



# CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT + ACTION PLAN

Prepared for the District of Sooke

December 2019 | CitySpaces Consulting





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# Executive Summary

Child care policy and planning in B.C. is becoming a priority due in part to the growing need for a comprehensive, and strategic approach to child care, given the shortages and waitlists across the province, and as a result of increased provincial funding.

This study is the first of its kind in Sooke and outlines the current child care situation through consultation and research. The report provides a gaps analysis, an assessment of the need, identifies targets for child care space creation and outlines strategic directions. The Action Plan includes recommendations and tools to create new child care spaces based on the gaps identified in the Needs Assessment.

The findings of this study indicate:

- 913 people were engaged including parents, guardians and service providers. They provided valuable context, identified gaps and needs, priorities and recommendations for this action plan.
- Population projections indicate the number of children in Sooke will continue to increase between 2020 and 2030, albeit at a more moderate rate than was the case in the previous decade.
- There are 416 licensed child care spaces in Sooke and 2,015 children between the ages of 0 to 12. This results in an access rate of 21 child care spaces for every 100 children, which qualifies Sooke as a “child care desert”<sup>1</sup>. This is far below the provincial access rate of 37 specified in the 2018 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) report, titled *Child Care Deserts in Canada*.
- Moving forward, the recommendation is to increase the access rate to 33 spaces per 100 children over the next 10 years, which means that the number of child care spaces in Sooke will increase from 416 to 919 by 2030.
- In order to meet these targets, there will be a gradual increase in the number of child care spaces. Sooke will need to have an annual increase of 51 child care spaces – 15 child care spaces for ages 0 to 5 and 36 spaces for ages 6 to 12.

We have outlined 11 strategic directions that will enable the District to set policy, establish regulations, generate revenue and facilitate land banking, leverage partnerships, and build capacity through advocacy and education.

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<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives defines child care deserts as postal codes with more than 50 non-school-aged children, but less than one licensed child care spot for every three children (a coverage, or access rate, of under 33%).

# Introduction

In 2019, the District of Sooke engaged CitySpaces Consulting to complete a Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan. The purpose of this study is to assist the District in strategic decision-making, policy development and zoning amendments for child care spaces in Sooke. This Needs Assessment and Action Plan provides an explanation of demographic trends related to child care, and interprets quantitative data, and qualitative information to understand the child care gaps in Sooke. Qualitative data was obtained through focus groups, one-on-one meetings with stakeholders, pop-up parent dialogues and survey comments. This report outlines the key issues related to child care in Sooke, and identifies targets and recommended actions to meet the identified licensed child care space needs.

This is the first Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan for the District of Sooke, and is intended to outline an approach for the District to eliminate barriers and encourage the creation of child care spaces, and increase the growth of child care related services.

## Background

The current child care planning context is changing, due in part to increased funding from the Province of British Columbia. In 2019, the Province announced an expanded investment in the child care sector totalling \$1 billion over three years, of which \$2.85 million has been earmarked by the Ministry of Children and Family Development for the Community Child Care Planning Program. Under this program, local governments can receive funding to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. The District of Sooke received funding from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for this purpose, and engaged the services of CitySpaces Consulting to complete this Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

Prior to this recent funding announcement, child care planning was largely absent from the municipal policy context. With the provincial government primarily responsible for the creation of new child care centres, local governments had relied on funding from senior government to construct the required spaces. Missing from this conversation was a strategic approach to coordinate efforts. The current guidelines from UBCM require specific information to be included in the Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan, such as:

- Whether the number and type of licensed spaces in Sooke is sufficient to meet the needs of the population aged 0 to 12, and what age groups are most in need of more child care spaces;
- Whether licensed facilities are located in areas of high need, including higher density areas and areas where parents attend work (or commute in proximity) and school;
- What locations in Sooke present the highest unmet demand for licensed child care spaces;
- Whether there are sufficient numbers of “flexible” licensed child care spaces offered outside of regular business hours;
- Whether there are a sufficient number of licensed child care spaces and services providing child care for underserved populations; and,



- Whether there are a sufficient number of care facilities that are co-located with other organizations offering services benefitting children and families to meet the community's needs.

This framework and funding is an opportunity to establish a planning framework that will guide the development of new child care spaces, which is essential to ensuring the appropriate spaces are delivered to the areas and populations most in need. Findings from this Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan will provide the District with a better understanding of Sooke's child care needs, and a recommended course of action to address the identified gaps.

## Methodology

This assessment has involved assembling and analyzing relevant and reliable data, as well as conducting engagement with parents and guardians, community stakeholders and child care providers. Determining the need and demand for child care is framed by the *UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program - 2019 Program & Application Guide*, which focuses on obtaining quantitative and qualitative sources of information to offer comprehensive insight into local child care needs. To provide this baseline of understanding of the service and child care context, this report highlights the existing policy context, and the current state of child care in the community.

### QUANTITATIVE DATA

The quantitative data highlighted in this report has been obtained from a variety of sources, where available. Research sources include the 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census of Canada; BC Statistics, the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Sooke School District, the Sooke/West Shore Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

### QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

The qualitative information was obtained by collecting insights, observations, and perspectives from the community. Feedback provided insight into the current child care situation in Sooke, key concerns and priorities, and possible opportunities and areas for change. In total, 917 people were engaged with through the various activities, which is notable given Sooke's population of 13,001.

- Two focus groups were held. One with parents and the other with community stakeholders which included service providers for underserved populations.
- Three pop-up parent dialogues took place on location, in the community, at events with parents.
- One-on-one meetings took place with the Sooke School District, various child care education training programs, T'Sou-ke Nation and with Vancouver Island Health Authority's Community Care Facilities Licensing office.
- This information was augmented by data received through the two surveys – one of which was targeted to parents and guardians, and one to child care operators and providers. In total, these surveys received a combined total of 798 responses.

# Context

Child care shortages in B.C. have resulted in increased funding from the provincial government. While several larger municipalities in Metro Vancouver have completed child care studies in previous decades, most smaller local governments lacked the capacity, funding and resources to initiate this task. To understand how Sooke compares to other similar jurisdictions, a policy scan was completed of comparable Vancouver Island municipalities. This exercise demonstrated the extent to which Sooke is acting proactively, as other local governments have yet to complete a Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan. While certain local governments have received funding to initiate this task, Sooke is setting an important precedent for other jurisdictions.

In addition to the ongoing child care study, Sooke is in a favourable position when compared to other similar jurisdictions, as their current OCP has several policies related to child care with the intent to:

- Encourage the creation of child care facilities in residential areas (Policy 5.1.2j);
- Support community-centred health, such as child care and social services, youth services and activities through public private partnerships (Policy 3.2.1f); and,
- Support and participate in collaborative networks of community service providers to meet, share information and facilitate access to services such as child care, health care, education, public safety, social services, culture and heritage (Policy 4.6.3o).

This framework provides an important baseline from which this study builds upon, and while Sooke is “ahead of the curve”, there are still many ways in which the District can improve upon their existing child care policy and planning.

## Government Policy + Programs

There are many factors that have contributed to the current child care situation that are outside the influence of local governments. Over the last several decades, funding and support for child care has been affected by senior government mandates. Given that child care is provincially regulated, the funding and support allocated to child care has changed to reflect provincial priorities. Recent funding announcements from both the provincial and federal governments and the decision by the federal government to create a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework reflects a renewed commitment to child care. The District will continue to work with all levels of government, as well as private sector and non-profit partners, to facilitate the development of appropriate, accessible, and affordable child care for Sooke residents.

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In 2017, the Federal Government announced the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework to make enhancements to provincial and territorial early learning and child care systems. This Framework has been implemented through a three-year bilateral agreement, which outlines the unique early learning and child care needs to be addressed in each province or territory, and the funding allocation for each jurisdiction. The British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement is in effect until March 31, 2020,

and has resulted in a yearly financial contribution of approximately \$51 million.<sup>2</sup> The Province of B.C. has drafted an Action Plan to ensure the funds provided under this bilateral agreement are allocated to specific areas of investment.

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is responsible for child care, which is legislated under the *Child Care BC Act*, the *Child Care Subsidy Act* and *Child Care Subsidy Regulation*. The MCFD supports licensed child care providers with the costs of delivering quality child care programs, provides funding to create new licensed child care spaces, and supports low-income parents with the costs of accessing child care.<sup>3</sup>

Licensed child care centres (referred to as “**group child care**”), **preschools**, and **family child care** must operate in accordance with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and the *Child Care Licensing Regulation*. While this report will focus on licensed child care, it is important to note that unlicensed or “license not required” child care is also prevalent in Sooke, and refers to a family child care home that is not regulated but is permitted. There are two types of unlicensed child care: **license not required (LNR)** and **registered license not required (RLNR)**, which is registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.<sup>4</sup> Licence-not-required child care providers can care for only two children or a sibling group not related to them. If care is provided to three or more children, a license is required.

Licensing and monitoring of child care facilities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, and the corresponding local health authority. In Sooke, representatives from the Vancouver Island Health Authority monitor each child care facility to make sure that rules are being followed and that the needs of the children in care are being met. The legislation and associated regulations identify several standards that must be met in a licensed child care facility, including the following:

- Centre staff and family child care provider training requirements;
- Staff – child ratios and group sizes;
- Nutrition and meals;
- Outdoor space and time;
- Behaviour management; and
- Health and safety<sup>5</sup>.

Licensing officers complete routine facility inspections to ensure standards are met. Interestingly, there is no

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<sup>2</sup> Canada – British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/british-columbia.html>

<sup>3</sup> Canada – British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/british-columbia.html>

<sup>4</sup> Finding Quality Child Care – A Guide for Parents in Canada, <https://findingqualitychildcare.ca/british-columbia>

<sup>5</sup> Finding Quality Child Care – A Guide for Parents in Canada, <https://findingqualitychildcare.ca/british-columbia>



requirement that municipal zoning approval be in place prior to licensing from the respective local health authority. Given municipal zoning standards do not necessarily reflect licensing requirements, there may be a disconnect between provincial processes and local government processes.

### **MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

Municipalities are the agents responsible for land use decisions and development approvals that lead to the construction and development of child care centres in their communities. Municipalities have an important role to play in creating policies and strategies that target key areas of local need, and increasingly, with additional funding available for child care planning, municipalities are playing a more active role in facilitating child care. This may include fiscal measures, such as the use of municipal land, direct funding, and relief from approval fees and charges; policies and regulations that support the development of child care; and education, advocacy and research on local child care issues.

### **PRIVATE SECTOR**

Child care is provided by for-profit entities and non-profit organizations. The private sector includes landowners, developers, builders, investors, and child care providers, and is partially responsible for the development, construction, and management of child care centres.

### **NON-PROFIT SECTOR**

The non-profit sector creates and manages child care centres. Through provincial grants, non-profit organizations may also receive additional operating funding to enable them to offer low-cost child care. Particular funding programs are specifically directed toward non-profit providers, such as the Child Care Minor Capital Funding Program, which assists with the cost of repairs and upgrades needed to meet licensing requirements and costs associated with relocation.

Many non-profit providers offer additional services, such as the Sooke Family Resource Society, which provides: family support; parenting education, child care resource and referral; a licensed preschool; prenatal education and outreach; early years services; youth outreach; life skills and community inclusion; home sharing; mental health assessment and treatment; affordable counselling; and health and wellness workshops.

### **LOWERING FEES FOR FAMILIES**

The following programs are offered through the provincial government to reduce child care fees for families.

#### *Affordable Child Care Benefit*

The Affordable Child Care Benefit<sup>6</sup> replaces the previous Child Care Subsidy. Families with a pre-tax income of up to \$111,000 are eligible. The amount varies dependant on the type and reason for care and the families income.

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<sup>6</sup> Affordable Child Care Benefit, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit>

### *Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative*

The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)<sup>7</sup> lowers the rates of child care for families by providing funding directly to child care providers. Parents do not apply, instead it is up to child care providers to apply to participate in this program and participation is voluntary. As of 2018<sup>8</sup>, 13 child care centres in Sooke opted into this program.

### *Young Parent Program*

Through the Young Parent Program<sup>9</sup>, parents under the age of 25 may qualify for help with child care while they finish high school. Parents can apply for this funding or child care providers can be designated as Young Parent Programs.

### *Universal Child Care Prototype Sites*

The provincial and federal government are partnering together to create 50 Universal Child Care Prototype Sites<sup>10</sup> that offer child care for a maximum of \$200 a month per child for full-time enrollment during business hours and for some low-income families it could be free. At this time, there are no sites located in Sooke, but there are two in Victoria

## **RESOURCES TO OPERATE CHILD CARE SERVICES**

Child care providers can access a variety of funding<sup>11</sup> through the provincial government, including:

- Child Care BC Maintenance Fund;
- Child Care BC New Spaces Fund;
- Child Care Operating Fund (includes the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative);
- Community Child Care Space Creation Program for Local Governments (UBCM);
- Start-up Grants; and
- Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement.

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<sup>7</sup> Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status>

<sup>8</sup> Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative: List of Participating Child Care Providers, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status/list-by-cities>

<sup>9</sup> Young Parent Program, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/young-parent-program>

<sup>10</sup> Universal Child Care Prototype Sites, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/universal-child-care-prototype-sites>

<sup>11</sup> Resources to Operate Child Care Services, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool>

# Best Practice Review

In order to inform the recommended directions for Sooke's Child Care Action Plan, a policy scan was completed of comparable communities on Vancouver Island. The communities chosen for this exercise are similar in size and context to Sooke; however, given the limited extent to which child care policy and planning is an established practice in smaller B.C. communities, promising approaches were limited. In order to augment this review, child care policies in larger Metro Vancouver municipalities were also considered to understand the extent to which local governments can influence change in child care. The context in these larger, more urban centres is understandably distinct from Sooke, and while the different policy initiatives and planning practices may serve as inspiration, those requiring significant resources are unlikely to be implemented in Sooke.

What are comparable municipalities doing?				
Policy/Practice	Langford	Parksville	Campbell River	New Westminister
Child Care Strategy/ Policy	X	X Parksville is a partner in a regional child care study being undertaken by the City of Nanaimo which is assessing existing child care spaces and identifying how many additional spaces are required.	X Campbell River - in partnership with the Campbell River Family Network - has received a grant to study the child care situation in the community in an attempt to address the gaps that exist in the system.	✓
Child Care is addressed in the OCP	✓	X	✓	✓
Child Care is defined as a Community Amenity	X	X	X	✓
Child Care Design Guidelines (Operator) are available	X	X	X	✓
Child Care Information Documents (Residents) are available	X	X	X	✓
Municipal building space available for child care (rent-free, reduced lease, or market leases)	X	X	X	✓
Municipal Grants - for Operating Costs	X	X	X	X
Municipal Grants - for Capital Projects	X	X	X	✓

What are comparable municipalities doing?				
Policy/Practice	Langford	Parksville	Campbell River	New Westminister
Municipal Child Care Reserve Fund	X	X	X	✓
Property Tax Exemptions	X	X	X	X
Permitted use in all residential zones	In Residential Zones, a Group Day Care is permitted only where the dwelling is occupied by the proprietor of the group daycare, and only in a one-family dwelling or a permitted accessory building associated with a one-family dwelling.	Family child cares (up to seven children) are permitted as a home based business, which any RS-1 zoned property (single family zone) in Parksville permits. Larger daycare centers fall under a 'public assembly' and 'community use' or 'community care facility'.	A home business is permitted in all zones permitting a residential use, in accordance with the following provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day care centres, not exceeding ten (10) children up to the age of 13 at any one time, with one non-resident employee are permitted.</li> </ul>	✓

This review provides an important baseline, and demonstrates the extent to which child care planning and policy is absent from many smaller B.C. communities. Given there are limited best practices in similar Island communities, this study will establish a precedent for child care planning in Sooke, and will serve as inspiration for other similar jurisdictions across B.C. This Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan presents an important opportunity to complete an inventory of child care spaces and services in Sooke and determine short-term, medium-term and long-term space creation targets to meet the licensed child care space needs.



# Community Consultation

The purpose of the community consultation activities was to receive feedback from families and parents, children and family service providers, underserved populations, and child care providers. Recognizing the complexities of social policy, the engagement plan was intended to obtain qualitative insights that provide context and personal perspectives on local child care issues. The consultation feedback gathered supplemented information where data was not available.

The project team was able to learn about the current state of child care services, what the gaps are, and how the District can support the creation of needed child care spaces by asking the following overarching questions:

- What does the current child care situation look like in Sooke?
- What is needed most in terms of types, amount, locations, flexibility, age-group, and partnerships providing child care spaces?
- What are the child care needs for underserved populations?
- How can the District of Sooke support the development and improvement of child care services?



## Activities At-A-Glance

The purpose of each engagement activity was to better understand local context and need. The engagement activities that took place included:

1. **Focus groups:** Two focus groups took place engaging with 25 community stakeholders. The first focus group was with 15 parents attending the Baby Talk education session with the Sooke Health Unit. The second focus group was with 10 service providers that work with underserved families.
2. **One-on-one meetings:** Five one-on-one meetings took place with community stakeholders.
3. **Pop-up parent dialogues:** Three pop-up parent dialogues took place at three locations, engaging with 85 parents and families.
4. **Online surveys:** Two online surveys engaged with a total of 798 people including 659 parents from a variety of backgrounds and 139 local and regional child care providers.<sup>12</sup>

## Consultation Activities At-A-Glance:

2 FOCUS GROUPS



25 PEOPLE

3 POP-UPS



85 PEOPLE

2 SURVEYS



798 PEOPLE

5 one-on-one meetings



**TOTAL = 913 PEOPLE ENGAGED!**  
(That's 1 out of 14 people in Sooke)

<sup>12</sup> The option to allow multiple responses from the same IP address was an enabled feature on the survey platform. Enabling this feature allowed the project team to have multiple people complete the survey from iPads during the pop-ups, and it allowed organizations to invite parents to complete the survey using their computer. The IP addresses with multiple responses were reviewed, and the answers provided from each IP address were different, which indicates different people were completing the survey using the same IP address. There are limited, if not no, duplicate responses.

## Communications + Awareness

The District of Sooke used a variety of methods to promote awareness about the project and invite community engagement.

- The District posted information and invitations to participate on their website, shared on social media, and paper copies of the survey were available at the District Hall.
- Emails notices were sent directly to families who signed up to receive information about the project.
- Advertisements were placed in Sooke News.
- Sooke PocketNews shared the survey on their own accord, which was generous. The project team wishes to extend their thanks for this assistance.
- Information was posted on various Facebook sites including Sooke Mommies and Sooke BC Canada.
- The Sooke School District sent information to all their families.
- The Sooke Family Resource Centre and the Sooke/West Shore Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) program provided information to families, service providers, and child care providers.
- Various partners and service providers provided information to their families and clientele.



## Focus Groups

Two focus groups took place, one with service providers that work with underserved populations and the other with parents of young infants. Focus groups took place at:

- **Sooke Family Resource Centre.** Service providers who attended included: Building Bridges Community Support, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Child and Family Services (the Indigenous and non-Indigenous team), Sooke Resource Centre's family support program, family development program.
- **Sooke Public Health Unit.** Parents participated from the Baby Talk drop-in educational sessions.

## One-on-One Meetings

Five one-on-one meetings took place with community stakeholders from:

- T'sou-ke Nation, the Sum-SHA-thut Lellum Preschool Program;
- Sooke School District; and
- Vancouver Island Health Authority's Community Care Facilities Licensing office.

## Pop-up Parent Dialogues

Pop-up parent dialogues happened at places where families spend their time in order to talk about their current child care situation, needs, and concerns. Pop-ups took place at:

- Sooke Night Market;
- Sooke Family Resource Society's Parent and Tot Drop-in; and
- The District of Sooke's Old-Fashioned Country Picnic.

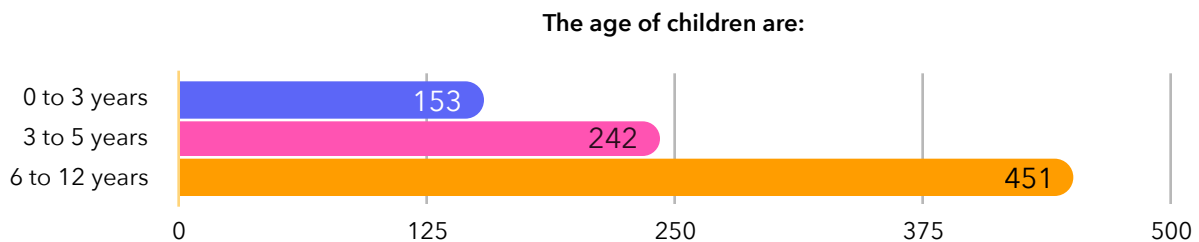
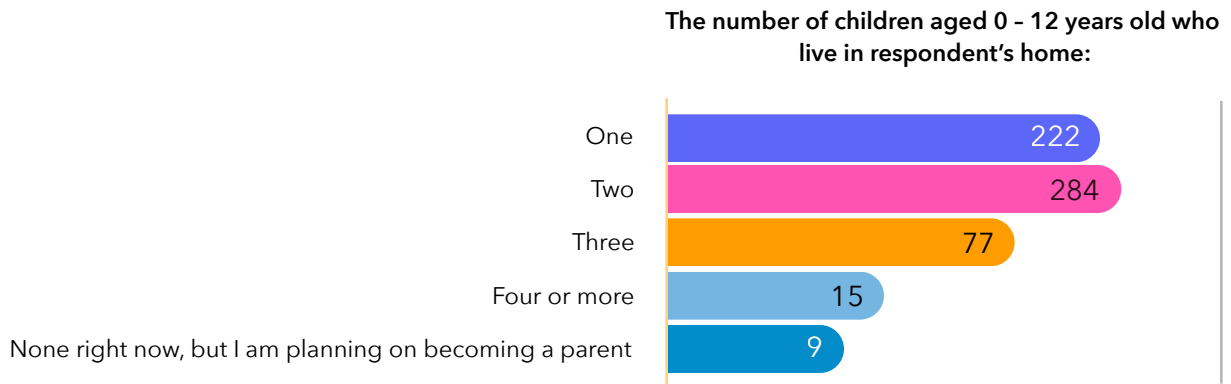
Activities were used as a method to gather information and start the conversation with families about child care. Activities at the pop-ups included:

- ▶ **Child care mapping:** An oversized map was used to help people identify where child care is needed and where it would be most convenient to have additional services.
- ▶ **Voting pin-board:** A pin-board allowed families to vote on what age groups have the highest need for additional child care spaces and should be a priority for the District. Participants identified one or more of the following: group child care for under 3 years old, group child care for 3 years old to school age, group child care for school age, multi-age child care, and preschool for 3 years old to school age.
- ▶ **"What is missing" activity:** Participants were asked to identify what is missing and/or what services need to be expanded.



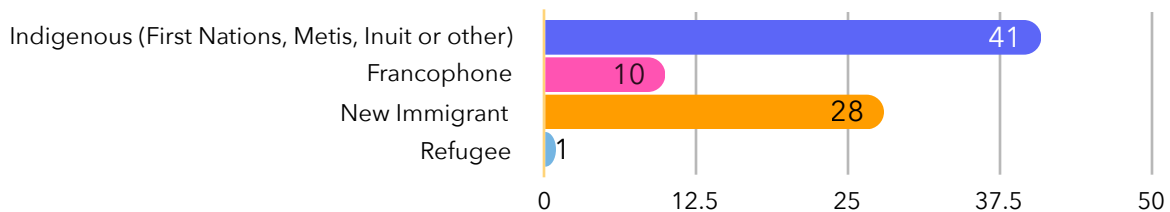






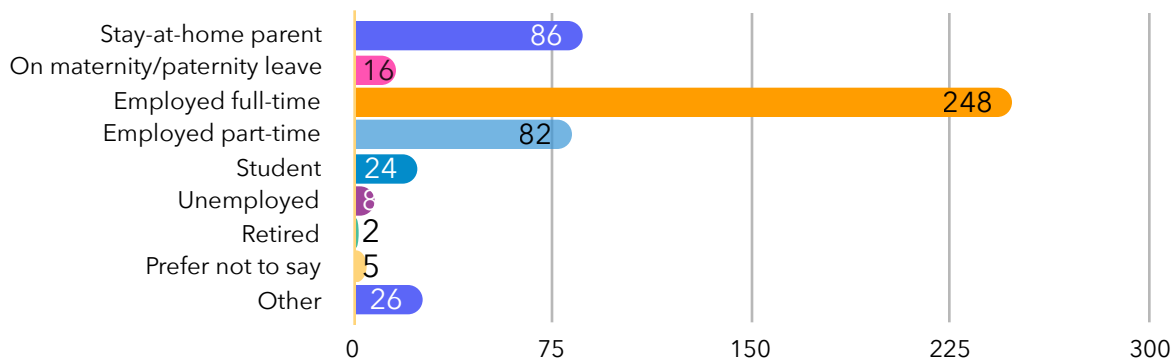
Respondents who indicated 'Other' family situation, wrote that their families included grandparent/s raising children or blended, separated and co-parenting.

There are families who are Indigenous, new immigrants and Francophone, but they are not a large percentage of the population.

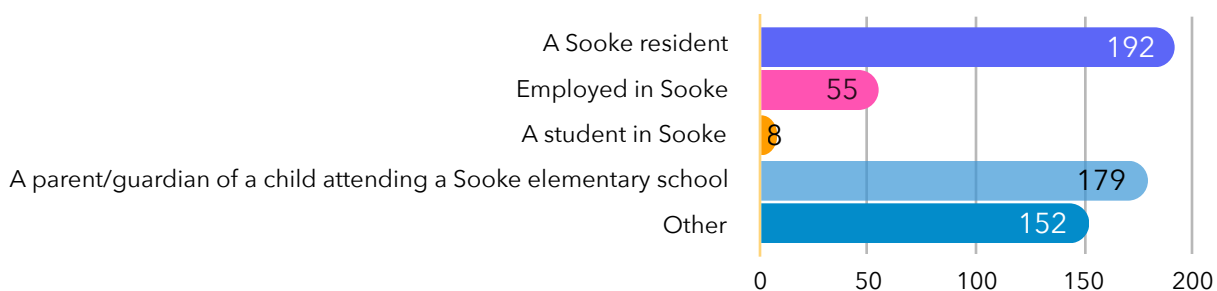


### **Most parents are working full-time or part-time.**

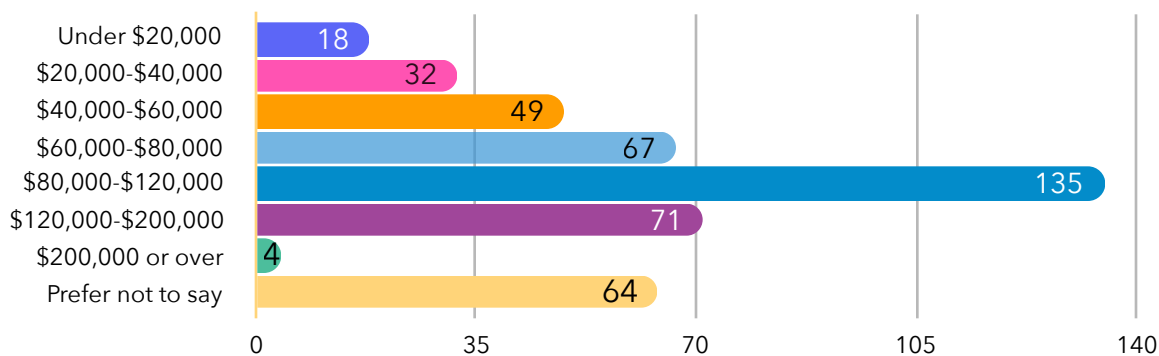
By far, the most frequent reason parents need child care is so they can work. Approximately 66% of respondents are working, with 17% stay-at-home parents. The majority of those who responded 'other' were self-employed, often at home, or trying to find work.



The majority of respondents to the survey are Sooke residents and/or have a child attending a Sooke elementary school. All parents who are a part of the Sooke School District were invited to take this survey, and so there are people who participated who live throughout Westshore neighbourhoods. Of the 30% who live in 'Other' places, they typically live in Langford or Colwood. For many of them, their kids are in the Sooke School District, and they shop, play and/or work in Sooke.



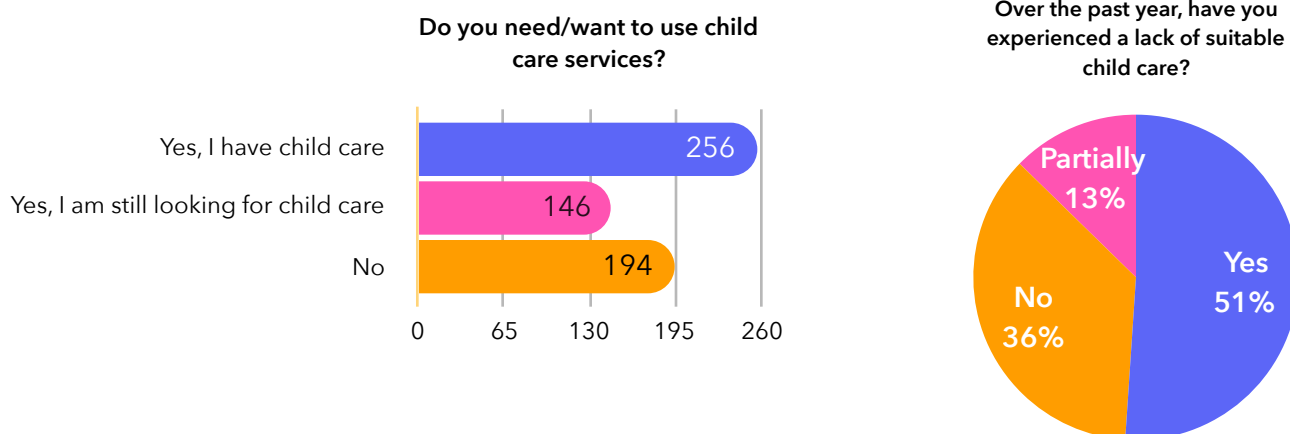
The majority of families who took the survey had a total household income in 2018 of \$80,000-\$120,000 (before taxes and deductions).



## AMOUNT OF CHILD CARE SPACES AVAILABLE IS NOT ADEQUATE

**There is not an adequate supply of all forms of child care services to meet families needs in Sooke.**

Not only do 64% of parents believe there is not enough child care available, but a quarter of families are still looking for child care services. In the past year, over 50% of families have experienced a lack of suitable child care.



When people do need or want to use child care, it is usually because either they are a stay-at-home parent (a third of which would be working if they could afford child care), they have older children that can care for themselves or siblings, their work schedule allows them to be home when needed, or their family is assisting them.

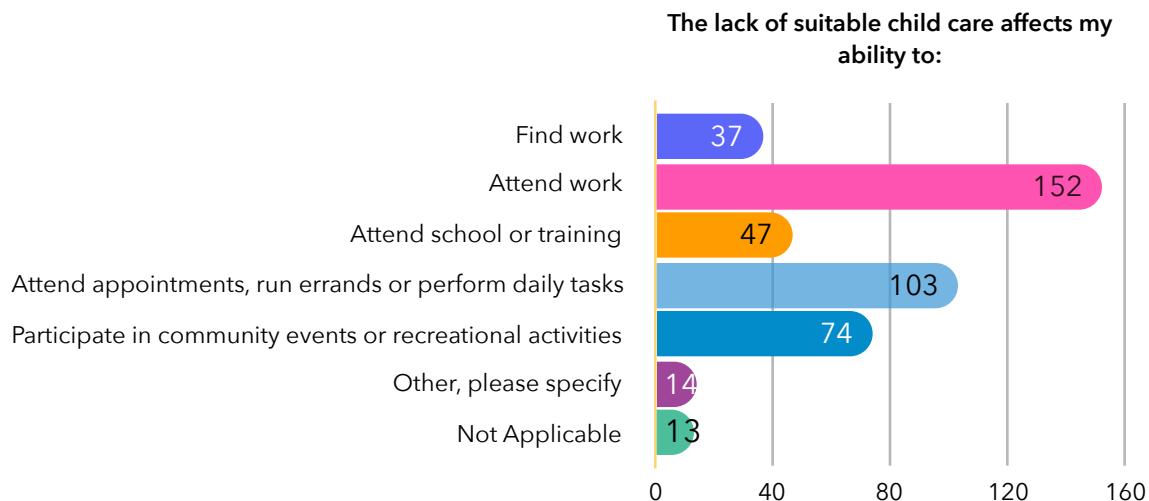
*"I ended up having my parents watch my child, as it wouldn't have been worth me keeping my job and having my child in childcare. I would have been working solely to pay for her childcare."*

*"I am fortunate that my son has family to watch him after school, because I would have real trouble affording daycare."*

**Lack of suitable child care has affected the ability of parents to work and perform daily tasks.**

Without suitable child care, many parents are unable to work or cannot attend work. Performing daily tasks, attending appointments or participating in recreation activities becomes limited. Some parents shared that the lack of child care also affects their mental health care. Parents have increased stress and they experience financial loss because they are unable to work, they have to take time off work or need to pay extra for babysitters when they cannot find adequate and suitable child care.





*"Lack of childcare has affected by ability to get adequate mental health care. I can reliably attend group therapy / counselling / psychologist appointments after or before work due to scheduled care hours."*

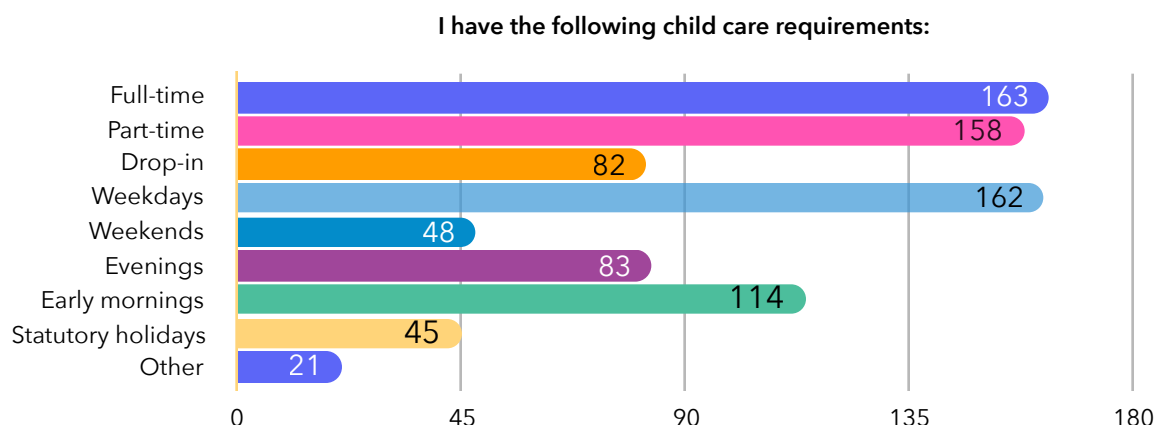
*"I had to give up my job due to lack of / unreliable childcare for shiftwork."*

*"I think there are a LOT of parents in the same situation, who are not working in decent-paying careers because it just doesn't make sense financially to work full time and only bring in a small amount of money after paying for daycare."*

## CHILD CARE NEEDS

### Families have the following child care requirements:

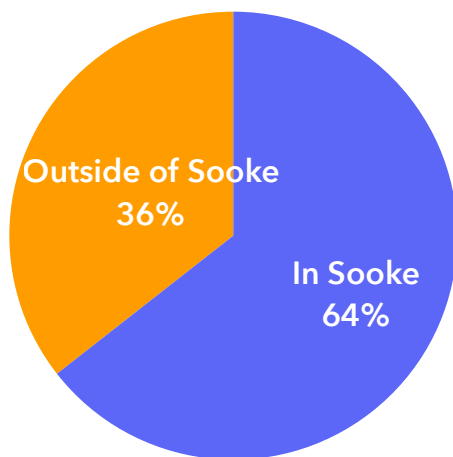
Although the majority of parents require full-time or part-time weekday child care, the need for school age care, days off school, drop in, and weekends is significant. Parents who work shift work have very few options for child care, often resorting to solutions that are not ideal or expensive.



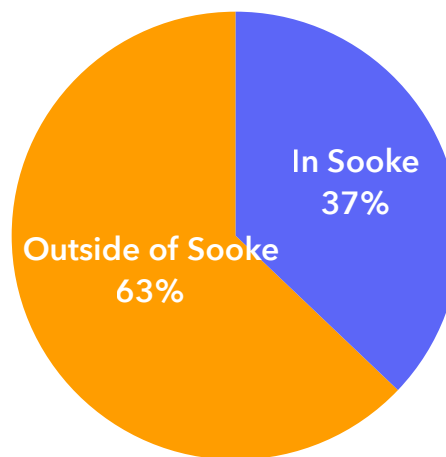
**Parents would like to have child care in Sooke.**

Unfortunately, finding child care within Sooke is not an option for most parents, despite it being their first choice for location. This means they are driving to child care outside of the community or in a location that is not ideal.

**Preferred child care location for families**



**Actual child care location for families**

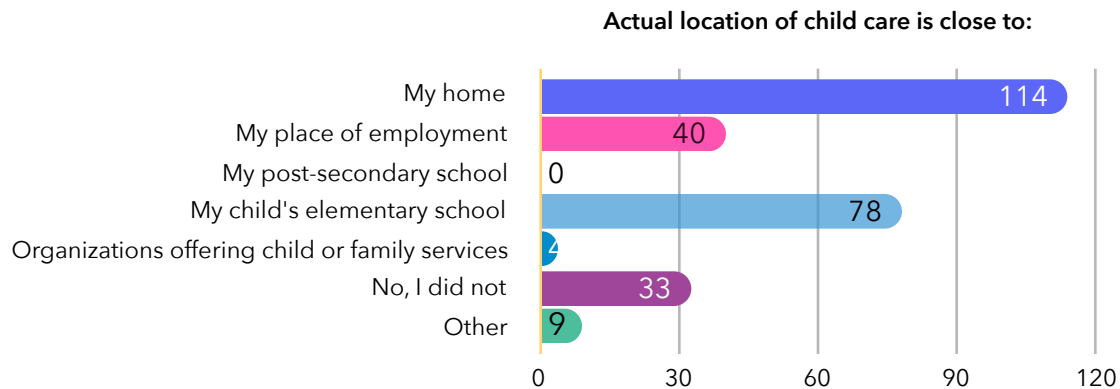
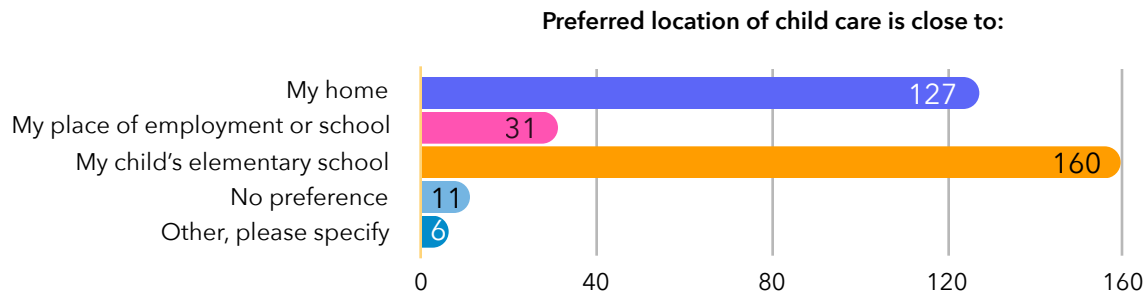


*"We currently are a one car household and take advantage of BC Transit to minimize our environmental impact but unless we can find childcare in the core of Sooke we will end up needing a second vehicle."*

**If given the choice, families would use a child care program close to their child's school and home.**

Especially when children are in school, the number one choice of respondents is to have school age care located at or close to their child's school. In addition to the convenience, respondents feel this is a safer place for child care to be located, as children will not need to be transported to a second location. If school age care is not provided on location at schools, safe transportation should be provided for children to travel to their child care site.

If children are not school age, respondents want child care close to home. Some respondents shared that if they could find ANY child care within Sooke (and not have to leave the community), they would be happy. This is especially true when there are highway closures. Sooke only has one way to access the community and when a parent's work is in a different community than their child care and the highway is closed, they need to have alternative plans for picking up and caring for their children or have flexible enough child care that can continue until they are able to arrive.

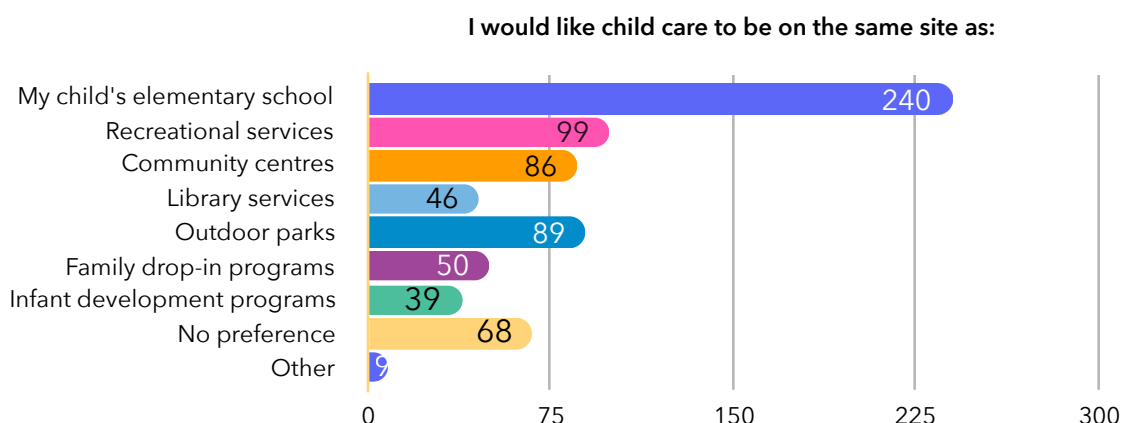


*"I need daycare close to home and to the school. Our daycare has our youngest full-time and the oldest before-and-after school, as well as breaks through the year and summer camp."*

*"We selected child care outside of Sooke because of the possibility of a road closure and being unable to reach our daughter. This is a big concern for us when she reaches elementary school age and may be a reason for us to leave Sooke as we both work in town and would not be able to get to her in case of an emergency."*

### **Parents would like their child care program to be located on the same site as their child's school.**

Their children's school is the number one place respondents want child care co-located. As long as child care is close to their homes, respondents like the idea of child care for children not yet in school to be with recreation services, at outdoor parks, and community centres.



