



JEFFERSON COUNTY

PARENTS
EXPERIENCE
HARDSHIPS
WITH CHILD CARE



HEALTHIER™
COLORADO



OPEN™
ANSWER

PARENT 1

Employed full-time, has a child under 12 months

“ Before we had our baby last year both my husband and I worked full-time. We started looking for childcare while I was pregnant, but some centers didn’t even have a waiting list, and all of them were too expensive for us to afford on my salary alone—they were approximately 50% of each of our salaries or 25% of our household income—about the same as our mortgage. My husband’s job was contract/remote, and we couldn’t afford to put down a deposit to hold a spot without knowing if his work would continue. After my maternity leave, I had to go back to the office, and he watched the baby from home while working remotely until his contract ended. Now he’s unemployed, but he can only accept jobs that are full-time, long-term, and consistent hours—otherwise, we wouldn’t be able to pay for childcare. My elderly parents also live with us, but have many health/memory problems and cannot watch the baby for long periods, so we use them sparingly. We are stuck with my spouse not working (in which case we can just barely make ends meet) to stay at home with our child until he can find something that more than adequately covers childcare, then once he does I am sure we’ll be on a waiting list for 6-9 months, and I have no idea what we’ll do during that time other than heavily relying on my ill parents, taking the baby into work with me (luckily my employers are understanding) or ad hoc babysitting services.

Childcare will be our single most expensive bill almost on par with our mortgage. This is the reason many of my friends are not having children, or like us are only planning on having one child. We are all middle-income educated 30+ and cannot afford to work and have childcare.”

PARENT 2

Employed part-time with a 1-year-old. Spouse works full-time.

“ Just that there needs to be more options available to parents. Childcare, as it is now, is pushing women out of the workforce. There are very limited options for parents (it took us over two years to even be accepted into a single childcare facility) and options that are available are often out of reach or stretch families to their financial limits. Childcare seems reserved for the rich and not available to the working class who often need the help the most.”

PARENT 3

Employed part-time with an infant. Spouse works full-time.

“ It literally Costs the same amount for me to get childcare that I make in my job, so it’s more cost effective currently for me to just home-school my kids, instead of looking for better or higher paying employment.”

PARENT 4

Employed full-time, with a 4-year-old. Spouse works full-time.

“ Our school’s before/after care provider does not provide before or afterschool care for Pre-K aged students. The main reason for this (stated by the program director) is because the CO childcare licensing requirements to provide care for the preschool age group are very stringent and create additional expenses for the provider. It also makes these programs more difficult to staff.

I would urge my elected officials to look into easing licensing requirements to allow more before/ afterschool providers to provide care to preschool-age students.

Our school is located in a rural area (far Western edge of JeffCo), and there is ZERO organized or licensed before/afterschool child care available for preschool students at our school. This creates a huge gap in childcare for parents who want their children to attend preschool but also work full-time. In order to accommodate the school schedule (7:45am-2:35pm), we are stuck piecing together odd work schedules, relying on unlicensed in-home child care, or paying for private nannies which is prohibitively expensive.”

PARENT 5

Works part-time and is going to school. Child is 4. Partner works full-time.

“ We enrolled in 2020, but were unable to have our kids attend pre-K due to the pandemic and mom working in healthcare. The following year school started and we were told the rec center would provide a before and after care program, which was cancelled 2 weeks into the school year. We have really struggled to find convenient, consistently available childcare options”

PARENT 6

Both parents work full-time. Child is 5.

“ It’s very unaffordable in the area. At one point it was higher than our mortgage. We moved him to a small Christian school because of the cost savings, and it’s a great school. However, the hours end at four which makes it very difficult for full-time working parents.”

PARENT 7

Both working full-time. Infant child.

“We currently have an au pair living with us. We chose this option for child care because it was a more affordable option than the home daycare our daughter was attending, even though we really loved the home daycare our daughter went to. When our second child was born, we had to figure out a different option, because we couldn't afford to send both of our children to this home daycare.”

PARENT 8

Both working full-time. Infant child.

“Childcare costs are a huge strain on our family”

WHAT WOULD HAVING AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE MEAN TO YOU?

“Would mean my spouse could look for and accept a wider variety of jobs (lower paying, just part-time, inconsistent hours, non-remote, etc.”

“We would have reduced stress over finances, we would have more childcare options available to us, I would have a better ability to work and not feel guilty because most of my paycheck is going towards childcare.”

“More availability to work and to keep up with bills. Greater flexibility.”

“We would feel less stressed about our finances each month.”

“We could afford to live.”