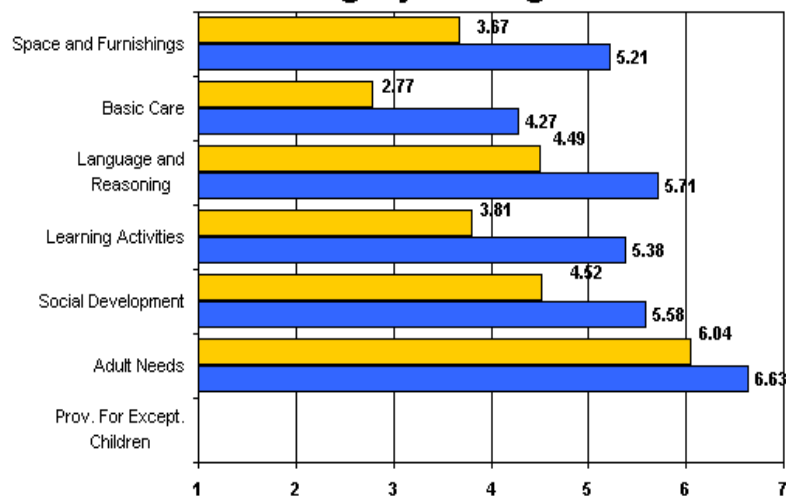
2 = Minimal: meets custodial needs and some basic development needs

5 = Good: meets development needs of children

7 = Excellent: high quality personalized care



SubCategory Averages



Quality Improvement Project A Child Care Quality Improvement Project Conducted by Child Care Resource & Referral

Eighty-one (81) infant-toddler classrooms in child care centers voluntarily participated in six-month quality improvement efforts that included:

- An objective pre-assessment of their program using the Family Day Care Rating Scale
- Intensive training
- Monthly on-site consultation visits by early childhood specialists and child care nurses
- A post-assessment after six months

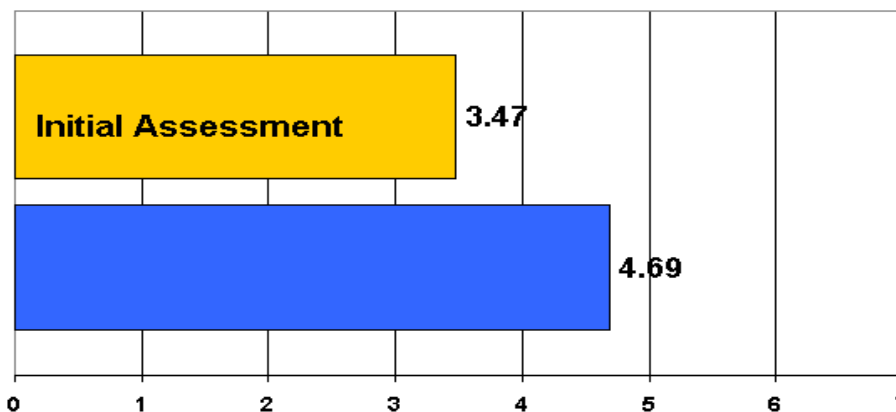
The tool assess 40 elements of care uses a seven point scale:

1 = Inadequate: care does not meet custodial care needs

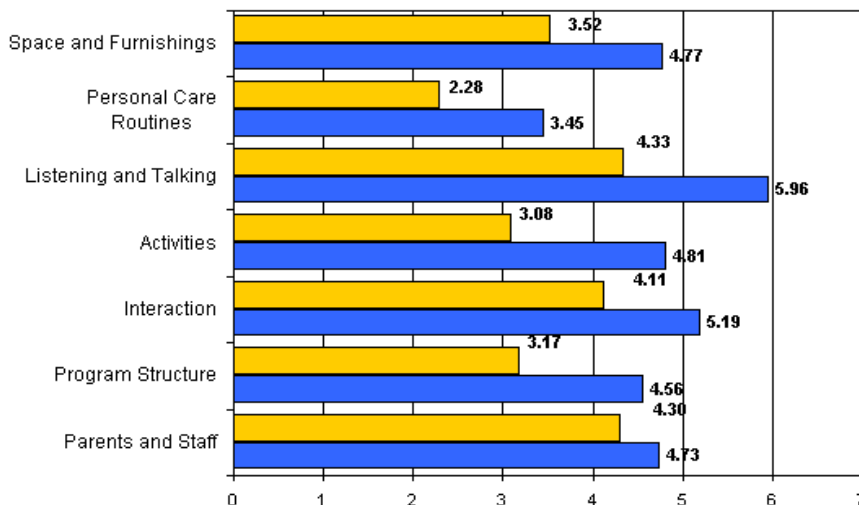
2 = Minimal: meets custodial needs and some basic development needs

5 = Good: meets development needs of children

7 = Excellent: high quality personalized care



SubCategory Averages



Identify community child care challenges

1. Determine local child care supply and demand by
 - Surveying parents. Access CCR&R's electronic parent survey
 - Accessing CCR&R county data sheet (www.ndchildcare.org)
 - Interviewing local focus groups to include parents, providers, CCR&R, and county social service staff
 - Developing a comprehensive map of issues and problem spots
2. Convene local planning team (local child care providers, county staff, CCR&R, individuals with and without child care needs, school personnel, business. Identify local assets

Maximize and enhance existing child care spaces in community

1. Send parents searching for child care to CCR&R for
 - Referrals to licensed child care programs
 - Tips on finding and using family, friend and neighbor care
 - General information regarding child care arrangements
2. Encourage existing child care providers to contact CCR&R for
 - Free advertising to increase enrollment (for licensed providers, only)
 - Business and programmatic training and consultation
 - Participation in current quality improvement projects
3. Provide resources to sustain current licensed child care programs by
 - Providing business management training scholarships for child care staff
 - Increasing access to capital loans and grants to support quality and infrastructure improvements. Link to achieving quality
 - Helping programs become accredited
4. Provide resources to assist self-certified providers to become licensed by
 - Making available small start-up grants (\$250-\$500)
 - Linking start-up grants with development of a child care business plan and technical assistance from CCR&R

Fund development and maintenance of new child care programs

1. Encourage prospective providers to access CCR&R start-up assistance
2. Link grants, loans, and incentives to quality standards