Employers' Guide to Childcare in Windham and Southern Windsor Counties

Southeastern VT
Childcare Counts Coalition

The following document includes information and resources for Windham and Southern Windsor County Area employers, specific to resources on accessing and affording child care.

Types of Childcare

- **Registered/Licensed Family Childcare Homes** - Care is provided in a private home for children of varying ages, ranging from infants to school-age. These locations have a max capacity of 10-12 children.
- **Licensed Centers -** Larger locations that provide care for more than 10 children and often include multiple classrooms. Children are usually grouped by age, including infant, toddler, and preschool programs. Centers are required to meet specific health, safety, and staff training requirements.

- **After-school care -** Supervised care for school-aged children during non-school hours.
- **Summer Care/Camps -** These programs vary and can be offered by additional organizations, such as school districts, parks and recreation departments, and community-based organizations. These programs do not operate on a regular or continuous basis.

How to Find Childcare

Step 1: Gather Important Information:

- How old are the children who need care?
- What is the geographic area care will be needed? What town/area? (near home or work?)
- What hours are needed?
- Does the quality of the potential program matter?
- What type of program is preferred? (i.e. home-based provider or center- based care)

Step 2: Explore Potential Care Options:

- **Option 1: Independent Online Search -** In Vermont, the **Bright Futures Child Care Information System** is a state-organized search engine for all registered and licensed child care providers in the state. Providers can be searched by location, program type, child's age, and star (quality) rating. www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us
- **Option 2: Contact the regional childcare support agency for direct support (see next section below).**
- For Southern Windsor County - Springfield Area Parent Child Center
- For Windham County - Winston Prouty Center for Children and Families

Step 3: Parents/Guardians directly contact Childcare Providers to select best option:

- Most providers will have waitlists families can join if slots are not currently available.
- Slot availability will be based on the child's age and size of the provider.

Additional Resources: Building Bright Futures: *Accessing Childcare for Children Under 5* Instructional YouTube videos for Non-English Speakers
Building Bright Futures has developed a short YouTube video explaining the process for accessing childcare. This video is available in **17 non-English Languages.** Watch the videos here.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0uaGz81U--7x2kNIR97_f4phqzxh8wD7

Regional Organizations that Support Families Accessing Care

Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC)

Springfield Area Parent Child Center is a nonprofit organization serving Southern Windsor and northern Windham counties.

- **What they do:** SAPCC can help families in the region identify potential childcare options and support families in applying for the Vermont Childcare Subsidy
- **Contact:** Brenda Pellarin, Childcare Resource and Referral Specialist– 802-886-5242
- **Region:** Southern Windsor County and Northern Windham County
- **Website**: sapcc-vt.org

Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development

The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development provides inclusive education and family support. The Center includes the Early Learning Center, which provides high-quality early care, community-based services, such as Children's Integrated Services, Family Supportive Housing, and Child Care Support Services.

- **What they do:** Winston Prouty staff can help families in the region identify potential childcare options and support families in applying for the Vermont Childcare Subsidy
- **Contact:** Childcare Resource and Referral Specialist - 802-257-7852
- **Region:** Windham County
- **Website**: winstonprouty.org/child-care-referral-program/

Paying for Child Care in the Region

State of VT Child Care Financial Assistance Program

The **State of VT Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP)** helps families pay for registered and/or licensed care based on income. In 2024 major updates were made to the income eligibility requirements for the program.

Who is Eligible:

- Residents of Vermont
- Children up to 13 years of age
- Currently employed, seeking employment, or attending school
- Meet Income Guidelines (see below for link)

- Have less than $1 million in assets.

How to apply:

- Visit the website (linked below) to print and mail an application to the SAPCC or Winston Prouty
- Visit the website and apply online via the **Parent Portal**

Other Information:

- Information and Applications: dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap
- Income Guidelines: outside.vermont.gov/dept/DCF/Shared%20Documents/Benefits/CCFAP-Income-Guidelines.pdf

Employer Strategies for Supporting Staff

State of Vermont Guidance for Employers

- Vermont Guide to Parental and Family Leave: women.vermont.gov/sites/women/files/doc_library/Parental_Family_Leave_Guide.pdf
- Vermont Workplace Supporting Nursing Moms: labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc_library/Nursing_mothers_webfactsheet08.pdf

Additional Strategies and Ideas for Employers to Support Staff

- Family Supportive Policies and Practices: Let's Grow Kids: Guide for Developing Child Care Supportive Policies in the Workplace - Child Care Benefits for Employers
- Assisting with Childcare related costs
- Tax Savings - A Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, a medical expense Flexible Spending Account, and other tax-deferred benefit accounts are very helpful to employees and employers.
- EAP Offerings
- Babies at Work Program - Badger - www.badgerbalm.com/pages/babies-at-work?srsltid=AfmBOooN9Egv8K85A6iM1whjdSUae7P7iEVb_wXGyQFvTIT64UyPKbgy

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Questions?
Springfield Area working Communities Challenge

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