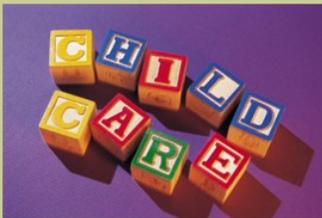


Cost of Child Care Program/Facility Resource

Included in this resource package:

- Applying for Funds/Donation/Bursary Program Manual
- Government Programs
- Client/Family Benefits
- Child Care Space Stats
- Advocacy Contacts



The high cost of child care is a well-known fact. Even though we know the cost of child care is high for families using the services, we also know that child care centres and providers struggle to keep costs down and that child care professionals are still underpaid for the training and quality professional care and education they provide.

In response to this fact, the District of North Vancouver provided a grant to the North Shore Community Resources Society (NSCR) to research resources to provide strategies that may assist in addressing the high cost of child care.

We cannot change the ultimate cost of child care. This will only be done through a federal or provincial child care system and we all must continue to advocate for this. See advocacy information.

This resource provides some suggestions for financial assistance that child care centres might consider for families. In addition, NSCR has updated a manual that non-profit centres can use as a guide for applying for grants and/or implementing a family bursary program. The entire manual can be accessed from our agency website.

We hope this resource package is helpful to you!

The content of this resource material, websites, contacts, etc. are current as of August 2012. North Shore Community Resources Society will update these resources from time to time but assumes no responsibility for outdated information at any given time or to provide ongoing updates.

Child Care Fees: Government Funding

As we know child care fees in BC are established by each child care provider. Unlike some other community and social services, child care is primarily a user fee service. The fees families pay to child care providers account for about 70 to 80 per cent of child care revenues. The remaining revenues come from small government grants and fundraising.

Government Programs:

BC's child care budget is mainly delivered through these funding mechanisms by Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD):

- 1. Child Care Subsidy:** to eligible families to help cover child care fees.
For information on child care subsidy, visit the Ministry of Children and Family Development at:
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/subsidy_promo.htm
or contact them Toll Free Phone: 1-888-338-6622
- 2. The Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF):** provides a small per diem to licensed group and family child care. This funding is based on the type of care provided and enrolment. CCOF accounts for less than 15 per cent of a child care program's revenue.
For information on CCOF and the application for this funding, visit the MCFD website at:
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/operating.htm
or contact them Toll Free Phone: 1-888-338-6622
- 3. Child Care Minor Capital Funding** (year to year): child care facilities may receive up to \$2,000 per facility (not per licence) for emergency upgrades or repairs to existing facilities, emergency replacement of furnishings and equipment necessary to comply with the Ministry of Health Child Care Licensing Regulation, or relocation costs when a child care facility is moving to another location. Visit the MCFD website at:
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/capital.htm>
or contact them Toll Free Phone: 1-888-338-6622

Child Care Fee Strategies: Thinking Outside The Box

We know that for a child care centre to offer any of the strategies listed below depends on the financial security of the facility operation. This includes financial stability, current enrolment, security of location, projected security of ongoing enrolment, etc.

Below are some suggestions that child care providers *may consider*, if not already, for accommodating families and/or reducing child care costs:



Flexibility:

Give higher priority to siblings so that families can access spaces quicker and ideally be accommodated in the same centre

Consider flexible fee payment (option for some families to pay two times per month rather than pay all the fees due at first of month)



Discounts, Creative Budgeting & Fundraising:

Discounts for Siblings: some centres might be able to offer a discount in the monthly fees for more than one sibling attending a centre or centres run by one organization.

Discount for Volunteer Work: some centres have considered a discount in fees in exchange for regular volunteer work such as repairs, cleaning, accounting support, landscaping, etc.

Child Care Operating Fund: portion of the fund could be used to subsidize one or more child care spaces if the revenue of fees adequately covers other operational costs.

Less than Capacity Budgeting: if the operational costs of a child care facility can be covered on revenue (fees, CCOF, etc.) based on less than maximum capacity income, then a space may be able to be offered to a family in need for a partial/no fee.

