

The Child Care Landscape in South Lake Tahoe

Past: Before the population shift and the great recession – South Lake Tahoe

- Over 45 licensed Family Day Care Homes – a majority licensed for 12 children & operating evenings and weekends
- More licensed centers – South Lake Tahoe at one time had: 2 Montessori’s (today- none) , UTMPT had 4 sites (Infant center on Ski Run, center in Meyers, and one in Gardnerville plus the current site), two churches had licensed child care – Hope Lutheran & St. Theresa’s – Tiny Piny Preschool on Pioneer Trail – a School age LATCHKEY program across from the Rec Center, Lake Tahoe CDC/Bijou - operated 24 hrs, 7 days per week, LT Community College for students, EDCOE Head Start & State Preschool (part day; part year).

Today:

- 20 Licensed Family Day Care Homes (8 small & 12 Large)
- UTMPT – 1 site
- Lake Tahoe Community College – student focus
- Lake Tahoe Preschool – toddler to 6 years
- Child Development Center by Bijou – no longer 24 hours – preschool to 8 years
- Jubilee Kids Academy - preschool to 6 years
- Appleseeds – toddler to 6 years
- EDCOE Head Start & State Preschool – 3 & 4 year olds (part year, part day programs).
- 2 ski resorts – not year round - cater to tourist
- Boys & Girls Club offer year round afterschool and summer recreation program for SA; SLT Recreation Center: Star Camp open summer only

Current child care capacity is not meeting the needs for our parents or community. Quality child care is essential to a thriving community and essential to our economy. To be productive employees, parents need to have reliable child care and know that their children are being cared for in a safe and healthy environment.

- Lack of preschool capacity-vacancy rate is 5%. A healthy vacancy rate is 15% giving providers enough business to keep their doors open and parents a variety of programs to choose what best fits their needs.
- Lack of infant care – licensed capacity does not equate to availability of child care slots. Example: a FCCH provider may be licensed to accept 4 infants, but chooses to care for 2.
- Lack of after school and summer school-age care- Boys & Girls Club at Al Tahoe is not permanent – LTUSD will resume elementary school
- A need to increase community awareness of quality child care; however, parents have little choice. Options decrease substantially if the family needs evening or weekend care.

Choices for Children and the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council have developed “The Quality Child Care Matters Campaign” with the goal to increase community awareness of its lifelong benefits.

HANDOUT- Quality Child Care Rack Card