*"For infant/toddler care we lucked out. However, our care provider doesn't do before/after school care and this is turning into an absolute nightmare."*

*"We had no luck finding appropriate child care in our area but found out by accident that child care was available on site at my child's school. We secured the last spot at the last minute."*

### **The preferred location of child care is the Town Centre, but child care is still needed in residential areas.**

The majority of families want their child care located in the Town Centre and Central Sooke area. Fortunately, this is where many of the child care spaces are already located. This area will need to be a continuing priority for developing child care facilities.

To provide an overview of where child care is located in Sooke, we have combined the neighbourhoods into four areas: West Sooke, Town Centre and Central Sooke, North/Central Sooke, and North/East Sooke. The map on the following page identifies the four areas.

West Sooke is in the greatest need for more child care spaces – in particular the Western Town Centre, Whiffin Spit, and Erinan neighbourhoods. The North/Central Sooke neighbourhoods are split. The Kaltasin neighbourhood has a high percentage of child care, but Phillips North and Saseenos could use more. North/East Sooke is doing quite well in terms of the percentage child care located in their neighbourhoods, especially North Sooke.

Area	Neighbourhoods Included	% of Families who Prefer each Area	% of Actual Licensed Child Care Spaces in each Area
<b>1: West Sooke</b>	Whiffin Spit, T'sou-ke Nation 2, Western Town Centre, Erinan, Silver Spray	28%	3%
<b>2: Town Centre &amp; Central Sooke</b>	Town Centre, Eastern Town Centre, Broomhill, Otter Point, Sun River	54%	53%
<b>3: North/Central Sooke</b>	Phillips North, Sooke River East, T'Sou-ke Nation 1, Kaltasin, Saseenos	14%	33%



Area	Neighbourhoods Included	% of Families who Prefer each Area	% of Actual Licensed Child Care Spaces in each Area
4: North/East Sooke	North Sooke, Grouse Nest	5%	11%

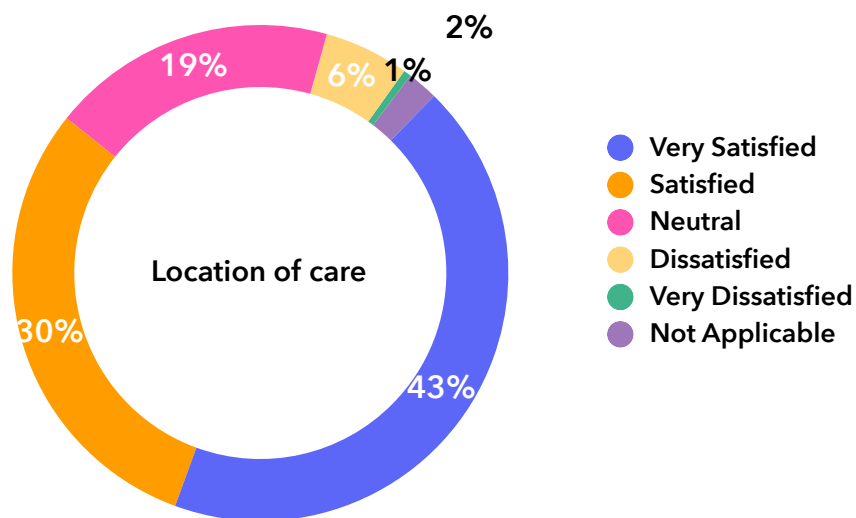


1. West Sooke
2. Town Centre + Central Sooke
3. North / Central Sooke
4. North / East Sooke

When the project team examined specific neighbourhoods, it was clear that respondents would like to see more child care close to where they live, or to where their children go to school. The map on the following page identifies the following neighbourhoods with an insufficient number of child care spaces:

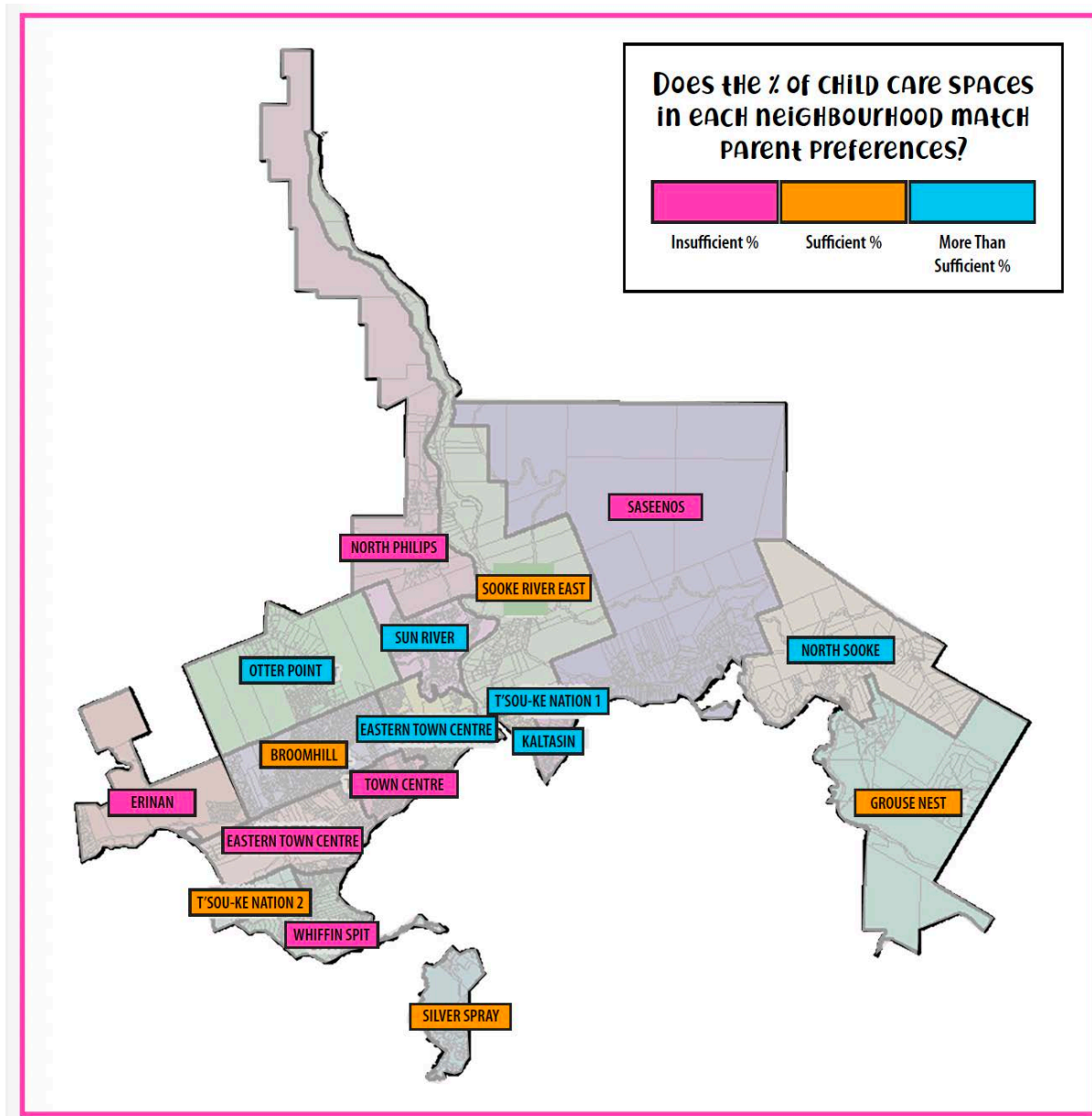
- Whiffin Spit;
- Erinan;
- Eastern Town Centre;
- Town Centre;
- North Philips; and
- Saseenos.

Despite the fact that families would prefer child care closer to home and several neighbourhoods need a larger percentage of the available child care, the majority of survey respondents said they are satisfied with the location of their child care.



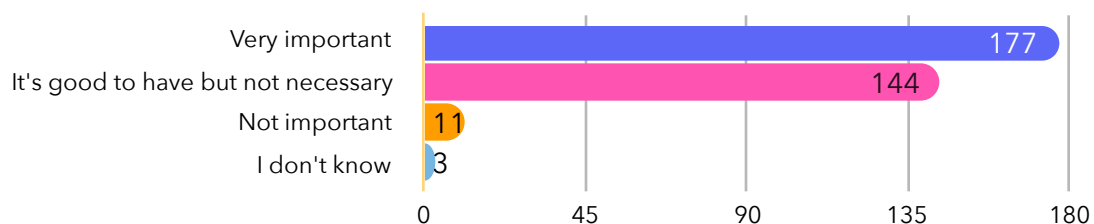
*"It took us six months to find a child care spot, and the child care location was out of the way."*

*"With working in Victoria everyday, I can't get back to Sooke before 6pm, when most daycare centres closed. So I have had to find care in Westshore area. But that is so challenging due to the incredible growth of the Westshore area."*

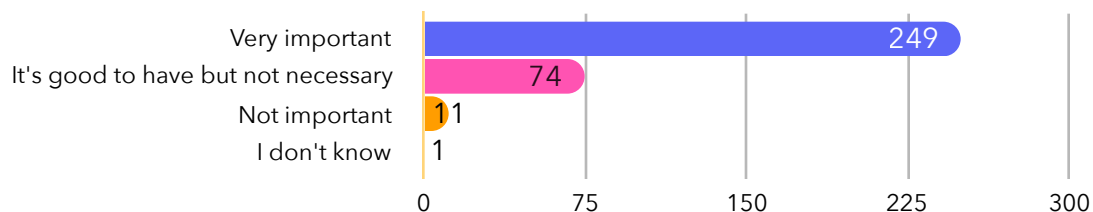


Having licensed child care with staff who have Early Childhood Education (ECE) certificates is important to parents.

Almost all parents indicated it is good for staff to have ECE certificates and, in most cases, it is very important.



Parents feel very strongly about having licensed child care programs.



*"Sooke needs more affordable but quality child care... licensed and qualified staff."*

*"The child care program MUST have one of the leaders trained in special needs kids. This is impossible to find out here. I have to put my girl on waitlist after waitlist."*

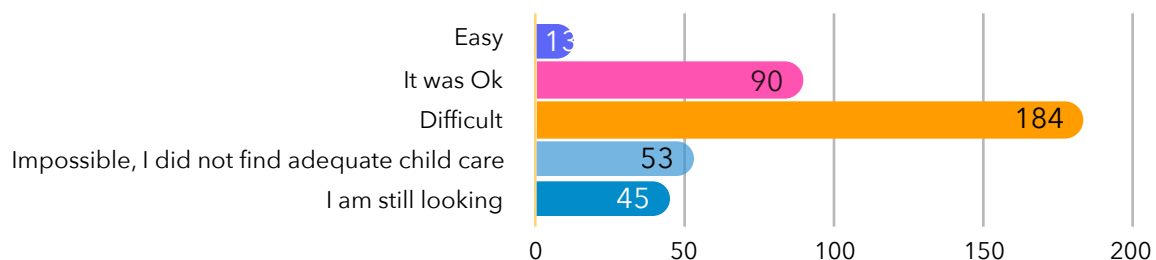
## FINDING CHILD CARE

For most parents, finding child care is a difficult task and it takes months, and sometimes years, to find a spot. Parents face many challenges finding sufficient and suitable care, but by far the biggest barrier is cost – child care is too expensive. It can be a big challenge to find the right kind of care (flexible hours, part-time, full-time or drop-in) that is affordable. The other big issues are finding care on the days/hours needed, the quality of care, and finding child care close to home or school.

For children with special needs, the challenge of finding child care can feel impossible for families. Parents are looking for child care for children with: ADHD and sensory processing disorders, autism, experience of trauma, FASD, anxiety, physical health issues, and behaviour issues. A few parents identified a need for Indigenous cultural programs and French language programs.

*"We need more options for children with special needs. I have four kids who have suffered with intense trauma and nobody understands; they just think they are rude, naughty kids. These kids are our future society."*

## How was/is your experience finding child care?

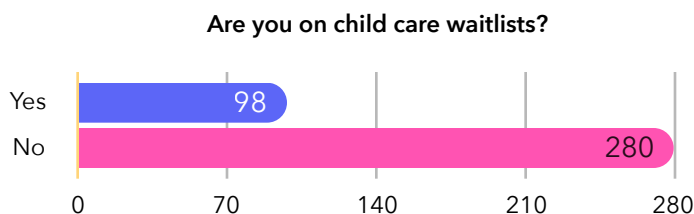


*"I was lucky there was a new infant centre opening and we got in right when they were opened."*

Parents are on waitlists for up to six months, and do not always get the type of child care they want.

Of those who participated in the survey, 15% of respondents are on waitlists for child care. For most respondents, they are on waitlists for up to six months before finding a placement. More respondents are on wait lists for out of school care than any other type of child care. Looking for child care can be a frustrating experience, as many providers do not have wait lists and can be hard to contact.

Even when families find child care, it is not always ideal. Some parents pay for full-time, even if they only need part-time, because that is all that is available



*"I was able to secure a spot but it is in a far from ideal situation. Only full-time was available though we only want part-time to start so we are paying for time we don't use, just to have something."*

*"I never received any call backs from child care providers I contacted. But thankfully had family close I could depend on."*

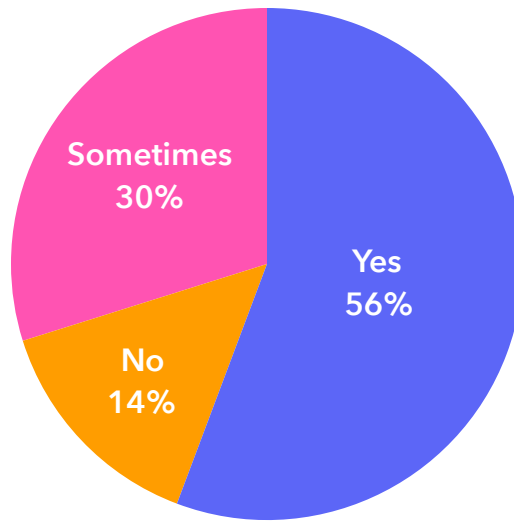
*"Been on waitlist for one year at before/after school care at the school and I am still not in. I am doing piece-meal child care with another parent. Between my husband and I we try to make it work."*

*"Children were put on a wait list while I was pregnant. I then didn't know if we had a spot until the children were about to turn a year old."*

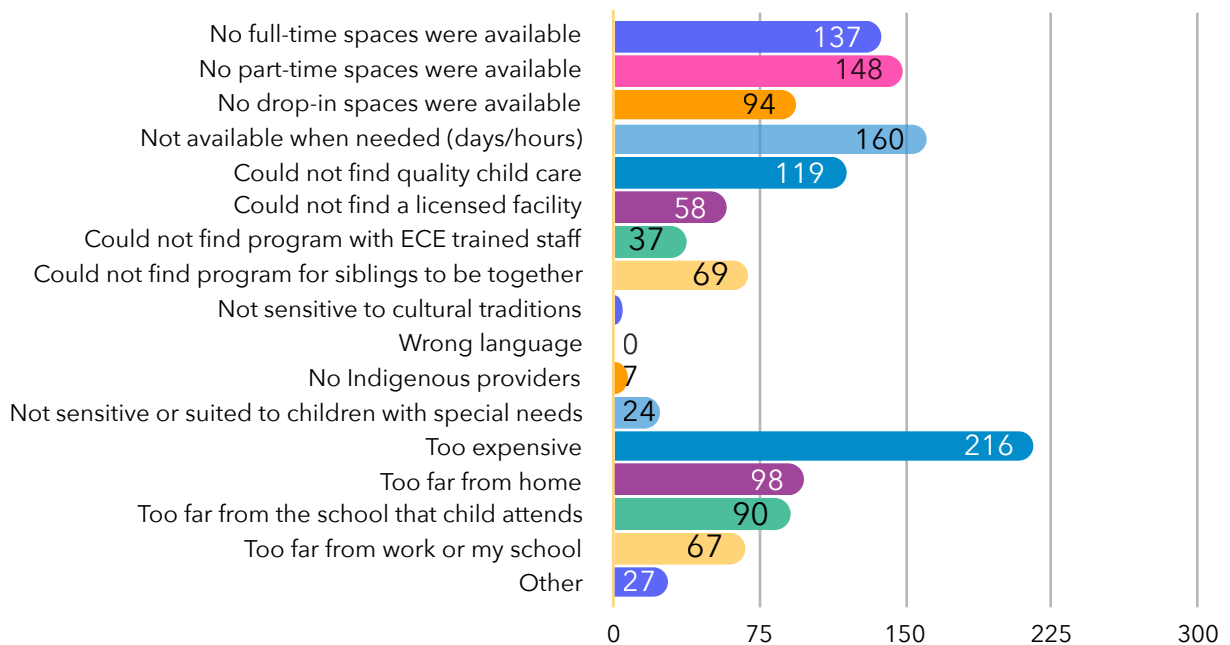
### **Families are experiencing challenges finding sufficient and suitable child care.**

The biggest challenge families face in finding child care is the expense. The care is not available when needed, and parents cannot find the right kind of child care – full-time, part-time, or drop-in. Quality of care and finding the right location are also obstacles.

Do you have child care at the times/days you require?



The challenges families encountered finding child care:



### WHAT CHILD CARE IS LIKE FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE IT

Most of the families who contributed to the survey are using licensed child care. And although most children are in full or part-time child care during the weekdays, 6% access drop-in, 6% access evening child care, and 10% access care in the early mornings.

Of those with child care, 15% do not have it during the days/times they require.



The majority of people feel they have quality child care. They appreciate the education and experience of staff, and are satisfied with the quality of the facility. That said, many families indicated this is not the case everywhere, and the quality of child care should continue to be top of mind.

Parents are less satisfied with the amount of flexible child care available in the early mornings, evenings, and holidays. The hours available do not work for all parents, and they wish there was ease of transportation to the facility.

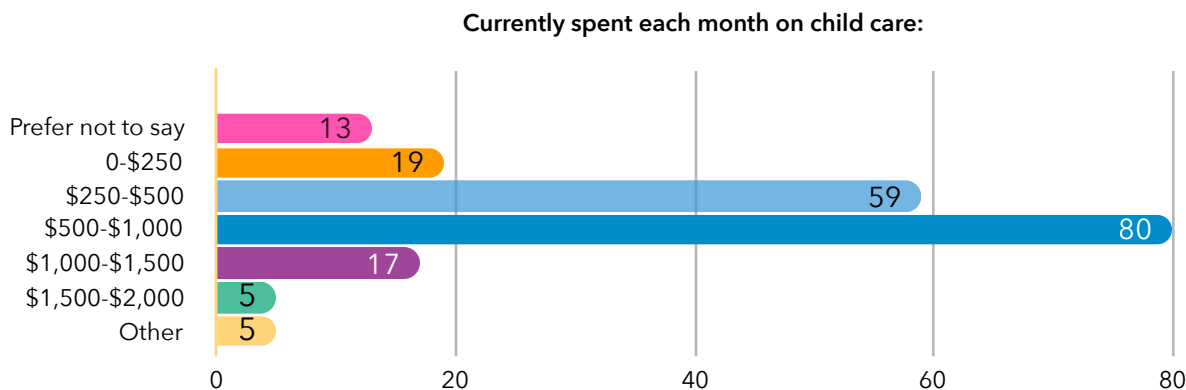
*"While more child care spots are needed there also needs to be more facilities that offer programs in conjunction with childcare (music, art, sports, etc) as many families are stretched for time and this may be the only way for children to participate in some of these extra-curricular activities."*

*"Seriously give some consideration to the concept of 24-hour care providers. Not everyone has family or a spouse who can be home overnight and we have a huge working population that work evening and night shifts. But of course, it would have to be affordable."*

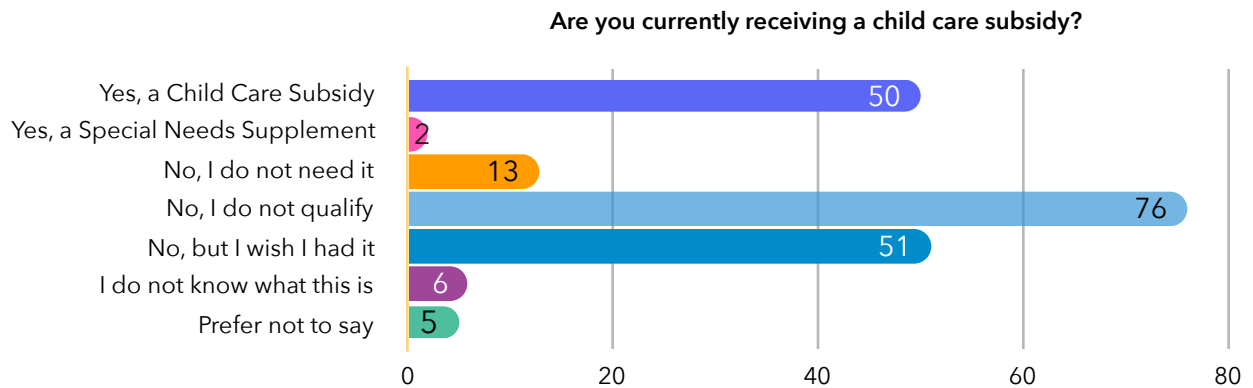
*"For our family, it's been an uphill struggle to find quality, licensed, reliable, affordable, educational, available spaces or time slots as needed, and genuinely loving appropriate care. "*

### **The cost of child care is not sustainable for many parents.**

Most parents are paying between \$500 and \$1,000 a month for child care, and 48% feel that fees are not sustainable for them. A few parents pay over \$2,000 per month, especially during the summer months for school age kids.



Some parents are able to get a subsidy to help reduce the cost of child care, but most do not qualify. For 44% of respondents who receive a subsidy, it is not enough to bridge the gap of what they are able to pay and the cost of their current child care arrangements.



## PRIORITIES FOR PARENTS

### 1. Affordable child care is needed.

Having affordable child care is a top concern for parents. Child care that is financially feasible, government funded and overall less expensive would make child care much easier for families.

### 2. Flexible child care is a top priority.

A top priority for parents is having child care that is flexible. Parents who are commuting need to drop off their children earlier, and often cannot pick them up until after typical child care facilities close. Parents who are working shift work or hours that are not the typical (9am-5pm) are finding it almost impossible to find child care.

### 3. Additional school age care.

Access to school age care is the top priority in terms of the type of child care needed. Preferably, it should be on-site at the children's school with no need to travel to an alternate location.

### Additional priorities.

Other priorities for parents include:

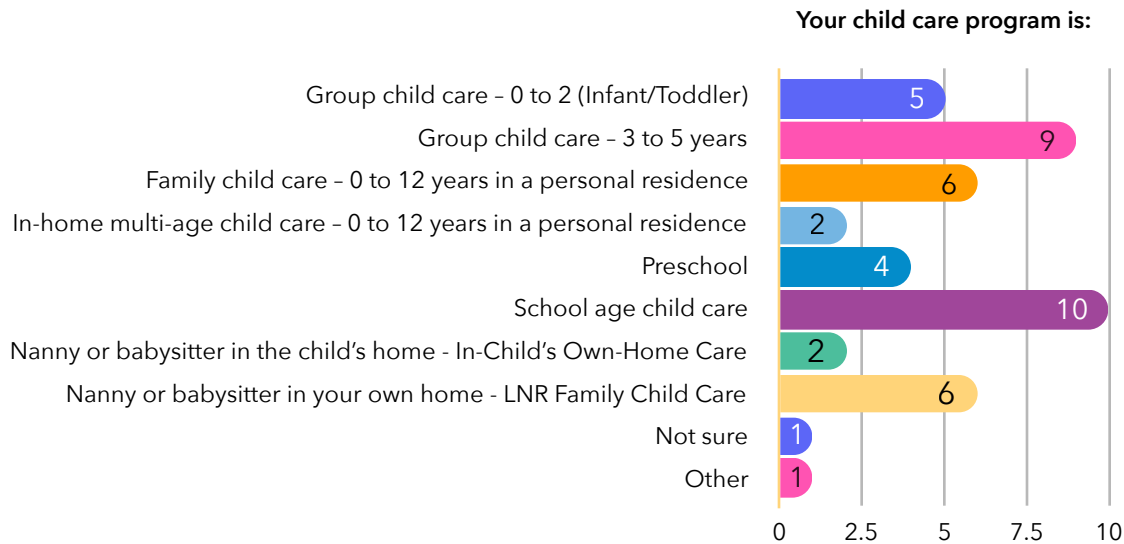
- Better quality care. Parents are looking for quality facilities and programming. Quality programming is interactive, has access to nature, and limited computer games.
- Additional infant/toddler care.
- The option of part-time child care.
- Licensed child care.

*"In a perfect world, I'd like a high quality, free-of-cost, or very low cost, centrally located program that runs almost like a school, but with drop-in available spots from 5 am to 7 pm. "*

# Child Care Provider Survey

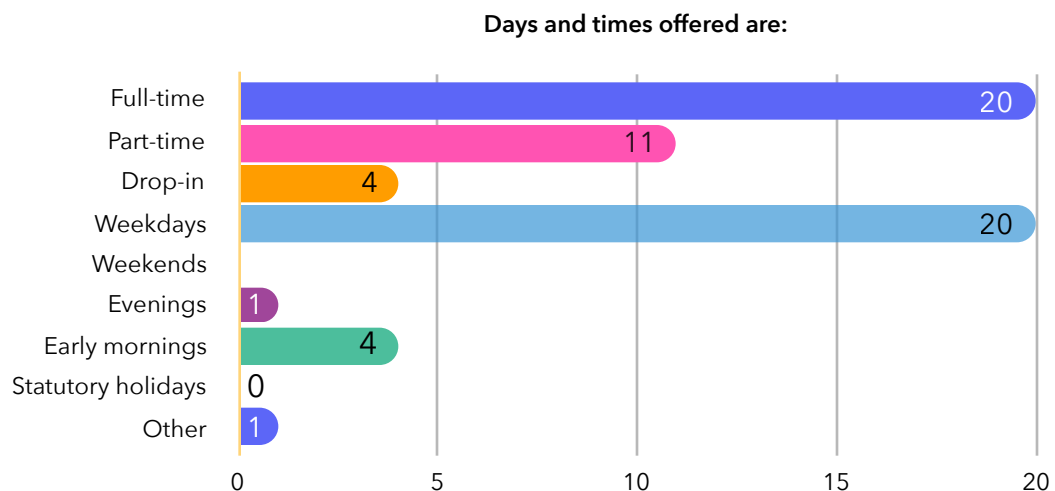
## PROFILE OF RESPONDENT

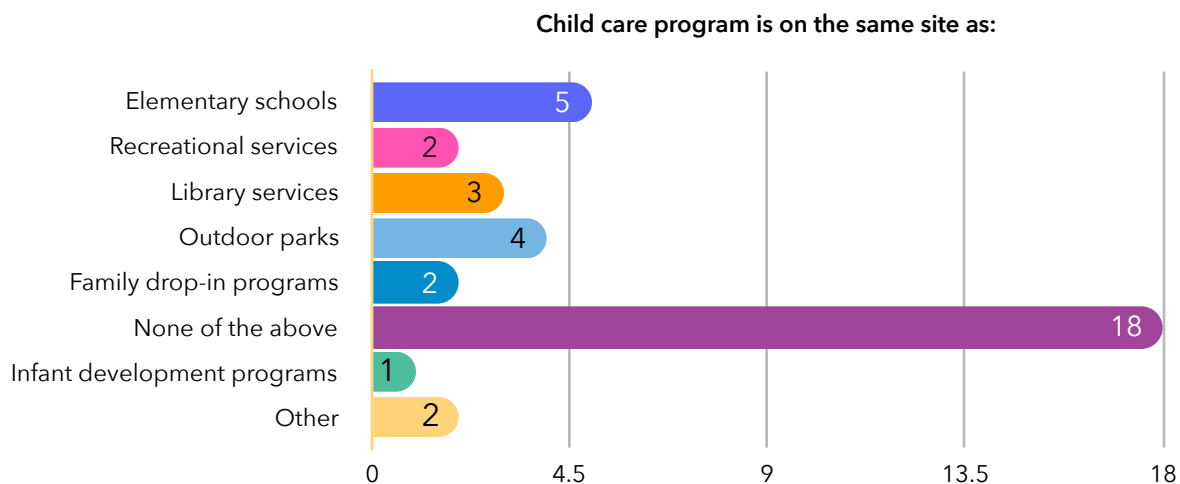
Survey respondents were mostly licensed child care providers, although there were a few license-not-required providers who participated. The most well represented providers are Group Child Care for 3-5 years and school age care programs.



The respondents were almost entirely privately owned or a sole-proprietor, although two non-profit and two Indigenous providers participated. Only one provider was unionized for workers.

Most respondents offer full-time, weekday child care spaces.





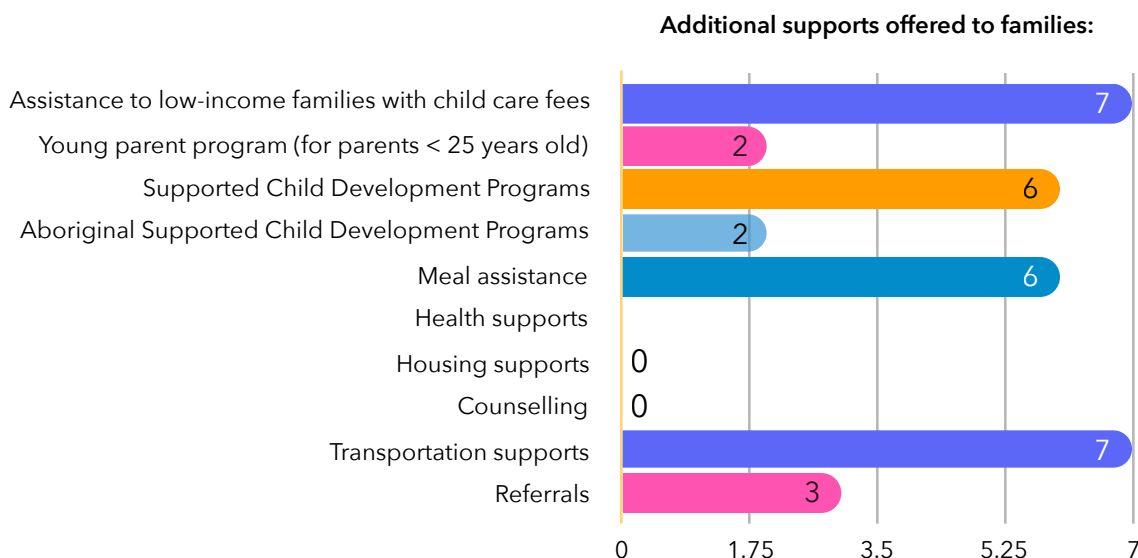
**Most providers are not located on the same site as other services.**

Although most providers are not located with other services, a few were co-located with elementary schools or by outdoor parks.

**Additional programming or support.**

Almost 10% of providers offer extra support for children with special needs. There is a small amount of multi-cultural programming: one program uses the SENĆOTEN language, which is spoken by the Saanich and Norther Straits Indigenous people, two providers speak Spanish, and another speaks German and French.

Less than 5% of providers offer various additional supports to families, including help with fees, transportation, meals, and Supported Child Development Programs.



**VACANT CHILD CARE SPACES**

The child care providers respondents estimate they receive the following number of inquiries a week:

- 140 inquiries for infant/toddler

- 37 inquiries for 30 months to school age
- Seven inquiries for preschool
- 16 inquiries for school age

Providers have very few vacant spaces:

- 28 vacant spots with three providers for group child care ages 3 to 5
- Five vacant spots with one provider in a 0 to 12 age personal residence
- One vacant spot with one license-not-required family child care
- Three vacant spots with two providers in a 0 to 12 age personal residence

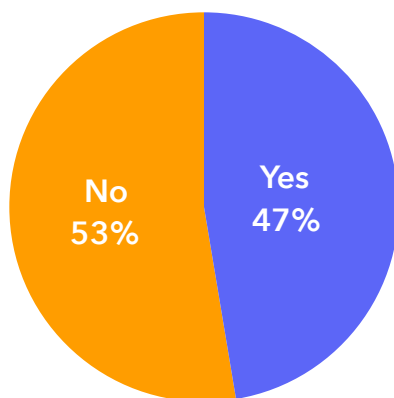
There are ZERO vacancies for:

- Infant/toddlers
- Preschool
- School age

**Only half of the providers maintain a waitlist.**

Forty-seven percent (47%) of providers are maintaining a waitlist. Providers confirm what we heard from parents – it takes up to six months to find a placement. For children with special needs it can take more than two years.

**Providers who maintain a waitlist:**



The infant and toddler waitlists are by far the longest:

- 472 on the list for infant/toddler
- 60 on the list for 30 months to school age
- 54 on the list for preschool
- 24 on the list for school age

## **Providers believe that school age and infant/toddler care is MOST needed.**

Providers believe school age care is most needed, followed by infant/toddler care, which corresponds with waitlist data.

The main reason providers are not providing more spots is that they do not have the space. Finding staff, and the municipal process to open new child care spaces are also deterrents.

*"More after-school facilities are desperately needed. Should be one to two portables at each school so that on site child care can be provided in an environment the kids know and are comfortable in and for easy pickup at the end of parents workday."*

*"Toddler and infant space are the only crisis."*

## **STAFFING CONCERNS**

### **Finding staff can be difficult and even impossible.**

It is hard for providers to find staff for all positions, but especially those with special needs experience. It would be helpful if providers could access grants for additional staff training. The charts on the following page demonstrate what it is like for providers to find particular staff.

Providers are trying their best to attract the right kind of staff, but it is very hard to do. Staff cannot afford to get the qualifications they need, even with the government funding available.

*"I am upgrading to get my infant toddler certification and had to get a personal loan to do it. I try and get my staff to upgrade but no one can afford the courses (\$750 per course on average). So we run with barely qualified staff and have to look at closing if we can't find them here in Sooke."*

*"Place more emphasis on the quality of the individuals engaged in the many types of childcare and less on worrying about the number of spaces. Place more emphasis on a living wage individuals can make when engaging in this type of work."*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PROVIDERS**

### **1. Help make staffing more affordable.**

Funding is needed to increase the wages of staff, and to enable them to get the training and courses needed to be more qualified. These costs should not fall to the families accessing child care, as they are already finding the cost of care prohibitive.

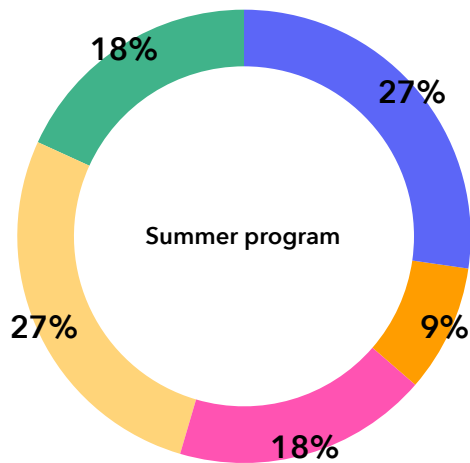
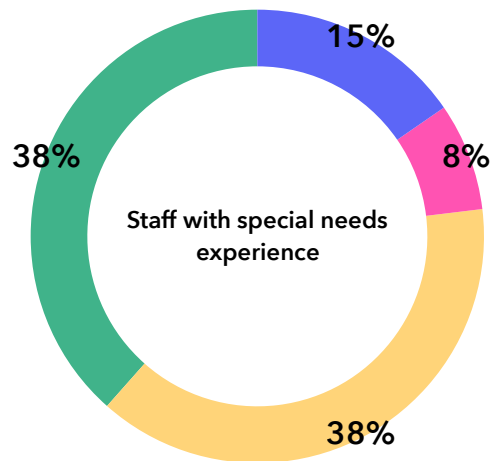
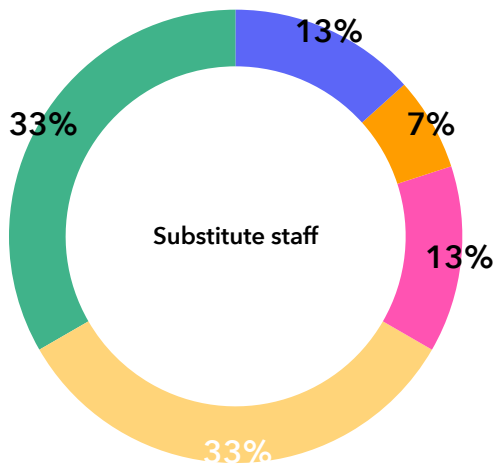
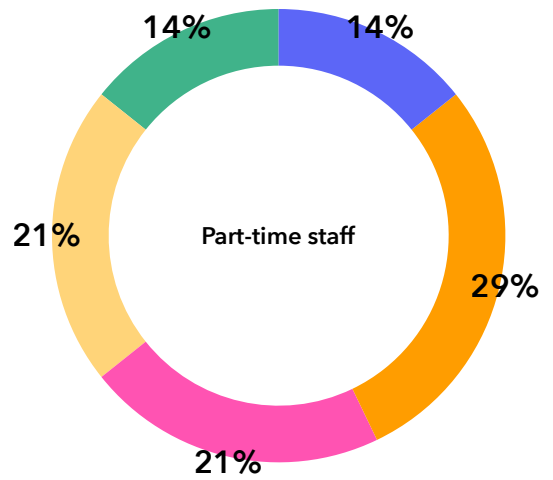
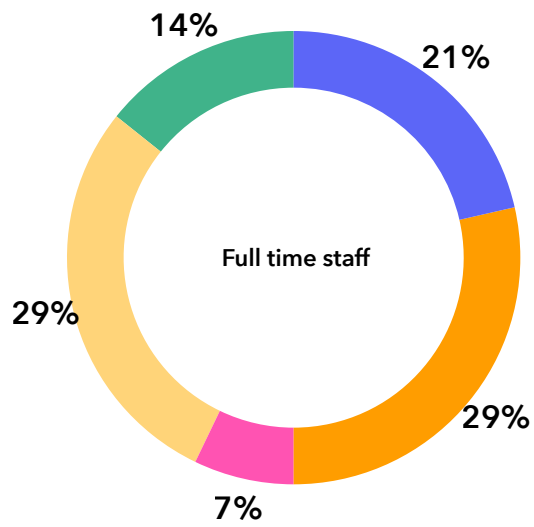
### **2. Remove municipal roadblocks to opening new spaces.**

The District should have a quicker approval process for building and developing child care facilities. Allow child care in more zoning areas, and create grants that can assist with operations, or with the development of facilities. Highlight the importance of child care, and help to prioritize the development of new child care facilities by identifying child care as a community amenity.

### **3. Encourage the development of before-and-after school care on site at schools.**

Every school needs to have before-and-after school care available on site for the children who need it.





● Not a problem    ● Minor problem    ● Neutral    ● Difficult    ● Impossible

**Additional recommendations for the District, from providers, include:**

- Offer affordable rental spaces for child care programs to rent either on municipal or school property.
- Value and support home-based child care programs. There are a lot of great child care providers that love what they do and feel capable of doing more.
- Continue to create green space and parks for children's programs to utilize and for children to play in.

*"There is a high need for inclusive care for children with special needs. There also needs to be more incentives for educators to stay in the field. The high numbers of children with low staff and low wages leads to burn out."*

*"I am fully capable of helping more families, if only I was allowed. There's no spots for infant/toddlers, there's not enough after school care options. Many families work outside of Sooke, so with travel, they need childcare!"*

*"The District recognizes a demand for childcare, yet make it difficult to open facilities on different classes of land zones. This creates more of a crunch, jobs get lost, and families suffer financially."*

# The Current Child Care Situation

## Supply Considerations

As of April 2019, there were a total of 416 licensed child care spaces in Sooke, delivered through 28 child care programs. Additionally, there were three before school care facilities, and four after school care facilities. Given that this Needs Assessment and Action Plan is the first in Sooke, it is difficult to determine if this number has changed significantly over previous years. Table 1 provides a summary of child care spaces<sup>13</sup>, and the number of children to determine the rate at which child care is accessed.

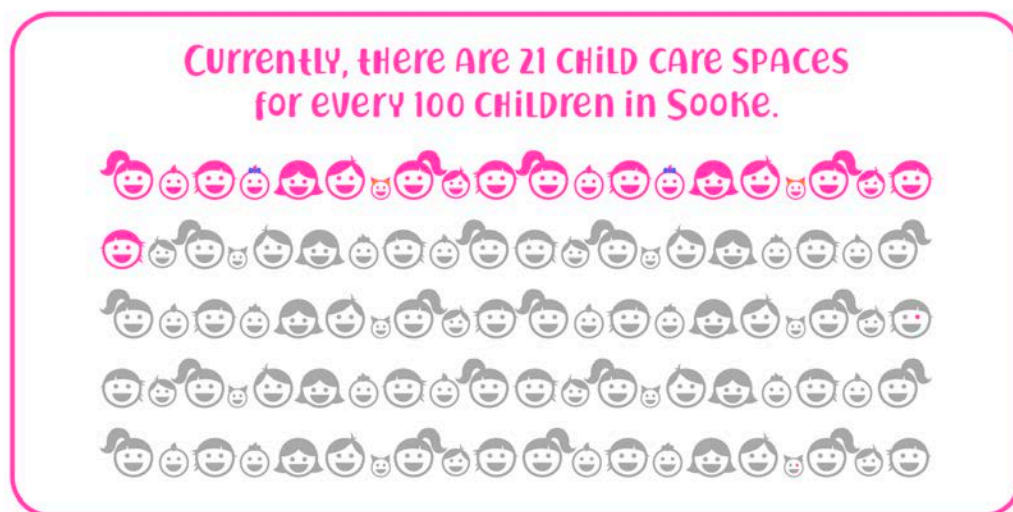
**Table 1: Child Care Access Rate, Sooke, 2019**

Age Group	Number of Children*	Number of Child Care Spaces	Number of Child Care Spaces Per 100 Children
0 – 5 years	905	260	28.7
6 – 12 years	1,110	156	14.1
<b>0 - 12 years</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>20.6</b>

Source: Ministry of Children and Family Development, Statistics Canada (2016)

\*The number of children is based on 2016 Census information

In order to understand how the availability of child care in Sooke compares to other jurisdictions, a literature review was completed. The information collected through this analysis helps to demonstrate the extent to which additional child care spaces are needed in Sooke.



<sup>13</sup> Family child care spaces and in-home multi age child care spaces were evenly split between the 0 to 5 age group and the 6 to 12 age group as children in these facilities may be between 0 to 12 years of age.