Annual Event/Fundraiser: consider an annual event (silent auction, dance, product sale, etc.) specifically for the purpose of subsidizing a child care space for families in need. This could be done in collaboration with one or more other centres and the proceeds split for the worthy cause.

Child Care Fee Strategies: Thinking Outside The Box Cont...



Parent Employer Contacts for Community/Charitable Funding: parents attending your facility may work for employers that have community or charitable funds that may be a fit with the goal of supporting families in need. Consider an annual campaign to parents to research potential funds. Donating employers could receive public recognition for a donation to the centre (e.g. in notices, website, etc.).



Questions, Questions: Ask parents if their employer would pay a portion of the child care fee as a benefit, bonus or raise option? Does a parent work for a company that could contribute in kind services or materials to the center (products, cleaning supplies, website design, etc.) for a reduction in fees?



Supplier Support: child care facilities infuse funds into our communities by the supplies they buy to operate their business. A considerable amount is spent, usually repeatedly, buying groceries, art supplies, books, equipment, etc. Such a supplier might consider a donation to a loyal customer that will go to a good cause, such as supporting families in need. Again, such donations could be acknowledged publicly by the child care facility.



Subsidize a Space or Spaces: with a bursary program or fundraising – parents with financial challenges can apply for a subsidized space if the centre has such a program funded through a bursary or fundraising project.

Also, please see the attached summary information sheet: **Applying for Grants/ Donations & Establishing a Bursary Program for Clients Manual** for more details.



Applying for Grants/Donations & Establishing a Bursary Program for Clients Manual

Originally developed in 1999, this Manual was designed for preschools wanting to establish a bursary program to assist families in financial need to allow their children to access preschool. The Manual has thorough research, supported by outlines and documents, to guide child care providers through the process of applying for funds and donations as well as considerations and the process for establishing a bursary program. It is applicable to all non-profit child care centres seeking funding for projects and/or considering a bursary program to assist families in financial need with the high cost of child care.

North Shore Community Resources Society has now revised this manual. It is presented in two parts:

- Application for Funds & Donations
- Bursary Program Operation Procedures

The Application for Funds & Donations provides an outline for researching your donors, contacting donors, writing and proposal/application, highlighting what funders are looking for, opportunities for personal contact, communication and donor recognition.

The Bursary Program Operation Procedures outlines a detailed procedure for informing families of the funds, establishing an overseeing committee, developing a mission statement and guiding principles, confidentiality, records and family information, assessment, developing terms for the bursary, bursary application (with or without income/means testing), staff procedure and maintaining records. There is also a section on Financial Policies and Procedures for a Bursary Program which is generally applicable to all fundraising and being accountable to donors.

A list of appendices gives specific examples for an outline and documents for both a funding proposal and establishing a bursary program.

We have listed grant/foundation agencies or locations where research can be done as well as encouraging on line searches for funding sources.



