

Child Care



More children than ever before are being cared for by adults other than their parents. The majority of children under age three have working parents and spend a significant amount of time in non-parental child care. According to the 1980 Census, 38 percent of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force whereas in 2000, the rate increased to 55 percent. Parents, business leaders, child care professionals, researchers and government officials know that a system of available, affordable, quality child care is essential for healthy children, self-sufficient families, and a vibrant economy. Quality child care delivers important short and long-term benefits to virtually every sector of the community.

Child Care Council of Westchester

Finding and selecting quality child care can be challenging for any parent. The Child Care Council of Westchester eases the process by offering specialized information on child care options, explaining the regulations that govern child care programs and educating parents about the indicators of quality care. Child care professionals at the Council provide the following services:

- Locating appropriate child or elder care services
- Providing consultation, answering questions related to choosing child or elder care and finding quality programs
- Presenting work-site seminars on work/life and dependent care topics
- Assisting with on-site, near-site or community-based center start up or the development of a family child care network

Financial Assistance

The financial burden of child care is particularly difficult for working families with modest incomes. Specialists provide information to low-income working parents explaining how to access public subsidies for child care through the Department of Social Services. For families who do not qualify for public funding, but need help paying for care, the Council offers financial assistance through the Sally Ziegler Scholarship Fund. Awards are made once each year. Applications are distributed in May of each year through programs regulated by the Office of Children and Family Services. For information on how to apply for a scholarship please call (914) 761-3456.

Professional Services

The Council offers assistance to child care professionals working in child care centers, family or group child care homes, school-age programs, summer day camps, pre-Kindergarten programs, and nursery schools. Training, start-up help for new programs, financial grants for infant/toddler expansion, free health and safety items, support for attaining national accreditation, fingerprinting, conferences and technical assistance are among the many ways the Council works promotes quality child care.

Employer Services

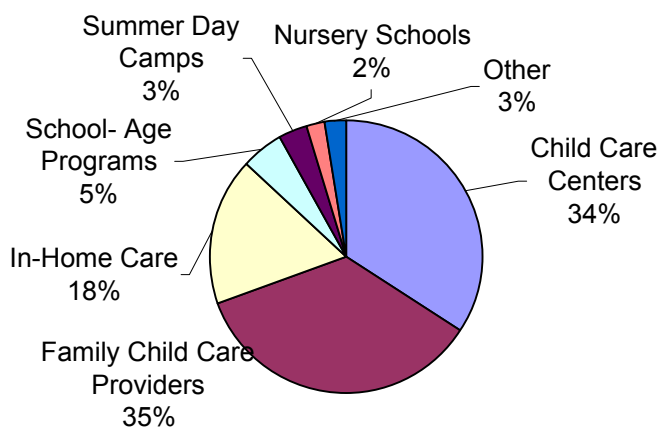
The Child Care Council of Westchester helps employers recruit and retain valued employees. Whether a company employs 20, 200 or 2,000 people, the Council will custom design a low-cost dependent care referral benefit, covering both child care and elder care, that meets the specific needs of your business.

Advocacy and Community Outreach

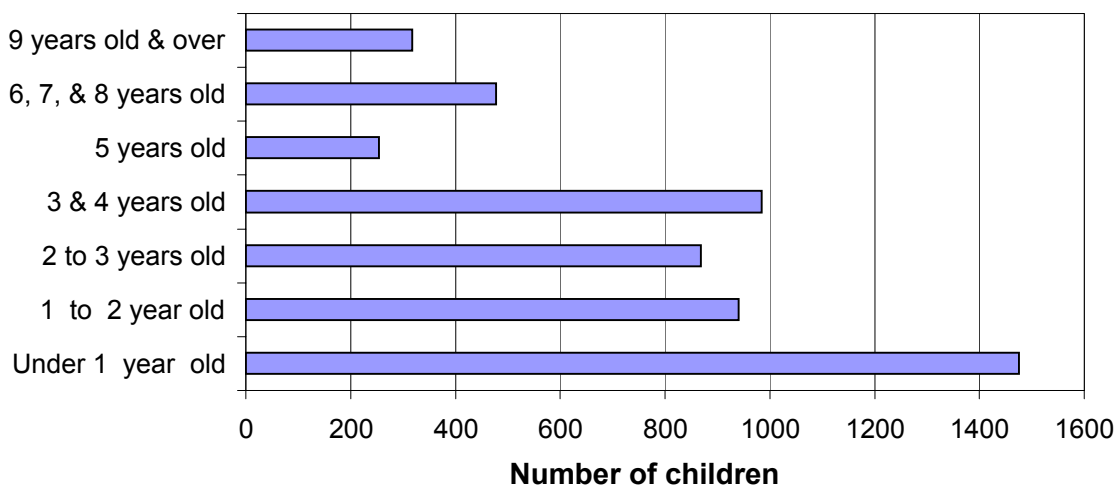
The Child Care Council of Westchester advocates on behalf of the child care needs of Westchester's children and families. Providing a coordinated voice for families and child care providers alike, the Council positively affects child care in Westchester County through: community outreach efforts to assist in the expansion and enhancement of child care resources, advocating on the Federal, State and County levels for pressing issues affecting child care, producing a wide variety of publications on topics relating to child care, and by conducting and distributing industry research.