- In 2015, Metro Vancouver completed a municipal inventory of child care spaces and found that, on average, there are 18.5 child care spaces per 100 children, aged 12 and under in Metro Vancouver. The number of spaces varies across the region, with the highest ratios (24 – 27 spaces per 100 children, age 12 and under) on the North Shore, and the lowest ratios (12 – 15 spaces per children, age 12 and under) in Surrey and Port Moody respectively.<sup>14</sup> This inventory further specifies a provincial average of 18 spaces per 100, children 0 to 12 years of age, and a national average of 20.5 spaces per 100 children, 0 to 12 years of age. As these numbers are from 2015, they are not representative of the current context, yet help to provide a sense of how access rates have changed over time.
- In 2018, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) published a report titled *Child Care Deserts in Canada*, which attempts to map a complete list of licensed child care spaces across the country against the number of children<sup>15</sup> in a given postal code. The report defines **child care deserts** as postal codes with more than 50 non-school-aged children, but less than one licensed child care spot for every three children (a coverage, or access rate, of under 33%). This report specifies that licensed child care coverage is highest in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and many of the bigger cities in Quebec. These cities have an average coverage rate of 70% or better, meaning there are at least seven spaces for every 10 children not yet in school. Metro Vancouver does not fare as well, with a very low coverage rate of 35%, meaning there are three children for every licensed space. British Columbia has a coverage rate of 37%.
- The report includes interactive mapping that demonstrates child care coverage across Canada. Postal codes are used to determine different geographies, and the postal code used in the report exceeds the boundaries of the District Municipality of Sooke. Given this discrepancy, it is difficult to compare results, however, the interactive map specifies coverage of 23% for children between the ages of 0 to 4 in the larger area identified as Sooke. This is relatively similar to the access rate determined in Table 1 of 28.7 spaces per 100 children, 0 to 5 years of age. Ultimately, these data sets help to demonstrate the extent to which child care is needed in Sooke. Currently, Sooke would be classified as a child care desert using the CCPA methodology.

It is important to note the distinctions between non-school-aged child care, and school aged child care. Table 1 identifies the access rates for these two groups, and while both are below the 33% coverage threshold, the number of spaces for children ages 6 to 12 is particularly limited, which demonstrates a specific need for additional school aged child care.

Results from the parent survey reflect these findings, and further indicate the extent to which child care is needed in Sooke, particularly for school aged children. Results from the parent survey illustrate that 36% of respondents who need/want to use child care services are still looking for child care, which shows there may be availability issues, or challenges in securing spaces that suit family needs. Of those respondents that do want, or need child care, it appears the need for school aged care is significant, as the most number of respondents (64) were on waitlists for school age, out of school care.

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<sup>14</sup> A Municipal Inventory of Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver, August 2015.

<sup>15</sup> This study focuses on non-school-aged children between the ages of 0 to 4.

**Table 2: Sooke Licensed Child Care Spaces, 2019**

Year	Group Child Care (Birth to 36 Months) Spaces	Group Child Care (30 Months to School Age) Spaces	Preschool Spaces	Group Child Care (School Age) Spaces	Multi-Age Child Care Spaces	Family Child Care Spaces	In-Home Multi Age Child Care Spaces	Total
<b>2019</b>	77	94	49	115	-	49	32	<b>416 spaces</b>

Source: Ministry of Children and Family Development

## LOCATION OF CHILD CARE

In determining the factors affecting supply, location is an important consideration. In Sooke, child care centres are located throughout the municipality, which is reinforced by data from the parents' survey, as respondents identified child care centres in many of the District's neighbourhoods. Interestingly, when asked about their preferred location of child care, 16% of respondents indicated "Outside Sooke", and 20% of participants specified "Other", and identified a location outside of Sooke. Of those respondents who use child care services outside of Sooke, many access care in Langford or Colwood. With many individuals living and working in different municipalities, it is important to consider child care trends on a regional level, as care givers are not restricted by the boundaries of local government - care is accessed in the location that is most convenient and suitable for their needs.

Responses from the parent survey demonstrate there is significant interest in co-location, as 33% of respondents specified they would like child care to be located on the same site as their child's elementary school. This is further supported by the percentage of respondents (44%) who indicated that, if given the choice, they would use a child care program close to their child's elementary school.

## Demand Considerations

### POPULATION

Population growth in Sooke averaged 3.4% per year from 2006 to 2016, as measured by the national Census. This represents a population increase of 328 people per year. Growth was slightly faster than 2006 to 2011 (averaging 1.8% or 347 people per year) compared to 2011 to 2016 (averaging 1.4% or 310 people per year). The number of children has also been growing, most significantly in the 3 to 5 age group.

**Table 3: Historic Population Growth, Sooke, 2006 to 2016**

	2006	2011	2016	Average Annual Growth Rate, 2006 - 2016	Average Annual Change, 2006 - 2016
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>9,699</b>	<b>11,435</b>	<b>12,985</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>329</b>
Children aged 0 to 2	315	430	420	3.3%	11
Children aged 3 to 5	325	445	485	4.9%	16
Children aged 6 to 12	900	1,005	1,110	2.3%	21

	2006	2011	2016	Average Annual Growth Rate, 2006 - 2016	Average Annual Change, 2006 - 2016
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>48</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (2006, 2011, 2016)

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

This study references the population projections prepared by BC Stats using the PEOPLE (Population Extrapolation for Organizational Planning with Less Error) methodology. BC Stats provides the following description regarding the methodology used to develop PEOPLE at the regional and local health care level. In this case, BC Stats prepared a custom municipal level projection for the District of Sooke.

*PEOPLE projects population forward using a Component/Cohort-Survival population model. It uses fertility, mortality and migration assumptions, and applies them to a base year age-specific population. The population evolves by promoting each age group into the next, while considering the effects of net migration, deaths and births.*

According to the BC Stats' projections for the Capital Regional District, the population in Sooke aged 0 to 2 is expected to grow by 109 children between 2020 and 2030, an increase of 23% over the projected 10-year period. At an annual projected growth rate of 2.3%, this increase is less than the historical growth rates over the previous 10 years (3.3%). The population in Sooke aged 3 to 5 is expected to grow by 137 children between 2020 and 2030, an increase of 26% over the projected 10-year period. At an annual growth rate of 2.6%, this increase is less than the historical growth rates over the previous 10 years (4.9%). Lastly, the population in Sooke aged 6 to 12 is expected to grow by 321 children between 2020 and 2030, an increase of 26% over the projected 10-year period. At an annual growth rate of 2.6%, this increase is slightly higher than the historical growth rates over the previous 10 years (2.3%).

**Table 4: Projected Population Growth, Sooke, 2020 to 2030**

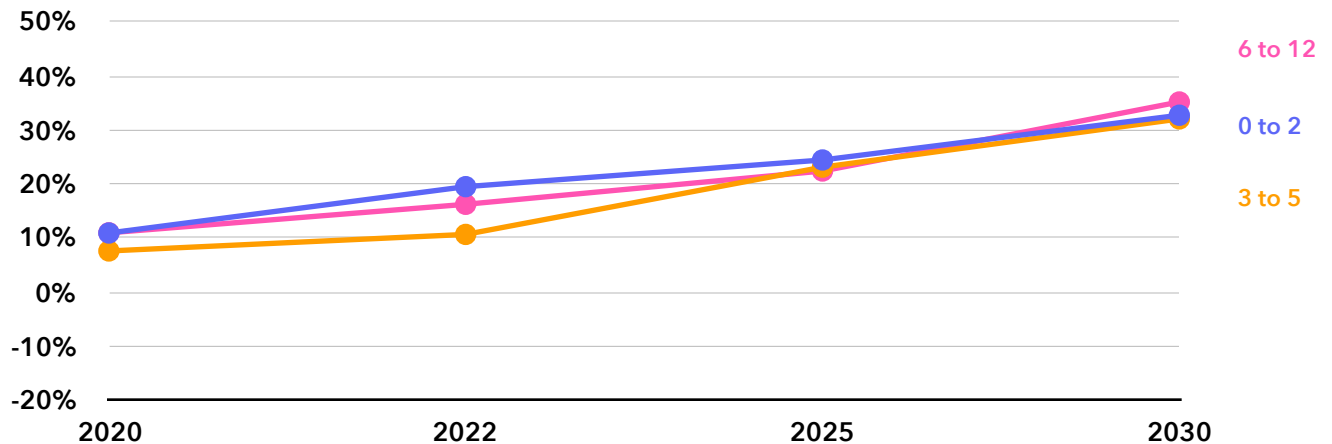
	2020	2022	2025	2030	Average Annual Growth Rate, 2020 - 2030	Average Annual Change, 2020 - 2030
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>14,802</b>	<b>15,648</b>	<b>16,890</b>	<b>19,007</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>421</b>
Children aged 0 to 2	466	506	531	575	2.3%	11
Children aged 3 to 5	522	538	605	659	2.6%	14
Children aged 6 to 12	1,232	1,297	1,377	1,553	2.6%	32
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>57</b>

Source: BC Stats



The population projections indicate the number of children in Sooke will continue to increase between 2020 and 2030, albeit at a more moderate rate than was the case in the previous decade. This is indicative of lower fertility rates seen across the region, and throughout Canada. **While population growth remains positive, and the number of children in Sooke will continue to increase, the need for new child care spaces will be impacted by the rate at which the distinct age groups continue to grow.** The Space Creation Targets section identifies the number of child care spaces required to support this projected increase in population.

**Figure 1: Projections of Population Growth Rate by Child Age Group for Sooke, 2020-2030**



Source: BC Stats, P.E.O.P.L.E. (2019)

## CENSUS FAMILY STRUCTURE

The process of understanding child care needs in a community is invariably linked to census families, as children are associated with a larger household structure. Statistics Canada provides the following definition for census family:

**“Census family** is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either and/or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either and/or both partners; or a lone parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children.”

In Sooke, there are currently 3,845 census families, of which 2,090 (or 54%) have children. Within this group, 11% of census families have children ages 0 to 5, and 10% of census families have children ages 6 to 14.<sup>16</sup> This represents a decrease from 2011, when 19% of census families had children ages 0 to 5, and 22% of census families had children ages 6 to 14. This is reflected in the population growth trends – between 2011 and 2016, the number of children increased at a slower rate, resulting in fewer families with young children.

Table 5 provides an indication of the changing pattern of family structure based on couple census families and lone-parent census families. It may be assumed that child care is especially important for lone-parent census families, thus the trends over time are important to note to ensure the District is aware of any growth

<sup>16</sup> Census information is available by specific age groups, and is not broken down into the child care age group brackets.

or decline in the number of lone-parents with children. Furthermore, lone-parent families typically are more likely to be low-income than couple families, which may indicate a need for child care subsidies.

Since 2006, the percentage of lone-parent census families has decreased slightly. In the Capital Regional District, 29% of census families with children are lone-parent families, which is slightly higher than the percentage in Sooke. The family arrangements in Sooke are typical of those in the larger Regional District, and while child care is influenced by more than family arrangements alone, the percentage of lone-parent families is typical and does not indicate any particular challenges for Sooke specifically.

**Table 5: Census Family Trends, Sooke, 2006-2016**

	2006		2011		2016	
<b>Couple Census Families with Children</b>	1,225 families	70% of census families with children are couple census families	1,425 families	73% of census families with children are couple census families	1,540 families	74% of census families with children are couple census families
<b>Lone Parent Census Families with Children</b>	505 families	30% of census families with children are lone parent census families	515 families	27% of census families with children are lone parent census families	555 families	26% of census families with children are lone parent census families

Source: Statistics Canada (2006, 2011, 2016)

## INCOME

Income levels, and trends related to household low-income status are important factors to consider given the costs associated with child care. For many families, child care is a major expense, as further explored in the Community Consultation section. Table 6 provides a summary of median income levels in Sooke and the CRD from 2006 to 2016. Since 2006, median income levels have been consistently higher in the CRD than in Sooke, which is important to note when considering the average costs of child care.

**Table 6: Median Income, Sooke, 2006-2016**

	Local Government	2006	2011	2016
<b>Median Total Income of Census Family Households</b>	Sooke	\$64,141	\$76,911	\$88,615
	CRD	\$68,424	\$80,886	\$94,916

Source: Statistics Canada (2006, 2011, 2016)

The following table illustrates low-income prevalence for the population between 0 to 17 years of age.

**Table 7: Low-Income Prevalence, Sooke, 2006-2016**

	Local Government	2016
Prevalence of low-income (LIM-AT)	Sooke	18.3%
	CRD	15.6%
Prevalence of low-income (LICO-AT)	Sooke	7.7%
	CRD	9%

Source: Statistics Canada (2006, 2011, 2016)

Low-income measure after tax (LIM-AT) is tied to median income, and thus provides an indication of income inequality rather than poverty. This income measure captures how many people live below 50% of the adjusted median after-tax household income, and the income thresholds are determined based on household size. Low-income after-tax cut-offs (LICO-AT) is an expenditure-based metric, adjusted to inflation. This income measure captures people or families that are expected to spend 20% or more of their after-tax income on food, shelter and clothing. The income thresholds depend on the size of the economic region.

Based on the information outlined in Table 7, there is a greater incidence of income inequality among children in Sooke than in the CRD. This relationship is reversed when reviewing the LICO-AT measurement, as a smaller percentage of children in Sooke are expected to spend 20% or more of their after-tax income on necessities. Ultimately, given the low-income measurement percentages in Sooke and the CRD are relatively similar, affordability challenges in Sooke are comparable to those across the Regional District.

The parent survey indicates the cost of child care is a challenge for families in Sooke. Of the respondents that experienced difficulty finding sufficient and suitable child care, 33% identified cost as a barrier. Simultaneously, the number of respondents that specified fees currently spent on child care are sustainable was comparable to the number of respondents that specified fees currently spent on child care are unsustainable. **The cost of child care is likely a barrier for certain families, however, affordability does not appear to be a significant issue for the majority of families in Sooke.**

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The cultural context in Sooke influences the provision of child care services, as more children from particular cultural groups and that speak certain languages would increase demand for those services. Based on a review of Census data, the percentage of the population in Sooke that identifies as an immigrant<sup>17</sup> has remained consistent between 2011 and 2016 (at 11%), after decreasing from 13% in 2006. This is a relatively small segment of the population, particularly considering that 17% of residents in the CRD are classified as immigrants. Results from the parent survey reflect similar findings; of the respondents, 5% identified as new immigrants.

Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the person's ancestors, and is a Census characteristic that demonstrates cultural diversity. In Sooke, 10% of residents indicated First Nations, Inuit or Metis origins, which is higher than the percentage in the Capital Regional District (6%). This is further reinforced by the parent survey, where 7% of respondents specified their family is Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Metis). **Given the**

<sup>17</sup> Immigrant refers to a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant/permanent resident. This person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

**higher percentage of Indigenous persons in Sooke, there may be a need for Indigenous programming, similar to the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) Program.<sup>18</sup>**

In 2016, 5% of residents in Sooke reported a mother tongue other than English or French, which is less than was reported for the CRD as a whole (13%). The percentage of Sooke residents who indicated a mother tongue other than French and English has remained consistent since 2011, and decreased slightly from 7% in 2006. In addition to mother tongue, language spoken most often at home is another indicator that helps demonstrate the need for culturally-specific services. In 2016, 1.9% of Sooke residents reported speaking a language other than English most often at home. The parent survey presents similar results; 4% of respondents spoke a primary language other than English at home.

With regard to the need for francophone-specific child care services, the parent survey responses indicate 2% of respondents identified as francophone, which is consistent with the number of residents who indicated French as their mother tongue in the Census (2%). **Based on this information, there is limited demand for English Second Language (ESL) child care services, or programming.**

## **VULNERABILITY**

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a 104-item questionnaire developed by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) to measure childhood vulnerability. The EDI is completed for individual kindergarten students by their teachers once the children enter the public school system, and measures five domains: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills, and general knowledge. Of these domains, the “vulnerability rate” is based on the number of students starting school with vulnerabilities in one or more areas that are critical to their healthy development.

**In the Sooke School District, the vulnerability rate is currently 27%, which is lower than the rate observed across BC (32%). However, in the Sooke-West Coast neighbourhood, the vulnerability rate is currently 36%, which is higher than the provincial average.**

The EDI provides further insight into the specific domains where kindergarten students are experiencing vulnerability. In the Sooke-West Coast neighbourhood, 20% of kindergarten students are experiencing vulnerability on the physical health and well-being scale, which includes things like motor development, energy level, daily preparedness for school, washroom independence, and established handedness. Long-term data indicates the Sooke-West Coast neighbourhood has experienced a meaningful increase in vulnerability since the 2004-2007 data collection period.

The EDI summary report emphasizes neighbourhood differences can be explained by a wide range of factors, including social and economic differences, variations in community networks and collaborations that support children and families, and also the number, quality, and accessibility of programs. **Given the vulnerability rate in the Sooke-West Coast neighbourhood, there is likely a need for improved access to programming, particularly support services that may address physical health and well-being.**

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<sup>18</sup> The AHSUNC Program is a national community-based early intervention program funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. AHSUNC focuses on early childhood development for First Nations, Inuit and Metis children and their families living off-reserve.

## WAITLIST DATA

The provider survey includes questions related to waitlists and the number of enrolment inquiries facilities receive on a weekly basis. Based on the responses from the provider survey, the number of inquiries per week is highest for centres that provide care for infants or toddlers, and children 30 months to school age. On average, these providers receive 10 and four enquiries per week, respectively. Waitlist data is also indicative of the extent of need, yet only about half of the facilities that responded keep waitlists. For the providers that do maintain waitlists, the need for infant and toddler spaces is significant, as there are currently 473 infants or toddlers on waitlists, as per the responses provided by the child care providers.

The provider survey also contains information regarding the time it typically takes for parents to get a placement for their children into the respective child care program. Respondents identified a range of answers, yet the majority of providers indicated an average of one to six months. This is reinforced by the information provided in the parent survey – 37% of respondents specified it took one to six months to place their child(ren) into care. **This data demonstrates the demand for child care is outpacing supply, particularly for infant and toddler spaces.**

# Gap Analysis

The purpose of this analysis is to highlight needs and gaps in Sooke's child care system, which have informed the recommended directions included in the Action Plan. These gaps are based on findings from quantitative data obtained through Statistics Canada, and qualitative information gathered through stakeholder consultation and surveys.

## Availability of Child Care

- Based on the child care access rate of 20.6 spaces per 100 children, ages 0 to 12, Sooke has less child care spaces on a per capita basis than many other jurisdictions in BC. Responses from the parent survey further specify the availability of child care is challenging, as 73% of respondents indicated their experience finding child care was difficult, impossible, or they are still looking.
- The survey results demonstrate the extent to which households are struggling to find suitable care: in the past year, 51% of respondents experienced a lack of suitable child care, and 13% of respondents experienced a lack of suitable child care for part of the year. Parents were asked if they believe there is an adequate supply of all forms of child care services in Sooke, and 64% of respondents specified "no" or "not at all". The need for additional child care spaces in Sooke is clear.

## Cost of Child Care

- For respondents who did experience difficulty finding sufficient and suitable child care, the answers ranged from issues related to availability to location to cost. Respondents were able to pick more than one challenge, and of the issues identified, cost was the challenge that came up most frequently, with 16% of respondents indicating child care was too expensive.
- Again, parent experiences with child care are varied, as a larger portion of respondents indicated their satisfaction with child care costs, as compared to those respondents dissatisfied with child care. Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents indicated they are very satisfied or satisfied with the cost of child care, as compared to 29% of respondents who identified there are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with child care. When asked if the fees spent on child care are sustainable, 52% of respondents indicated they were sustainable, while 48% of respondents indicated the opposite.

## Location & Time of Child Care

- Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the location of care, and a majority of respondents were either very satisfied (44%) or satisfied (31%). With regard to the times/days child care is provided, 55% of respondents found care at the times and days they require, 14% of respondents did not find care at a suitable time or on a preferred day, and 30% of respondents were sometimes able to find care at a time/on a day they required. These responses are indicative of the diversity of experience in Sooke – a majority of respondents did not clearly indicate that care is located in the right or wrong location, or is provided at the right or wrong times.



- When asked about a preferred location for child care, respondents identified a variety of locations in the Capital Regional District. Colwood and Langford were selected by several respondents, which demonstrates how communities are interconnected, and social services (such as child care) are used by residents of neighbouring municipalities. This issue is further highlighted by responses to the parent survey – 33% of respondents identified as residents of Sooke, while 31% identified as a parent/guardian of a child attending a Sooke elementary school. It is clear there are many families using child care in Sooke that live elsewhere.

## Culturally-Specific Programming

- Census data provides an illustration of cultural diversity within Sooke. The immigrant population is small, with 11% of residents identifying as an immigrant as compared to 17% in the CRD. Sooke residents primarily speak English at home, as per Census data and results from the parent survey. Feedback from the parent survey demonstrates there is limited demand for culturally-specific programming; 1.3% of respondents indicated a need for multi-cultural programming.
- Indigenous people in Sooke represent 10% of the population, which is higher than the percentage in the CRD (6%). Results from the parent survey indicate 2% of respondents need specialized child care with Indigenous programming. Based on these results, it appears there may be a need for Indigenous programming, or additional spaces at the existing Indigenous child care centres.
- The Francophone population in Sooke is small, as only 2% of residents indicated French as their mother tongue in the Census. This is consistent with the number of parent survey respondents who identified as Francophone. Based on these results, there is limited need for French-speaking child care providers and programming in Sooke.

## Licensed Child Care + Certifications

- Results from the parent survey indicate that licensed (regulated) child care is very important to families, as specified by 74% of respondents. A large percentage of respondents felt strongly about Early Childhood Education (ECE) Certificates; 53% specified ECE Certificates are very important. In the provider survey, 80% of respondents indicated that it was difficult or impossible to find staff with ECE. Given that this is important to parents in Sooke, there may be a need to assist child care centres in finding the staff they need, particularly in terms of certifications and relevant qualifications.
- In the provider survey, respondents were asked what prevents them from providing more of the needed spaces. “Available space” was chosen by the most respondents (33%), and an equal percentage of respondents (19%) chose “available staff,” and “costs associated with the municipal process”. This demonstrates that while staff availability is an issue, it is also important to understand the challenges providers may encounter in trying to secure space to create a child care centre.

## Special Needs

- The provider survey indicates that 10% of respondents offer care for children with extra support needs. Results from the parent survey demonstrate there is some need for extra support services, with 13% of respondents identifying extra support as a specific need. During the focus group conducted with service

providers who work with underserved families, feedback received indicated it is extremely difficult to find placements for children with diverse needs as there are often issues with accessibility, staff training and abilities, and transportation issues.

## Municipal Process + Licensing Requirements

- In the provider survey, respondents were asked what prevents them from providing more of the needed spaces. Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents chose costs associated with the municipal process, and 14% indicated licensing requirements. These responses illustrate the challenges experienced by providers in developing child care facilities, and indicates there may be a need to expedite the process, provide fee waivers, and clearly outline the relevant licensing requirements.
- Providers recommend that the District have a quicker approval process for building and developing child care facilities, identify child care as a community amenity, allow child care in more zoning areas, and create grants that can assist with operations or with the development of facilities.

# Assessment of Need

The information outlined in the previous sections presents the relevant quantitative and qualitative information that is needed to understand the current child care context in Sooke. The information shows that the existing child care access rate in Sooke is below the provincial average, and the rates of many communities across the Capital Regional District. As per the CCPA methodology, Sooke would be classified as a child care desert. The access rate for school aged children is 14.1, which is indicative of the extent to which additional spaces are needed for children 6 – 12 years of age. While the need for child care is evident, it is important to consider that roughly 30% of parent survey respondents do not want, or need to use child care services. In planning for future child care, it is important to acknowledge the many inter-related factors that contribute to demand and supply.

The methodology used to determine space creation targets is based on population projections, obtained through BC Statistics for the District of Sooke, and the information gathered through quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Based on the understanding that Sooke is a child care desert, the space creation targets gradually increase the child care access rate target to reach 33 by the year 2030. Table 8 presents a summary of the required child care spaces for children 0 to 5 years of age, Table 9 presents a summary of the required child care spaces for children 6 to 12 years of age, and Table 10 identifies the space requirements by type of care, using the new target access rates, and the existing percentage split between the different kinds of child care spaces.

## Space Creation Targets

**Table 8: Total Required Child Care Spaces – Children Ages 0 to 5, Sooke, 2020-2030**

Year	Total Children (0 to 5 Years)	Total Child Care Spaces Needed to Maintain Current 2019 Access Rate of 28.7	Total Child Care Spaces Required to Reach New Target Access Rate of 33 by 2030
2019	905	260	260
2020	988	284	284
2022	1,044	300	315
2025	1,136	326	359
2030	1,234	354	407

Source: BC Statistics, Consultant Projections

In order to meet the target of 407 by 2030, an average of 14.7 spaces for children ages 0 to 5 is needed per year.

**Table 9: Total Required Child Care Spaces - Children Ages 6 to 12, Sooke, 2020-2030**

Year	Total Children (6 to 12 Years)	Child Care Spaces Needed to Maintain Current Access Rate of 14.1	Child Care Spaces Needed Based on New Target Access Rate of 33
2019	1,110	156	156
2020	1,232	174	174
2022	1,297	183	265
2025	1,377	194	368
2030	1,553	219	512

Source: BC Statistics, Consultant Projections

In order to meet the target of 512 by 2030, an average of 36 spaces for children ages 6 to 12 is needed per year.

**Table 10: Required Child Care Spaces by Type of Care, Sooke, 2020-2030**

Type of Care	2019 Supply	Estimated Short-Term Need (2020)	Estimated Short-Term Need (2022)	Estimated Medium-Term Need (2025)	Estimated Long-Term Need (2030)
Group Child Care (Birth to 36 Months)	77	85	95	108	122
Group Child Care (30 Months to School Age) Spaces	94	102	113	129	147
Licensed Preschool Spaces	49	54	60	68	77
Group Child Care (School Age) Spaces	115	129	196	272	379
Multi-Age Child Care Spaces	-	-	-	-	-
Family Child Care Spaces	49	54	70	91	119
In-Home Multi Age Child Care Spaces	32	34	46	59	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>919</b>

Source: Consultant Projections

Results from the parent survey highlighted the connections between Sooke and other Capital Regional District communities, and moving forward, it will be important to monitor trends in child care, and population growth on a regional level.

# Action Plan

The Child Care Action Plan identifies recommendations and tools to address the challenges and gaps outlined in the Needs Assessment, and outlines an approach to guide the District of Sooke in delivering new child care spaces. A guiding vision is provided as the foundation for the key roles and corresponding strategic directions define the roadmap to generating sufficient spaces for the projected need.

## Vision

To prioritize access to suitable, affordable child care that meets the diverse and changing needs of the community.

## Roles

The District of Sooke has five key roles in delivering child care within the community:

1. **Setting Policy** - Clear, consistently applied policies express the District's commitment to child care.
2. **Establishing Regulations** - Strategic use of regulatory authority on child care creates choice for families.
3. **Revenue Generation and Land Banking** - Strategic use of District resources (i.e. land) can support an increased number of child care spaces.
4. **Leveraging Partnerships** - Collaboration with the business and non-profit sector and provincial agencies will lead to creative solutions to existing and emerging child care issues.
5. **Advocacy and Education** - Political leadership and advocacy toward senior levels of government is important to ensuring access to child care is prioritized in the community. Alongside advocacy, education will help local residents navigate the child care sector.

## Strategic Directions

In view of the broad focus and multiple directions of the Action Plan, a multi-pronged approach is needed. No one program or strategic direction can satisfy the range of child care interests and priorities in Sooke.

Eleven strategic directions have been recommended. Each direction aims to address the Action Plan's vision, and responds to the gaps and challenges identified in the Needs Assessment. For each strategic direction, there are corresponding actions. The actions are intended to achieve results in a timely fashion, respecting Sooke's small community context and limited resources.

## **ROLE #1: SETTING POLICY**

Clear, consistently applied policies express the District's commitment to child care. When District staff meet with prospective developers, funders, partners or senior government representatives, it is beneficial to have a clear policy framework. Policies related to child care are located in different sections of the Official Community Plan (OCP), and as the District is scheduled to undergo an OCP review in coming years, this section will be updated to reflect the evolving Sooke context.

### **Strategic Direction #1**

*Draft and adopt child care policies into the OCP that provide clear and consistent direction to Council, staff and non-profits.*

#### **A. Introduce OCP policies to:**

- Continue to undertake periodic needs assessments to identify existing and future child care requirements.
  - Encourage the inclusion of child care centres in new civic facilities (i.e. schools, community centres, and Municipal Hall), and encourage private development projects to include child care.
  - Advocate to senior levels of government to provide funding and other supports to facilitate the creation of new child care facilities.
- B. Re-instate the Community Amenity Contribution Policy, and acknowledge that child care is an important community amenity to be considered for inclusion with major development applications (on par with parks, recreational facilitations, affordable housing, public art and other services) subject to the project's location and form.**

## **ROLE #2: ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS**

Strategic use of regulatory powers can help to facilitate the construction of child care centres. Periodically, these mechanisms need to be reviewed to ensure they do not hinder the development process.

### **Strategic Direction #2**

*Amend zoning regulations to facilitate the development of child care centres in residential zones.*

- A. Amend the Zoning Bylaw to permit child care for more than 8 children in all residential zones (RU4 – R3) where child care is currently permitted.**
- B. Consider drafting a Conditions of Use that may include the following: Child care for more than 8 children is supported in residential zones RU4-R3 on larger lots, such as corner lots, or lots of a minimum size that can accommodate the required parking and outdoor space requirements.**
- C. Revise the Zoning Bylaw to permit child care for up to 8 children in multi-family zones (RM1-RM6).**

### Strategic Direction #3

*Consider revisions to the parking requirements for child care to address the need for staff parking.*

Currently, the Sooke Zoning Bylaw requires 1 space for every 5 children, and does not outline the required spaces based on the number of staff associated with the child care facility.

*In order to provide some additional clarity on parking requirements, a scan of several Zoning Bylaws was undertaken in comparable communities, and in larger, urban settings. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 10 below.*

**Table 10: Child Care Parking Bylaw Comparison**

Community	Child Care Parking Requirements
Parksville	1 parking space per 5 children
Langford	2 spaces in addition to 1 space per staff person
Campbell River	1 space per employee, plus a minimum of 2 spaces for child drop-off and pick-up
North Vancouver	3 spaces
Richmond	0.75 spaces per employee; plus 1 space for each 10 children in care

*Source: Local Government Zoning Bylaws*

- A. Conduct a parking supply and demand assessment study for child care facilities.
- B. Consult with parents and guardians, representatives of the development community and non-profit partners on possible changes to the existing parking requirements for child care facilities.
- C. Explore the possibility of lowering parking standards when child care facilities are located in areas close to transit, services and amenities.
- D. Based on the results of the analysis and consultation, consider changes to the Zoning Bylaw to outline the required spaces for child drop-off and pick-up, and per number of staff, similar to the approach taken in Campbell River.

### Strategic Direction #4

*Review the Development Procedures Bylaw to identify opportunities to fast-track child care projects.*

- A. Undertake concurrent processing, where a child care project is seeking a rezoning and development permit.
- B. Conduct public consultation with non-profits and representatives from the development community on the existing development review and approvals process.
- C. Identify strategies to prioritize staff assistance for child care proposals.



- D. Subject to best practices research and consultation with representatives from the development community, consider if revisions to the Development Procedures Bylaw are required.

### **Strategic Direction #5**

*Explore the possibility of providing permissive tax exemptions for child care facilities.*

- A. Complete financial analysis to determine the feasibility of providing permissive tax exemptions for non-profit child care facilities.
- B. Consult with representatives from the development community, municipal partners, and non-profit child care providers on the possibility of providing property tax exemptions for child care facilities.
- C. Subject to consultation with stakeholders, consider establishing a Property Tax Exemption Policy.

#### **For Example: Permissive Tax Exemptions in Richmond**

The City of Richmond provides charitable property tax exemptions for City-owned properties that are leased to non-profit organizations. These exemptions are granted by Council annually to qualifying organizations that provide social benefit to the community.

### **Strategic Direction #6**

*Identify opportunities to transfer licensing requirements into the Zoning Bylaw to provide for greater consistency.*

A licensed child care facility is required to comply with provincial licensing regulations which require a minimum amount of outdoor and indoor space, as per the child care age group and number of children accessing care.

- A. Incorporate the provincial licensing requirements for child care into the Zoning Bylaw.

## **ROLE #3: REVENUE GENERATION AND LAND BANKING**

### **Strategic Direction #7**

*Establish a Child Care Reserve Fund.*

A Child Care Reserve Fund is a municipal fund used to support and facilitate the development and operation of child care facilities. For example, a Child Care Reserve Fund can be used to purchase land for the purposes of child care, and/or to assist with non-capital expenses, including grants to non-profit housing providers to support child care program development.

- A. Complete analysis to determine the feasibility of implementing a Child Care Reserve Fund in Sooke.
- B. Conduct consultation with representatives from the development community, municipal partners, and non-profit child care providers on the Child Care Reserve Fund.
- C. Subject to consultation with stakeholders, consider establishing a Child Care Reserve Fund and terms of reference for the operation of the account. A Child Care Committee could be set up to advise on the allocation of child care dollars in the Child Care Reserve Fund by developing criteria for project selection and expectations.

- D. For non-profit child care providers, consider providing grants in lieu from the Child Care Reserve Fund to offset the costs associated with Development Cost Charges (DCCs) or other permit fees on a case-by-case basis.

#### For Example: Child Care Reserve Funds in Richmond

The City of Richmond has two Child Care Reserve Funds that are used as a source of funding for the two types of child care grants:

Child Care Capital Grants are funded from the Child Care Development Reserve (Bylaw No. 6367), established in 1994, for capital expenses including grants to non-profit societies for capital purchases and improvements (e.g. equipment, furnishings, renovations and playground development); and

Child Care Professional and Program Development Grants are funded from the Child Care Operating Reserve Fund (Bylaw No. 8877), established in May 2012, to assist with non-capital expenses including grants to non-profit societies to support child care professional and program development within Richmond.



## ROLE #4: LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

### Strategic Direction #8

*Build partnerships that can lead to the development of child care facilities in Sooke.*

- A. Build and strengthen partnerships with other agencies (i.e. School Board, the Capital Regional District, Sooke Family Resource Society), and neighbouring municipalities.
- B. Explore opportunities to **co-locate** child care with community assets (i.e. elementary schools and child care, affordable housing and child care) and facilitate potential partnerships with non-profit organizations.

#### For Example: Burnaby School District and City of Burnaby Child Care Facilities Memorandum of Agreement

Under this agreement, negotiated in October 2014, up to 12 child care centres could be built on school sites throughout the community. The City would be responsible for the capital costs of developing the centres, the School District would provide land, and locally-based non-profit organizations would operate the centres.

The City and School District are currently working to install modular child care facilities on the first two school sites: Capital Hill Children's Centre (25 spaces for 3 to 5 year old children) and Montecito Children's Centre (25 spaces for 3 to 5 year old children). The centres are expected to open in early spring 2020.

**Co-location** is increasingly recognized as a best practice in the realm of social services. Elementary schools and child care centres are inherently compatible land uses, and responses from the parent survey indicate

there is significant support for child care located close to elementary schools. The District has identified vacant municipal land behind the Evergreen Centre that may be used to construct a child care facility.

**For Example: Greater Victoria School District No. 61 (GVSD) - Child Care Studios**

The GVSD applied to the Ministry of Children and Family Development to create new child care spaces on a number of GVSD properties. The School District was successful in its applications and received funding for six elementary school locations.

These child care studios are built by District employees and each unit is 60 x 25 feet and has three bathrooms, storage, full kitchen, and dedicated fenced area for participants.

Each school location has been approved for new before and after school child care spots and either new preschool or full-time child care spots for various ages.

All child care and before and after care spots will be open to the school population first.

The following actions are suggested next steps:

- Prepare a feasibility study to better understand the site located behind the Evergreen Centre, and potential opportunities and challenges associated with redevelopment.
- Complete an application to the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund.
- Explore partnership opportunities with interested non-profit organizations.
- C. Facilitate training opportunities for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) through accessible, in-community education programs. Consider partnering with the North Island College to deliver relevant ECCE training.

**ROLE #5: ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION**

**Strategic Direction #9**

*Provide information and outreach to community members.*

- A. Use the District of Sooke website to provide child care information and to promote provincial funding programs and initiatives.
- B. Consider creating a centralized inventory system to allow parents to search for child care in one location.
- C. Create guidelines for child care providers on facility requirements. Review the Zoning Bylaw to determine where child care facility requirements may differ from zoning, and outline these nuances for providers.

**For Example: Child Care Facility Requirements Brochures**

The City of Coquitlam created a brochure which outlines the rules that apply to child care facilities in Coquitlam.

This brochure includes information related to general regulations; building permit requirements, application requirements, inspections, and business licensing.

## **Strategic Direction #10**

*Advocate to Senior Government for additional capital funding for child care projects.*

- A. Seek increased funding for capital costs related to the development of new child care facilities.
- B. Seek increased funding for costs associated with the operation of child care facilities, including programming.
- C. Work with First Nations in Sooke, and advocate to the Public Health Agency of Canada for funding through the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC). This program provides funding to Indigenous community-based organizations to develop and deliver programs that promote the healthy development of Indigenous preschool children. As the T'Sou-ke Nation provides a preschool program, they may be eligible for funding to develop an enriched First Nations Language and Cultural Program.

## **Strategic Direction #11**

*Continue to liaise and facilitate dialogue with key stakeholders and community groups regarding child care issues.*

- A. Establish a Child Care Committee of key stakeholders that will continue to advise the District on child care-related matters, undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of the Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan and advise on the Child Care Reserve Fund and other key directions.

### **For Example: North Shore Child Care Planning Committee**

The North Shore Child Care Planning Committee promotes collaborative planning for child care issues on the North Shore. District of North Vancouver staff play an active role on the committee. Other members include: City of North Vancouver, School Districts 44 and 45, North Shore Child care Resource and Referral Program, North Shore Vancouver Recreation Commission, North Shore Vancouver Coastal Health, child care providers and other community partners.

# APPENDIX A

## Glossary of Terms

## Glossary of Terms

**Child Care:** As referenced in this report child care has the meaning of a licensed child care program complying with the BC Community Care & Assisted Living Act and the BC Child Care Licensing Regulation. Child care also means a Registered Licence-Not-Required Care program registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre.

**Child Care Provider (or Child Care Operator):** A person providing child care on an ongoing basis. The person may be employed directly by the parents to care for the child(ren) either in their own home or in the child care provider's home or they may be an employee in a licensed group child care facility.

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR):** A quality enhancement program funded by the provincial government. They provide:

- For parents, information on the Affordable Child Care Benefit and child care programs;
- For child care providers, support, information, training; and
- Child care providers can register with the CCRR and provide them with parent referrals.

The Sooke/West Shore Child Care Resource and Referral Centre is located is under Sooke Family Resource Society.

**Child Requiring Extra Support:** A child who, for physical, intellectual, emotional, communicative or behavioural reasons, requires support or services that are additional to, or distinct from, those provided to other children.

**Day Camp:** Programs offered by child care operators for various ages of children that promote fun and friendship through trips, theme days, creative crafts and games. Day camps are offered during the summer, winter and spring and may or may not be licensed child care programs. Day camps are often offered for school age children when they are out of school.

**Early Childhood Education (ECE):** A course of study which is required for those wishing to become Registered Early Childhood Educators. Post-basic training may lead to an Infant/Toddler or Special Needs certificate.

**Family Child Care – Licensed:** Child care offered in the child care provider's own home for a maximum of seven children.

**Group Child Care:** The provision of care to children in a non-residential group setting. Group child care providers must have Early Childhood Education training and their facility must be licensed with Community Care Facilities Licensing.

**Group Child Care - Under 36 months:** Group child care with a maximum group size of 12 children under 36 months.

**Group Child Care - 30 months to school-age:** Group child care with a maximum group size of 25 children aged 30 months to school-age (5-6 years), with no more than two children younger than 36 months.

**Group Child Care - School-age (Kindergarten and up):** Care provided to children before-and-after school hours. The maximum group size is 30 if all children are in Grade 2 or higher. If any children present in the program are in Kindergarten or Grade 1 then the maximum group size is 24.

**Guardian:** A parent or other entrusted person responsible for the care and upbringing of, and decision making about a child.

**In-Child's-Own-Home Care:** Unlicensed child care in the child's home - like a nanny or a baby-sitter. Children from other families cannot be included in the care, and the provider cannot be a relative who lives in the home. It is not legally required to monitor this care and there are no specific qualification requirements for the provider.

**In-home Multi-age Care:** Child care in a provider's own home for a maximum of eight children (birth to 8 years). The licensee must be a certified Early Childhood Educator.

**Infants:** Children between birth and 18 months.

**Licensed Child Care Facility:** A child care facility that meets the requirements of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and the Child Care Regulation. They must meet specific requirements for health and safety, staffing qualifications, record keeping, space and equipment, child-to-staff ratios, and programming.

**License-Not-Required (LNR) Family Child Care:** Unlicensed child care providers who must register with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (CCRR). The care is in the providers own home and offers care for up to two children or a sibling group who are unrelated to the provider. The children can be age 0 to 12 years. Providers must complete a minimum of 20 hours of child care-related training, relevant work experience, a valid first aid certificate and a clear criminal record check.

**Multi-age Group Care:** Similar to group child care but serves children from birth to 12 years.

**Occasional Care:** A service for children who are at least 18 months who require part-time or occasional care only. Care is for a maximum of eight hours a day and no more than 40 hours per calendar month.

**Preschool:** Care provided for a maximum of four hours per day for children aged 30 months to 5 years. Preschools have a maximum group size of 20, and a staff trained in Early Childhood Education.

**School-age Child Care:** See Group Child Care - School-age.



**Supported Child Development (SCD):** Funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and delivered by community agencies, Supported Child Development (SCD) Programs help families of children with developmental delays or disabilities to gain access to inclusive child care.