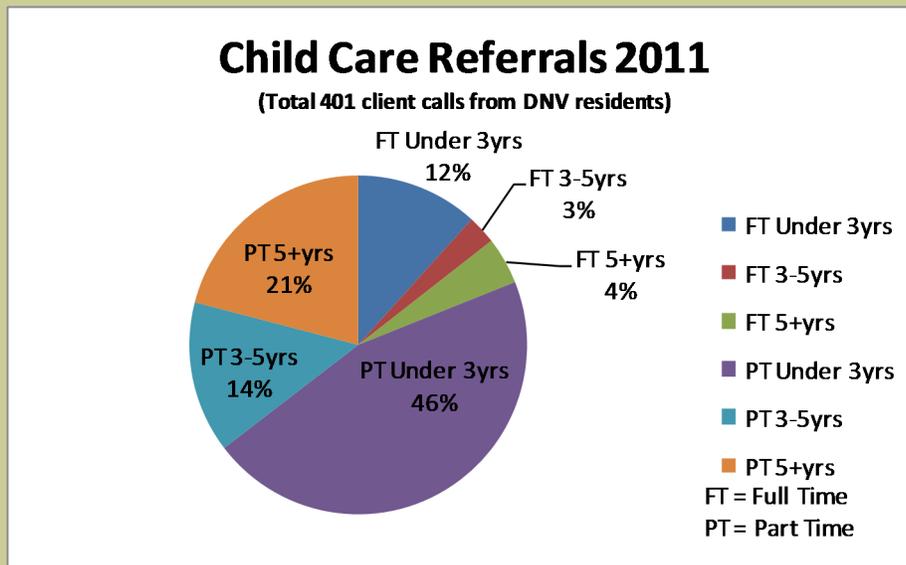
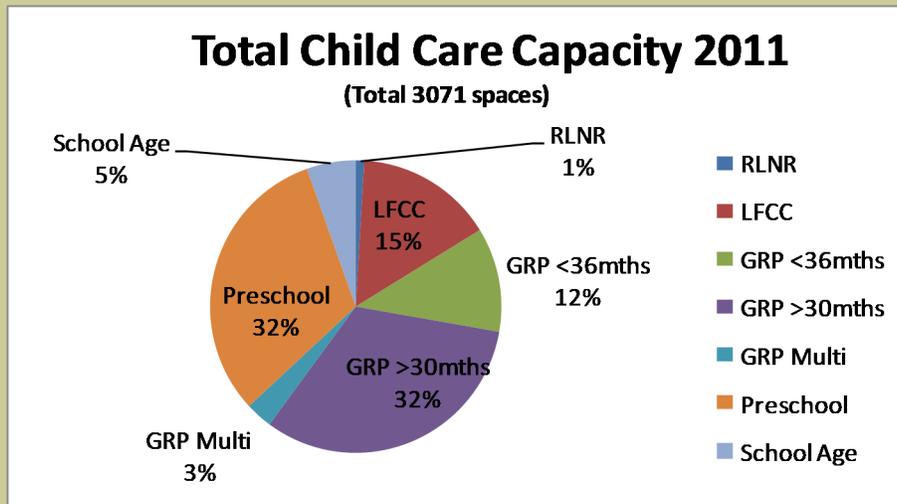
The Manual can be accessed at www.nscr.bc.ca.

The Numbers!

Child Care Spaces, Family Requests & Child Population: District of North Vancouver

The child population in the District of North Vancouver, Stats Canada 2011 Census:
 0-4 years: 3975 5-9 years: 4880 10-14 years: 5615

Total: 14470



Thank you to North Shore Child Care Resource & Referral Program for statistical information



North Shore Community Resources
 Suite #201, 935 Marine Dr. North Vancouver BC
 Capilano Mall
 Ph (604) 985-7138

