

Staffing Crisis Continues Impacting Early Education and Care

A March 2023 4C for Children survey of 301 local child care center directors shows little improvement in the staffing crisis that has plagued child care since the same survey was deployed in 2021.

Although the data collected from 109 respondents showed slight positive shifts from 2021 in the school-age category, the infant and toddler numbers stayed steady or negatively increased. Despite the shifts, the total impact mirrors 2021’s findings: *More than 1,400 infant, toddler, preschool (age 3-5) and school-age children can’t access critical early childhood education and care because of the lack of teachers.*

4C for Children has created an innovative recovery and growth strategy to expand the child care workforce and help ensure families and children have access to affordable, quality child care. As a result, we’ve launched:

- The unique Child Care Careers Program is recruiting and training new early childhood professionals to fill vacancies and open closed classrooms.
- Free business supports, resources and coaching are helping those interested in starting child care businesses or expanding existing programs.

The information collected in the 4C for Children survey reflects both state and national level data. Groundwork Ohio reports that more than two-thirds of Ohioans (69%) say that local child care facilities in their area are having “serious staffing shortages.” More than a third (38%) of Ohio parents with children under five say they have missed work, left early or lost focus because of challenges with child care. Still others lost or can’t find employment.

A February 2023 study from the bipartisan nonprofit Council for Stronger America found that the lack of accessible, affordable child care is costing families of infants and toddlers \$78 billion in earnings and job search expenses. The study also reports that the U.S. is losing \$122 billion annually in earnings, productivity and revenue—a number that has more than doubled since 2018. Researchers believe that figure is a gross underestimate because parents need child care well beyond age 3.

It comes down to this: Without teachers, families can’t work and children can’t learn. 4C for Children is laser focused on continuing to think outside the box and implement strategies that will help turn this crisis around and ensure our community’s children get the early education they deserve.

Miami Valley Child Care Staffing Shortage Impact

Champaign, Clark, Darke, Fayette, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble and Shelby counties

AGE GROUP	CLASSROOMS SHUTTERED	TEACHERS NEEDED	CHILDREN NOT SERVED
INFANT AND TODDLER	58	93	447
PRESCHOOL	48	80	602
SCHOOL AGE	30	40	349
TOTAL IMPACT	136	213	1,398