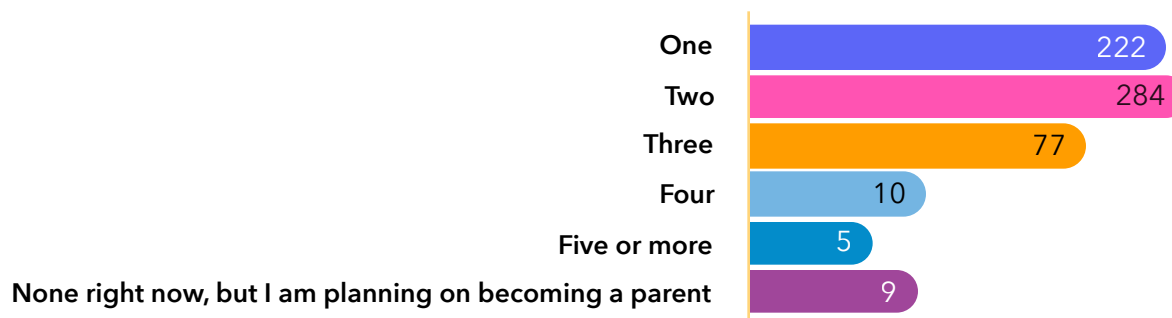
**Toddlers:** Children between the ages of 18 and 36 months.

# APPENDIX B

## Parents/Guardians Child Care Survey Results

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 1. How many children aged 0 - 12 years old live in your home?



#### Q1: Comments

6 kids under 12 5,7,10,10,10 and 11

My son is 4 almost 5. He has cerebral palsy.

Boy:8, Girl: 11

I

Six kids, aged 2 to 13

All my kids are over 14. We don't plan on having more so this is not a fair answer I clicked.

My children are now 13 and 15 yrs old

Will soon be 4

My son is special needs and it's hard to find childcare that employs ECE staff.

5 kids: 4,7,9,12,12

Leagh Kamikawaji

6

5 kids

None right now, but they both were a few years ago, answering based on that experience.

Two and expecting to have another one or two

My children are older but have lived and attended daycare, schools, boys and girls club and JdF camps in the Westshore

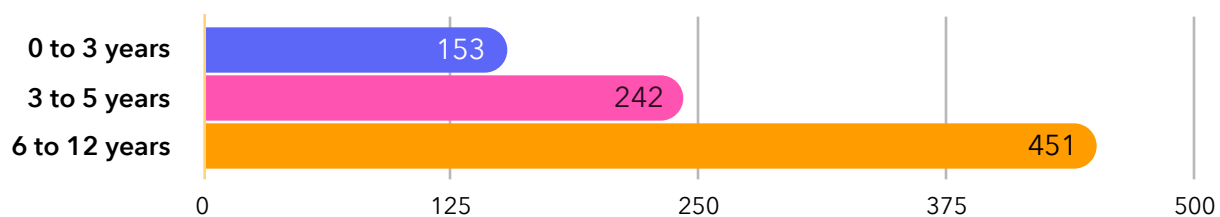
I co-parent three children

I'm done having kids but have grandkids

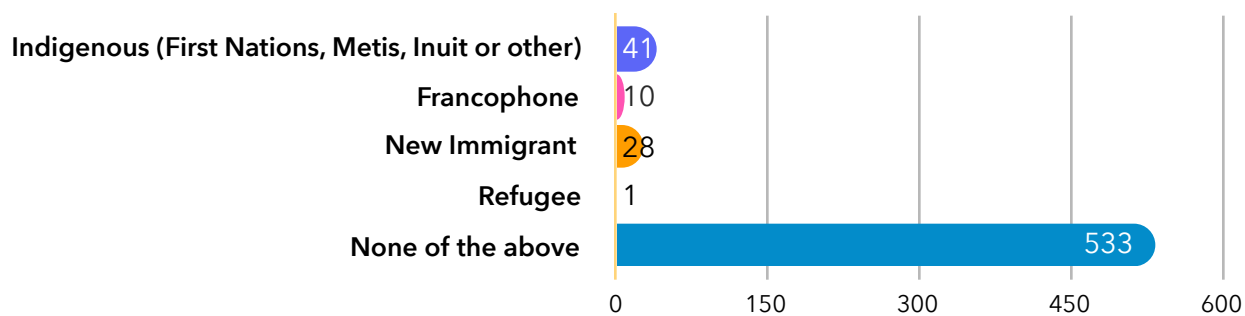
Baby is actually due any day now

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 2. The age of children are:

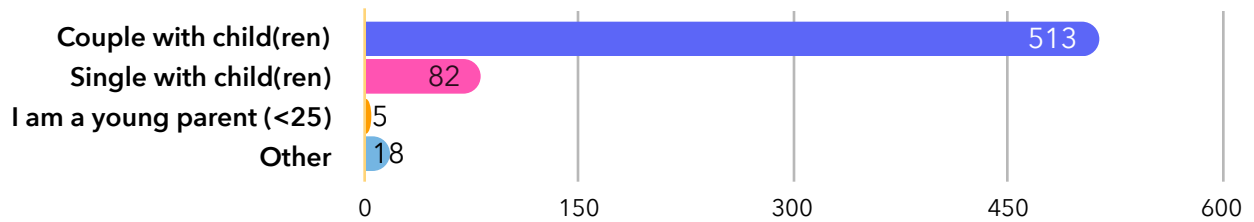


### 3. My family is:



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

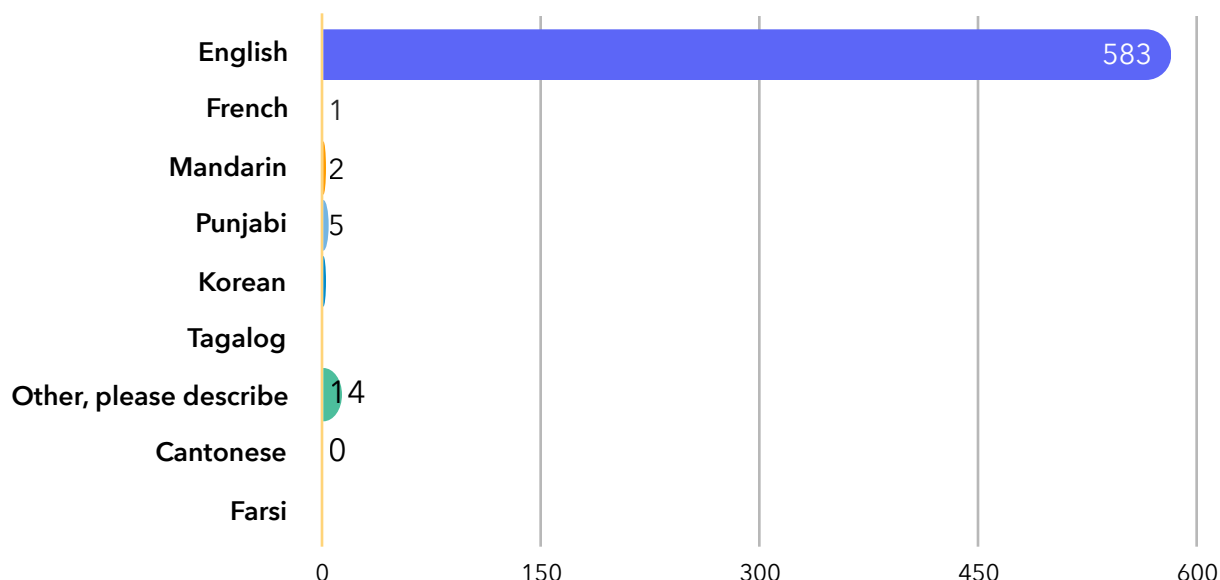
### 4. Your family situation is:



### 4a. Please describe your family situation

4a. Please describe your family situation Responses
Married couple with 3 boys and 4 foster children
Split family both with new spouses
Gramma raising a grandson
Maternal grandmother, single
Grandparents with adult child and grandchild living with us
Married couple, one spouse is Military, travels/ deploys etc
Blended family. There is no where to clarify that half the family is indigenous and the other is not.
2 parents working full time who had 2 kids in before and after school day care
Couple with child and 2 children we share custody with
Separated parents co parenting
Co-parent; I live out of district
Stepfather With Son
military family
Our family includes a shift worker, which is highly relevant to child care issues.
Grandparent in the making!
Blended family - 2 parents, each with one child.
foster caregiver

## 5. The primary language my family speaks at home is:



### Q5. Other, please describe Responses

Primarily English but we also speak French

I speak French (it's my first language) with the kids but they always answered me back in English. My partner/ the kids father speaks only English

We also speak French and Spanish

My husband is French from Quebec and our children attend French Immersion.

My two boys are talking in English to each other.

And the children speak Minion.

Also Korean

Arabic

Bangla

the family speak spanish but between the children they speak English

Also German spoken

Hindi

Telugu

My husband and I tried to speak tagalog at home in hopes that our kids can somehow understand Tagalog language

telugu, english equally

Hiligaynon for parents, English for the kids

and we are learning Spanish

sign language (signed English not ASL)

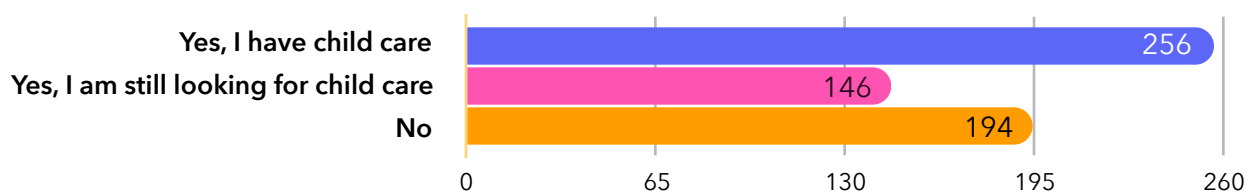
Also Spanish

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Q5. Other, please describe Responses

polish
Marathi
Second language in home is french
My wife speaks primarily German with the Children.
Marathi
Spanish
Mother is francophone, father is anglophone. English is primary language, French is secondary language.
Have been practicing my Spanish with my son;)
We speak both English and Punjabi equally at home
Kids usually talk in English with each other.
Urdu
Italian
first language Italian then English

## 6. Do you need/want to use child care services?



## 6a. Tell us about why do you do not need/want to use child care services:

### 6a. Tell us about why do you do not need/want to use child care services: Responses

Family members are assisting
Kids are old enough now that they do not need supervision...The past decade though? Needed it back
Wife is staying at home to raise the children.
The only childcare I need is 'drop-in' style for short periods. More like a creche. I work from home and occasionally need help but not on a regular/consistent schedule.
When our children were younger (pre-kindergarten age) we evaluated our home expenses - it did not
I will work when my husband is home.
Daughter
My Daughter stays home with me
I am lucky to have family that moved here 5 yrs ago.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

6a. Tell us about why do you do not need/want to use child care services: Responses
I already have daycare and before and after school care
I have the privilege of being home
I am fortunate enough to have grandparents that live close to the school my son attends.
As a family we already have all our child's needs met.
We manage to look after our own
My children are old enough to be left at home alone now.
I am a stay at home mom
Stay at home mom, but will be looking next year
Work from home. Might need if that changes.
I only work during school hrs
Currently on maternity leave
We are unable to afford childcare at this time so we make it work without it.
We rely on family because unable to secure childcare that meets our needs.
I do not work due to medical reason so cannot afford child care and do not really need it if I'm home.
Child takes the bus to school
Older sibling takes care
Older child babysits younger sibling
Older sibling provides after school care for the family. Youngest child has babysitting course and can take care of younger sibling
I have 2 older children ages 14 and 16 and my in laws live in the suite below my home.
I stayed home from work to care for my children
my mom lives with us and takes care of the children when my husband and I are at work.
I am a stay at home mom with a husband who works so we don't need child care after or before school
My kids are old enough to be on their own so they bus to and from school
The cost is very high and logistics to/from add more time than I can give
Work around the school hours
My wife and I both work from home.
It is too expensive, dad will stay home until our youngest is in kindergarten, then he will find work. As is the case with all families.
Child is 12 years old already so no longer need child care
My parents watch my son.
We do shift work and start work at 0600 in town. Daycare's are not open the hours we need them.
Because I am not working right now and my children are old enough
My children can be alone after school until I get home.
Just use a casual care
I'm am a stay at home parent.
Work hours allow me to be home before/after school
I work from home full time and my husband works from home most days
I stay at home because I think childcare costs more than I could make working.



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

6a. Tell us about why you do not need/want to use child care services: Responses
One parent works part time in order to do child care during non-school hours.
We used a licensed childcare centre for years but our kids are now 8 and 12 and feel a bit "old" to be
I am a stay at home mom, my husband works.
One parent is a "stay at home" parent
My children are teenagers
Currently unemployed.
Too expensive and not trustworthy
My child is 11 and has taken home alone courses and other learning opportunities so we feel confident
Stay at home parent
Have family support!
My son is not easy because of ADHD and it is easier to let him stay home. He is 10 and started being v
I DO want child care, but it's really just not affordable with 3 kids.
One parent stays at home to be the child care.
My children are old enough not to need child care
Because I do daycare myself from home - I made this decision when my daughter was young because
My parents help out with before and after school care as well as my 13yr old
I provide child care
I'm a stay at home mom
I work during school hours, or when my husband is home at night in order to not have the extra expen
My kids take school bus and it's taking over one hour to get home. By then we are ( parents) are home
Currently, use pre-school and child minding services through Juan de Fuca Rec Centre
my children are to old for child care
I am fortunate to work from home so can have my son before and after school while I work.
My child is old enough to stay home alone.
Work from home. Youngest is now in preschool, so child care during the day is no longer needed.
Lack of affordable options, concerns about lack of regulatory body for the industry.
I am a SAHM (stay at home mom) with a flexible home-based business because of the lack of childcare
I take care of my child myself.
I wanted before/after school care held at the school she is going to, not having to go on a bus to get s
Cost prohibitive, so one parent stays home
Child is 12 and not in need of childcare
Kids old enough to be on own
Child care is unaffordable, I'll never pay a stranger 800\$ a month to watch my child part time.
Too expensive. Found a job to work around hours
The school bus takes a long time to get to our house allowing me time to get home
We have two older children who help out. prior to them being old enough to help my partner and I ac
because our children are THE MOST important part of our lives. We choose to have one of us home a

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

6a. Tell us about why do you do not need/want to use child care services: Responses
Cost
I am self employed and work around my child
Children are old enough to stay by themselves during the day, and we parents are always home at night
Our children are all school aged and we don't require before or after school services as one parent works
I provide child care in my home
Cost too much
Not needed anymore. I had a very hard time finding daycare
One parent stays at home or works flexible hours in order to be home with children
Older child now
I work part-time in order to care for my child before and after school
My children's have special needs and we have very little trust in other people
Because my kids are old enough
My child is now 11, safety and responsibility have been taught/reinforced and she will only need to be supervised
Children are old enough to be home alone
My parents do before and after school care.
I am a stay at home Mother
My son is 12, he takes the bus to and from school and can be home alone if need be. My daughter is 8
We could not afford child care so I stopped working and stayed home to raise the children.
I work from home, so I'm not in need of child care.
I am able to stay home with my children. If that situation changed I would need childcare.
Because my kids dont need anymore a care service, they are more responsible and can take care themselves
I use our parents
Our schedules now allow us to be available to care for our own child.
My daughter is 12 but my son has graduated and helps out alot with child Care plus I can leave her alone
Too expensive and it does not make sense to pay so much and see so little of your children.
Because it's too expensive for 4 kids, I would be working to pay all the day care costs
I am my own boss. If I was not I would need child care
currently on maternity leave
Dont trust ppl - news - past experience myself in child care
I arrange my work schedule to not need care.
Child is almost 12 years old and has friends close by
able to care for my own children as I work the same hours they are in school
Not necessary
My husband and I have adjusted our work schedules to work opposite shifts.
Able to afford to stay home with kids.
In the past the children were unhappy when they needed to go to child care after school. It was too long
My partner works within the school hours for now, able to drop and pickup. If this changes we may need

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

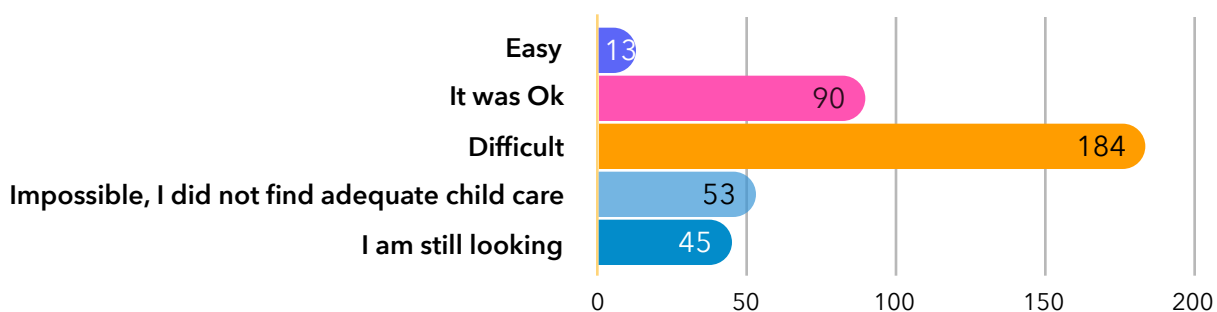
6a. Tell us about why you do not need/want to use child care services: Responses
We are able to make it work with our jobs and/or we have friends/kids have friends who they can help
My son is almost 13
Oldest sibling can help babysit
Lucky to have family who can provide child care when needed
someone who can look after
Child now in middle school
stay at home mom
i have worked really hard to ensure that my wife can stay home with the kids
Older sibling in the house
I have an older child who is 14, and my younger child is 11. They are both very capable and get themselves
Share custody
I work from home and I can not afford to pay a child care
My son is too Old now
Mother is staying at home with kids until they have all enrolled in public school. Mother is an entrepreneur
Currently I'm able to drop them off and get them from the bus without it interfering with my work
Too expensive and quality is not good enough
I was a SAHM for the last 11yrs. This year I returned to the employment environment.
Wife and I work opposite shifts, so don't have the need currently for child care.
My child goes to school where I work and I pay a friend to watch her once a week. And I use Pro D car
Kids are teens
I am a stay at home mom until the little one goes to school
My child is old enough now to be left alone. He also has older brothers
Hours for childcare services in Sooke do not support those who commute. Because the transportation
We prefer to raise our children ourselves; We find that we have a very strong family bond, and we attri
because i am a housewife
There is no need for the municipal government to spend tax dollars increasing child care spaces other
Mother is a stay at home parent.
Child is 11.5 has taken home alone course and comfortable on own when a parent or grandparent car
Our child walks on his own to and from school and is capable of bien on their own for a few hours until
We have a child who is older and able to watch the younger one after school
It was too expensive. So I stayed home with my kids instead of going back to work.
My parents watch the kids when we both parents have work conflicts.
I am really hoping to work from home and raise my child myself when my maternity ends. But if i have
We work opposite shifts to manage childcare
My 12 year old has an older sibling who cares for her over long periods of time and is otherwise able to
I work flexible hours so I can care for my own child while not in school
Home based business with flexible hours

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

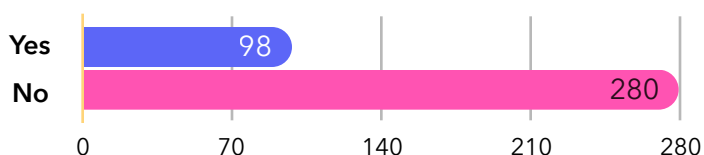
### 6a. Tell us about why do you do not need/want to use child care services: Responses

I no longer require care due to older siblings.
My family is expanding and my adult children are planning to expand their families with children within
I don't know exactly what is about
My child is of the age she does not need supplemental child care outside of family. As well our home s
Self employed
My son has ASD and stays home with me. We have access to respite through his intervention company
Because we can take care of child by ourselves
We are lucky to have family living in Sooke.
I have in the past needed childcare, the only reason I don't at this time is because my employer allows
sibling look after my 12 year old daughter and she is also responsible on her own
My youngest used to be in daycare, but now I work from home, so all the kids are at home while I finish
flexible work hours / age of children
we are lucky and have family to help
I rely on family and flexible work schedule, but I would use afterschool care part-time if I could get it at
I am a stay at home mother at the moment. I may need child care in the future
Stay at home parent
Stay at home mom
family helps
stay at home parent

### 7. How was / is your experience finding child care?

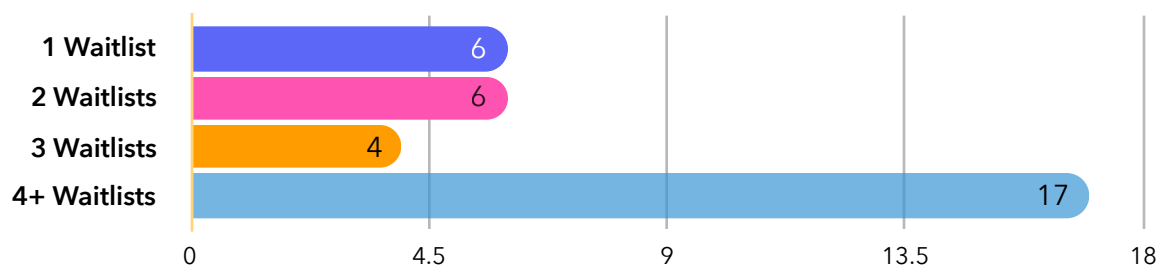


### 8. Are you on childcare waitlists?

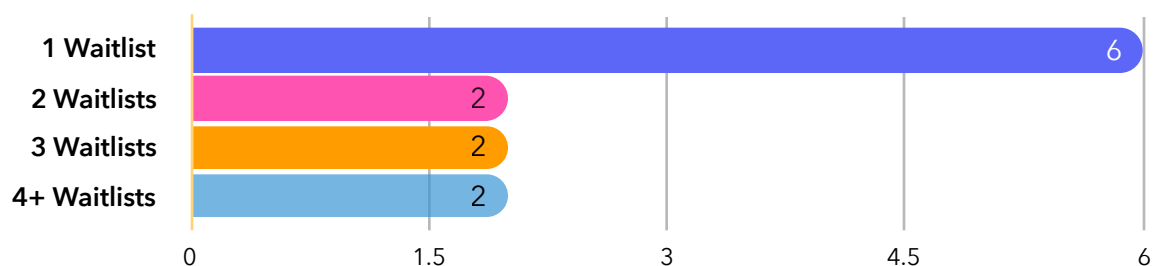


## 9. How many waitlists are you on for each of the following?

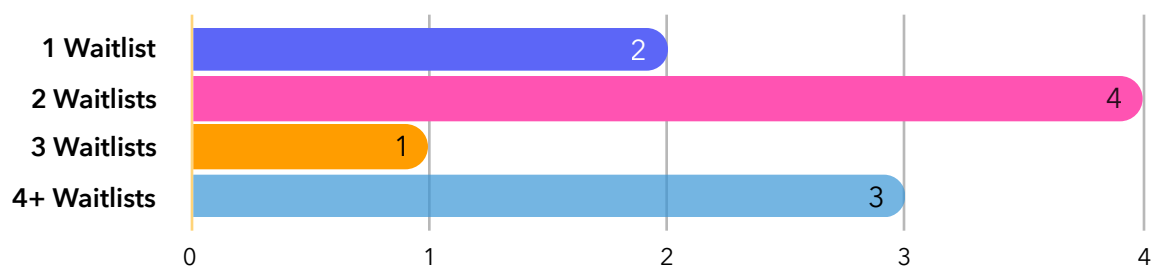
### 9.1. For Infant & Toddler Care



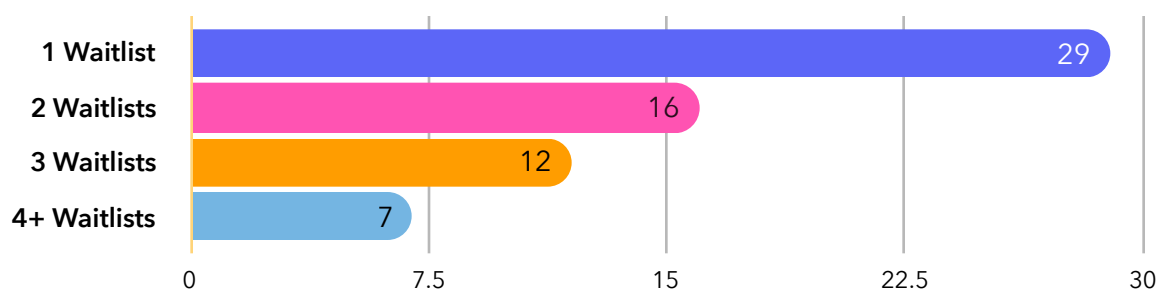
### 9.2. For 30 months to School Age



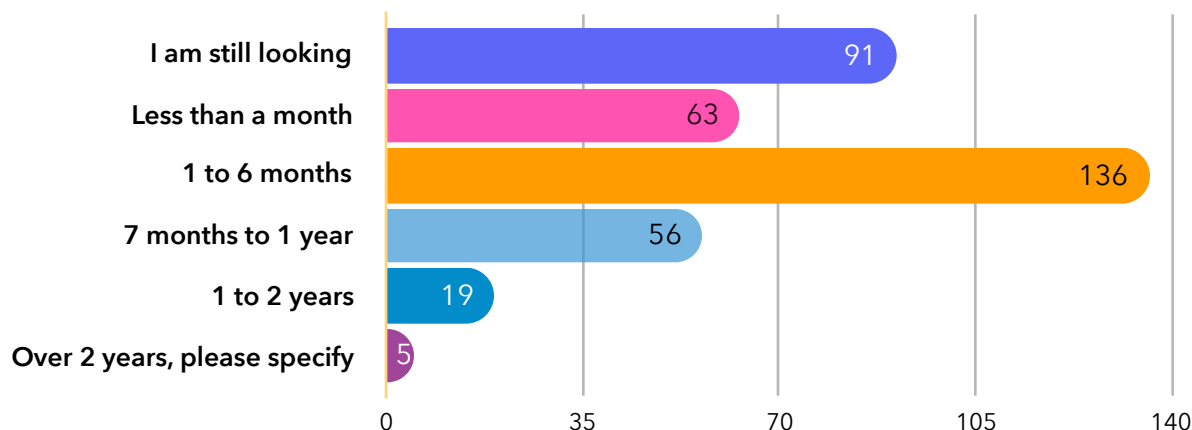
### 9.3. For preschool



### 9.4. For school age, out of school care



## 10. How long did it take (after the first call, visit or email) to place your child(ren) into child care?



### 10a. Please specify Responses

Infant/toddler care we lucked out. However our care provider doesn't do before/after school care and this is turning into an absolute nightmare.

Answer relates to oldest - 2015. No care found for youngest resulting in me staying home instead.

I use a particular our of school care. I have change in circumstances and everytime I have a new kid needing childcare, I am on a wait list.

Into the specific kind of facility we wanted it took a while. We had to compromise with less than ideal care for a full year a few days per week.

Many daycares won't take waitlists or don't return emails

It was quick but the register daycare I was with wasn't trustworthy and I was highly disappointed

I pay my parents daycare to pick up after school, and care for my child because I could not afford regular childcare providers

I was able to secure a spot but it is in a far from ideal situation. Only full time was available though we only want part time to start so we are paying for time we don't use, just to have something. There is limited outdoor time and no walks /excursions beyond the property which is on a very busy street in the town core, so no green time at all for our little one, just a backyard for 1 hour and only if it's not raining.

I got childcare in 2012 and have had the same childcare provider since boys were 2,3 yrs old.

My childcare lady is totally awesome and she is a level 3 daycare which means she looks after kids with special needs.

We were given a place for both kids at one centre, and I had been on the waitlist almost 9 months. When we heard our oldest didn't get into Happy Valley for Kindergarten we then were in a scramble to get on more wait lists and could not find care for 4 more months as everything was full. The place we had received spots for did not do drop off and pick up from Wishart where we were sent so we had to start from the beginning. I didn't know not getting into Happy Valley was a possibility before that call as we live close by, otherwise I would have been on those other lists sooner. It was very stressful as we both work full time and were worried we would not find care.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 10a. Please specify Responses

My daughter has special needs. Placing her in childcare would involve us having to pay for full time help in the child care space - we've been told. The cost of this is ridiculous so we have not yet found a viable solution.

My childcare is not permanent at the moment due to upcoming sale of makola housing unit on Jacklin which will impact my former childcare provider and present childcare provider as we are unsure where everyone will move. If my child care provider moves out of the area or too far then I will have to find new childcare.

We entered childcare prior to elementary as daycare and retained the position even at time when it was not necessary because we understand how difficult it can be to find a placement.

It's 6-7 years ago I needed full time child care and later for after school care. By then it's not really difficult to find one.

Now I just need one day care for PRD, and this is not too difficult.

We bounced around until we found an exclusive and small outdoor childcare program called The Farm School.

After school care was more difficult.

We could only get into a program that is after-school. So, while we have childcare, it is not ideal since we've had to come up with other solutions (paying another parent to look after him before school) for the morning.

We live in the Sooke Core and our nearly three year old child was designated with Autism and a Global Developmental Delay at 2.5 years old. Over the past year, he has had his care terminated at three locations because they cannot (..will not...) meet his needs. He has been on the waitlist for QA support for Supported Child Development since January 2018; he is presently 91 of 171 on their waitlist. Both my husband and I experience job insecurity because we cannot find a reliable and affordable option.

I started looking for daycare months in advance.

in 2018 finding out of school care for Crystal View required a parent helping to get Boys and Girls Club to open a new club at our school as there were no other options

I ended up having my parents watch my child, as it wouldn't have been worth me keeping my job and having my child in childcare. I would have been working solely to pay for her childcare.

No need for care this year, but in fall 2020.

I started looking a year before we needed after school care and was waitlisted.

My children have been in child care for several years. So long as the arrangement does not change it is okay. It was impossible to increase the number of days for after school care though. We ended up changing work schedules and using grandparents.

Stopped looking, took too long and costs too much money. Instead one parent works part time from home.

Child care in my context is placing my kid(s) with private (and expensive) caregivers for a few hours a day for 6 days.

Money talks unfortunately, when it comes to childcare for kids with special needs

We arranged for a nanny months in advance, but she quit before she started. Luckily, we were able to obtain a spot in pre-school.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 10a. Please specify Responses

We were lucky and happened to find a spot for our daughter when she was four and the provider we are with has a before and after school care program.

We started to ask early. Sadly our needs changed along the way which made it hard to change

recently switched schools so only just starting to look

We had no luck finding appropriate child care in our area but found out by accident that child care was available on site at my child's school. We secured the last spot at the last minute.

Child enter the center 5 years ago and when the second child came along we got on the list as soon as we found out we were pregnant

I am looking but not really- I've decided it makes more sense to stay home than work just to pay for child care.

I gratuitously found temp assistance from an EA at the boys school who watches them before school, brings them to school, does her EA job and then takes them for after school. Still have not heard from anywhere else that I contacted over a year ago for school year 18/19

I started looking well over a year prior to kindergarten, to ensure I found a spot.

I could not get the care I needed last school year and was only given two days of care, this school year we managed to find full time care.

We ended up having to rely on aunts, and grandparents in the end.

Six months, and the child care location was out of the way

Mostly are too expensive for me to pay

I have had the same child care for 10 years

this is regarding my 1 year old, they were a new daycare just opening up in sooke, and their start date lined with my return to work date. It was perfect. My two older children attend after care with their grandmother, and I am not looking for care for them.

I never received any call backs. But thankfully had family close I could depend on

I have to use family as i cant afford child care

Several places have told me 30 months is when I'll likely get a spot, she went on those wait lists at 6 months

Extremely hard to find a list of care providers in one place. It's rather piece meal and all over the place.

I received a part time spot and made it work for a year before my son was able to get a full time spot at the daycare of our choice. She booked my second son in for their first birthday to start when i was still pregnant in order to ensure a position.

We needed something close to the school. Happy Campers seemed like the only option. I was on the waitlist for 3 years before there was space available.

I sent in my paperwork to get a spot for childcare first thing on the day we could first apply. We still got put on the waitlist until just before school started. Also, it would be nice if there were more options for childcare that pick up and drop off to our school. I felt that I didn't really have any options and I'm not sure if there will be any options once my child ages out of his current school at the end of this year. We are new to Langford so maybe I'm just not aware of all of the options for the future school.



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 10a. Please specify Responses

Children were put on a wait list while I was pregnant. I then didn't know if we had a spot until the children were about to turn a year old.

Have been on some waitlists since 2015

Eventually asked elderly family out of catchment.

I was lucky there was a new infant centre opening and we got in right when they were opened.

We initially had child care, which we were able to get quickly. However, the child care provider did not meet our needs, including safety of our children.

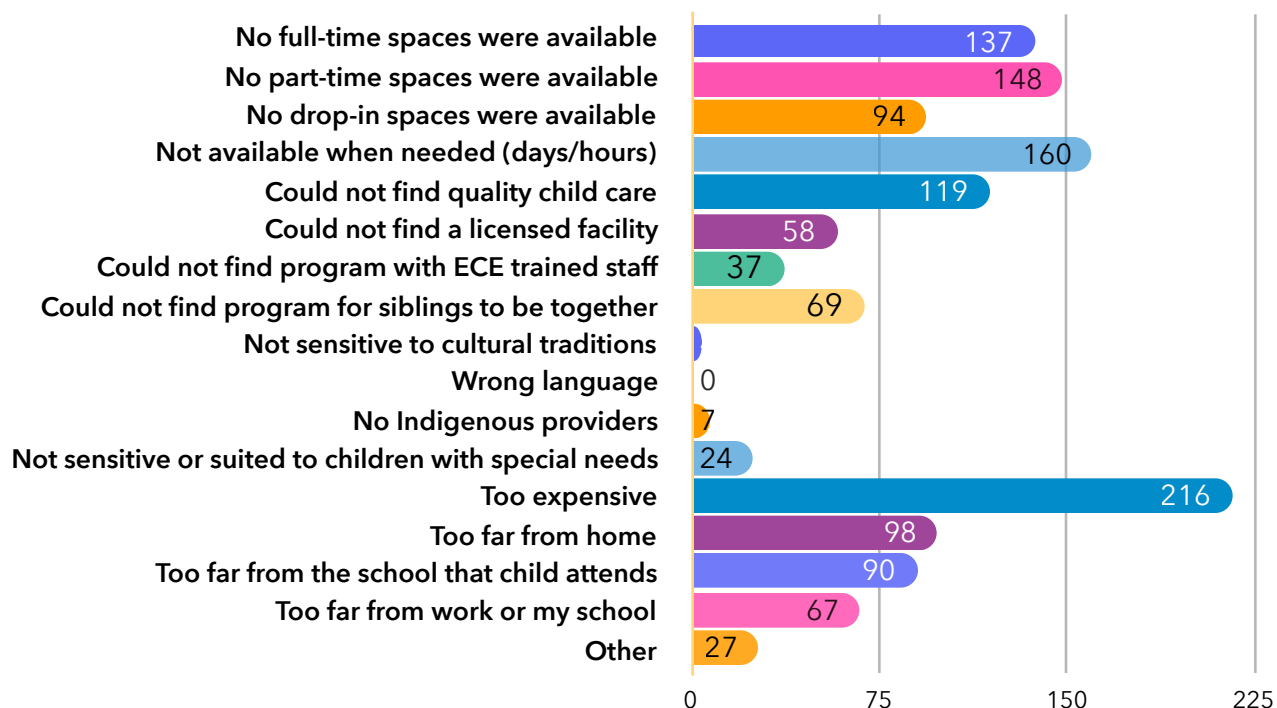
I don't need care yet but will within the next 10 months

Been on waitlist for one year at before after school care at the school at Willway and still not in so doing piece meal child care with a school parent and between my husband and I we try to make it work.

Had to turn to family

I may want childcare during the next 2 years.

# **11.If you had or have difficulty finding sufficient and suitable child care, what challenges did you encounter?**



## **Q11. Other Responses**

Not enough outdoor play. Pick-up / drop-off times don't allow for work hours

To difficult during rush hour to access, or to reach during an emergency.

My youngest daughter has severe allergies. It was/still is difficult to find someone who is comfortable caring for a child like her.

Not many infant spaces

Just not available when I need after work, or unable to accommodate my daughter's athsma.

Daycares cherry pick "easy" children because they can, it's a seller's market. I'm faced with lying about my son's special needs just to get him in, and risking that they will be poorly met, or not getting him in at all which is putting us in financial difficulty.

Every program is so full that most do not even respond to new people.

Only after-school care is available but we need before- and after-school.

No one willing to take my son with a diagnosis.

No pick up/drop off for before and after school care available at my child's school

They didn't drive so kids had no transport to the school or they did not service the school that my boys attend (Savory Elementary)

I have to pay for a full time spot even though I only need a few days, have to pay to hold summer spot

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Q11. Other Responses

My daughter was in a government licensed home that was not clean. But I was desperate for care. She ended up having non accidental blunt force trauma to the head that is still under investigation.

Couldn't find a place for the 4 kids that were full time for 1 and before and after school for the other 3. Also they couldn't take them all to school and pick them up

The daycare never opened as promised and the franchisee ran off with my money. I had to fight with the corporate business for a refund.

There are not enough before and after school care facilities that can get the kids to and from school.

Not enough places that offered before and after school care at our school and the ones that did were fully booked without the possibility of waitlists as they knew children were coming back the next year.

I had to pick either morning care at one center and after care at another to piece times I needed care together. Also I didn't get into my catchment school forcing me to register for before and after care at centers that catered to two different schools and pay deposits at each. Also centers wanted 2 months notice, I did not find out I was not getting into my catchment school until 1 month before school started forcing me to pay for services I did not need

Not open long enough for shift workers

Signed my children up for before and after school care. Had to wake up at midnight march 1st to send application via email in order to secure my spot even though my child had been registered with this company for the previous three years. Then two weeks before school started was told I had no afternoon care due to no site manager. Then the same thing happened again this year but they had no before school or after school care due to no site manager? I originally registered with three places paid a registration fee but had to give notice two months before school started so as not to be charged September's fees by three different places? Very very frustrating, time consuming, and expensive.

Daughter was too young not many places take infants under 2

I have 2 kids with special needs and cant stay in the house for long periods of time. Most licence daycares stop at 10. My daughter attends the Boys and Girls club outdoor program but can only go 2 days a week she requires one on one but I have to pay for before care 3 days a week after care plus the outdoor club plus if I can find one on one. it becomes so expensive

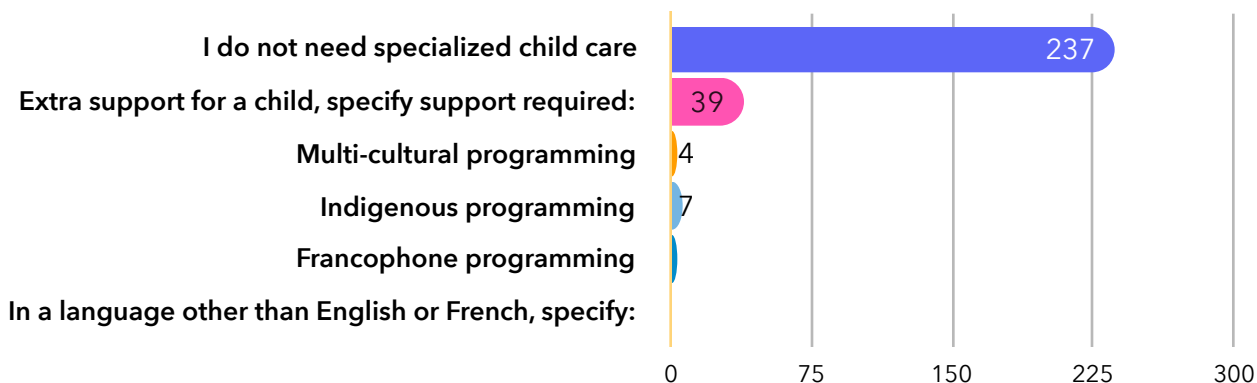
The childcare provider that we found, Kids Quest, has violated licensing requirements numerous times. We value having our children in a licensed childcare facility, so their inability to meet licensing standards meant that we did not feel comfortable having our children attend there. Since our children left, there have been other licensing violations that we have heard about from our friends who have children attending there.

A Lot of child care places want only full time care we only need part time.

Some daycares found would not serve Willway school stating it was not in their area.

Having organized care and due to the inability to find staffing site change for child care was necessary. Lucky we were able to get what we did!

## 12. I need specialized child care with:



### Q12. Specify Support Required Responses

Autism

I just want something for both kids to attend together at the same scheduled time.

Yes

ADHD & sensory processing disorder

I need after school care from 2:45 to 7:00pm

ASD support worker

child with previous trauma, dx of adhd, fasd, anxiety

Support for Trauma, ADHD, ADD and FASD

Slow language development

Emotional and social support for my adhd child

Special needs child

Toddler has chronic, functional abdominal pain results in difficulty staying asleep. He needs longer naps than the 90-120 minutes usually offered and active help in settling back to sleep, all of which are major "red flags" to providers that result in us not being selected for the few spaces that do crop up.