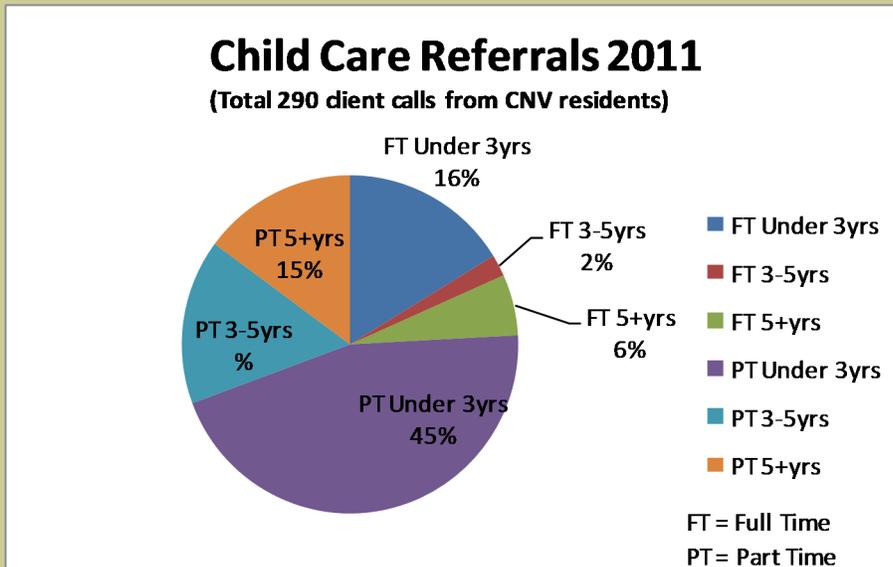
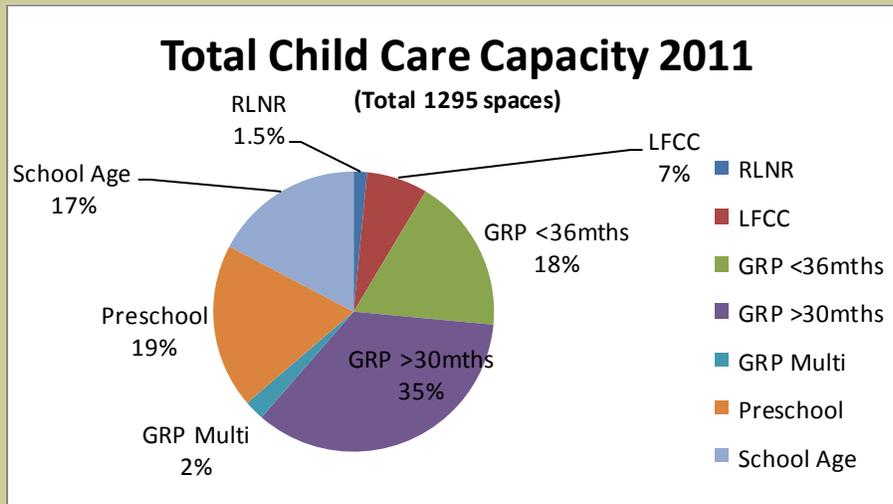


The Numbers!

Child Care Spaces, Family Requests & Child Population: City of North Vancouver

The child population in the City of North Vancouver, Stats Canada 2011 Census:
 0-4 years: 2360 5-9 years: 2035 10-14 years: 2135

Total: 6530



Thank you to North Shore Child Care Resource & Referral Program for statistical information



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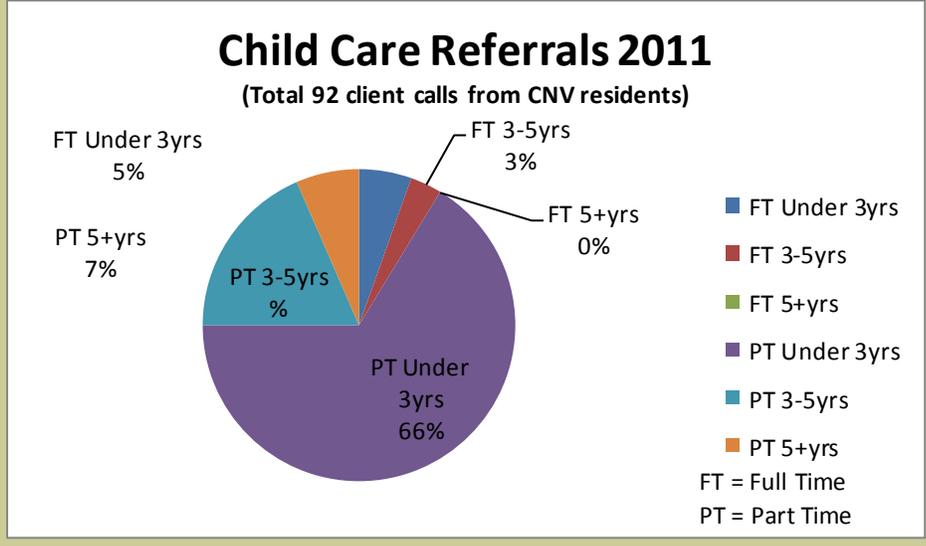
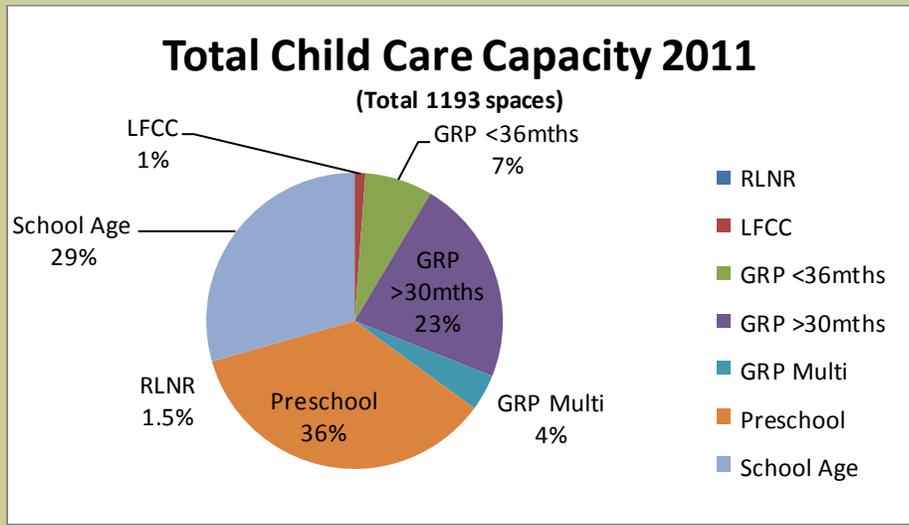


