

Does Your Community Have a Childcare Capacity Challenge?



Childcare issues often develop gradually, impacting families, employers, and the local economy long before they become obvious. Use these questions as a quick check to determine how childcare is affecting your community.



1. Are families struggling to find childcare?

When parents can't access affordable, reliable care, workforce participation and family stability can suffer.

What to Look for:

- Long waitlists for care
- Limited infant or toddler openings
- Families traveling outside the community for care
- Limited options for nontraditional work hours



2. Is childcare affecting workforce participation?

Childcare challenges can create hidden barriers both employees and employers.

What to Look for:

- Ongoing staffing or recruitment difficulties
- Increased absenteeism or turnover
- Parents reducing work hours or leaving jobs
- Employers raising childcare as a business concern



3. Are local providers under pressure?

Provider capacity depends on much more than demand.

What to Look for:

- Staffing shortages
- Reduced enrollment capacity
- Facility constraints
- Provider closures or consolidation



4. Are the right stakeholders engaged?

Successful solutions require collaboration across sectors.

Key Partners:

- Childcare providers
- Area Employers
- Economic and workforce development leaders
- Schools and local government
- Parents and community advocates



5. Do you have the data you need?

Communities often know childcare is a concern but lack the data needed to make informed decisions.

Consider:

- Current childcare supply and demand
- Gaps by age group or geography
- Workforce impacts
- Potential investment opportunities

Self Assessment



Check the statements that apply to your community:

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Families report difficulty finding childcare.

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Employers identify childcare as a workforce concern.

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Providers face staffing or capacity challenges.

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Parents are reducing work hours because of childcare needs.

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Waitlists are common.

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Key stakeholders are discussing childcare concerns.

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Reliable local childcare data is limited.

If you checked three or more boxes, your community may be experiencing childcare capacity challenges that warrant a closer look.

Want to understand the full picture? A childcare needs assessment can help identify the root causes, quantify the impact, and uncover practical solutions for your community. Visit **tpma-inc.com** to learn more.