Autistic kid

sensory sensitivity

My guy has behaviour issues

Autism

needs to allow the 1:1 support we have arranged; and an appropriate, progressive, inclusion philosophy

Autism adhd behavioral support

Son has autism, have required extra support for interactions.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q12. Specify Support Required Responses
Youngest is autistic
Interventionists for autistic kids
Full time supportive services. Global developmental delayed child
Extreme ADHD sensory needs
ADHD
ADHD as well as autism can get violent and needs a designate care worker
My children are being tested for ADHD
Assistance with behaviour & quiet space, motor skills
Sophie needs a dark room because her head injury she gets headaches and bright lights affect her.
My son has FASD which causes behaviour issues.
one of my children have lots of food allergies. I'm afraid of this as he got flare ups when I leave him with childcare.
Asd
Adopted children with trigger points and some behavioural issues
My oldest daughter had ADHD, and so she does need extra attention
One of the child has ASD
One on one support for older child with special needs. My child with special needs is too old for the regular childcare groups
ASD
ECE AND ECEA
Autism
one on one
ASD
Possible autism
Nice to have caregivers with intercultural competencies
I have reached out to the indigenous community here but they want nothing to do with my full status child. You are NOT welcome if you do not belong to the band and that is a HUGE missed opportunity and does not make my family feel welcome. It completely turned me off living here and I loved it when we first came. No other indigenous childcare/programs out here that I can find.
I prefer to have an Indigenous Child Care provider.
All of our children are indigenous and there is no cultural programming involved in any of the programs available to us
My daughter is being raised bilingual and currently I am the only one speaking to her in French as there are no proper french opportunities for young children in sooke

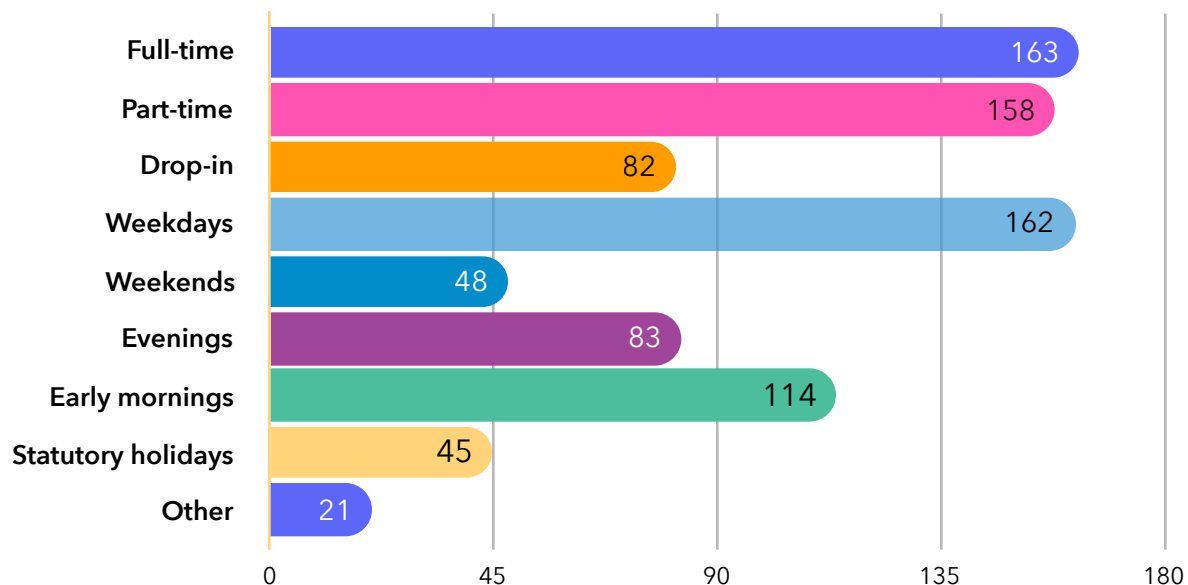
## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Q12. Specify Support Required Responses

Very limited options for French language.

Could not get into this program. Not enough spaces. Lost the lottery

### 13.I have the following child care requirements:



#### Q13. Other Responses

I do shift work, so does my partner.

maybe a date night or some after school drop in time for older kids. My girl is 10. Most childcare centers are dedicated to younger children with no programs for older ones so they get bored very quickly.

After school care

After school and PD days

Before and or after school care

After School Care from when they get off school until i get home from work.

PRD

Before and After school child care

Before and after school

morning and afternoon care a few days a week taht cantake him to and from school

I don't need childcare anymore

before and after school care

Pro D days

respite

After school care

Professional development days

take kids to/from school

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Q13. Other Responses

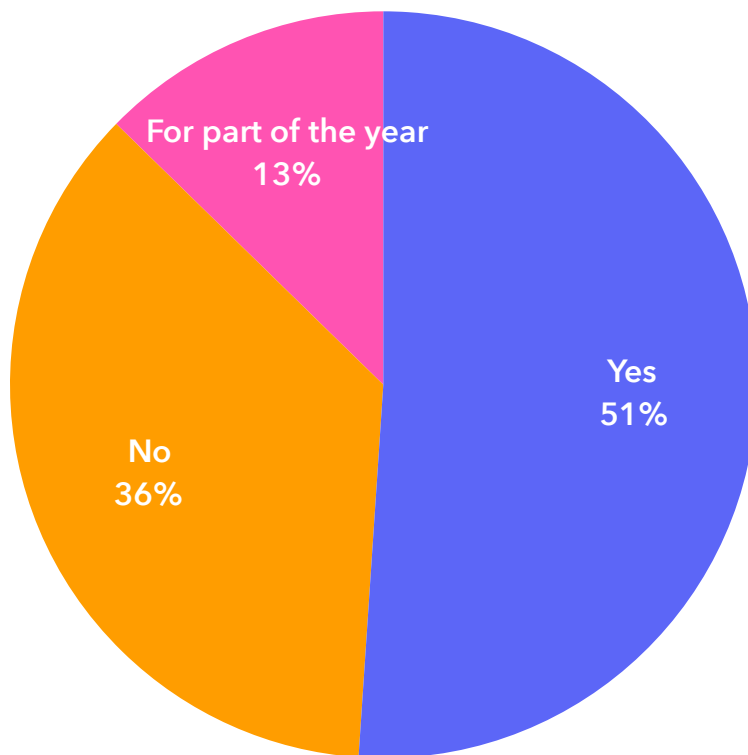
drop off and pick up

Pro D days

My wife and I work alternate shifts, with my wife working shift work. She works evenings, but she doesn't always work Monday to Friday. Because of this, we are forced to pay for the entire month, for after school care, even though we don't use the entire week.

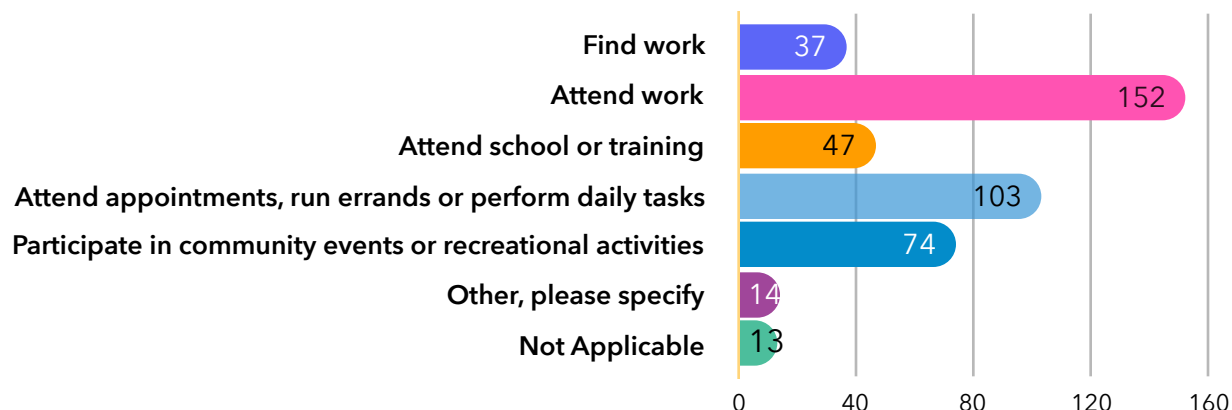
shift worker

### 14. In the past year, have you experienced a lack of suitable child care?





## 15. Lack of a suitable child care arrangement has affected my ability to:



### Q15, Other, please specify Responses

To get adequate mental health care. I can reliably attend group therapy / counselling / psychologist appointments after or before work due to scheduled care hours.

We are trying to find care to start in a couple months or it will affect our work situation

Self care such as exercise

Impacted my family who is covering child care for me. Far from ideal and causes a lot of stress

To be able to work the hours that are best for me. Unable to change to a better job because of school hours and no after school care .

Feel that my children are safely being taken care off.

I had to give up my job due to lack of / unreliable childcare for shiftwork. I'd also like to go to Colwood Council meetings but can't.

Cannot attend school events for my kids

Stress and not being able to work p/t and spend time with children

My sons daycare kangaroo child care have everyone one only one month notice before shutting down.. our oldest son was without childcare for moths until he started kindergarten.

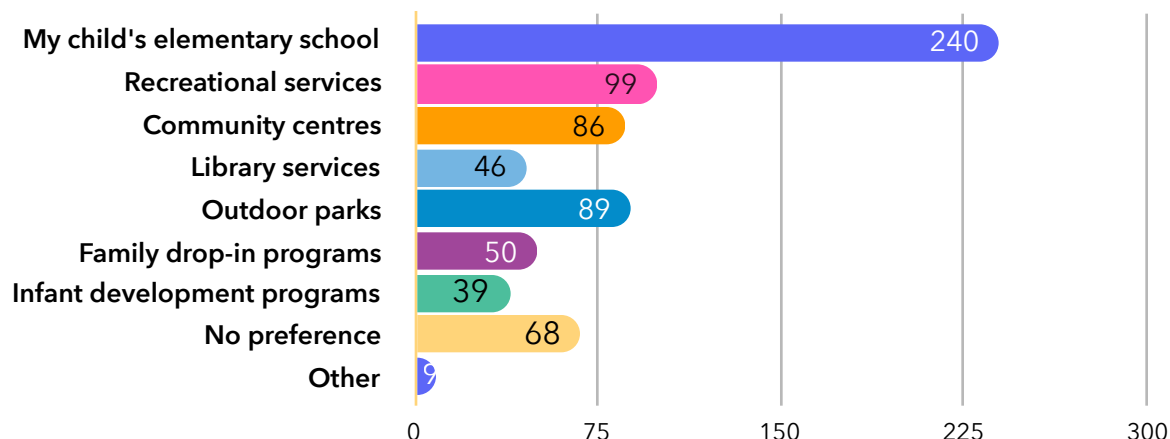
respite

Experience financial loss due to taking time off of work and paying extra for babysitters

Having to ask family and friends

The child care provider changed the location that my daughter would need to be picked up from. Because of this, I had to pay extra to get her to the facility that was closer to me. She did this during the middle of the school year, which left us with no alternative but to cave to her changes.

**16. I would like my child care program to be located on the same site as:**



**Q16. Other Responses**

Even in my own home when I'm working is ok, like a trained ECE sitter that helps special needs kids is impossible to find. I'm willing for my girl to go somewhere else but it must be a small group of 10 and under and one of the leaders MUST be trained in special needs kids. This is also impossible to find out here. I have to put my girl on waitlist after waitlist.

On a bus route

home daycare

In the neighborhood I reside in.

Transportation to care centre should be provided from schools. I have one in Journey Middle School and one in Poirier Elementary

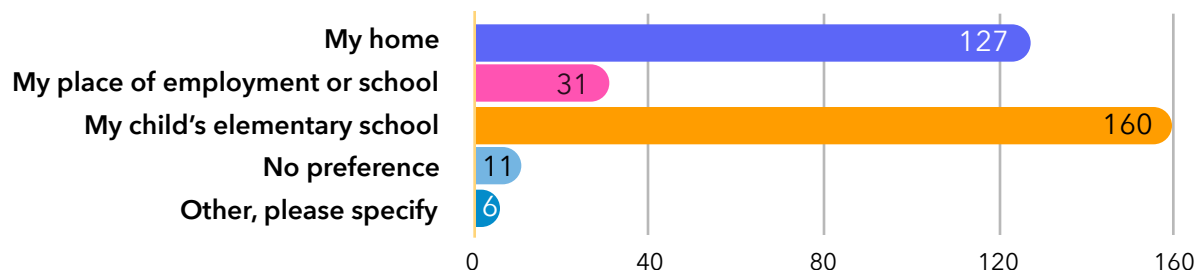
Within a reasonable distance we can get to before and after work

more choices for child care ie) Montessori at the community centre rather than a catch all

It would be nice to have childcare available attached to middle schools too (kids program/activity program) so they would/t have to take a bus home and be solo for hours till I got home.

Close to home.

**17.If given the choice, I would use a child care program close to:**



**Q17. Other, please specify Responses**

My home, my place of employment or school, my child's elementary school

My home, place of employment or school, my child's elementary school.

My home, my place of employment/school

My home is my workplace and the school is within a 3 min drive. I drive so I don't mind dropping my kid off somewhere if I know she's going to be safe and understood.

I have no idea which school my child will enroll in next year, Poirier would be awesome (not our catchment), though it is now a lottery for French immersion. Sooke Elementary is our catchment, however hearing now that students are now being bounced to Saseenos instead. So depending on what happens (won't know until January), its difficult to plan ahead. And frustrating that there is no choice its 'what you get'.

Centers in the Sooke core that are a walkable distance from home. We currently are a one car household and take advantage of bc transit to minimize our environmental impact but unless we can find childcare in the core of Sooke we will end up needing a second vehicle.

Seaparc

In Sooke where the fit is good

Most central to home, work, school

And also close to my place of employment.

Our current care works for us but having care closer to the school would be ideal as we live near the school as well.

My kids' care takes place at my home

It depends on their hours. I work 12 hour shifts and work 40 mins from home.

Before and after school care that will drop off and pick up from school

Have to take into consideration the major highway construction in Victoria and how much extra time that adds to travel time from work to home and trying to get to child care to pick up before closing.

In the community I live in because it is close to the school the kids attend

Home and school are beside each other

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Q17. Other, please specify Responses

My oldest daughter attends elementary school. My sons preschool/daycare offers before and after school care from children ages 27months to 12 years. I also have an infant who I would need to find additional care for because the center my son is at doesn't offer infant care.

Ideally before & after school care on site of elementary school (Sangster)

Preference is for childcare near my home and/or school to minimize the time my child is in the car commuting. Due to long commute times this is not always feasible due to hours available from child care providers and the toll it places on the child to be in care and school for long hours.

Any of the above, please!

Currently there is an expensive daycare operating st my children's elementary school. Staff are not good with children and do not have their ECE's. Childcare in schools should be affordable and staff should be trained.

Also close to my home as it is close to their school

Or middle school

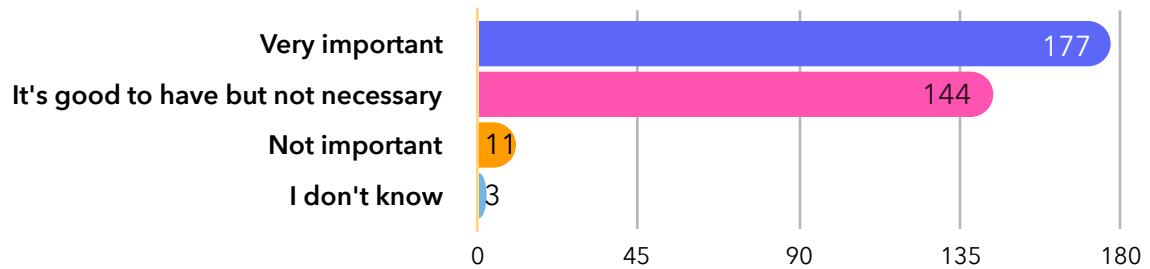
Daycare close to home and my oldest school is important as to have 1 drop off and 1 pick up. Our daycare has our youngest full-time and the oldest before and after school as well as breaks through the year, and summer camp.

boys and girls outdoor club

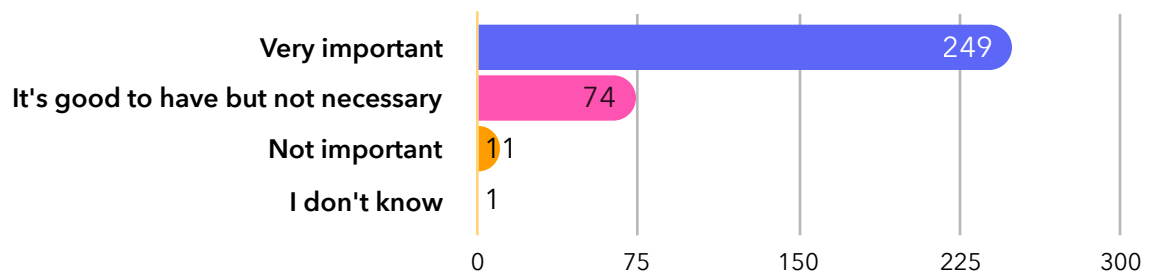
My home and the school are less than 10 minutes apart so either or. I live near the YMCA and it would be great to have a before and after school care facility there .

On the way to/from work that can utilize recreational facilities.

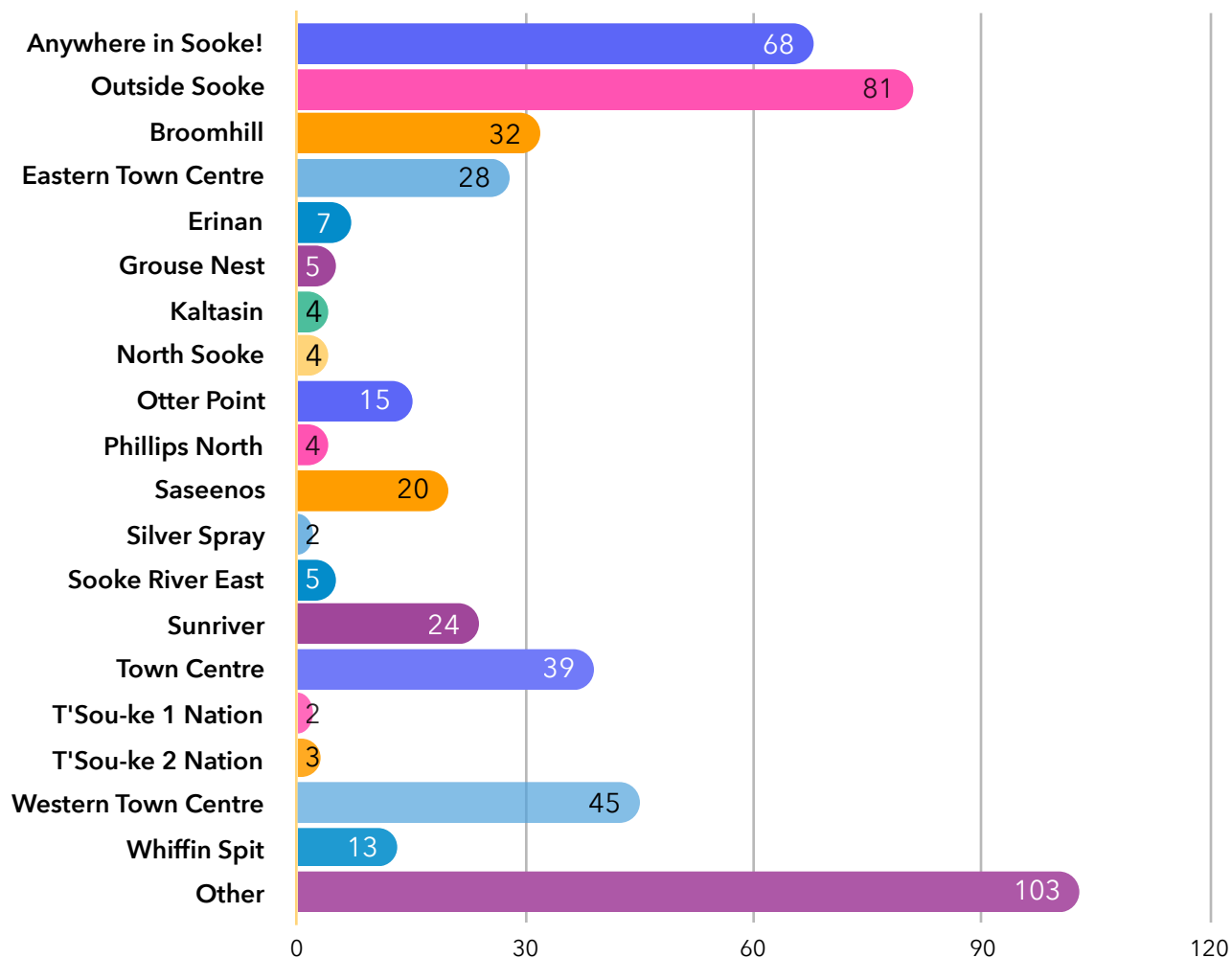
**18. How important is it that child care staff have an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Certificate?**



**19. How important is licensed (regulated) child care to you?**



**20. My PREFERRED location of child care is in this neighbourhood:**



**Q20. Other Responses**

East Sooke

Colwood

Colwood

Happy Valley area

Westshore

Crystal View Elementary

Colwood

Happy Valley Elementary

Langford

Colwood

Langford

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

langford
Metchosin
Happy Valley
With working in Victoria everyday, I can't get back to Sooke before 6pm, when most daycare centers close. So I have had to find care in Westshore area. But that is so challenging due to the incredible growth of the Westshore area.
Langford. Savory elementary.
Happy Valley
Bear Mtn, Millstream
Langford
Langford
Colwood
Langford, Goldstream, Matson Road, Ruth King ELementary School
Millstream
East Sooke
Metchosin and Langford.
Metchosin
Goldstream Meadows
East Sooke
Langford and Colwood
Langford
near lakewood school
Langford
I live in the western communities
Langford
Colwood
Westshore
colwood/metchosin
David Cameron
Langford
Colwoos
Happy Valley
Langford

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

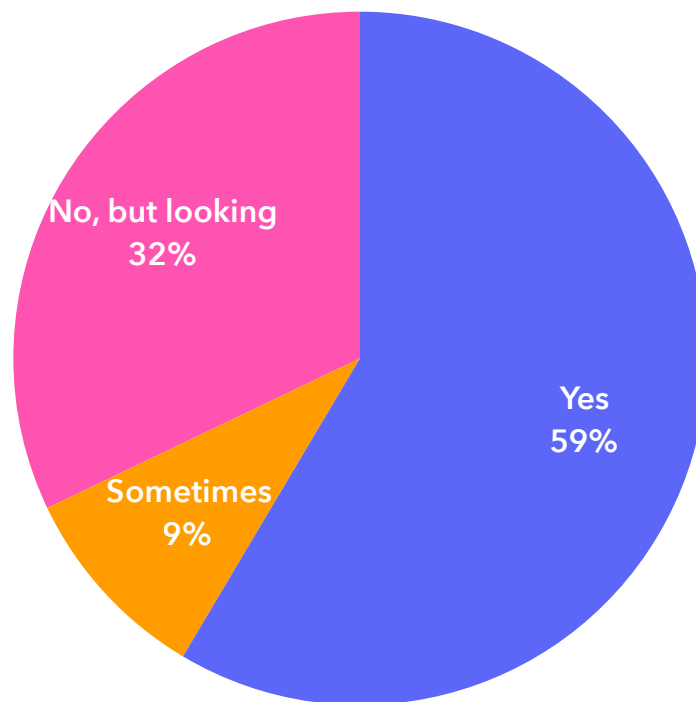
Bear Mountain
Langford/Metchosin
metchosin
Colwood
East of the 17 mile pub
Westshore area/Happy Valley Elementary School
Bear mountain area
Colwood & Langford
Millstream elementary school
Happy Valley
Metchosin
Colwood!
Langford. Royal bay.
Colwood
Langford
Royal Bay
Langford
Metchosin
Colwood/Langford
Wishart
Mill Hill Langford
Metchosin
Langford
Westshore-Colwood or Langford
Langford
not sooke
Westshore
Langford
Langford
Close to/at David Cameron right now
Westshore
Langford



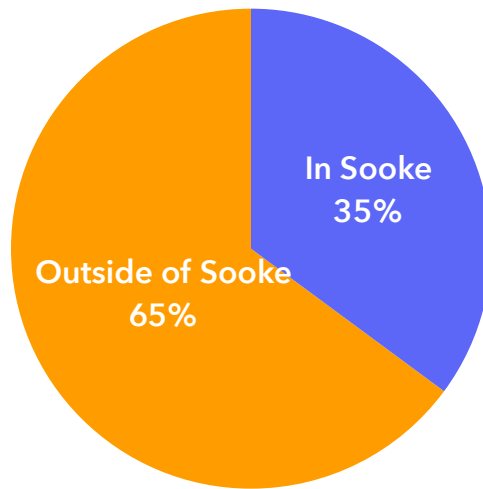
## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Happy valley
Colwood
Happy Valley
In Langford
Metchosin
Colwood
Metchosin
westhills
Sooke Elementary
Highlands
Close to Costso Langford Location
I work in Langford
I can't tell by the pictures where anything is, so please choose Westshore town centre.

### 21. Do you use child care services (other than yourself or your immediate family)?



**22.I currently use child care services:**



**22a. Where outside of Sooke do you use childcare services?**

Q22a. Where outside of Sooke do you use childcare services Responses
Metchosin
East Sooke
Colwood
Langford
Langford
Langford
Colwood
Langford
Colwood/langford
SummerBreeze Child Care in Metchosin
Colwood
Happy Valley
Langford
Colwood
Colwood
Westhills YMCA
Langford

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q22a. Where outside of Sooke do you use childcare services Responses
Colwood
Happy Valley
Langford
Colwood
Colwood
Colwood
langford
Colwood and Langford
Langford
Cowichan Bay
Victoria
Metchosin
YMCA childminding, teen babysitter
langford
Colwood/Langford
langford
Colwood
Langford
Langford
Colwood
Hanse Helgesen School where my child attends school
Langford
Langofrd/ Metchosin border
Willway Elementary
Langford
bear mountain
Western communities
Colwood
Langford
Westshore
Langford

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q22a. Where outside of Sooke do you use childcare services Responses
Langford
Langford
Langfors
Langford
Colwood
Saanich
Happy Valley
Langford/Colwood
Happy Valley
Colwood
Langford
Bear Mountain
Langford
Langford
Langford and Colwood
highlands
Langford
Langford/Colwood
Langford
Colwood
Langford
Colwood & Langford
Westshore
Langford
Boys and girls club wale rd
Colwood
Metchosin
Colwood and Langford
Langford
Langford.
Langford

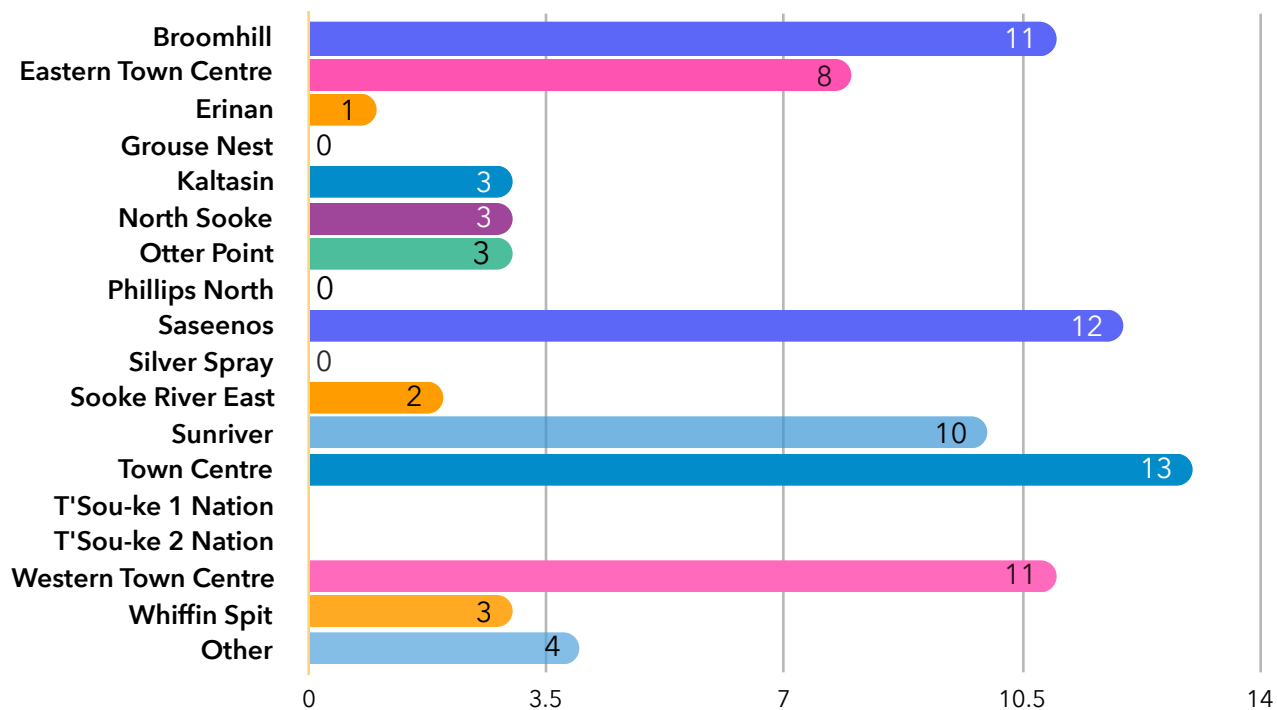
## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q22a. Where outside of Sooke do you use childcare services Responses
Wishart neighbourhood in Colwood
Millstream
Colwood
Langford/Colwood
Sannich
Fairfield
Langford
Metchosin ,Painted turtle on William Head Road
Colwood and Langford
West shore
Colwood and Langford
Colwood
Westshore, Langford
Colwood
Colwood
Langford and Colwood
Saanich
Langford
Westshore langford
Langford/metchosin boarder
Langford
Langford
View Royal
Goldstream Ave, langford
Langford
Crystal view elem school
Mechosen
Westshore
Colwood
Langford
Westshore

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q22a. Where outside of Sooke do you use childcare services Responses
Langford
Lanfgord
Langford
Colwood
Langford
Mechosen and Colwood
langford
Colwood
Highlands
Langford
Westshore
Langford
sunshine childcare
Langford
Langford
Langford, with kids klub.
Colwood
langford
Langford

## 23. My ACTUAL location of child care is in this neighbourhood:



### Q23. Other Responses

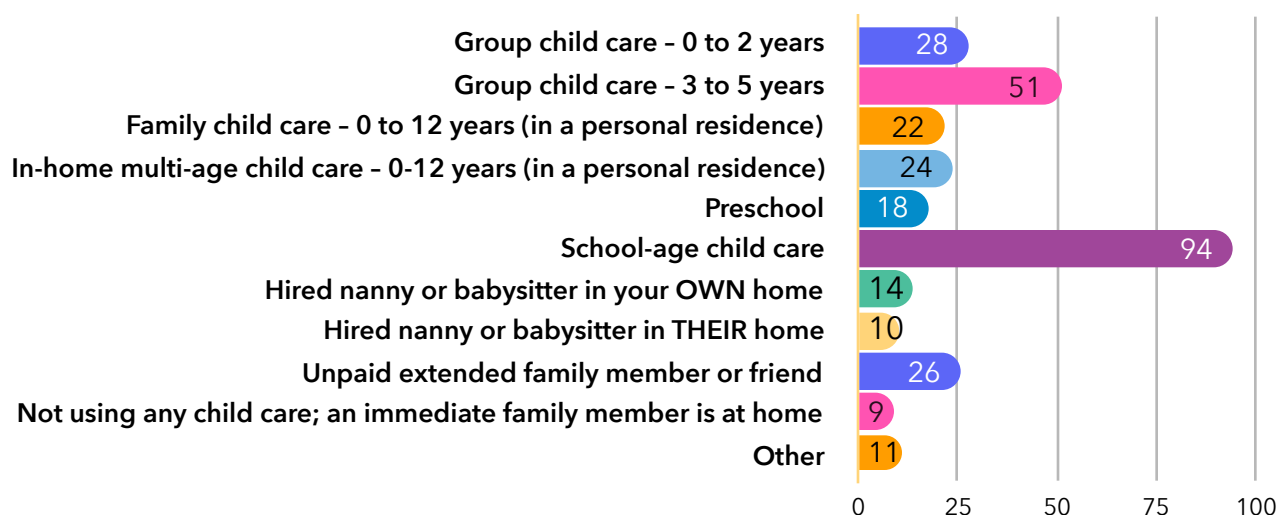
Steeple Chase

Grant Road

Langford

Westhills

## 24. My child(ren)'s child care arrangement:



### Q24a. Other Responses

Play school age 2 + licensed

AM/PM After school care - group care

Before and after school care on site

An EA from my boys school volunteered to take them temporarily before and after school

LNR

Friend providing unofficial care

Licences in home daycare ages 0-5 with no after school care

School age care in an unlicensed family home

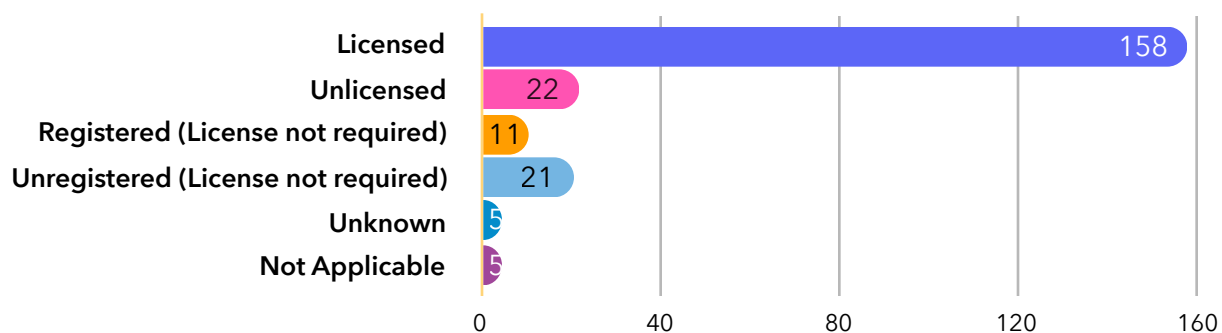
Before / After school

Before and after school care

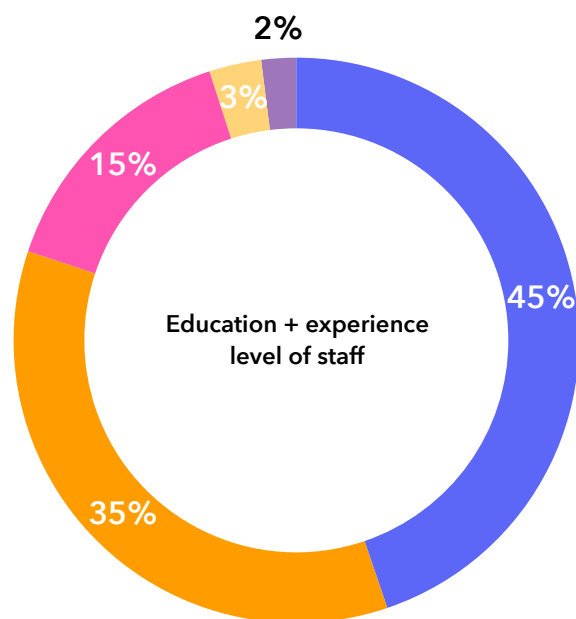
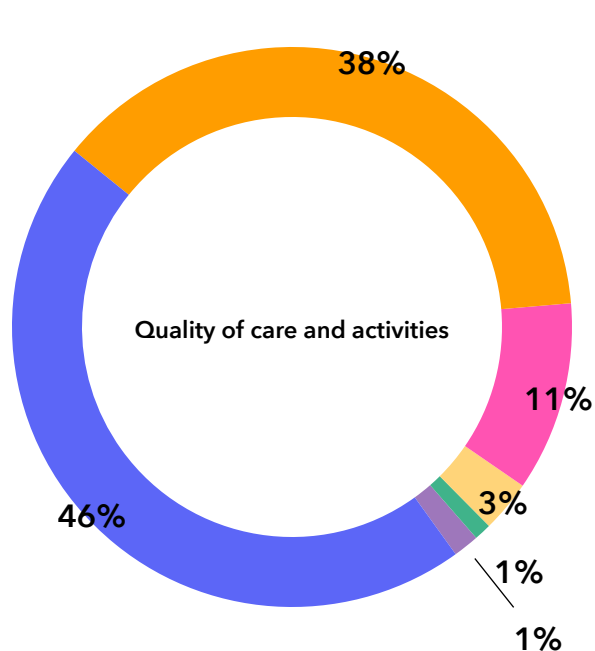
MFRC and Boys and Girls club outdoor program



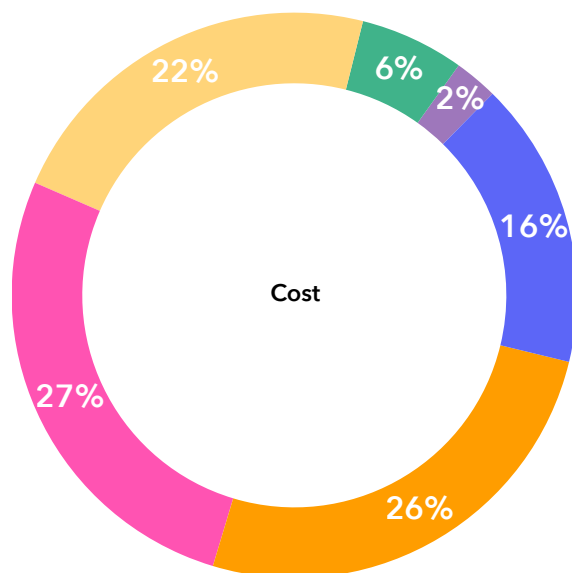
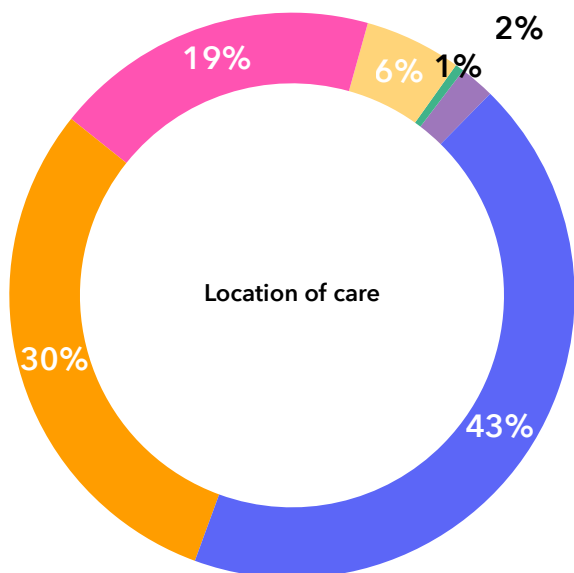
**25. My child(ren)'s child care program is:**



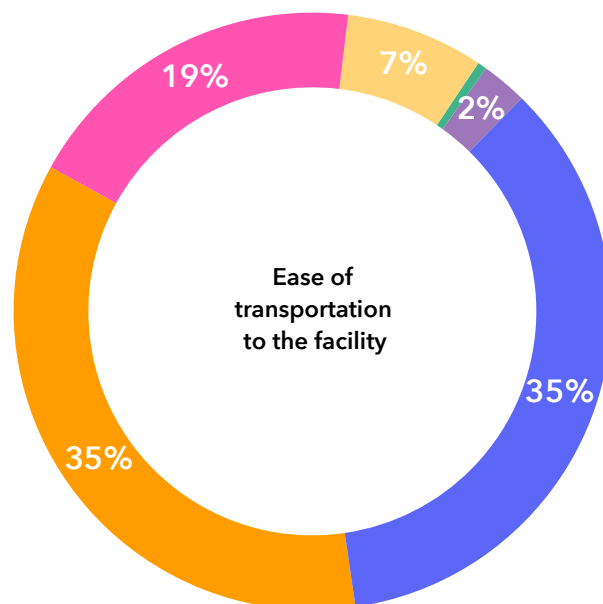
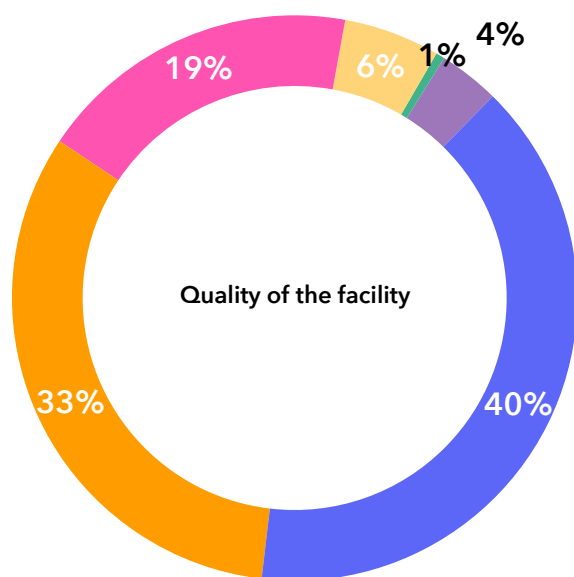
**26. Please rate the factors below with regard to your child(ren)s current child care arrangement:**



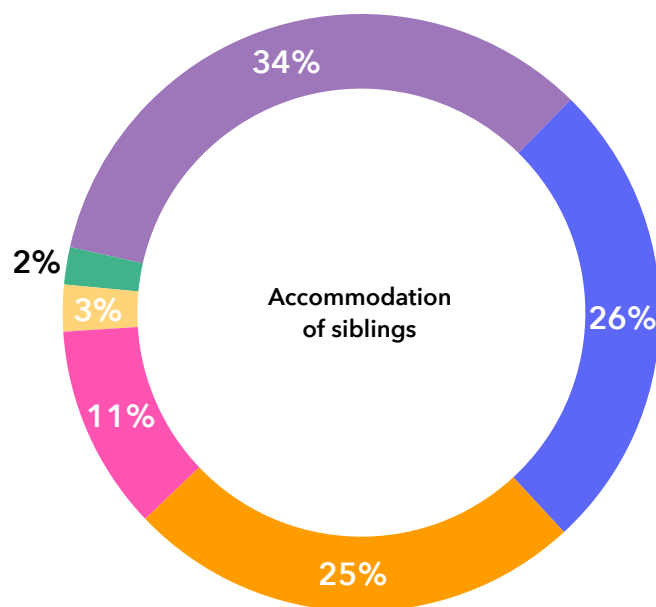
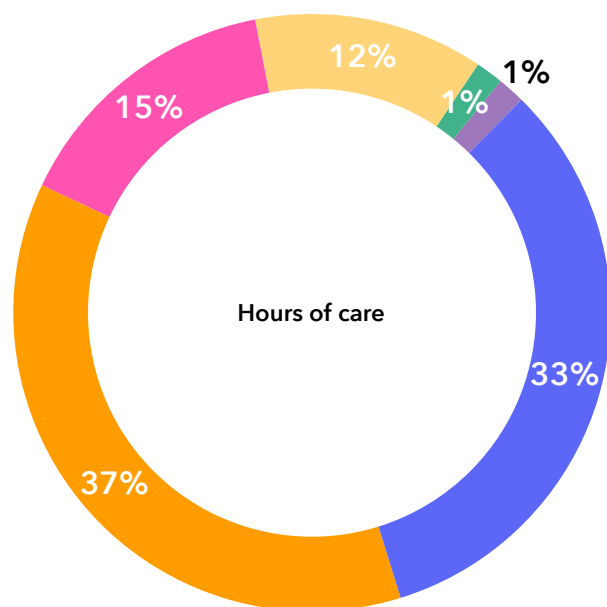
● Very Satisfied 
 ● Satisfied 
 ● Neutral 
 ● Dissatisfied 
 ● Very Dissatisfied 
 ● Not Applicable



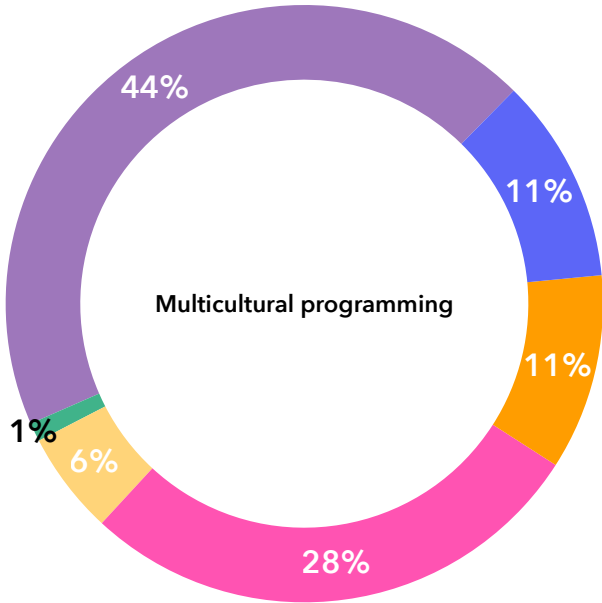
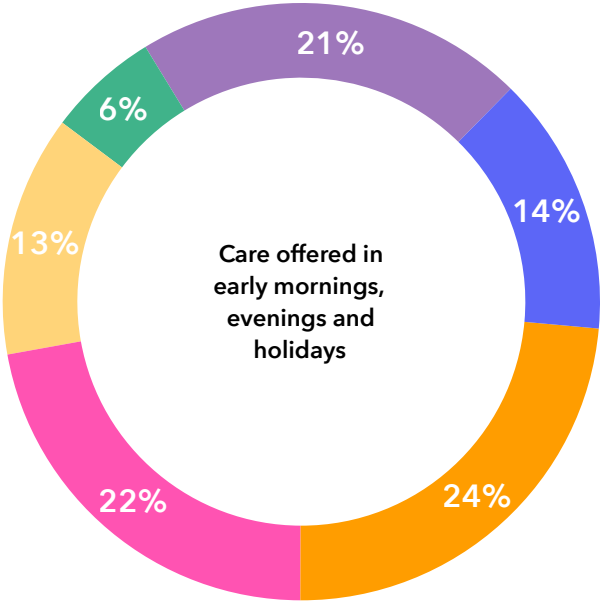
## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians



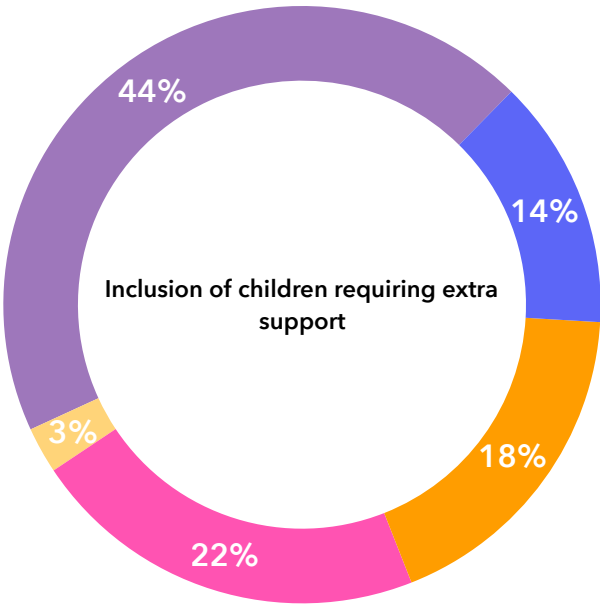
● Very Satisfied ● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied ● Very Dissatisfied ● Not Applicable



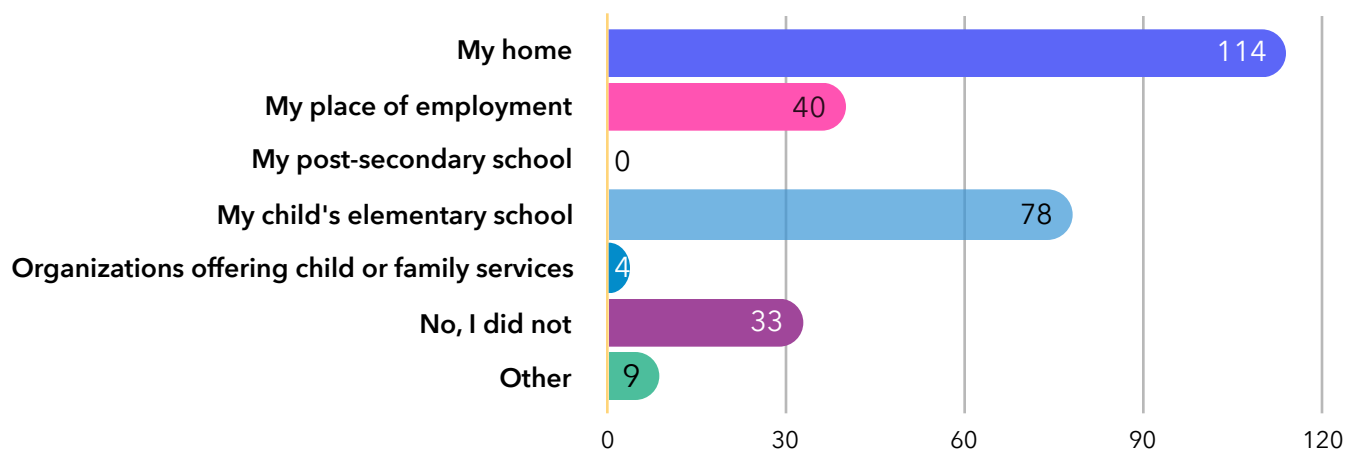
Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians



Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Not Applicable



## 27. Did you find child care services close to:



### Q27. Other Responses

In between home and work

It was the only center that offered before/after school care for my daughter's school and were open at a convenient time for drop off.

