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DEL 2010 Market Rate Survey:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/research/

NACCRRRA Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2011 Update:

www.naccrra.org/news/

Many families in Washington depend upon child care while they work, look for work, or are in school or training.

According to DEL's 2010 Market Rate Survey, more than 176,000 children in Washington were enrolled in licensed child care in spring 2010. About 78 percent of these children were in child care centers, and 22 percent in licensed family home child care settings.

Cost of child care

In general child care centers charge more per child than family homes, regardless of child's age. Infant care is overall most expensive, with costs decreasing as children get older.

According to DEL's 2010 Market Rate Survey, average child care costs for full-time, nonsubsidized, standard care are:

Centers		
	Average cost per month	Annual cost of child care
Infant	\$1,060	\$12,718
Toddler	\$773	\$9,281
Preschooler	\$718	\$8,613
Kindergartner	\$610	\$7,321
School-age	\$471	\$5,654
All ages	\$693	\$8,314
Family homes		
	Average cost per month	Annual cost of child care
Infant	\$682	\$8,186
Toddler	\$634	\$7,607
Preschooler	\$569	\$6,833
Kindergartner	\$486	\$5,834
School-age	\$413	\$4,959
All ages	\$586	\$7,030

Nationally, in 2011, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies found that:

- Overall, the cost of child care increased 1.9 percent for centers and 1.8 percent for family child care homes from 2009 to 2010.
- In 40 states (including Washington), the average annual cost of center-based infant care exceeded 10 percent of the state's median income for a two-parent family.
- In 36 states (including Washington), the average annual cost for center-based care **for an infant was higher than a year's tuition and related fees at a four-year public college.**