The Numbers!

Child Care Spaces, Family Requests & Child Population: District of West Vancouver

The child population in the District of West Vancouver, Stats Canada 2011 Census:
 0-4 years: 1290 5-9 years: 2030 10-14 years: 2570

Total: 5890



Thank you to North Shore Child Care Resource & Referral Program for statistical information



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 Capilano Mall
 Ph (604) 985-7138



What Else? Advocacy Information

Child Care Advocacy Organizations

One advocacy avenue to support a government child care system, decreasing the cost of child care for families is supporting **The Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning** developed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates and the Early Childhood Educators of BC. ("The Plan")

The Plan offers a concrete, innovative 'made in BC' solution to the child care crisis facing families with young children.

This plan proposes child care will cost families:

- \$10 a day for a full-time program,
- \$7 a day for part-time, and
- will be free for families with annual incomes under \$40,000.

Every young child will have the right to participate in quality early care and learning programs that meet their needs. It will be up to families to choose what services work for them.

While the Plan is generating lots of interest and support from groups and individuals across BC, it has not yet been endorsed by the BC Provincial Government.

If you would like more information on The Plan you can visit their websites at:
Early Childhood Educators of BC: www.ecebc.ca/news/integrated_project.htm

Or the Coalition of Child Care advocates of BC: www.cccabc.bc.ca

Other:

Canadian Child Care Federation: <http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/>

BC Representative for Children & Youth: www.rcybc.ca



North Shore Community Resources
Suite #201, 935 Marine Dr. North Vancouver BC
Capilano Mall
Ph (604) 985-7138



What Else? Advocacy Information Cont...

Government Contact Information

Connecting with your local government representatives regarding your child care program issues and needs is important. Listed below is the contact information for different government levels in your area.

Federal Government:

Office of the Prime Minister: pm@pm.gc.ca

Member of Parliament (MP) North Vancouver: Andrew Saxton, Andrew.saxton@parl.gc.ca

Member of Parliament (MP) WV/SunshineCoast/SeatoSky: John Weston, John.weston@parl.gc.ca

Provincial

Premier: Christy Clark, premier@gov.bc.ca

Minister of MCFD: Mary McNeil, mary.mcneil.mla@leg.bc.ca

Official Critic for MCFD: Claire Trevena, Claire.trevena.mla@leg.bc.ca

MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale: Naomi Yamamoto, Naomi.yamamoto.mla@leg.bc.ca

MLA North Vancouver-Seymour: Jane Thornthwaite, Jane.thornthwaite.mla@leg.bc.ca

MLA West Vancouver-Garibaldi: Joan McIntyre, Joan.mcintyre.mla@leg.bc.ca

MLA West Vancouver-Capilano: Ralph Sultan, Ralph.sultan.mla@leg.bc.ca

Municipal

City Of North Vancouver Mayor: Darrell Mussatto, info@cnv.org

District of North Vancouver Mayor: Richard Walton, infoweb@dnv.org

District of West Vancouver Mayor: Michael Smith, info@westvancouver.ca



Child Care vs. Early Learning

Myth # 1

Child care and early learning are two different things.