Between home and work

It's wherr my older child went

Convenient on my commute

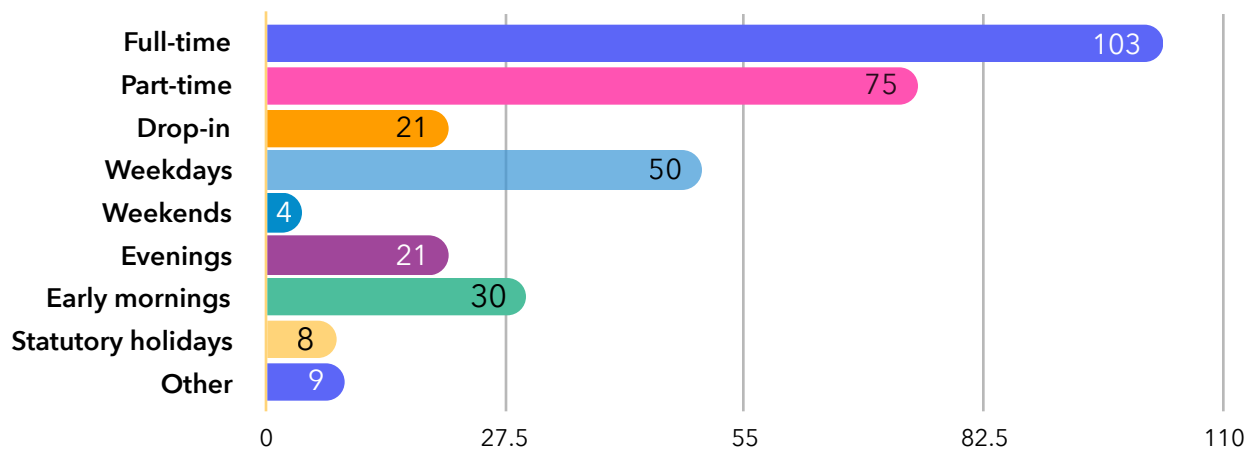
it was close to my home and then she moved

2 year old is in care at a midway point from home and work due to commute times and availability of care. 4 year old is in care near home.

Grandparents

The original intent was for our daughter to start in an offsite facility then transition into the on school ground facility once they had space. They will no longer be maintaining the school location as they can't find a manager for it. The present location is not too bad though, so it's not an issue for us at this time.

## 28. My children are enrolled in child care:



### Q28. Other Responses

Nothing at the moment due to the difficulties with getting my 2 and 4 year old enrolled in a class offered at the same time. There aren't any options for 2 year old drop in care and the part-time care it's too expensive.

Pro-d; spring break, summer break

Afterschool from 2:30-6:00.

As previously stated, an EA from their school is temporarily watching them until I can find before and after care for them.

morning and afternoons a few days a week, I have to pay for a full time spot

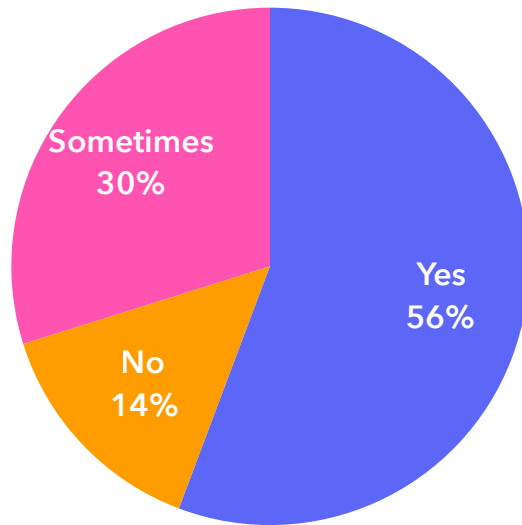
My sitter comes to my house

grand parents home.

after school

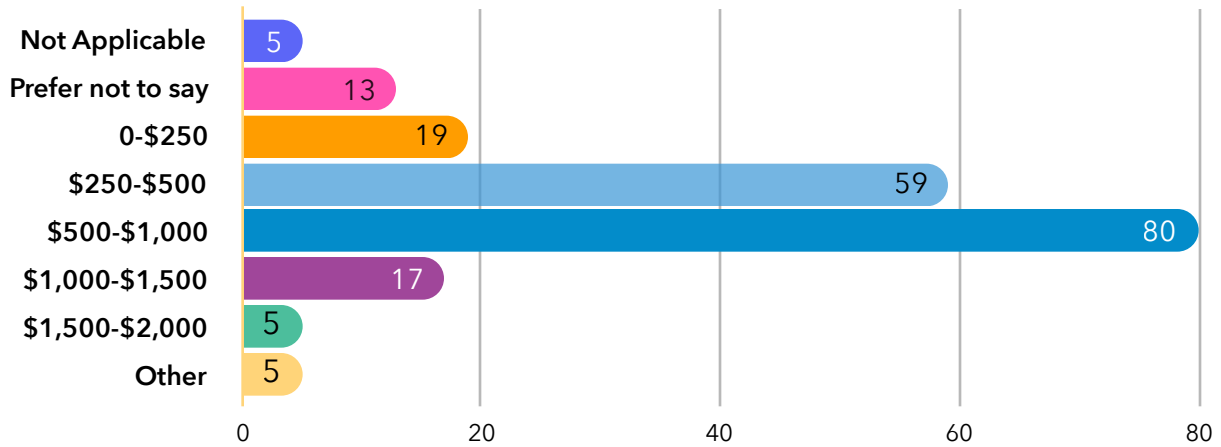
Enrolled in school-age child care

**29. Do you have child care at the times/days that you require?**



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 30. I currently spend the following (\$CAN) each month on child care:



#### Q30. Other Responses

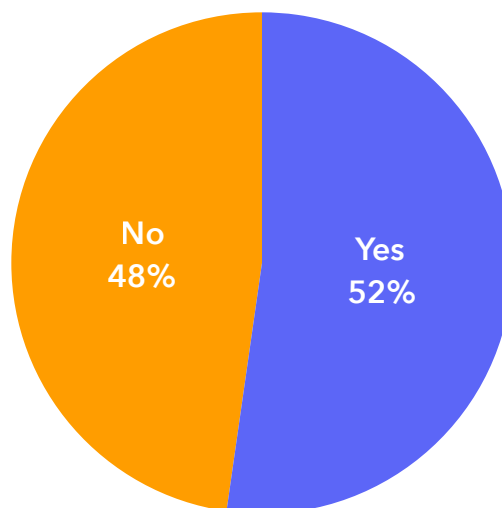
When we head my daughter in care we were paying 1000 per month part time

I have subsidized child care

During the summer it is close to 5000 a month thank god for accb

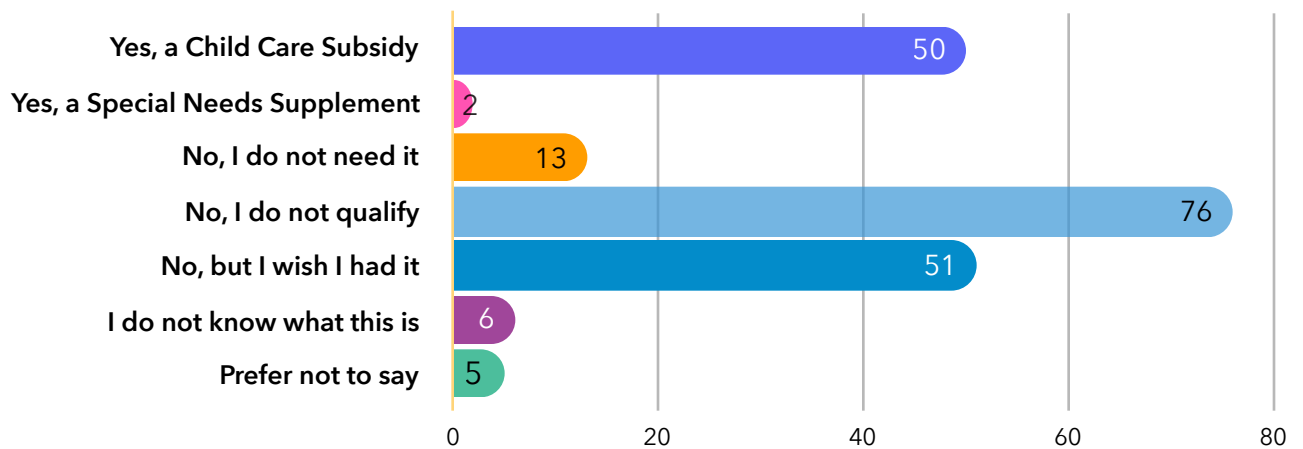
\$2309

### 31. The fees my family currently pay for child care are sustainable:

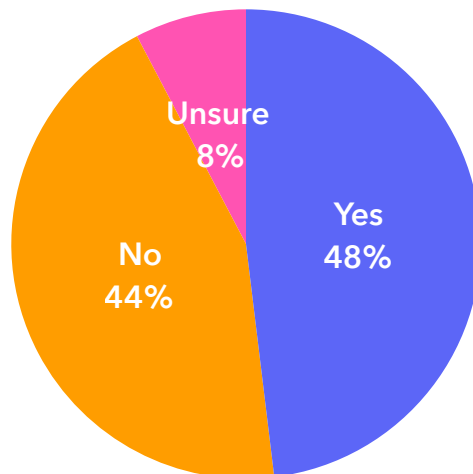




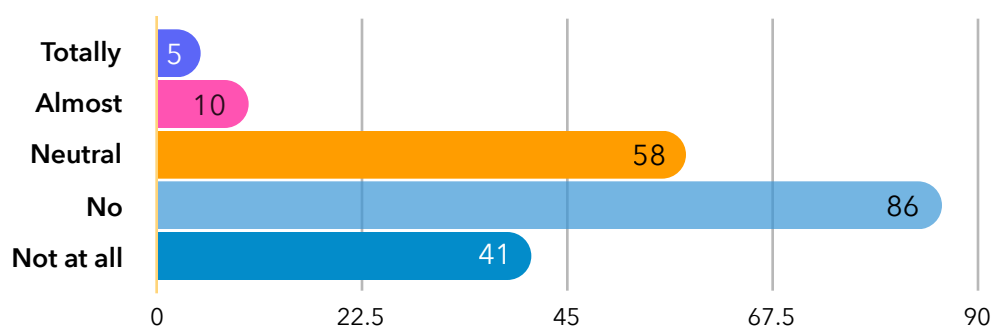
**32.Are you currently receiving a child care subsidy for your child(ren)?**



**33.If yes, is the subsidy enough to make up the difference between your ability to pay and the cost of your current child care arrangements?**



**34. I believe there is an adequate supply of all forms of child care services in Sooke for my needs:**



**35. Sooke needs more child care that is**

Infant, part time, shift work, regulated etc

Better hours, more full time, closer to schools

Interactive 0-3 years

Part time / evenings / weekends

Licensed, has ECEs, provides before and after school care, coverage during evenings, weekends and school/statutory holidays.

Located within walking distance to schools. Otherwise parents are driving kids to care, then the kids are being driven back and forth to schools, then parents are driving to pick them up again.

There must be an effort to have before/after by schools.

Infant/toddler not so much an issue here.

Let's get Sunriver Elementary going with before/after located onsite.

Open early and close late for parents that work downtown Victoria. More part time care and more infant care

Infant care

Preschool

Educated staff, not just in childcare but in special needs, alternative ways of learning. Nature based. No computer games. Out doors as much as possible. Teaching children virtues of life.

Flexible

Group licensed at the child's school. This is for Out of school care.

Licensed family, that allows more than one 12 month old child. It should be 7 children of any age.

For before and after school care

Flexible

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 35.Sooke needs more child care that is

Drop in and outdoors

Quality programming from educated, caring early childhood educators.

Montessori preschool , full day.

We were in it last year and I feel as though I've done a disservice to my child in having to move her to a daycare with little preschool curriculum due to the montessori program losing thier space in the school, which my older daughter attends. At 4 years old she was able to learn to sew, cook, and indentify all 18 names by sight of the kids in her class. I need full day care so other preschool programs do not work.

Preschool focused

Early mornings and evenings for people who work shift work 12 hour shifts.

Need more before and after school care.

Need more Montessori!

Once my son starts Kindergarden next year our daycare needs will change again needing afterschool care but also preschool type care for my daughter. I have not researched all the options available yet but there does not appear to be a lot of availability currently.

Accessable to all ages of children and community drop in options.

Increase in all categories

Before and after school care. In larger facilities.

Early mornings and more flexible hours

Nature based, infant toddler

Infant Toddler

not sure

assessible

Open earlier in the morning

Before and After care for school age children

That offers hours after 6 pm and weekends.

Affordable to the families.

After school. Also more reliable with answering questions, calls and returning msgs

Like The Farm Playschool. We bounced around from Happy Campers to smaller licensed places, and were unsatisfied with the inconsistencies of each facility, but our kids really thrived at Farm Playschool. Our oldest is in John Muir now, he was the first Farm Playschool "graduate" and his experience was excellent. Our two youngest daughters are at Farm Playschool now and they love it! It is \$900 per month, per kid, and is a lot of money for us but we feel it is a necessary strong start and feel the financial struggle is well worth the investment in our kids. I feel bad more children cannot attend this excellent program.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

<b>35.Sooke needs more child care that is</b>
After school care for elementary students.
Licensed care for infants/toddlers
I am not in sooke
Affordable
Affordable, better hours
Affordable.
inclusive of and appropriate for neurodiverse children
There seems to be a shortage of quality out of school care. We are lucky to have care.
Affordable and convenient.
Affordable to average people. We are lucky to have household income that is able to pay for the extensive learning for our special need kids
Part-time, extended hours, educational
Available to the working family. The care my daughter is in opens at 630am and goes till 6pm. She is in a before and after school program now but the centers offer the same hours for full time child care. They also have programs available on a weekly basis for summer, winter and spring breaks. It has been a great educational place for my daughter and I wish there were more like Happy Campers Child Care for other families. This care facility does provide out of school care for most westshore schools but I think they are a great example of what the district could provide for the working family.
In east sooke! There is none!
Open longer hours and weekends. I work 12 hour days and one weekend day. My husband is often away from home and not able to help. It is not possible to find licensed reliable care that meets our families needs so I have had to cobble together multiple forms of childcare.
affordable, with staff that are not always changing. In one year my daughters class has 17 different teachers. Very hard for 3-5 year olds to trust people when they are always leaving
Later evening spots, full time spots
Early hours in the morning and Later hours in the evening . It is a hour or more commute from Victoria
In colwood / Langford. This survey is supposed to be schools district 62, not just bloody Sooke ....
Evening & weekend
Available outside standard working hours.
Government funded
Affordable.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 35.Sooke needs more child care that is

infant/ toddler - we had to put my youngest in care in Langford as there was no availability and it needed to be licensed group. We had moved to 4 daycares with my 4 year old due to availability (short term spots, closures, poor fit with provider), our preferred family daycare closing due to the provider having a baby and at that point we needed stability and would not do home based care again and will strictly look for licensed group care.

School Aged Before/ After Care - we secured a spot but were lucky to get it.

My biggest need is adjustable times or drop in. I work overseas half the year and home the other half. I only require childcare when I'm away but I have to pay for it while I'm home which is a waste of my money just to keep her spot

Affordable and accessible

Open later than 5 or 5:30

Parting or after school programs

Affordable

OSC

Affordable

Is attached to schools and doesn't require a car to get to.

Outside of "normal" business days & hours

Sooke needs more licenced child care facilities. I was very lucky for my arrangement.

And surrounding areas need care that is adaptable and flexible and affordable. We are the capital city of the province and therefore our biggest employers are in the public sectors ...government (M-F, 8-4) and Health Care (rotating shift workers) and next are the service industry (again, rotating shift workers). We have very little child care providers that cater to the needs of our working class families and their working class schedules. Even if you are one of the lucky ones who has a nice Mon-Fri 8-4 schedule ....when you add in the travel time commuting during those peak times you are still away from your kids a min of 10+ hrs a day and sacrificing being able to afford to have experiences with your kids because a substantial amount of your income is absorbed into before and after school care ...add in the cost of housing and utilities and there is barely enough left over to cover food, gas, clothing, medicine, or any other essential daily need. Forget about extras

Open earlier to accommodate parents that work in town and start earlier. Ie: my daycare opens at 6:30am but I can't get to the hospital for 7am with the heavy traffic.

available on all days- not closed on stats etc.

Daycare and after school care. There's just not nearly enough.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 35.Sooke needs more child care that is

For the record some of these questions were difficult to answer given that I have two separate providers for my children. The survey does not reflect the diverse arraignments parents often have to obtain given the lack of care in the Greater Victoria area. I have been extremely pleased with my youngest (4 yo) care situation, but have been horrified by my daughters (6 yo). We are forced to use the care provider regardless because if not I would not be able to work, and so we are on several waitlists for her for before and after school care but I have yet to hear back from any other providers. It is a shame that I have to take her to a place that I do not trust or that fits her needs, yet I pay a big sum of money to have her in. I would have NO problem paying what I pay for childcare IF the quality of that care was above average. In my sons case, this is above average care, for my daughter it is not. This will be a further problem next year when both my son and daughter will be attending the same before and after care that we do not like. I suppose they will at least have each other and there is comfort in that, but it is a worrisome feeling and I hope to receive better news before this has to happen.

Before and after school care

Affordable, quality, varied hours, etc. Not just Sooke- all of westshore!!!

Part time and affordable for multiple kids

Accessible to families

Run in compliance with Licensing Standards

Financially Feasable for families

Near elementary schools. And also for special needs children who are in middle school and unable to care for themselves even if they are "old enough"

In Metchison. We don't live in sooke

Affordable

More options

Before and after school care, infant and toddler, 3-5 years, preschool

Quality and affordable. Not one or the other.

Closer to the school and the homes, part time care and better facilities

Quality. While looking for child care in 2011 i found many child care centers that was in home but not a quality service - lots of screen time or in dismal conditions. Sooke needs more child care that is provided by loving families who are looking to welcome more kids into their homes and provide organized care (crafts, walks, outdoor play, etc.)

affordable, convenient, available.

Low cost lisenced preschool

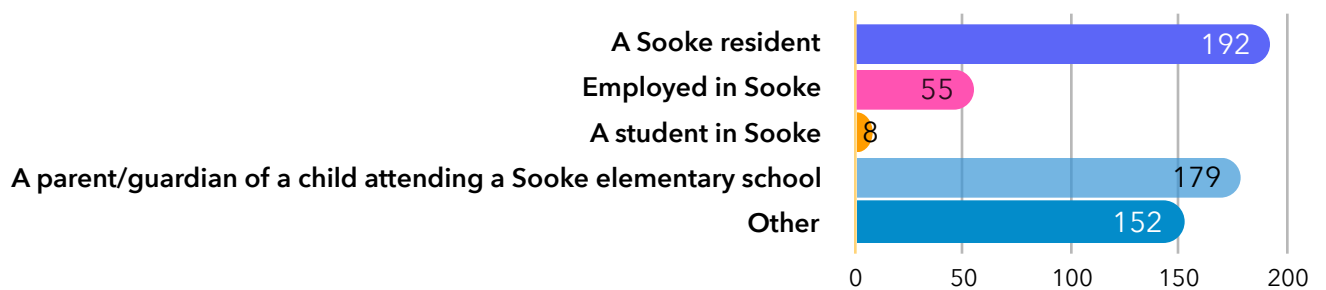
I think that Sooke needs more spots and maybe more flexibility of fulltime/parttime. Its not nice to stress about whether your child will get pulled off of a waitlist in time.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

35.Sooke needs more child care that is
-Infant / Toddler
-School aged (before & after school care)
After school childcare for k-5 at the school sites.
Open for longer hours
Affordable but quality... licensed and qualified
Affordable, longer hours! As per shift workers schedule (flexibility with days)
More options for before and after
Flexible before and after school care
Quality, with ECEs, and affordable
Affordable with flexible hours
Available
Out of school care for children with special needs
Affordable
More child care facilities. More affordable.
Part time licensed group infant/toddler spaces
Before/after school care closer to elementary schools. I also had a tough time finding a registered preschool (last year) and ended up settling on 2 hour play and learn classes at seaparc which were fantastic. When my youngest was in IT I found it impossible to find a part time spot (they are ALL full time) which wasn't necessary for us until preschool age.
Not just Sooke but the whole district needs more facilities that are less expensive.
licensed group centers
infant spots
flexible hours
accommodating children of different ages-ie infant, preschool age, and after school care
Affordable and with flexible hours and days for parents especially weekends and holidays.
safe and compassionate staff.
I don't live in Sooke so am not too familiar with the situation. We live in Langford and there is most definitely NOT enough daycare or childcare in or around this area.
Utilizes SEAPARC for recreation. More options for part-time school age children.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 36. I am:



#### Q36. Other Responses

Shirley resident

Previous Sooke resident

My child goes to school in Langford.

Parent of a high school student attending Belmont and one under the age of 3

Recently moved from sooke due to no childcare and work available.

We live in Langford

Langford

Langford

I don't live in Sooke, I live in Langford. But with the housing market, and me needing to find housing by January 31, 2020, Sooke might be on the list of possibilities for my family and I to move to.

Colwood resident

Langford Resident with a child attending in Langford

Child attends Middle school in Langford

Sd62 but in Colwood

LANGFORD RESIDENT

Live in Colwood, work in Esquimalt

Live in Otter Point, own a home here, and own/run a company in Dartmouth, NS.

westshore

we live in the sooke school district - in Colwood

I live/work and have child care in Langford and Colwood

In Metchosin

Langford resident with child in Spoke school district.

Langford

Parent in Langford



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q36. Other Responses
I'm a guardian of my two grandchildren.
A resident of Langford (sd62)
Langford. Rainville Road. Savory Elementary
Langford resident
Langford resident
langford
A Colwood Resident
Parent outside of Sooke
We live in Langford and our son attends Spencer Middle School
Do not live in sooke
A Colwood resident
We are a working couple with a single child in the Colwood area.
East Sooke resident with a child attending a school in Metchosen because Sooke school doesn't offer appropriate services for our needs.
Parent of a child in sd 62, but outside of sooke
We live on the border of East Sooke and Metchosin
Langford
Living in Langford and working in View Royal.
Work with Sooke youth and families.
Colwood
A parent of 2 students in Sooke school district 62
I am a Langford resident.
I live in Colwood, BC
in Lakewood school
A parent in langford
I don't live in Sooke I live in Langford..B
I live in Metchosin my kids are in John stub's and dunsmuir.
A Colwood resident
Live in langford
Colwood with child in Sooke school district
live in colwood

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q36. Other Responses
Work in victoria
Langford resident with a child in Sooke 62.
Moved away from sooke because of lack of options, access to health care, concerns about school funding and frequency of children experiencing bullying without proper support from school staff.
Parent within the Sooke District (not actually Sooke)
Live in Sooke and commute to downtown Victoria for work.
Langford
My child attends happy valley, the other attends bloom on peat rd
My children attend Lakewood Elementary and Ecole John Stubbs
In sooke school districts but live in langford
parent in the school district
We live in langford
Langford resident
We live in the Langford and have kids attending school in SD62
a parent of a student in SD62 but not in Sooke itself
Living in East sooke
Langford area
Sooke school district
Live in Westshore, part of Sooke school district
A parent of a children in middle/high school.
Live in Metchosin
I live in Colwood
Colwood resident.
My kids attended elementary, middle and secondary school in the Westshore
A parent of children attending school in the sooke district.
Westshore- kids are in SD 62
Thinking of moving to sooke
I live within the Sooke school district (Colwood), however the work area I travel to is in Sooke and beyond.
Live in Langford
Lived in Sooke for 8 years and there was little childcare available. My child had to go to daycare in sannich

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q36. Other Responses
Langford residents
Colwood resident
Live in Langford
I live in the Bear Mountain area but am part of SD62 so received this survey
Langford resident
Parent of children attending school in Langford
Live in metchosin
I have a child in SD62 and she lives sometimes in Sooke (when her Dad feels like it :). )
We live in Langford which is part of the sooke school district
Westshore
Metchosin resident
Parent in SD62
Langford
Parent outside of Sooke
I don't live in sooke but my kids go to the sooke school district in Westshore. I'm not sure why I'm filling this out for Sooke schools, but my school sent me this link.
Happy Valley resident
Children are in Sooke SD62
We live in Colwood
A Langford resident
living in langford area
I live in colwood
Live in Langford
i live in colwood my children attend david cameron elementary.
Colwood/Langford
We live in Colwood, which falls within the Sooke School District. Our children both attend school in SD62.
Child attending schools in Sooke's school district but physically in Langford
Resident of Langford with child attending a school in SD62
A parent of a child in the sooke school district 62
I live in langford
We are in the Westshore area Sooke School District but not in Sooke proper.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Q36. Other Responses

In school district 62 but live in westshore

Colwood resident,

Employed Victoria,

I live in Langford, I work in Victoria , my son goes to Dunsmuir

Parent in the sooke school district westshore

A Langford resident employed in both Colwood & Royal Oak

Colwood

Mom in metchosin

resident of Langford

I live in the Sooke school district but am in Langford

I am a Langford resident with children in SD62

schooling within the sooke district

Child attending secondary school

We're parent of international student attending middle school.

colwood resident and child goes to wishart elementary in colwood within the sooke school district

we are living in Langford and my daughter attends middle school in Langford

A parent of an elementary school child living in the Westshore.

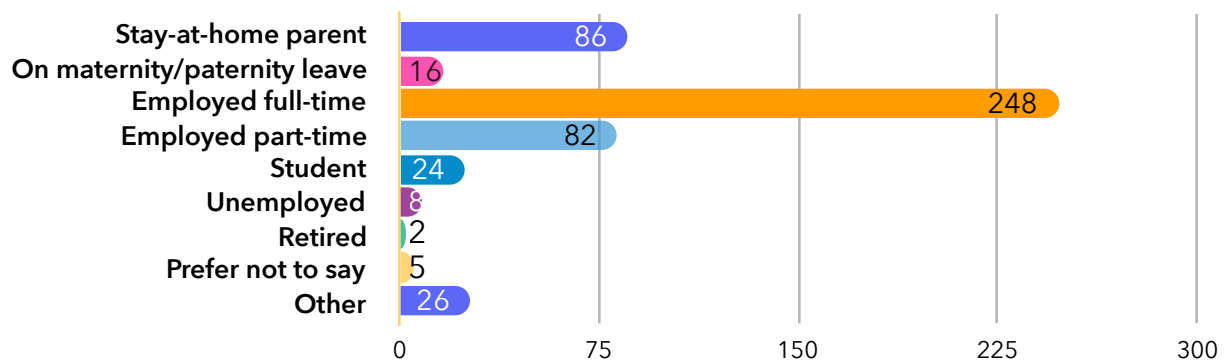
Langford Resident, child is in the Sooke School district. (David Cameron).

sooke school district but live in langford

My children go to school in metchosin and Colwood

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### 37. My current situation is:



#### Q37. Other Responses

Back to work part time in September

I run a business from home also

My hours range from part to full time month to month

Self-employed "work from home" mom

On leave from work for medical reasons

new resident, searching for employment

Home based business

I'm working from home.

Self employed

We relocated to Sooke from MB. I am an RN and my husband works shift work. I would like to start working again here, however childcare is just not feasible. Most of my paycheque will go to pay for daycare which does not make sense. Childcare was much more affordable in MB- I was paying just over \$1000/mo for an infant and 2 school age children (at the regular un-subsidized rate at a licensed facility).

I do daycare myself from home

In home daycare provider

With another career and still on the process of training

Self-employed, part-time

Employed casually

Part time contracted, part time on call, so sometimes full time, but need daycare coverage for all weekdays.

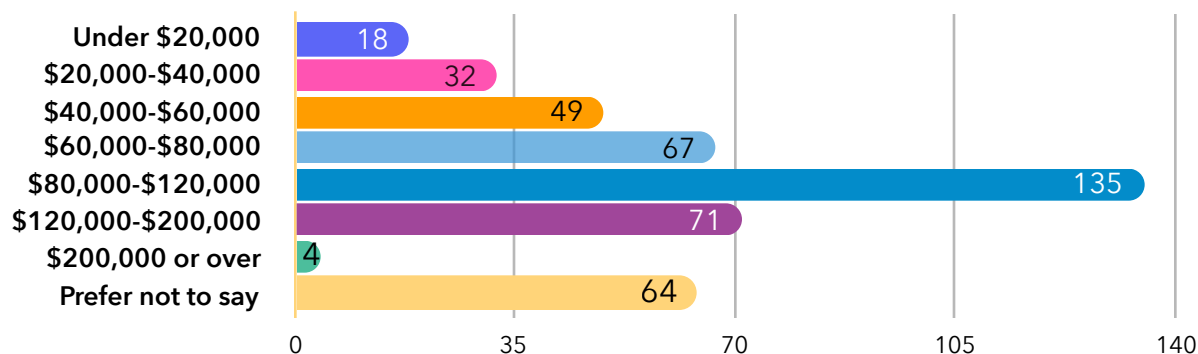
Self-employed part time and employed part time

Self employed

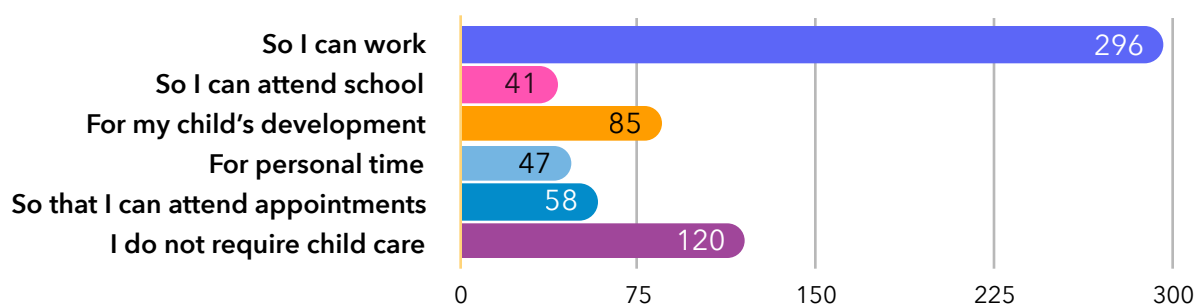
## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

Q37. Other Responses
Self-employed
sole proprietor of a small painting company. i work full time +
Recently moved to Langford and starting a fulltime job in 2 wks
Self-employed
Self employed
Self-employed
stay at home mom trying to find work
self employed

**38. My total household income last year, before taxes and deductions, was:**



**39. The primary reasons that I need child care for my child is:**



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

The two outdoor childcare services in Sooke don't have hours that are accessible. Even if I was a TOC in Sooke I wouldn't have time to get to the school or get to the daycare after work in time.

Subsidy is based on income BEFORE student loans, cost of housing etc. If my in-laws hadn't stepped up to take one kid full-time and the infant 2 days per week, living in Sooke would not be sustainable without serious financial stress. I shudder to think what people without relatives who can help do. We have one well paying FT job and 1 30hr/week 10 mo/yr job between us and hearing that infant spaces are \$1300/mo FT made me want to cry. I am satisfied with my childcare situation but many people settle for unsafe situations due to lack of money or options.

We have had some difficult and trying experiences with group daycare, finding our child did not get enough attention when she attended such childcare. We wish to find a practical, smart and reliable licensed childcare who understand the implications of having a child with allergies.

We selected child care outside of Sooke because of the possibility of a road closure and being unable to reach our daughter. This is a big concern for us when she reaches elementary school age and may be a reason for us to leave sook as we both work in town and would not be able to get to her in case of an emergency.

Being a separated parent I have been put behind the eight ball while the other parent has chosen not to work. As we are not divorced this will have a severe impact on my financial situation in the future. I would have LOVED to stay home and raise kids but as I chose to work and the other parent chose to stay at home I am now liable for costs that will push off my retirement for a decade or more. So in short, the parent who chose not to work is benefitting while the one who made a difficult decision to be with the kids is being harmed...All because affordable childcare was not available.

Drop-in/creche style childcare. A lot of people, like myself, have no family or backup here and cannot attend meetings or appointments when necessary. I desperately need to go to the dentist for instance!

Need more options for special needs. I have 4 kids who have suffered with intense trauma and nobody understands, they just think they are rude naughty kids. These kids are our future society.

We pay \$760 for four days per week. We do not get a subsidy and our provider is not part of the government funded program to reduce rates for families. I don't feel that day care fees are fair and equitable. Our provider needs to make a living, and we need to be able to live a comfortable life.

I don't actually know how most families afford the cost of living, especially with several children in day / out of school care.

Would love to see something like a boys and girls club for before and after school care!

There seems to be a serious lack of infant spaces.

I found that child care was too expensive for me to go back to work full time.

I have been told by MCFD that I need to put my kids in daycare however there is nothing available

Need childcare options which allow parents to request shorter times so as not paying for entire days child care when only needed for 2 hours

It would be nice to see other after school programming, a youth centre/child centre. Preteen is just as important to be able access programs at the local level. A centre to hang out, a safe place too.

Thanks for putting this survey together!



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

Most parents need to commute during traffic hours. By example, most people needs to leave Sooke around 6am and makes it back around 5pm. Childcare providers should adjust their hours to that reality. Sooke should also have more services and business and create more work for its resident but that's another story.

There aren't enough of the certified staff at the centres and the home daycares, though not full, are unable o take my children because of their ages putting the provider over the limit. I'm fine with my children being cared for in a home environment - it's what our family wants. We want our kids to be part of a family, and learn life skills - behaviour in public, respect, and so much more. We need for our kids to feel safe and secure with a provider that KNOWS them and their quirks. In our search, we have learned that home daycares are not more expensive than centres - they are often lower priced; but centres offer families more financial aid. We are being discouraged from attending home daycares due to money. It's not right.

I move to full time work when I graduate next April. I am very concerned about how I will be able to manage that without child care. As a single parent it is also a huge expense, but if I don't pay I can't work. Having afterschool care would make a huge difference in our lives.

Affordable care

We need more before and after school care options. There are no nky two main providers

I am fortunate that my son has family to watch him after school, because I would have real trouble affording daycare.

Fix the playground and make it safe. That's what our kids need most right now.

Childcare for shift workers is needed

Can schools offer child care instead? Or can it be like a library time after dismissal? Thanks

As I parent I am very familiar with the hardships of finding good childcare. There is always a great need for it and never enough providers or support for the providers

I am thrilled to see this survey come out. Wave spent thousands of dollars and sleepless hours trying to find an appropriate solution for our son.

I think for Sooke, since many parents work in Victoria, that perhaps the times for closing could change to 6:30pm just to have that bit of buffer to get back to Sooke from Victoria. If daycares in Sooke had that option, I would send my grand children to daycare and school in Sooke.

Have more options for children with special needs!

It's WAY too expensive!

I know many parents who struggle to find daycare and after school care.

Support for special needs children.

This should include all of the westshore not just Sooke. Even though we are part of the Sooke School district it encompasses the whole of the Westshore not just Sooke.

Full day Preschool in our area would also be very helpful. None of our children will attend preschool because we are unable to make half-day preschool fit in with childcare schedule.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

More programs offered at the schools would be beneficial. Before/after school care requires coordinating pick up and drop off to/from daycare and school. The more pick up/drop offs there are, the more opportunity there is for something to go wrong. When I did require childcare I found the before/after school options very limited.

There is a huge problem for providers like "His Kids" to actually find appropriate space for out of school programming on the west shore.

Affordable child care needs to be a priority. I will not send my kids to an unlicensed facility or a home daycare. But there aren't really many options for parents with multiple children. My husband works shifts and so we may only need daycare some days but having to pay full time rates just doesn't make it affordable. I think there are a LOT of parents in the same situation who are not working in decent-paying careers because it just doesn't make sense financially to work full time and only bring in a small amount of money after paying for daycare.

I think encouraging daycare providers to come to Sooke would be useful, perhaps some sort of incentives can be provided?

Need child care for older kids that will pick up and drop at school

We need before and after school care in schools in Langford and Colwood.

I would love to see an after school program where kids can get some physical exercise (pool, soccer, gym, etc) while their parents finish work.

More reasonable price

Nature based

My answers were all directed to not needing child care as my children are now old enough to stay home for a bit until I get home from work. A few years prior however, childcare was a necessity and extremely important. We looked for options as we wanted to ensure the best fit for our family.

As Sooke is so far from Victoria, there needs to be later care available for parents that work in Victoria and are off at 6:00pm, getting home by 7:00pm. There also needs to be care available on Saturdays and Stat holidays.

There are facilities (schools, with classrooms, library, sports hall etc) that could cater for before and after school care, be it 30mins or a couple of hours, to allow parents to drop off their children knowing they are safe, and not having to use a bus system to get from A to B. Parents are willing to pay for such services that provide a salary to educators to look after children during this time frame. It would be less burden on the parents and children having to commute at crazy times in a morning/afternoon which is exhausting and at risk with the already crazy traffic.

