

Early Care & Learning

Community Profile **MAT-SU BOROUGH**



Early Care & Learning Services for Children in Mat-Su Borough



38%
Children typically in ECL services*

▶ **41%** are in licensed or regulated ECL services.

62%
Children not in ECL services

▶ **99%** not in ECL services are cared for at home by a household member.



24% Children typically in ECL services

76%
Children not in ECL services

▶ **96%** not in ECL services are cared for at home by a household member.

Time in care
per child in paid care
(average hours per month):



Children under 6 Children 6-12 years of age

24

10

Type of ECL services received varies by age group

	Children under 6	Children 6-12 years of age
Care at someone else's home	51%	24%
Care in child's own home by family, friend, or other provider	15%	33%
Pre-elementary or center-based care	37%	9%
Early Head Start/Head Start	3%	N/A
School-sponsored before or after school programs	N/A	11%
Other before or after school programs	N/A	37%
Other	3%	6%

* Early Care & Learning (ECL) Definition: ECL services include all types of child care, including formal (licensed, regulated) services and informal (short term, temporary, and other child care) arrangements.

Most important reason Alaska households use ECL services



55%

Allow adults to be employed



35%

Provide social interaction, learning, and other enrichment for children



3%

Allow adults time for errands and activities outside of work

Note: The above results don't sum to 100% because some respondents answered: don't know.

Kindergarten readiness



41%

Mat-Su Borough

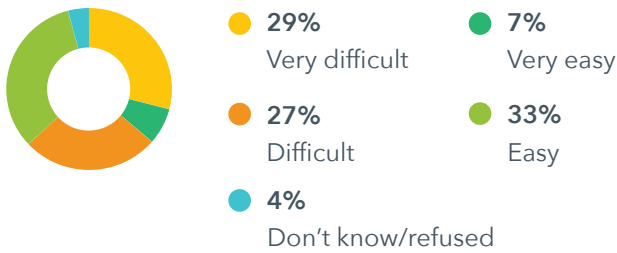
33%

Statewide

Note: Percent of kindergartners meeting 11 of 13 Alaska Developmental Profile goals.

Ease of Finding Early Care & Learning Services

For children in ECL services, ease of finding services in Mat-Su Borough was:



Reasons for difficulty finding ECL services

- 55% Availability/lack of providers
- 39% Cost
- 36% Quality
- 17% Convenience
- 31% Other

Cost of Care

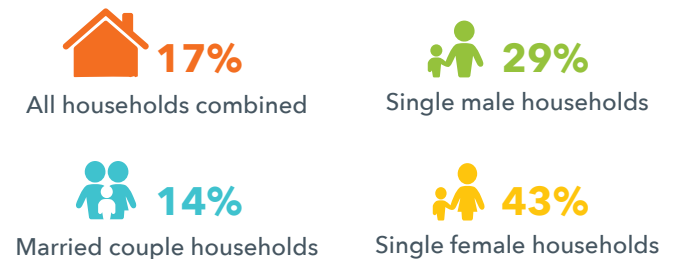
Average annual cost of licensed care in Mat-Su Borough for children under 6 years of age



Average spending in Mat-Su Borough is **higher ▲** than the Alaska average of **\$13,775**.

Financial assistance is used for **18%** of children under 6 and **13%** of children 6 to 12 years of age.

Average cost of care for licensed services as a percentage of household income



Early Care & Learning Impacts Employment



- ▶ **17%** of Mat-Su Borough households with children under 13 years of age include **at least one** household member not employed or working less hours than they otherwise would be because of lack of access to ECL services.

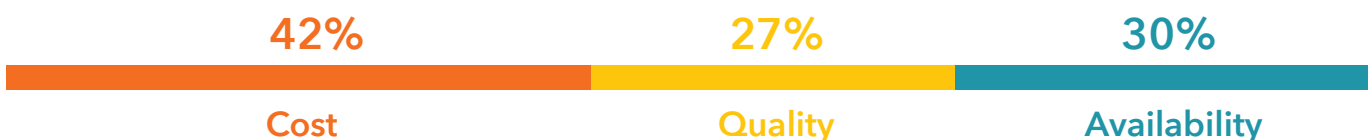


- ▶ Employment is restricted for these individuals by an average of **26 hours per week**.

80%

- ▶ **80%** of employers provide **no ECL-related benefits**.

ECL factors with the greatest impact on household member's ability to participate in the workforce



Base: Children in ECL services in March 2019

Note: An average of 4.35 weeks per month was used to calculate average hours per week. Average spending is for paid and unpaid services.