For more detailed information about the Child Care Council of Westchester, visit their website at www.ChildCareWestchester.org or call (914) 761-3456.

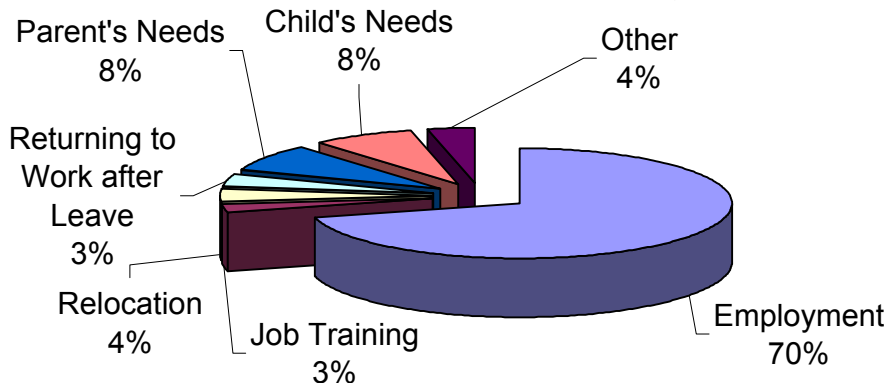
Type of Child Care Requested, 2003



Child Care Request by Age, 2003



Reasons for Child Care, 2003



Source: Child Care Council of Westchester. Prepared by the Westchester County Department of Planning.