While more child care spots are needed there also needs to be more facilities that offer programs in conjunction with childcare (music, art, sports, etc) as many families are stretched for time and this may be the only way for children to participate in some of these extracurriculars.

Hours are difficult as again many families do not work in Sooke so hours of 7-5pm are not realistic to make it to and from work.

A facility somewhere near our house or school where my son attends to. And hopefully a child care fee that is not expensive.

Will this extend to other areas and families not living in Sooke?

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

seriously give some consideration to supporting the concept of 24 hour care providers. Not everyone has family or a spouse who can be home overnight and we have a huge working population that work evening and night shifts. But of course, it would have to be affordable. And we need affordable care across the board. Please know I recognize that we live in paradise on Vancouver Island and I can't imagine raising my kids anywhere else. But as a single mom who receives no financial support aside from the child tax benefit (which I am beyond grateful for) it is a struggle. I make a decent living and work a second job and live a very modest life, everything in my home has come from thrift stores or been handed down to me. I want for nothing and put what I can into RESP's for my kids. But there is a moment everyday when I reflect on the success of other countries who truly seem to have figured out that child care and education (including post secondary) are the benefit of everyone to be government provided & funded programs. We shouldn't be killing ourselves and sacrificing having any kind of life with our kids cause we are all so exhausted from working multiple jobs to pay for care. Our governments have oodles of money to support other countries affairs, and I'm grateful they do, after all, it is the Canadian way...but wouldn't our own citizens benefit immensely from free child care and free post secondary education. The prospects of the success of that in this country are endless.

Day care providers are not qualified to take care of kids with ADHD. My son was actively disliked by one, left behind at the park after a field trip and was not noticed as missing by the leaders and was kicked out of a daycare. It was one horrible experience after another. It was heartbreaking leaving him with unqualified providers who blamed his ADHD on my bad parenting skills.

We have been very fortunate thus far, however I am finding the process of registering for "daycare camps" during breaks difficult with time constraints and no guarantees that you will get a spot when required.

what are the benifets we can get for child care service, and how much it will cost ?

Child care here is unaffordable and crazy to find!

I didn't feel like your survey captured all the questions or needed to.

I'm a solo parent with an elementary school child it felt like many of the questions were pertaining to child care for kids 0-5. It is impossible to find after school care my child is st Savory school.

When our children were younger, we had a live-in nanny as it was too expensive and difficult to find spots for child care. Having a live-in nanny had the benefit of us being able to go to work while the kids were still in bed in the morning.

We need more ECE'S!!!!

I know that many of my neighbours are struggling with daycare and employment

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

The locations of daycare facilities should be thoughtfully considered and placed in safe, accessible areas with ample parking. If Sooke is truly in a daycare crisis, then why not mandate developers to include daycare centres in the construction of new neighbourhoods? The empty lot on the corner of Church Road and Arranwood would be a great place for a mixed residential/commercial building that includes a daycare. And the new development on the Wadams Way/Church Rd farm land would be another great place to build a daycare facility. Or perhaps on the Helgesen farm land that is being developed? Maybe there could be some incentives or subsidies available for daycare construction? As our community continues to grow, so should the investment of proper daycare facilities with adequate parking to accommodate new families. It is unacceptable and irresponsible to place daycares in dangerous and poorly suited locations (such as Church/Felderhof) in order to meet the demands of a community that is perhaps growing too quickly. Sooke deserves so much better than this!

As a WorkBC centre, we can provide funding for our clients to have childcare so they can attend appointments and job search activities/training, etc. We would like to see enough childcare in the region so that parents can go back to work and work shift work or odd hours outside the typical "9-5" hours of most daycare providers

Part time childcare needs to be available to families. I cannot afford to pay for full time service especially when we don't need it full time.

Some thoughts should be made on requiring new housing developments (like the massive one to be developed on Wadams Way) to have community spaces available so that Sooke doesn't just become a bedroom Community but a thriving urban space with thoughtful urban planning and design. We do not need more cookie cutter housing developments crammed on small lots - we need more retail and safe Community space thoughtfully integrated into sooke's core.

Currently, there is a proposal to rezone 2365 Church Road. This is completely bizarre, especially given there is a large, multi-acre lot, set to be developed down the street. Why is the District supposedly trying to squeeze 40 children into this space, where parking and traffic are completely limited, making this an unsafe area to do so ---- especially when there is a reasonable alternative a few blocks away AND where appropriate safety considerations can be integrated into the development? The 2365 Church Road address could accommodate 10 children, not 40. I strongly urge staff and Council to reconsider the rezoning of 2365 and integrate the planning of childcare spaces into the vacant lot at Church and Wadams Way.

Is there a community planning map of District services? What is the distribution of current childcare services? Is the intent of this survey to help forecast future needs? Without more information, this survey (as written) is challenging to provide constructive feedback.

What other services is the region looking to support? What strategies are being used to develop Sooke's economy? The availability of jobs in Sooke impacts the need for childcare services. While future planning of childcare is needed, receiving this survey in conjunction with the odd proposal to rezone 2365 Church Road is, again, bizarre and exceptionally concerning for the safety of the children in the area, and those who would potentially consider enrolling children in the childcare centre at this location. I would not pay for my children to enroll in childcare services at 2365 Church Road property due to safety concerns. In short, reconsider this rezoning, plan for spaces at the property yet to be developed at Church and Wadams Way.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

When my children were younger, I was in need of childcare, as I was a single mom; However, I could not afford it. So, I simply created my own childcare, and watched family and friends children alongside my own.

Childcare costs as much every month as I am currently able to make a month with a job.

I have never really been able to afford childcare; Now my children are older, I find I am grateful I could never afford it, because the relationship I have with my children is very open, and honest.

Affordability for all families. Lack of availability. Lack of access to affordable childcare means infants and children may not be prepared for school entry if caregivers are unable to meet this need on their own.

Child care needs to be more affordable

I would like to know if it is wise to get on a waiting list somewhere and then if i dont need services withdraw my request, can you offer advise?

None re: Sooke - the emails should have stipulated this was just for Sooke, not the Sooke School district.

it would be nice if theres a program that the Government is offering for after school care and pro d.

I was hoping that this survey would ask questions about aspects of quality child care that parents value, but it did not. Our family has been in a position where we could have childcare in Sooke, but we have elected to struggle without it because we have not found an affordable option where we feel that our children will be safe and have their age-appropriate developmental needs met. Before investing in a childcare strategy or assisting with funding to particular childcare providers, I hope that the District of Sooke will take a careful look at the quality offered by each provider, using sources other than the providers themselves or their hand-picked sources. Objective sources such as licensing records and financial records for the provider would be very valuable, as would examination of variables such as staff turnover rates. By the time the findings of this survey are implemented, our children will have outgrown the ages where childcare is needed, but I am pleased to see that the District of Sooke is attempting to contribute to solutions on this important issue.

When my children required care, it was limited availability and the cost was high. I only required care 3 days a week and no one wanted to fill their spots with "part time" care. I would have had to pay full time to get part time care. I also only required after school care and not before that was also an issue finding care. Costs are too high regardless of house hold income. Families have a hard enough time making ends meet.

I know a lot of parents and many situations that would benefit from more/affordable child care options.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Parents + Guardians

### Other thoughts or questions I have regarding child care service delivery Responses

I don't know about sooke, but Langford is terribly short on good childcare locations. More assistance should be made to accommodate the child care providers in the schools as much as possible, including allowing the schools to open the gyms etc.

For that matter, it would be FANTASTIC if it were possible to have some teachers to be able to assist the children after school, even if it were only for 2 hours. My families particular situation is that I can't make it to pick up until around 1610...it's not that long after school, but it's long enough that she has to go somewhere offsite. It would be nice if it were possible to be able to save the money that we spend on after school care.

1 - Public transportation to and from...

Our family needs to have safe, reliable, and easy public transportation access, ie: bus or shuttle.

2 - Quality care:

For our family, it's been an uphill struggle to find quality, licensed, reliable, affordable, educational, available spaces or time slots as needed, and genuinely loving appropriate care.

Our child was in the best Licensed Preschool, Kingfisher Prescool, but it was only 2 1/2 hours a day, which was not enough for our child or our family as a whole. The Preschool program was also expensive, so it ate up the daycare, babysitting, sport program monthly budget.

There also seem to be a number of expensive and poor quality care spaces within people's homes which I believe is not a safe or good thing for the children and families of Sooke.

In a perfect world, I'd like a high quality, free-of-cost, or very low cost, centrally located program that runs almost like a school, but with drop-in available spots from 5 am to 7 pm.

It would be amazing if the program could be connected to our new Sooke Library Branch, the SFRS, our Indigenous community, and Seaparc.

Thank-you for taking the time to conduct this survey and for reading some of my thoughts on this important subject matter.

WE need more!

attention to those who work shifts, not just mon-fri 9-5

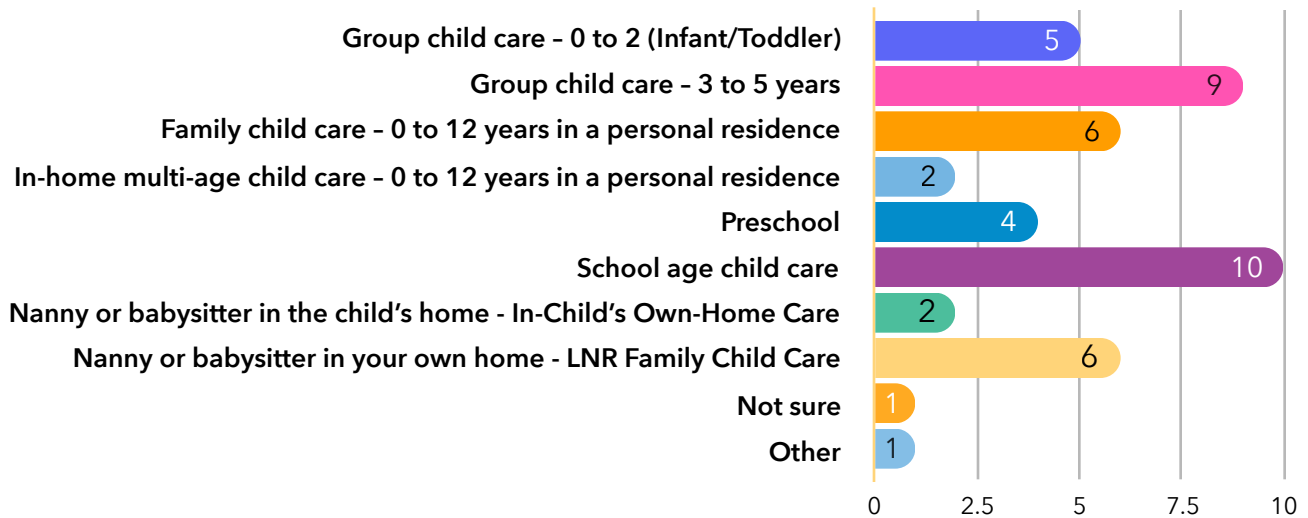
finding affordable drop-in or 1 day a week childcare

# APPENDIX C

## Child Care Provider Survey Results

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

### 1. Your child care program is:



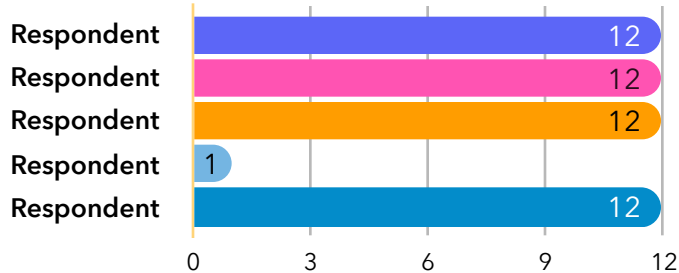
#### Q1 Other Response

Pre-K

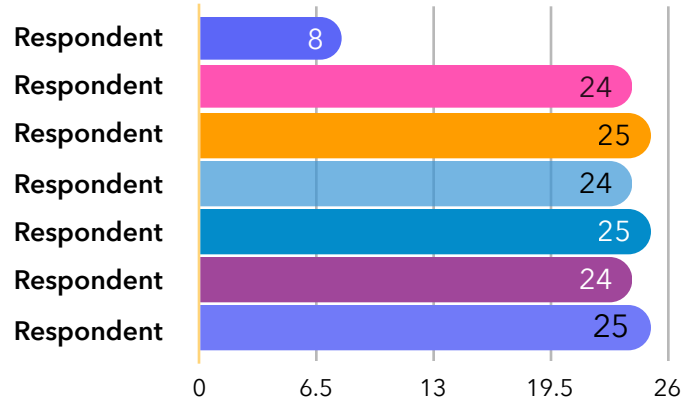


## 2. How many child care spaces do you have:

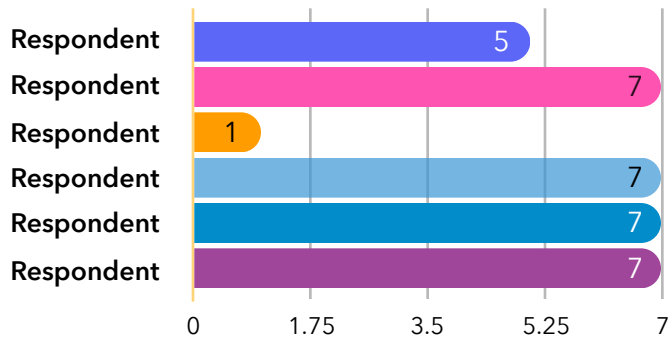
Group child care - 0-2, Infant  
Toddler



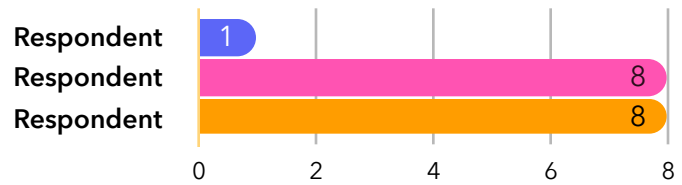
Group child care - 3-5 years



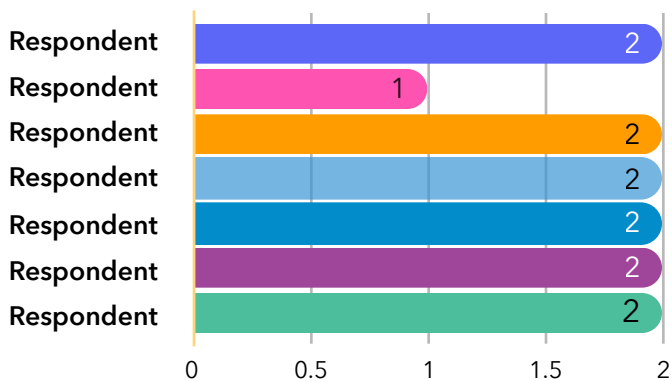
Family child care  
0-12 years  
in a personal residence



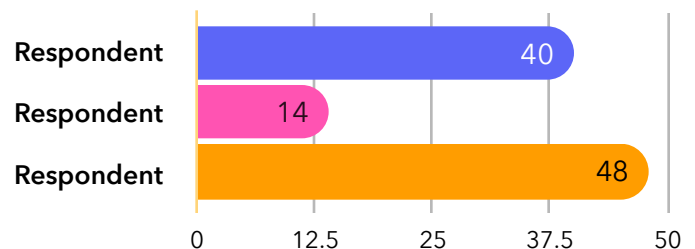
In-home  
multi-age child care 0-12 years  
in a personal residence



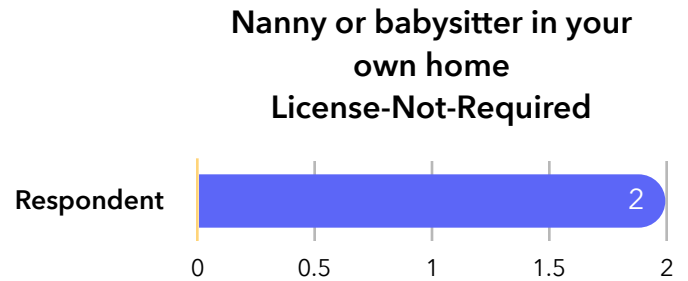
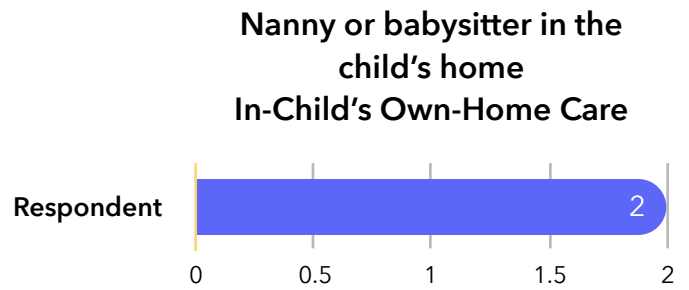
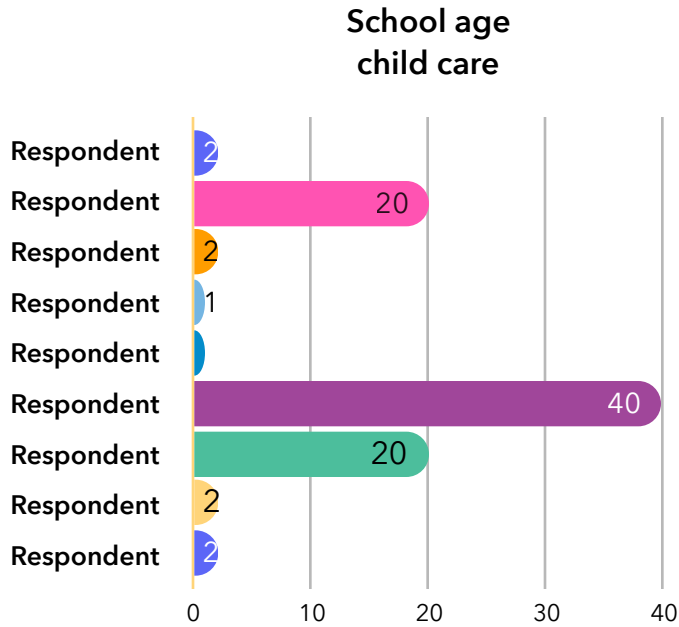
License-Not-Required  
Family Child Care



Preschool



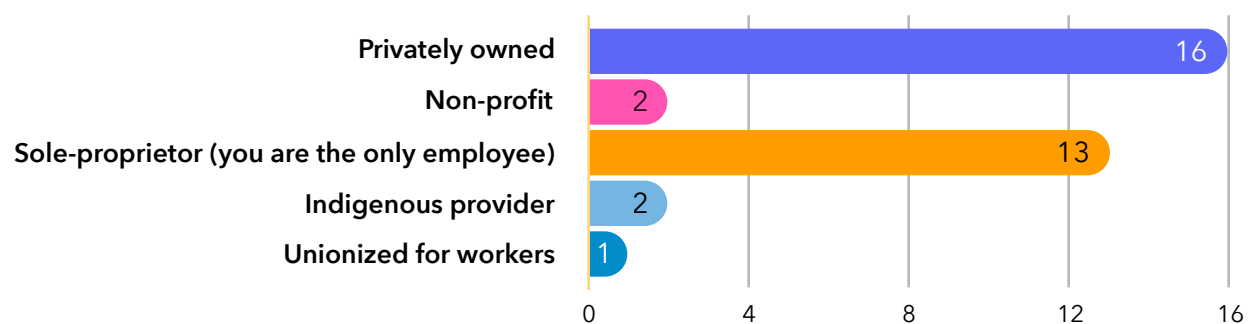
## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers



### Q2. How many child care spaces do you have - Other Responses

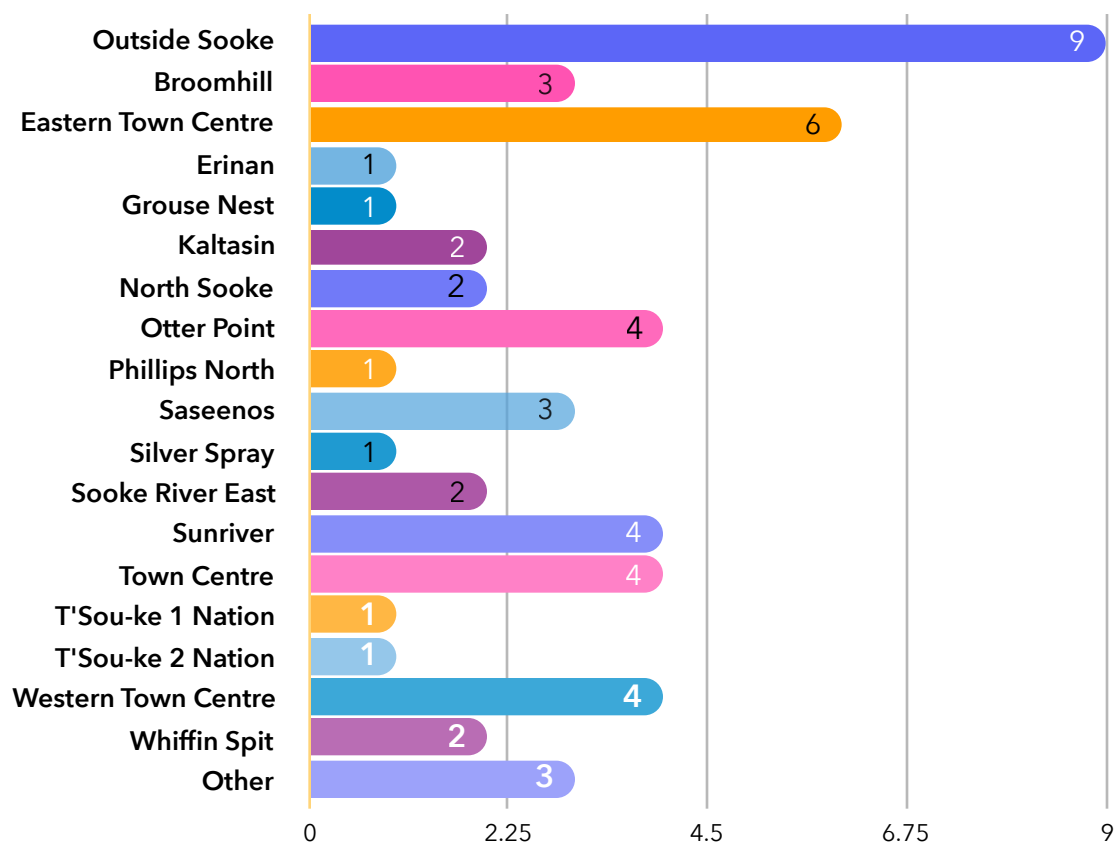
Montessori preschool, run in my home 9am-2pm

**3. What kind of program are you:**



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

### 4. What neighbourhoods do you provide child care in?



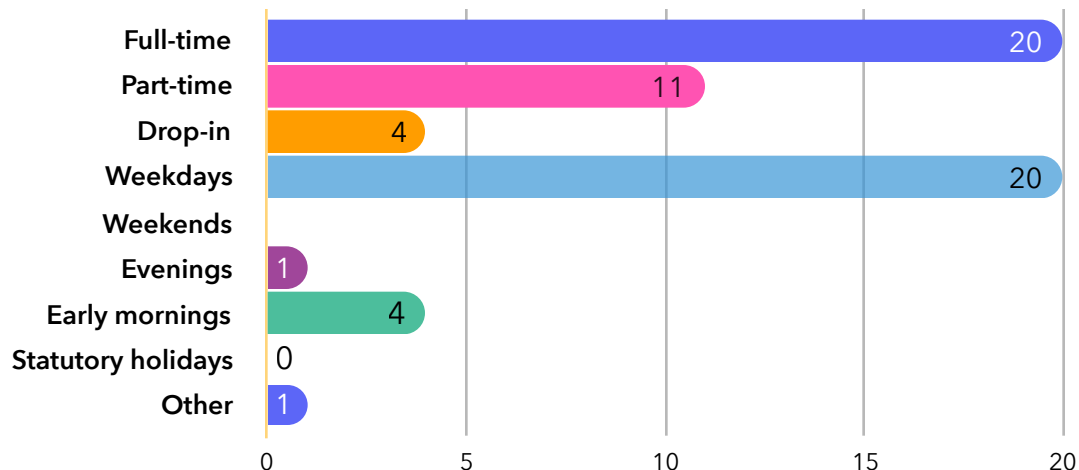
#### Q4. What neighbourhoods do you provide child care in? Other Responses

Colwood

Langford / Glen Lake

Westshore

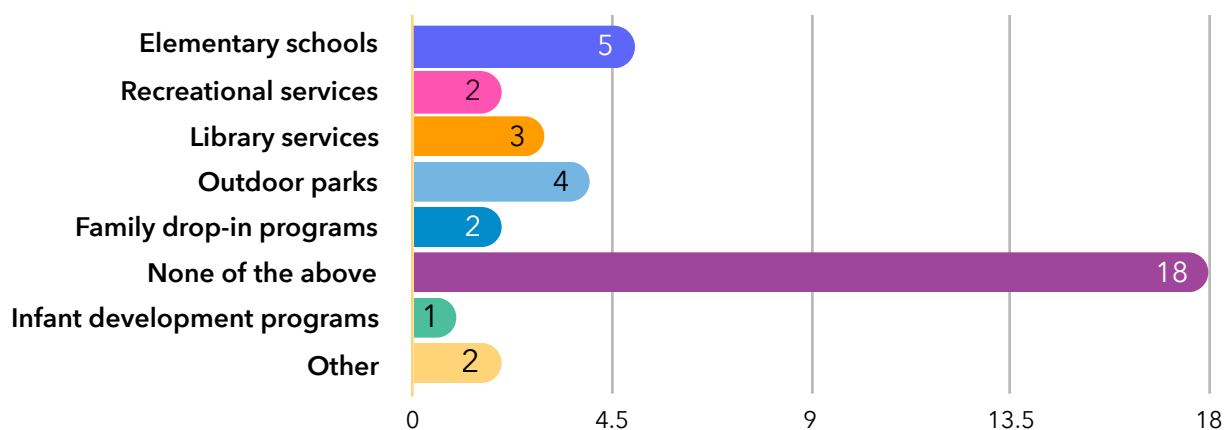
## 5. What days and times do you offer child care:



### Q5. What days and times do you offer child care: Other Response

Over nights

## 6. Our child care program is located on the same site as:

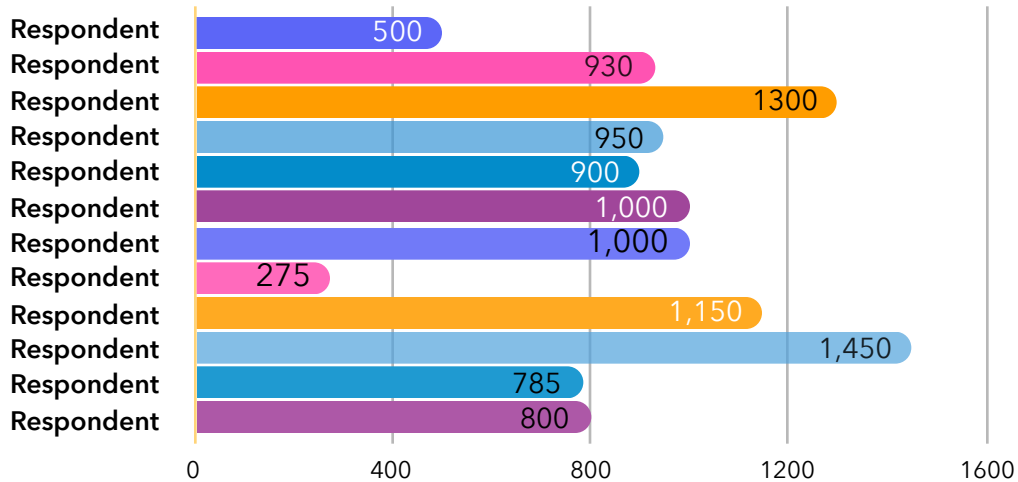


### Q6. Our child care program is located on the same site as: Other Response

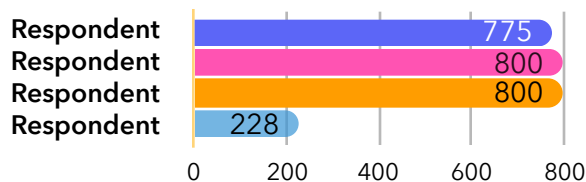
Nearby amenities

**7. What fees do you charge for the following age groups, and child care programs:**

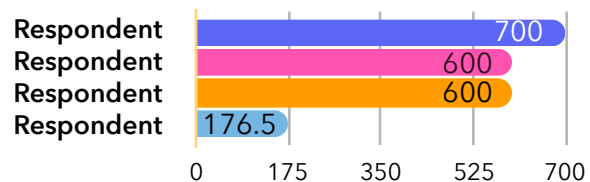
**Infant Under 1 Years, Full Time Cost per Week**



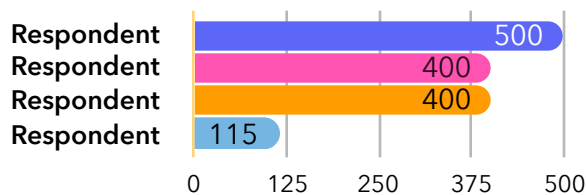
**Infant Under 1 Years,  
4 days a week**



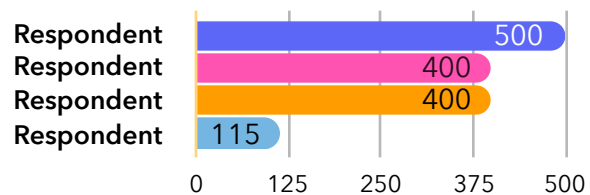
**Infant Under 1 Years,  
3 days a week**



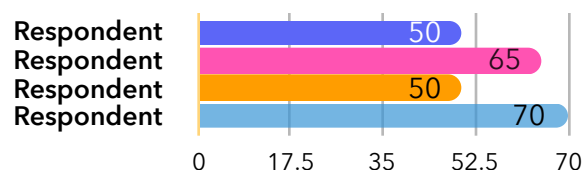
**Infant Under 1 Years,  
2 days a week**



**Infant Under 1 Years,  
1 days a week**

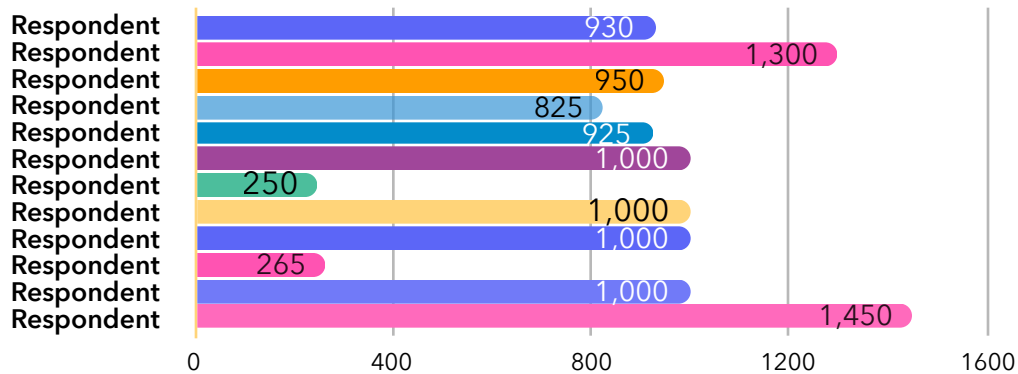


**Infant Under 1 Years,  
Drop-in Rate**

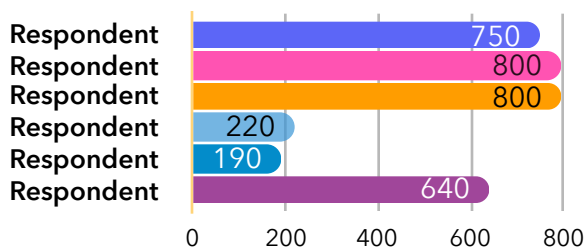


## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

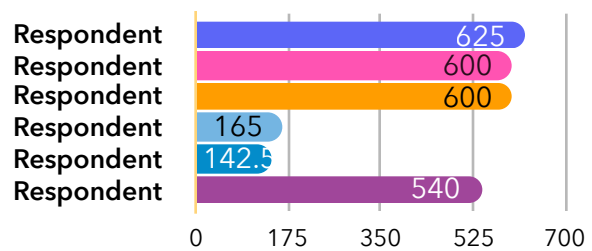
### Toddlers Up to 3 Years, Full Time Cost per Week



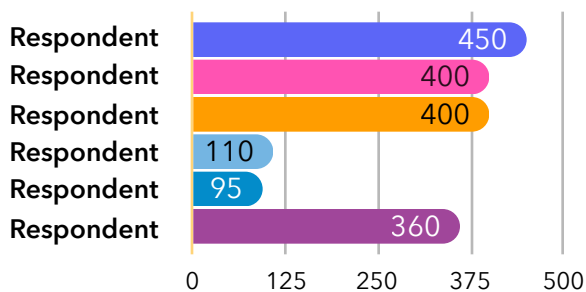
### Toddlers Up to 3 Years, 4 days a week



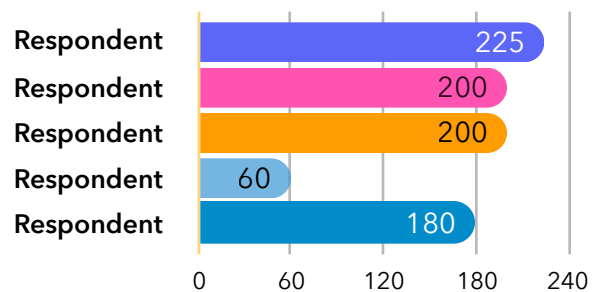
### Toddlers Up to 3 Years, 3 days a week



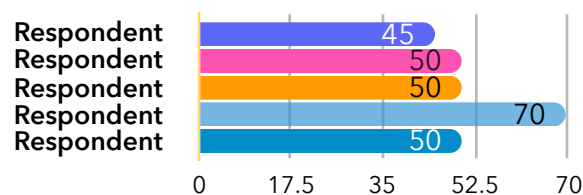
### Toddlers Up to 3 Years, 2 days a week



### Toddlers Up to 3 Years, 1 days a week

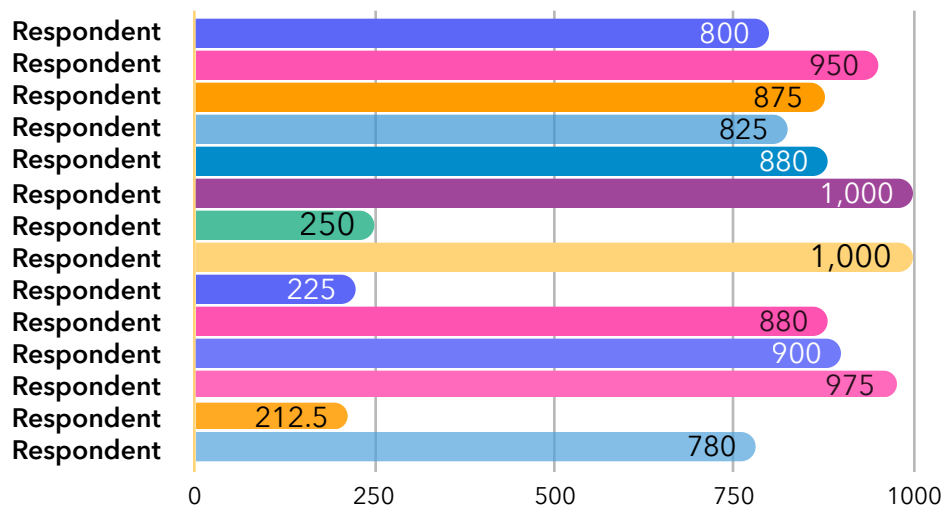


### Toddlers Up to 3 Years Drop-in Rate

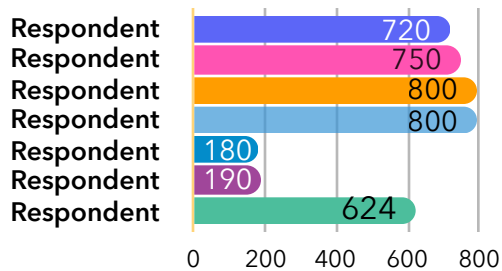


## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

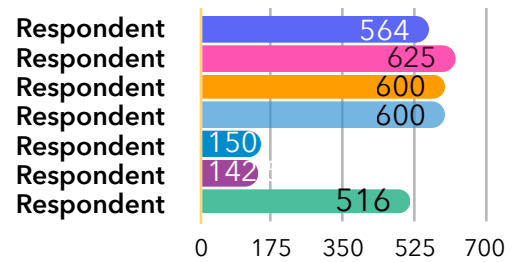
### 3-5 Year Olds, Full Time Cost per Week



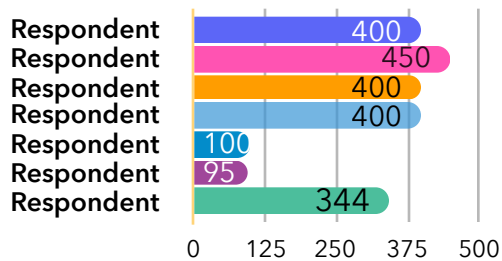
### 3-5 Year Olds, 4 days a week



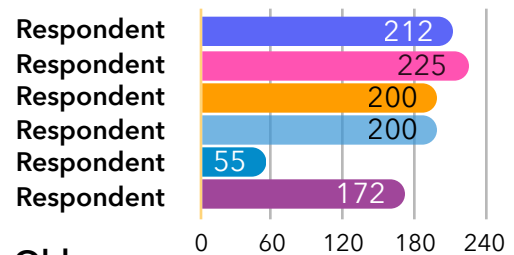
### 3-5 Year Olds, 3 days a week



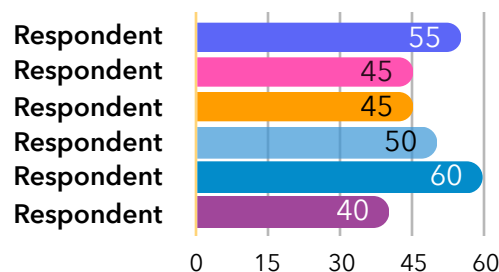
### 3-5 Year Olds, 2 days a week



### 3-5 Year Olds, 1 days a week



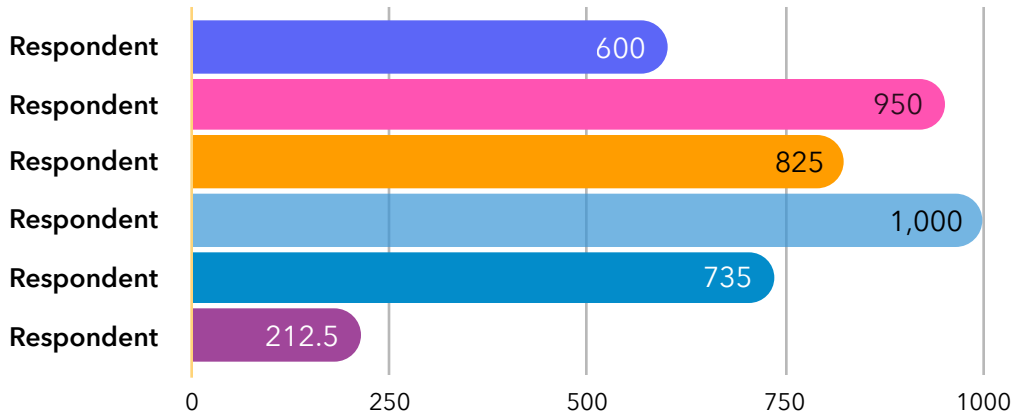
### 3-5 Year Olds Drop-in Rate



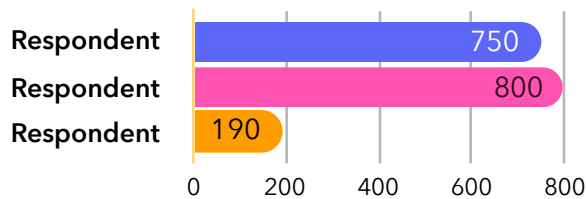


## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

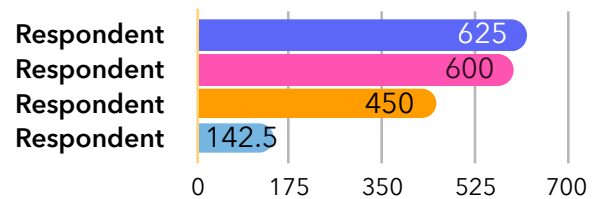
### Preschool Children, Full Time Cost per Week



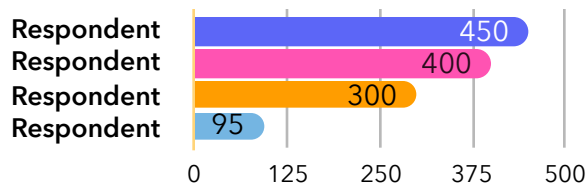
### Preschool Children, 4 days a week



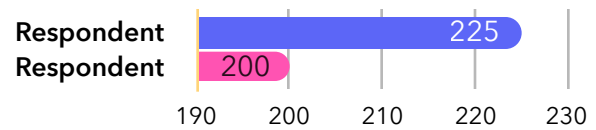
### Preschool Children, 3 days a week



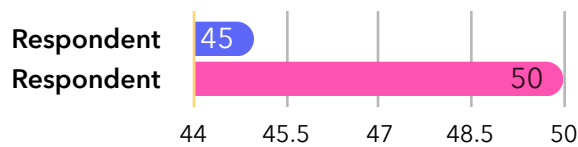
### Preschool Children, 2 days a week



### Preschool Children, 1 days a week

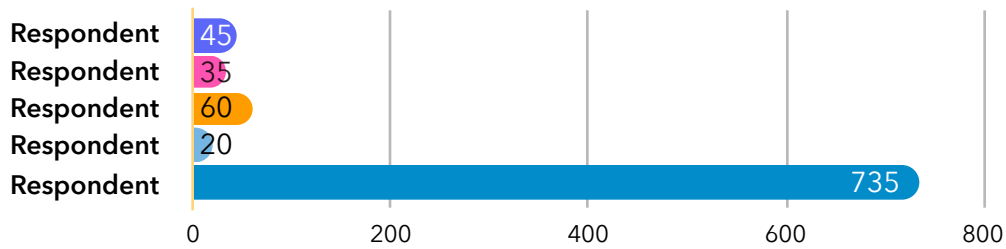


### Preschool Children, Drop-in Rate

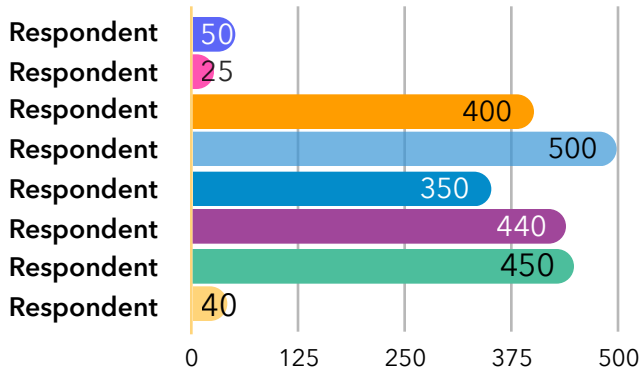


## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

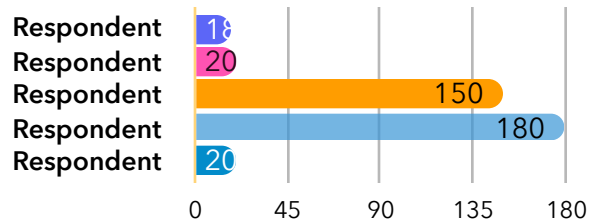
School age: Kindergarten,  
Drop-in Rate