Myth # 2

Child care is mainly custodial care.

Myth # 3

Only early learning programs/preschool programs prepare children for school.

Quality Looks the Same

- * Philosophy a match for parents & educators
- * Activities enhance children's development
- * Environment interesting, challenging and safe
- * Program considers children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional well being
- * Caring educators with required credentials are consistent, model appropriate behavior, and nurture self esteem
- * Staff/child ratios meet or exceed Licensing requirements



Standards of Quality Apply to Full or Part Day Programs:

- * A program plan that promotes confidence and independence
- * Nurtures a sense of belonging, creativity, curiosity, social responsibility and develops social, motor, language and thinking skills.
- * A morning at preschool and child care will look similar
- * A child care program schedule will be paced for the length of the day
- * Preschool children arrive and leave all at once whereas child care children arrive and leave according to parent's work/study times

Care and Early Learning Can Not Be Separated:

- * Early learning must include consideration of physical, social and emotional growth as much as thinking and academic skills
- * Educators know learning is inseparable from care for young children
- * All programs encourage parent involvement and support educational and developmental goals in a nurturing – caring – environment

The Goal of Community and Policy:

Must be to encourage and support **all** programs for children to raise standards to achieve quality environments that meet the equally important needs of children for care and education.

Child Care vs. Early Learning

Child Care and Early Learning/Preschool – Quality Looks the Same

Parents and teachers often think that child care centres and early learning/preschool programs perform different functions. Child care is often viewed as custodial care while early learning/preschool programs are seen as preparing children for kindergarten and school. Care and early learning are integral in a quality program for children; and all children require care and education to support development from birth to prepare for life – not just kindergarten and school.

Parents seeking child care, (family or group), and educators seeking jobs in child development can rate all programs for children according to the same standards:

- * The philosophy of the centre matches the parents' child-rearing beliefs and the educators' approach to education.
- * A high-quality play based program, regardless of length of time, follows a regular schedule of activities. These activities match the developmental abilities of the children and strengthen children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional well-being.
- * The physical environment is interesting and challenging yet ensures safety.
- * There will be, at minimum, the required child/staff ratio of adults with appropriate education. The educators work with the children in a caring, consistent fashion; model appropriate behaviour; offer manageable challenges; and nurture self-esteem.

These standards for quality apply to full day child care or part day early learning/preschool programs. All programs include a plan of activities that matches the children's needs and promotes their independence, confidence and self esteem. The program of activities nurtures a sense of belonging, creativity, curiosity, social responsibility and develops social, motor, language, and thinking skills. Programs provide a variety of experiences designed to encourage exploration and problem-solving, and an awareness of diversity in their community and their world. A morning schedule for preschools and child care centres will be very similar. Unlike part day early learning/preschool programs, child care centres will schedule lunch and afternoon rest time. Child care centres will repeat many elements of the morning schedule in the afternoon (e.g. group time, free play, story time, outside play, snack). Another difference between the two settings is that preschool children tend to arrive and leave all at once whereas children arrive and leave at child care according to their parents' work and study schedules.

Quality early learning/preschool programs stress physical, social and emotional growth as much as they stress thinking and academic skills. Similarly, educators in quality child care settings know early learning is inseparable from care. All programs should encourage parent involvement and provide program plans that support educational and developmental goals in a nurturing – caring – environment. In B.C. we are fortunate to have the Early Development Instrument (EDI) that identifies, by neighbourhood, areas of vulnerability for young children. This valuable tool can be used as a guideline for program development and enhancement.

The goal of policy and community must be to encourage and support **all** programs for children to raise standards to achieve quality environments that meet the equally important needs of children for care and education.