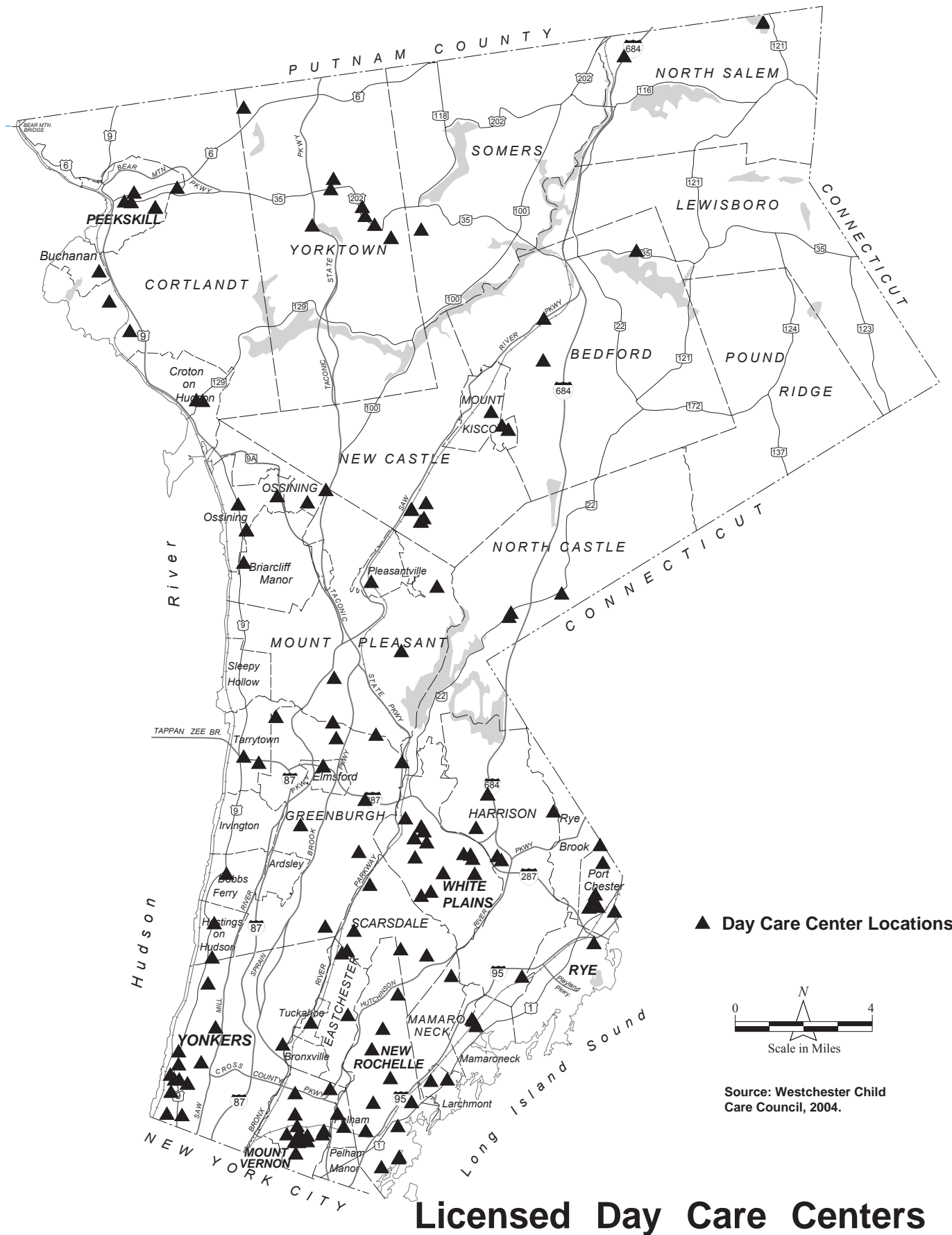
**Regulated Child Care Programs by Municipality
In Westchester County, NY
As of November 2004**

Municipality	Available Slots by Age Group					
	Number of programs	Infant 6 weeks to 10 months	Toddler 18 months to 3 years	Preschool 3 & 4 years	School-age 5 - 12 years	Total Licensed Capacity
Bedford	17	47	80	200	165	492
Cortlandt	25	65	88	274	214	641
Eastchester	10	6	34	166	168	374
Greenburgh	42	110	230	644	926	1,910
Harrison	13	8	39	269	128	444
Lewisboro	4	2	2	6	112	122
Mamaroneck	18	17	27	377	174	595
Mount Kisco	9	45	75	263	149	532
Mount Pleasant	45	159	211	624	619	1,613
Mount Vernon	122	186	248	962	923	2,319
New Castle	9	5	66	222	244	537
New Rochelle	64	86	238	880	427	1,631
North Castle	6	70	139	257	117	583
North Salem	2	-	-	25	70	95
Ossining	23	100	146	396	371	1,013
Peekskill	23	38	82	225	788	1,133
Pelham	4	-	15	30	101	146
Port Chester	14	21	69	333	308	731
Pound Ridge	1	-	-	-	35	35
Rye/Rye Town	8	42	47	72	186	347
Scarsdale	11	3	47	617	92	759
Somers	5	6	6	18	181	211
White Plains	73	167	398	1,373	1,439	3,377
Yonkers	142	179	268	1,117	3,433	4,997
Yorktown	41	57	133	353	1,104	1,647
Total Slots	731	1,419	2,688	9,703	12,474	26,284

Source: Child Care Council of Westchester

Note: Total slots include all regulated Child Care Centers, School - Age Child Care Programs, Family Child Care Providers; Group Family Child Care Providers. Programs are regulated by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services

More detailed information about the supply and demand for child care in Westchester County can be found in our 2004 Supply and Demand for Child Care survey located on our website www.ChildCareWestchester.org



Licensed Day Care Centers