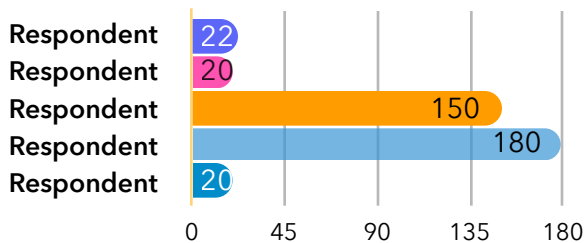
School age: Kindergarten,  
Before + After School Care



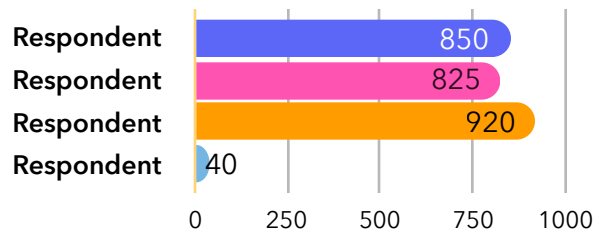
School age:  
Kindergarten,  
Before school care only



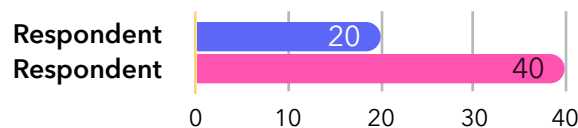
School age:  
Kindergarten,  
After school care only



School age:  
Kindergarten,  
Summer program

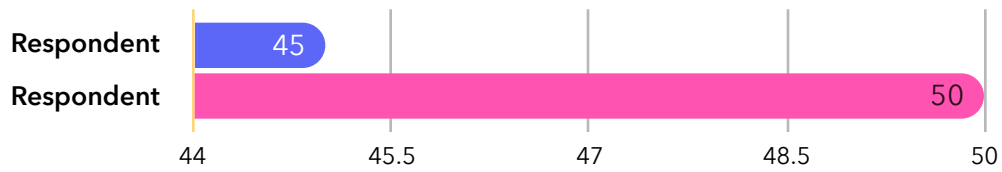


School age:  
Kindergarten,  
Bus Rate

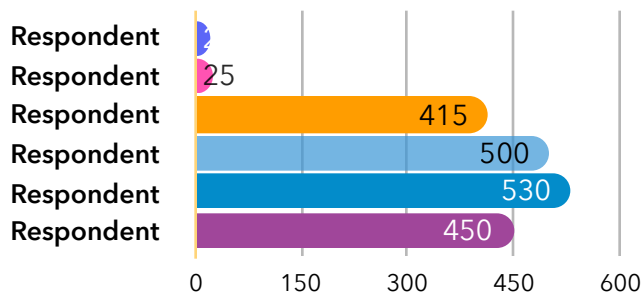


## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

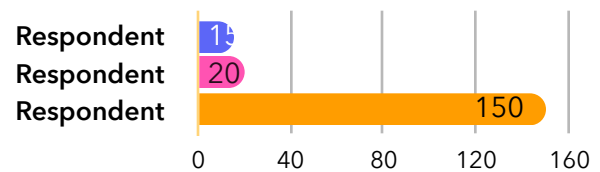
### School age: Grade 1-7, Drop-in Rate



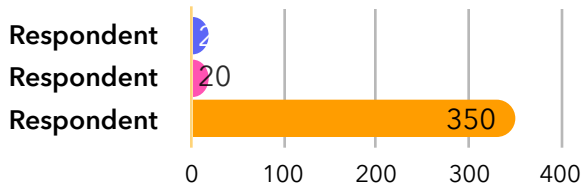
### School age: Grade 1-7, Before + After School Care



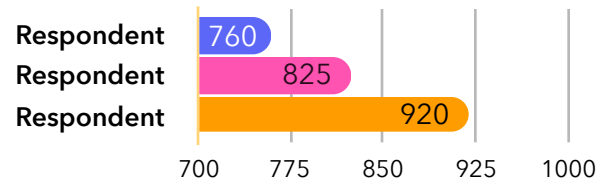
### School age: Grade 1-7, Before school care only



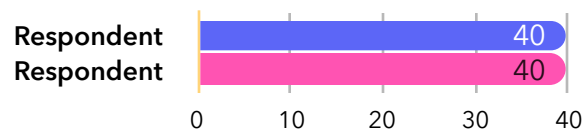
### School age: Grade 1-7, After school care only



### School age: Grade 1-7, Summer program



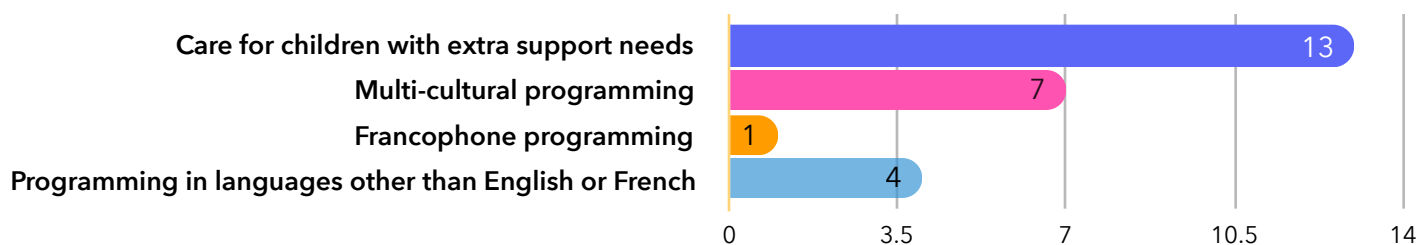
### School age: Grade 1-7, Bus Rate



## 8. Do you offer any other fee structures:

Q8. Do you offer any other fee structures: Responses
ccof funding drops fees to \$950 per month
Half day rates: \$32/day (up to 4 hours)
Subsidy
Ccfri, affordable childcare benefit
our 2 morning or afternoon classes run at \$152.00 a month, our 3 day morning class at \$225.00/month

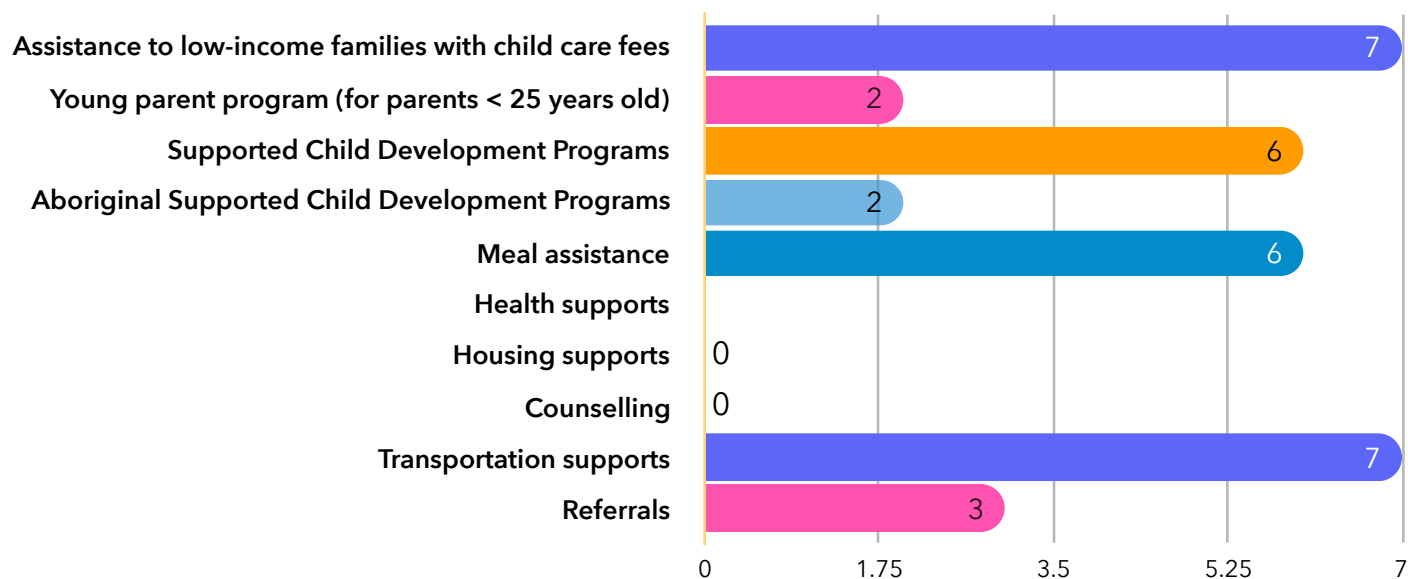
## 9. Do you offer the following:



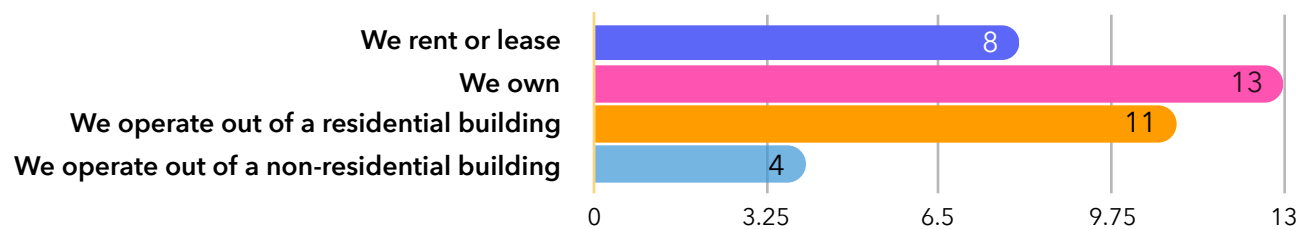
Q9. Other languages or programming offered Responses
Sencoten
Spanish
Spanish
German

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

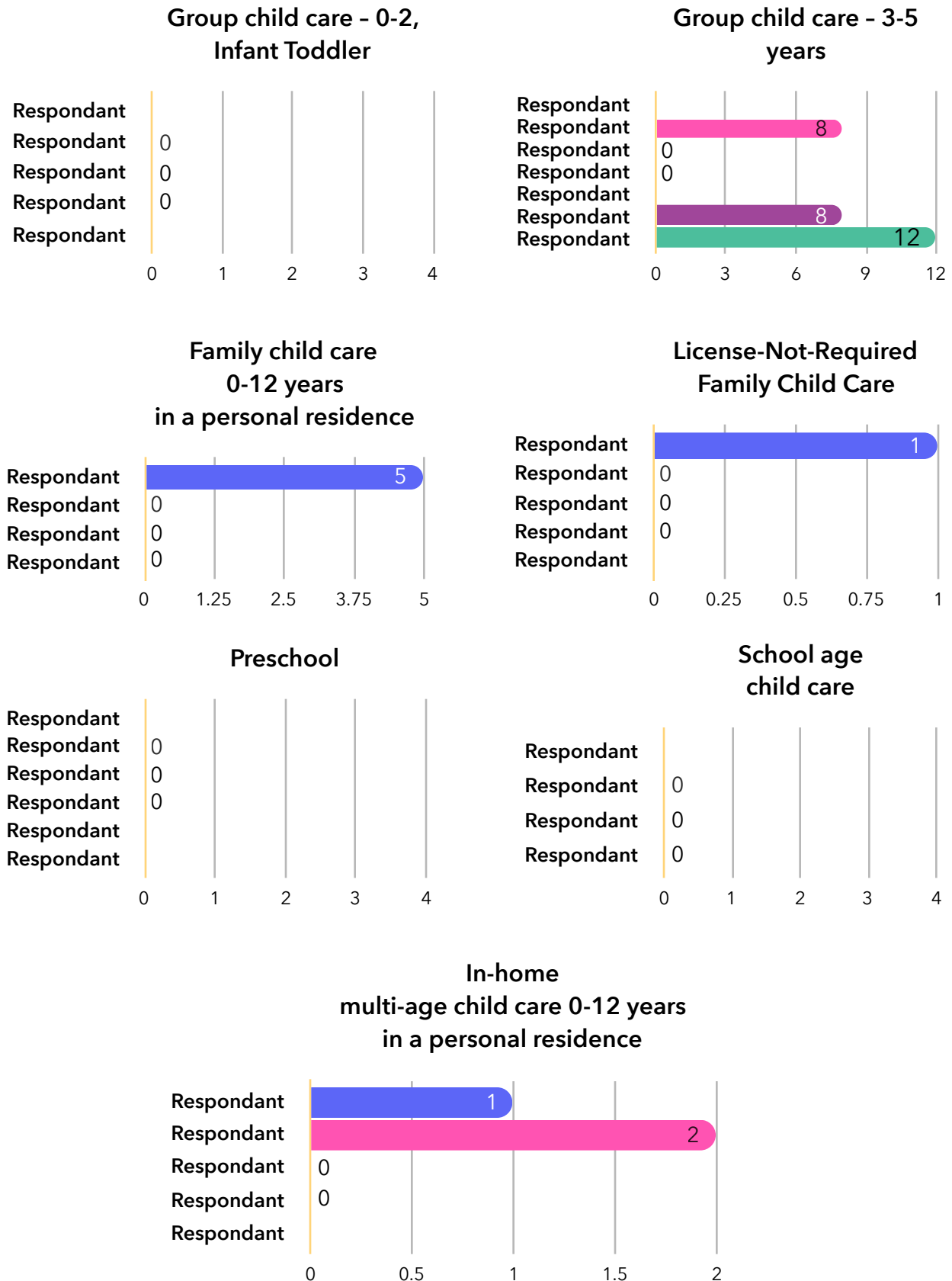
### 10. Do you offer any additional supports to families:



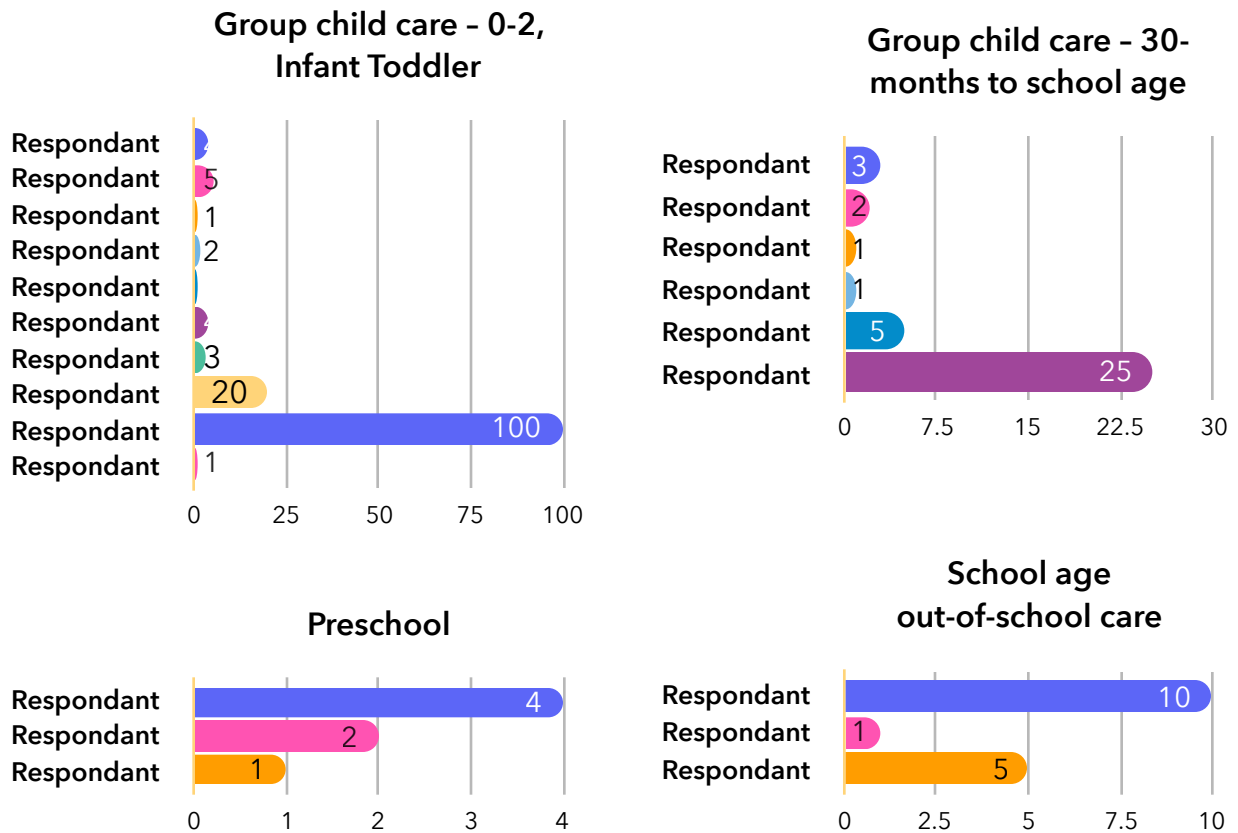
### 11. Tell us about your facility:



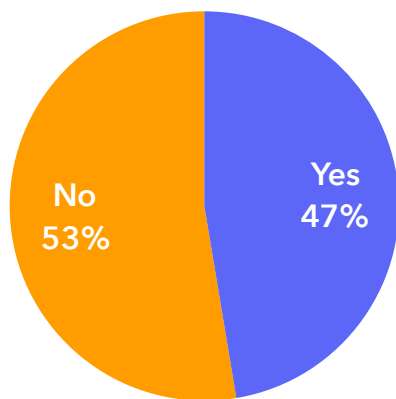
## 12. How many vacant child care spaces do you currently have?



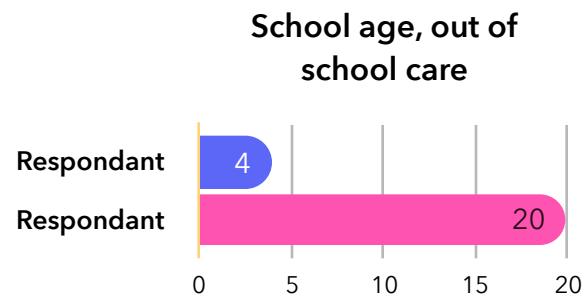
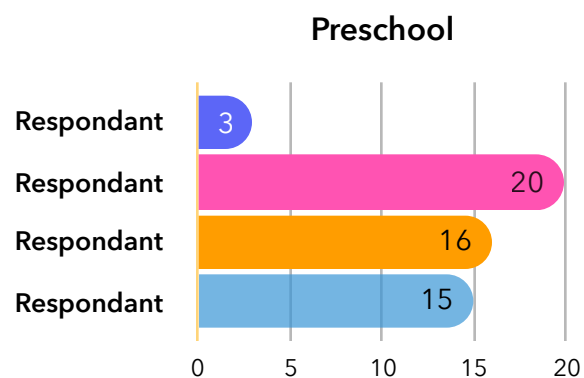
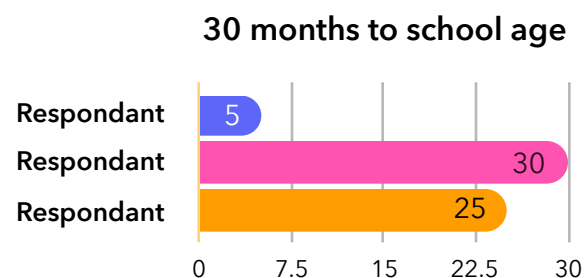
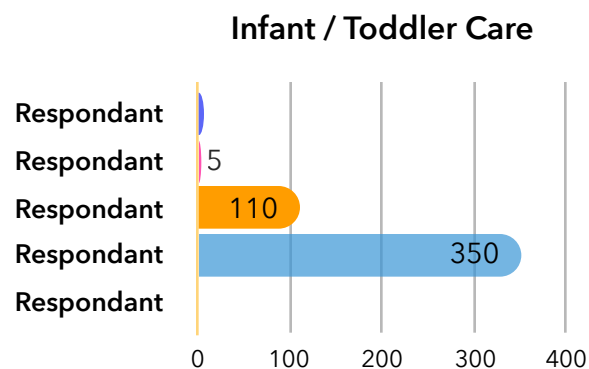
**13. How many inquiries for child care do you get a week (approximately) for the following age groups:**



**14. Do you maintain a waitlist for enrolments?**

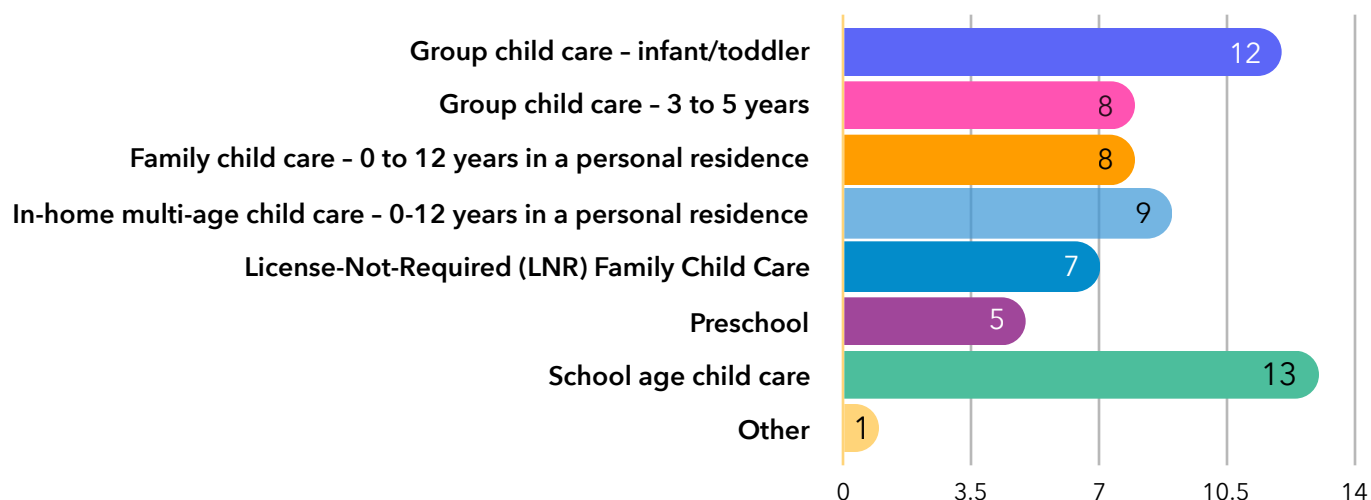


**15. How many children are on your waitlist (approximately):**





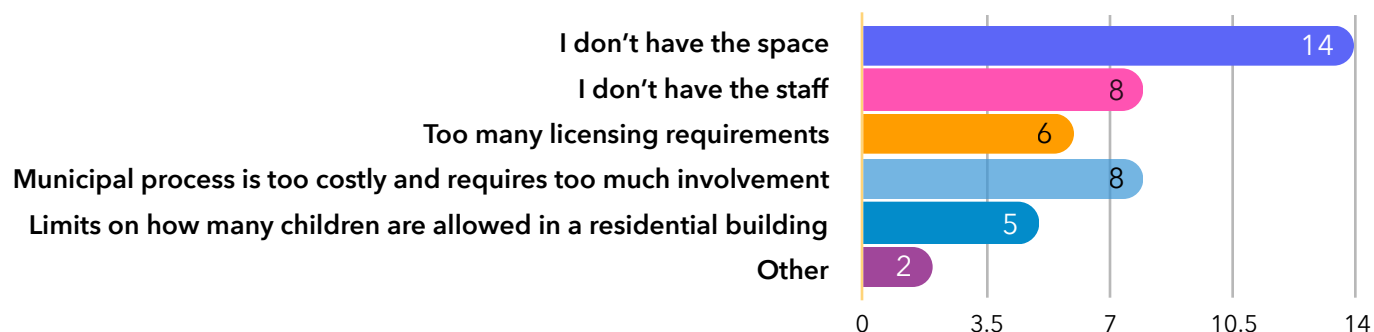
## 16. What type of child care is needed the most in Sooke?



### Q16. Other Response

non-franchised, intimate, small group care for children struggling with challenges beyond what would be considered, for lack of a better term, average.

## 17. What prevents you from providing more of those needed spaces?

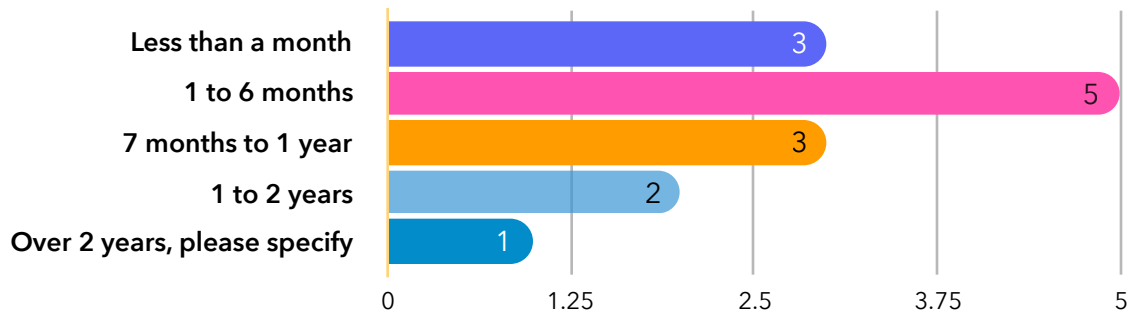


### Q17. Other Responses

None of the above. Small community-service minded approach is preferable.

It's not my call to make and the agency cannot take on any more new programs at this time

**18. How long does it take for parents to get a placement for their child(ren) into your program, on average?**



**Q18. Please Specify Responses**

There is a high need for inclusive care for children with special needs. There also needs to be more incentive for educators to stay in the field, high numbers of children with low staff and low wages leads to burn out

We are now being confronted by the municipality who "made a mistake" about approving our initial application - are now saying we need more things to do (like a structural engineer report?) and that we have "not passed". We are open already for 3 months and they come to us NOW? We may just pull back to 10 spots available as then we don't need any more prerequisites... that will mean we have to turn away two families already committed too. They said they would work on it but we are left hanging. My boss / owner will not put more money into this business... they need to be more user friendly to people wanting to open centers! This is Sooke, not Oak Bay. Unbelievable this has happened. I have heard similar stories of others out here in Sooke trying to expand or set up programs and it doesn't make sense to be unreasonable unless there is a serious issue at hand. There are still two other processes following the municipal application that also ensure safety for the children (fire inspection and approval and VIHA) so it is hard to fathom why this has happened. This is an already commercial zoned property to boot... We would love to open another 3-5 center/ program but it is also very hard to staff programs in sooke as well. Being user friendly would help matters a bit.

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

### Q18. Please Specify Responses

There is a definite need for childcare, but a push for all childcare to be run out of "professional institutions" like centres with several ECE's as staff. Many choices in childcare have been discouraged due to this push away from in-home care. Families should be encouraged to find the options that work for them, whether it is a centre OR a home based daycare. Both types of childcare have their benefits for every child.

I feel like there is a negative stigma towards the home daycare providers that do not carry the ECEA or ECE certificate. It has negatively affected our daycares as parents are pushed away from the "unskilled" home daycare providers and are rewarded for going to the centres by being granted higher financial funding. The cost of living has skyrocketed in the last few years, and families are tight financially; they are often not given the choice to use the childcare that better suits their child and family's needs, and go for the facility that offers the most subsidy.

Home daycare providers are not unskilled people. It takes a special person to WANT to care for kids in their home (or any setting), and help the children and families grow through life. Most home daycare providers have children of their own; experience with their own children, nieces, nephews, etc. A person with an educational certificate does not mean they are a better care provider.

The hours are long, and often messy. Many providers - in all childcare settings - are burning out from the demand of the job, the low pay, and exhausted from there being a shortage of "certified" care providers. Staff working in childcare centres often leave their positions to run a smaller facility out of their home for better hours, greater benefits (they get the write off's), and a CHOICE in who they take on to care for. Centres don't offer this, and providers are dealing with many children with extra needs that they are not trained for, nor were they prepared to handle.

The current childcare crisis has been brought on by the explosion of the cost of living (home daycares closing as they cannot afford to run; centres closing because they cannot afford to run; centres closing because they do not have the mandatory "certified" staff.). The other major factor in the crisis IS that mandatory certification to care for children. Many qualified care providers cannot get jobs or open certain care settings because they don't carry the certificate. The crisis is as much the cost of living as it is the push for mandatory education & push out of home care and into centres.

There is a massive crisis for families in regards to childcare. Many capable individuals are willing to take on more kids, but cant with the rules around LNR childcare. As someone myself who does LNR I'm limited to 2 children in my home, but have worked in professional licensed childcare settings for 10+ years. I am used to dealing with big groups of children, I understand and still follow licensing practices even though I am not licensed. But I am fully capable of helping more families, if only I was allowed. There's no spots for infant/toddlers, there's not enough after school care options. Many families work outside of the sooke district, so with travel, they need childcare!

The shop district needs to help open affordable rental spaces for centers to open. City bylaws for rezoning make it impossible for in home centers to expand, so the schools need to offer it

As a parent I have been struggling to find after school care. I have my parents driving out to Langford from Fairfield to help out a few days a week

No use building more sites or offering more spaces unless the employment staffing issue is addressed

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

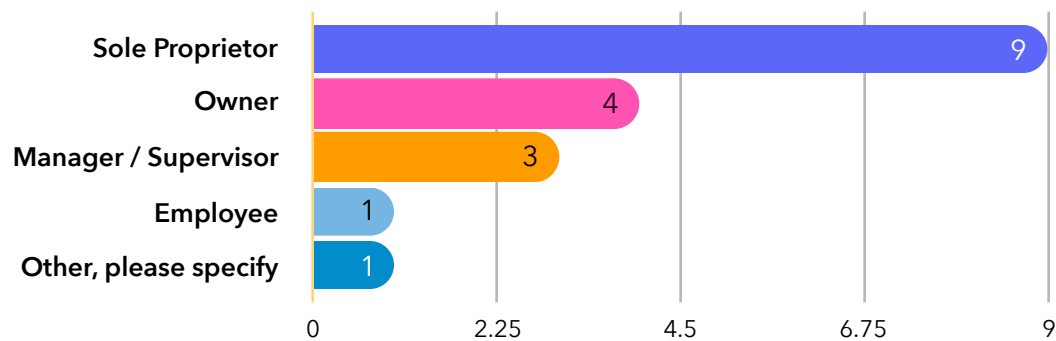
### Q18. Please Specify Responses

The need does not appear significant in Sooke.

Thanks to the Child Care Resource and Referral program many homecare/childcare family units are run well and have lots of support in the Sooke and Westshore community. Many Franchises lack the ability to place the 'dollar' further down the line due to business thinking over childcare thinking. Lack of space for children challenged by disabilities to prosper and grow outside of school time in current daycare situations due to poor funding to help these facilities have knowledgeable, caring and empathetic staff well versed in all they need to know. Lack of parks and greenspaces in many neighbourhoods for children to play in that can be utilized by many childcare facilities.

I find most parents scrambling to find infant/toddler, school age and shift/weekend child care. On the flip side there are not enough qualified staff to run some programs like and infant/toddler room as you need certain qualifications

### 19.What is your role?



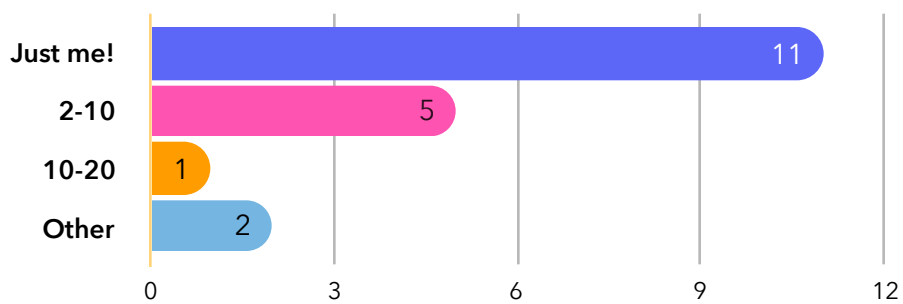
### Q19. Other, please specify Responses

Incorporated

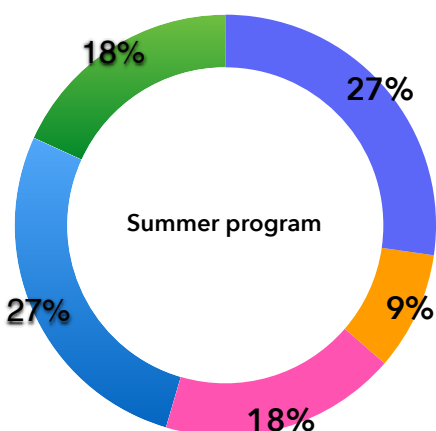
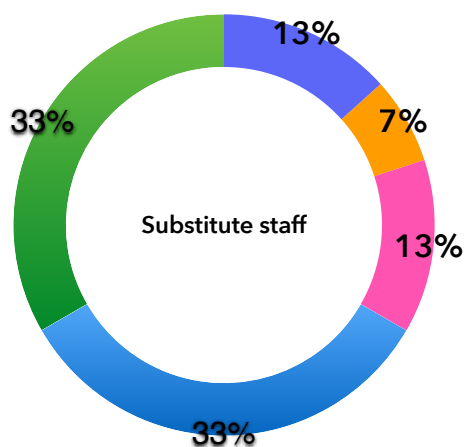
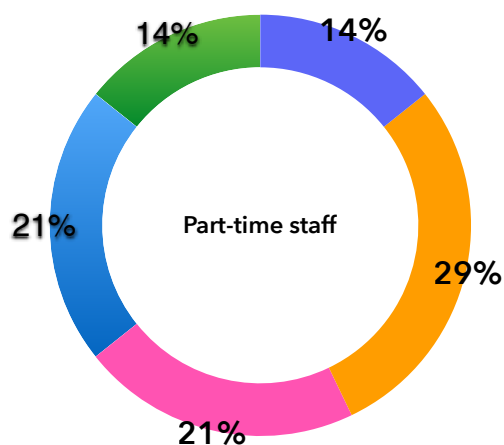
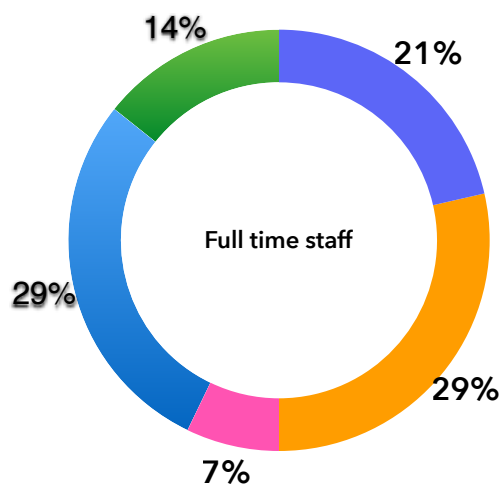
teacher/supervisor

## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

### 20. How many staff do you have?

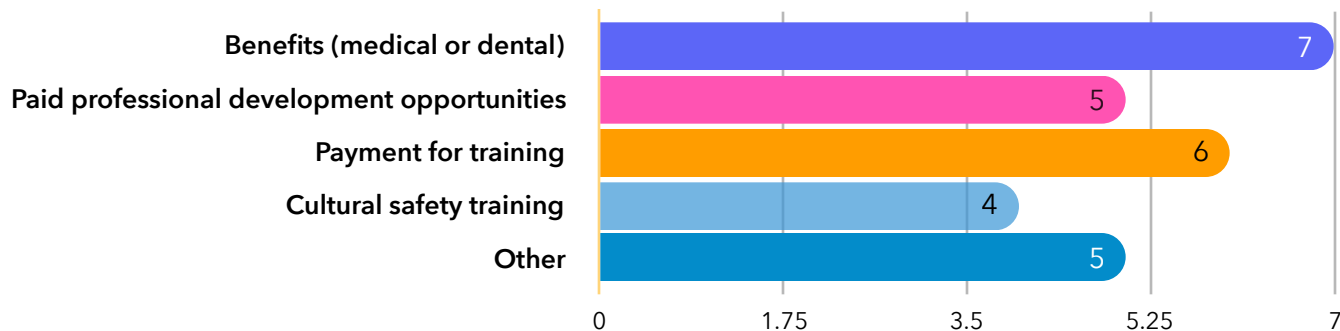


21. What is your experience finding the following staff?



● Not a problem    ● Minor problem    ● Neutral    ● Difficult    ● Impossible

## 22. Do you offer staff any of the following?



### Q22. Other Responses

Gym memberships, RRSP pension plan, child care discount, pay for ECE, pay for class 4 BCDL, Xmas parties, HC swag, lots of extras,

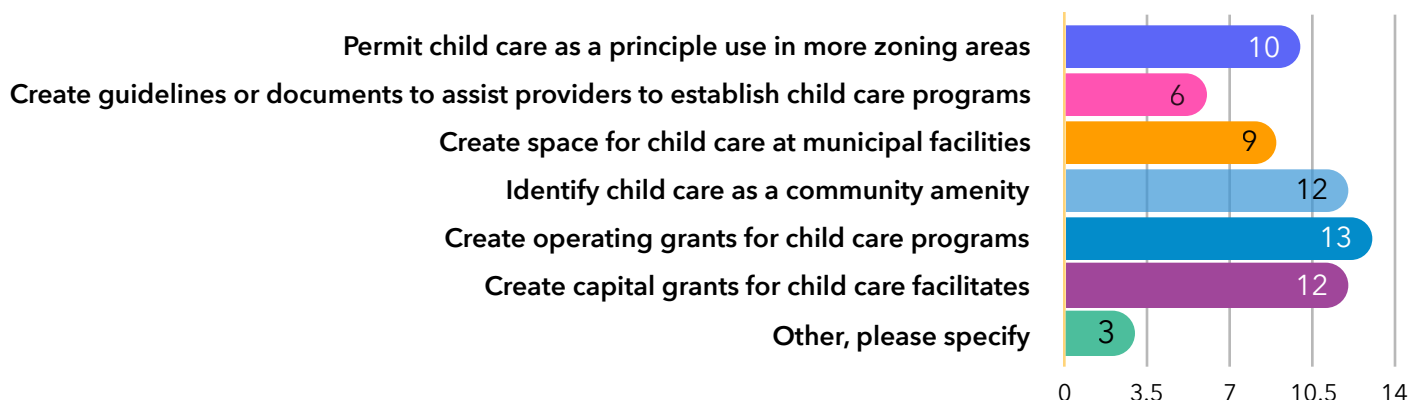
Gym membership, child care discount

Paid time off, staff retreats, EAP Program! Lots of other incentives

14% in lieu of benefits

Within the agency that the preschool belongs to there are many benefits too numerous to name due to support, kindness, empathy, training, care, wisdom and clarity

## 23. How can the District of Sooke help to create needed child care spaces:



### Q23. Other, please specify Responses

Give families their options back. Home care is not a lesser grade of child care

Grants for education

Allow childcare to be front and centre in terms of recognizing it as an asset to the community. Excellent childcare allows for happy, understanding, caring, critical thinking, open minded, non-judgemental youth who are mostly self disciplined and offer much

## 24. Do you have any other recommendations for the District on creating the needed child care spaces?

### Q24. Do you have any other recommendations for the District on creating the needed child care spaces? Responses

Big problem is getting certified staff = the provincial government is starting to support us with wage enhancements and there is some bursary monies available for the courses through ECEBC - however it is only about \$150 per course (you need like 8 of them) which hardly helps. I am upgrading to get my infant toddler certification and had to get a personal loan to do it. I try and get my staff to upgrade but no one can afford the courses (\$750 per course on average). So we run with barely qualified staff and have to look at closing if we can't find them here in sooke (no one wants to commute here). Maybe offer some bursaries for staff residents to help pay for these courses? I don't know what the answer is, but very hard to find trained staff. It may be why we also won't open a second center due to this issue.

When you recognize a demand for childcare, yet make it difficult to open facilities on different classes of land zones, it creates more of a couch, jobs get lost, and families suffer financially. With encouraged growth of facilities - whether established and looking to expand, or starting new - families will feel secure in Sooke knowing that Sooke is a community for all, not just those who can afford it.



## Sooke Child Care Survey Responses - Child Care Providers

### **Q24. Do you have any other recommendations for the District on creating the needed child care spaces? Responses**

I bought a house and property to build a proper group facility. Was told by city use was allowed prior to purchase. Then after purchase was told no not without completing a \$50,000 traffic study so I built a house instead

Offer incentives and grants to child care providers and facilities to pay their staff a decent wage so that the cost for families isn't so prohibitive.

Quicker approvals for building and developing facilities

Place more emphasis on the quality of the individuals engaged in the many types of childcare and less on worrying about the number of spaces. Place more emphasis on a living wage individuals can make when engaging in this type of work.

## **25. Do you have any additional comments on child care in Sooke?**

### **Q25. Do you have any additional comments on child care in Sooke? Responses**

The city needs to be more organized and supportive of childcare buildings being in more zoning areas

More afterschool facilities are desperately needed. Should be one to two portables at each school so that on site child care can be provided in an environment the kids know and are comfortable in and for easy pickup at the end of parents workday.

Infant toddler spaces are the only crisis

Sooke is lucky to have many who offer the young people in our community an understanding of what it takes to be open, kind, looking ahead and positive. Lets help them by acknowledging how hard they work.



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