



Child Care Sustains Our Economy

The Child Care Services sector provides multiple benefits to our local economy:

Contributes Directly to the Economy

- Child Care Services contribute \$14 million to the local economy through wages and infrastructure outlay.
- 700 child care workers from varied backgrounds work for public and private centers.
- 250 centers and homes are vital small businesses in our community.

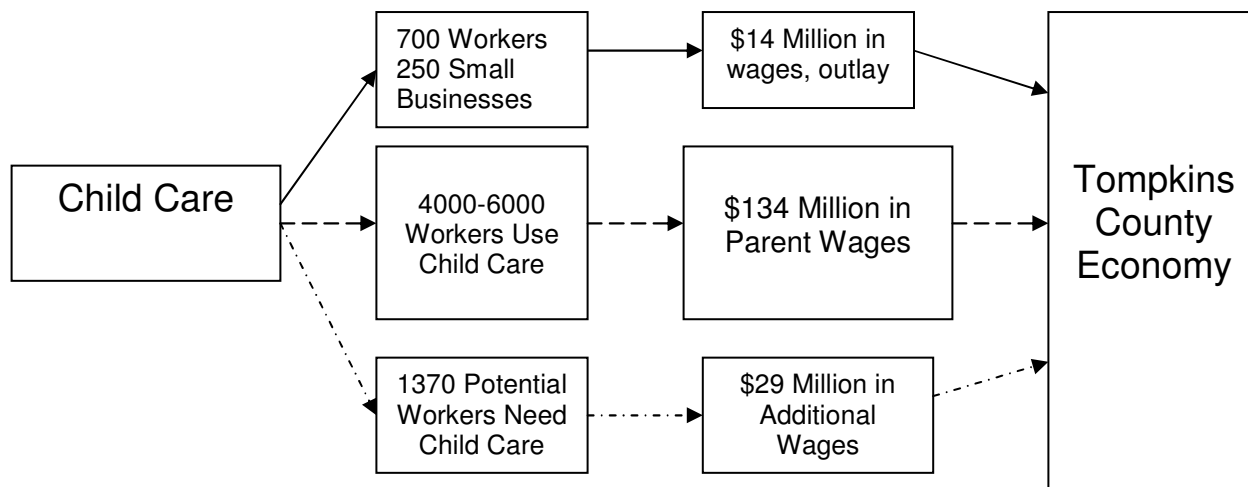
Supports all Tompkins County Businesses

- Child care is part of the social infrastructure that attracts businesses and provides the services they need to function effectively and profit.
- Employers need a well-trained, reliable workforce. Workers with dependable child care are more focused on their work and more productive.
- Between 4000 and 6000 parents depend on child care while they work.* *These parents' wages of \$134 million constitute over 10% of the total wages in our local economy.*

Relieves Labor Shortage

- US Census data suggest that 1370 parents of young children may not be working. High-quality, affordable child care is essential for these parents to enter the labor force. If all 1370 were to work, they would contribute an additional \$29 million to our economy.**

Child Care's Contributions to the Tompkins County Economy



*The data on number of children and workers comes from the 1994 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* and 1990 STF3A Census Data for Tompkins County, NY. Number of families determined by average number of children per family = 1.8, and proportion of families with children under age 5 = 45.9% of married parent families and 32.5% of single parent families. After school care for older children not included. Prepared by Celeste Frye.

**Annual Wages of \$15,548 for retail and \$26,260 for county average, from the NY Department of Labor, 1999.

The Early Education Partnership is a collaborative project of the Day Care and Child Development Council of Tompkins County, Inc. and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce. Research assistance provided by the Cornell University Department of City and Regional Planning.

For more information please contact the Day Care and Child Development Council of Tompkins County at (607) 273-0259 or the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce at (607) 273-7080.