Early Care & Learning Services for Children in Mat-Su Borough

**Children under 6**
- **38%** are in licensed or regulated ECL services.
- **99%** not in ECL services are cared for at home by a household member.

**Children 6-12 years of age**
- **24%** are in licensed or regulated ECL services.
- **96%** not in ECL services are cared for at home by a household member.

**Time in care per child in paid care (average hours per month):**

- **24** hours for children under 6
- **10** hours for children 6-12 years of age

**Type of ECL services received varies by age group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Children under 6</th>
<th>Children 6-12 years of age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care at someone else’s home</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care in child’s own home by family, friend, or other provider</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-elementary or center-based care</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start/Head Start</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-sponsored before or after school programs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other before or after school programs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Early Care & Learning (ECL) Definition: ECL services include all types of child care, including formal (licensed, regulated) services and informal (short term, temporary, and other child care) arrangements.

**Kindergarten readiness**

- **41%** in Mat-Su Borough
- **33%** Statewide

Note: Percent of kindergartners meeting 11 of 13 Alaska Developmental Profile goals.
Average spending in Mat-Su Borough is higher than the Alaska average of $13,775.

Cost of Care

Average annual cost of licensed care in Mat-Su Borough for children under 6 years of age is $15,139.

Financial assistance is used for 18% of children under 6 and 13% of children 6 to 12 years of age.

Early Care & Learning Impacts Employment

17% of Mat-Su Borough households with children under 13 years of age include at least one household member not employed or working less hours than they otherwise would be because of lack of access to ECL services.

Employment is restricted for these individuals by an average of 26 hours per week.

80% of employers provide no ECL-related benefits.

ECL factors with the greatest impact on household member’s ability to participate in the workforce:

- Cost: 42%
- Quality: 27%
- Availability: 30%

Base: Children in ECL services in March 2019
Note: An average of 4.35 weeks per month was used to calculate average hours per week. Average spending is for paid and unpaid services.