



KEY MESSAGES

Compared to the state of Indiana, there are more young children in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties who need care because their parents are working or going to school. Children may spend many hours each week with babysitters and childcare providers. How children spend those hours matters. A child's early years are the critical foundation for lifelong educational and social/emotional development.

This survey project was designed to answer key questions about childcare and early learning for families in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties in Indiana.

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What types of childcare do families use when they need care for their children?

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What factors do families consider when making choices for childcare?

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How are families, providers and communities creating learning environments for young children?

TOP THREE STRENGTHS

1. Families in general are satisfied with their child's current care arrangement
2. Families prioritize quality and reliability over cost regardless of income level
3. Families report reading with their young children about as often as experts recommend

TOP THREE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Most children are cared for by parents and relatives when they need care. The quality of these environments is unknown, presenting a unique challenge for those working to promote quality in all childcare settings
2. Young children could spend less time with technology, especially those aged 2 – 5.
3. Families want more community and educational activities for younger children, more childcare center options, more affordable options and additional health supports for young children.

Complete survey report available at welbornfdn.org