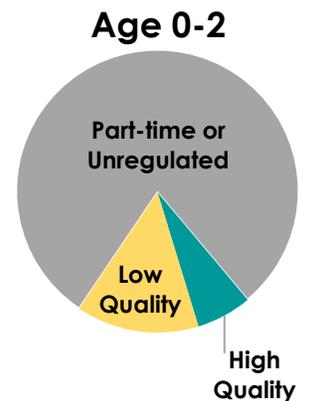


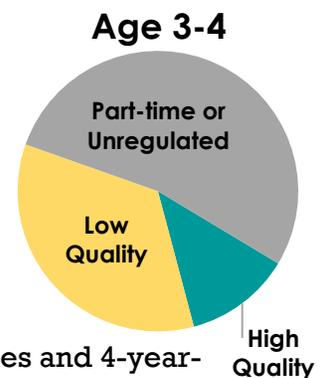
Half of kindergarteners in Boyle County are not ready to learn

52.4% of kindergarteners in Boyle County lack the physical, linguistic, cognitive, social, or emotional skills necessary to benefit from instruction at the kindergarten level. These initial deficiencies have long-term effects such as an increased likelihood of **committing a crime**, **dropping out of school**, and needing **government assistance**. These effects are amplified for at-risk kids. Each dollar invested in high-quality early learning programs returns **up to \$17** in the years ahead. These investments will enrich our future workforce, decrease social costs, add value to our community's amenities, and support our current workforce in need of childcare.

There are **977 children aged 0-2** living in Boyle County. We estimate childcare centers have a capacity of **202 full-time** infants and toddlers, which classifies our community as a "**childcare desert**" (less than 1 slot per 3 children). 68% of children are served at facilities rated as 1- or 2-stars (low quality) on the Kentucky All STARS quality rating system. The median price for full-time infant care in Boyle County is \$22/day, below the median prices in rural (\$25) and urban (\$30) areas in central Kentucky. 195 kids (ages 0-4 combined) of working families with income below 165% of the poverty line receive the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidy of up to \$28/day. An estimated 150 infants and toddlers would be eligible for Early Head Start, a federally-funded program, yet Boyle County has **no Early Head Start**.



There are **663 children aged 3-4** living in Boyle County. We estimate **316 full-time** kids could be served by current providers; 73% at low quality facilities. The median price in Boyle County is \$20.50/day, below the median price in rural (\$23) and urban (\$27) areas in Kentucky. CCAP reimburses this care at a maximum of \$25/day. Boyle's Head Start is a high-quality, federally funded program offered at no cost to families below the poverty line. Boyle County has **20 Head Start slots** located in **Harrodsburg's center**, yet likely over 100 children qualify.



There are several **high-quality, part-day** options. 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities and 4-year-olds living in families below 160% of the poverty line can attend preschool at no cost. Boyle County also admits students who pay tuition. In 2018, **227 children attended preschool** at Danville Independent and Boyle County Schools. Wilderness Trace Child Development Center has a high-quality, part-time program for children aged 2-5 that provides educational and therapeutic services for **52 children with and without disabilities**.

For families who provide **care in their home**, there are three **no-cost services** focused on enriching child development. **HANDS** is a weekly home visitation program provided by the local health department. They enroll families before or just after a baby is born and provide one-on-one support and resources. **Cradle School** is run by Families First in Danville Independent Schools. It consists of on-site and home visit sessions to teach parents activities to improve kindergarten readiness. **The Gladys Project** is an early-intervention literacy program that provides individualized weekly sessions with parents on how to develop their children's pre-literacy skills.

DBECA issues these recommendations:

Increase childcare capacity for 0-2 age group by removing barriers for providers who want to expand their services and supporting new services, including additional licensed childcare facilities or individuals interested in providing certified family childcare in their home. The most common barriers are space and staffing.

Increase wrap-around services for 3-4 age group, such as care before and after pre-K and transportation between services, to provide seamless childcare for a full workday. This would allow working parents to take advantage of high-quality early childhood education services.

Increase quality for all age groups by improving staff access to quality-enhancing training and coaching services provided by Child Care Aware and Childcare Council of Kentucky. Partner with local higher-education agencies to incentivize more early childhood education graduates. Develop ways for the community to invest in quality improvements.

Strengthen community understanding of the importance of early childhood development through public awareness campaigns, supporting providers' efforts to educate parents, and supporting kindergarten-readiness initiatives across families not using regulated care.

Develop a collaborative network of early childhood and family services, guiding families across providers to ensure their needs are met and reaching out to underserved families.

Bring the price of care in line with the value of services provided to ensure adequate compensation of high-quality caregivers and foster quality-enhancing improvements. As prices rise, develop ways to subsidize the cost of care to ensure low-income families have access to services.

Bring Head Start and Early Head Start to Boyle County by partnering with Bluegrass Community Action Partnership, the grantee of federal funding for Boyle County Head Start.

Promote the continued diversity within provider settings so the children from different backgrounds learn and grow together.

Help us!

Advocate: Encourage businesses and organizations (public, private and civic) to publicly endorse DBECA, ask KY representatives to increase funding for early childhood initiatives (K and Pre-K)

Donate: Wilderness Trace Community Foundation, mark funds for "DBECA"

Get involved: Email DBECAinfo@gmail.com

Learn more: Visit www.dbeca.org

Sources (accessed on December 5, 2018):

Center for American Progress: America's Child Care Deserts in 2018

ChildCare Aware of Kentucky: 2017 Child Care Market Rate Study (additional county-level data provided by ChildCare Aware)

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Benefind Portal (capacity by age estimates based on ages served and capacity)

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Kentucky Child Care Maximum Payments Rate Chart DCC-300 (R. 12/18)

Kentucky Center for Statistics: Early Childhood Profile (October 2018)

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for a Competitive Workforce: Why Business Should Support Early Childhood Education (2010)

Revised
2/7/2019