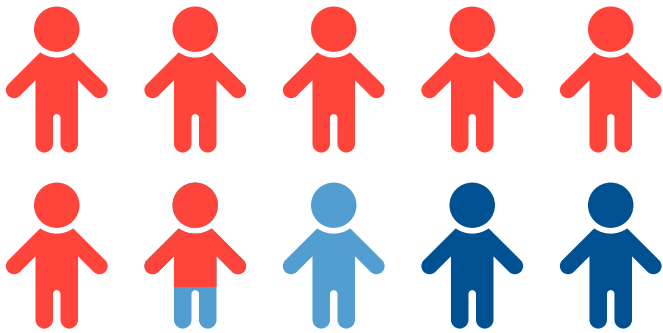


Marion County Childcare Coalition

COLLABORATING TO FRAME CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS FOR MARION COUNTY FAMILIES

We surveyed working families across the county about their current and future child care needs and their experiences with child care in Marion County. Here are some of the results.



66%

have unstable options if faced with a sudden loss of child care; i.e. would have to take vacation or sick time, quit job or school, or risk being fired.

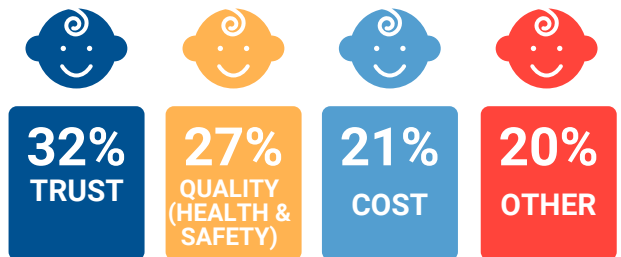
13% of those surveyed are able to look for another provider if faced with a sudden loss of child care. 20% have stable options; i.e. dependable family/friends, able to work from home or take child to work.



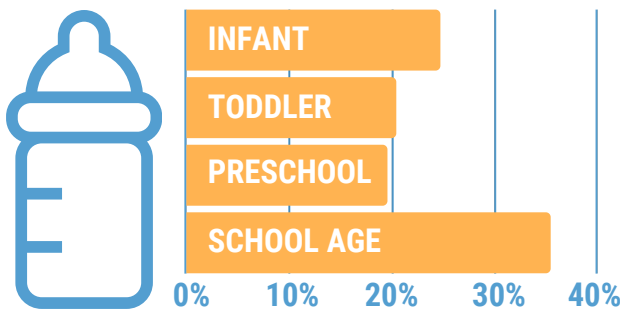
93%

of families who said **TRANSPORTATION** was an issue in considering child care providers had preschool and/or school aged children.

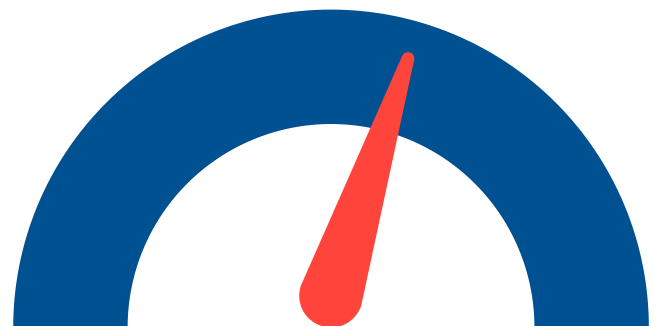
WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN YOUR CHILD CARE CHOICE?



FOR WHICH AGE GROUPS HAVE YOU STRUGGLED MOST TO FIND CHILD CARE?



More respondents reported a struggle to find school age childcare, although a gap exists for all age groups.



\$ 59% OF RESPONDENTS CHOSE THE LOWEST COST OPTION FOR DAYCARE OR SAID THAT EVEN THE LOWEST COST OPTION WAS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR THEM.

Source: 2021 Marion Community Child Care Survey

Child Care Survey Data Results Conducted February & March, 2021

Executive Summary

General Summary: We received 377 responses. Surveys were distributed through employers, school districts and community organizations. 47% of the responses came from River Valley School District families. One manufacturer submitted 48 additional surveys after the results were tabulated. Their data was consistent with the first 377 responses and wouldn't have significantly changed the results.

Most families responding to the survey are using home-based child care providers or families / friends. Trust in the provider is the dominant important factor in making a child care decision. When combined – trust, quality & safety, were nearly 60% of the first choices in making a child care decision. However, parents aren't aware of the Step Up to Quality state rating system.

Barriers to finding child care include having children in a range of ages and finding one provider to care for all of them; lack of wrap around care before & after ½ day preschools; and lack of care during shift hours. Transportation was a barrier for 93% of those with preschool and / or school age children, but wasn't a barrier for 74% of all respondents. Comments from those who listed transportation as a barrier were focused on preschool-age needing transportation before or after a ½ day preschool program; with some comments on elementary before & after school transportation to providers.

Cost is also a barrier with 59% of respondents choosing the lowest cost option as affordable for their needs. However, only 21% of the respondents gave cost as the single most important factor in making a child care decision. As the survey didn't ask for income information, we don't know if cost is an actual barrier or a perceived barrier.

Action: The seven area organizations working on understanding and acting on child care needs are now working in two subgroups. One to better understand the data (and gather data where there are gaps) for decision making and the second to take immediate actions to improve the child care environment in Marion County. As part of this immediate action, both the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club have recently increased their wage paid to youth development staff. And, the Marion Community Foundation provided funding to the YMCA to hire a Sr. Program Director who will help to expand child care both at the YMCA and throughout the community.

Current Child Care Centers open in Marion (as of October, 2021):

- Emanuel Lutheran Child Care accepts children 6 weeks through 5 years. They have 3 Stars in the Step Up to Quality system and accept ODJFS funded children.
- Marion Family YMCA service ages 3 through 5 with all day care and elementary school age with before & after school care and all-day care on most scheduled school vacation days. Pleasant, River Valley and MCS all provide transportation before & after school. They have 1 Star in the Step Up to Quality system and accept ODJFS funded children.
- The Boys & Girls Club of Marion provides after school programming during the school year and all-day programming in the summer for elementary school age through high school age.
- Dayspring Wesleyan Church, Crosswood United Methodist Church, LaRue Christian Preschool, and Prospect Christian Preschool all operate part-time Christian Preschools that operate during the school year.

School-based child care and after school programming includes:

- River Valley offers on-site before school child care 7:00 – 9:00 am.
- River Valley, Marion City and Elgin School Districts all have 21st Century Learning Center grants from the Ohio Department of Education. These grants provide for out of school programming for invited students based on academic need. While their focus is academic performance rather than child care, they can serve a child care function for families, particularly during after school hours.

ODJFS lists licensed 20 Home Providers in Marion.

If you'd like to receive further child care updates as they become available; or have a question or story to share regarding child care in Marion [please click here](#) to provide your contact information and question or story.