

# How to Find Child Care in Buncombe County



## Parent Referral Service

Mountain Child Care Connections Phone: 877.752.5955 Email: [childcareinfo@swcdcinc.org](mailto:childcareinfo@swcdcinc.org)

This is a free referral service for families seeking child care and after school care.

Calls are answered Monday through Friday, 8 am – 12 pm and 1pm-5pm. If you receive voice mail, leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

## Subsidized Child Care Options in Buncombe County

Program	Description	Eligibility Requirements	How to Apply
<p><b>Early Head Start</b></p> <p><i>A federally funded program</i></p> <p><i>No cost to families</i></p> <p><i>Over 84 children served annually</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free high quality child care and a variety of services designed to meet the medical, dental, nutritional and mental health needs of participating children.</li> <li>For children up to 3 years of age.</li> <li>Center-based options are offered daily for 4.5 to 6 hours- (hours vary depending on location.)</li> <li>Wrap around care is available at all locations for families who gain child care subsidy or pay a parent fee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children must be younger than 3 years of age</li> <li>Family income at or below 100% of Federal Poverty</li> </ul> <p>Federal Poverty Guidelines as of 2015:                      Family of two – \$15,930                      Family of four – \$24,250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families are assessed on various need and risk factors</li> <li>Priority placement as space permits for teen parents, homeless children, migrant children</li> <li>Families receiving SSI are automatically eligible as space permits</li> </ul>	<p>Verner Center for Early Learning                      East, West, and Central Asheville locations                      (828) 298-0808</p> <p><a href="http://www.vernerearlylearning.org">www.vernerearlylearning.org</a></p>
<p><b>Head Start</b></p> <p><i>A federally funded program</i></p> <p><i>No cost to families</i></p> <p><i>Over 500 children served annually</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free high quality child care and a variety of services designed to meet the medical, dental, nutritional and mental health needs of participating children.</li> <li>For children 3 to 5 years of age prior to kindergarten.</li> <li>Classrooms are located in most Buncombe County Elementary Schools, Asheville City Schools Preschool and in 3 community centers: Hillcrest, Lonnie D. Burton, Pisgah View.</li> <li>10-month program – August through May.</li> <li>Does not provide full-time child care. Hours typically are 4 to 6.5 hours a day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For children 3 to 5 years of age prior to kindergarten.</li> <li>Family income at or below 100% of Federal Poverty</li> </ul> <p>Federal Poverty Guidelines as of 2015:                      Family of two – \$15,930                      Family of four – \$24,250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority placement for children who are homeless, or in foster care; families on SSI, Work First, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as space permits</li> </ul>	<p>Community Action Opportunities / Head Start                      (828) 252-2495  <a href="http://www.communityactionopportunties.org">www.communityactionopportunties.org</a>                      (Locations throughout the county)</p> <p><i>Families must apply at the main office:                      25 Gaston Street, Asheville.</i></p>

Program	Description	Eligibility Requirements	How to Apply
<p><b>NC Pre-K</b></p> <p>NC Pre-Kindergarten (formerly More at 4)</p> <p>A state funded program</p> <p>Over 350 children served annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free, high quality child care and education for 6.5 hours a day.</li> <li>For children 4 years of age by August 31 of the current school year.</li> <li>10-month program, typically August through May.</li> <li>Multiple providers and classroom locations. Check the Buncombe Partnership for Children website for current listing of providers. (<a href="http://www.buncombepfc.org">www.buncombepfc.org</a>)</li> <li>Does not provide full-time child care. Families needing help with child care for the remainder of the day should apply for child care subsidy or pay a parent fee for wrap around care, which is available at limited sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% of State median income guidelines apply</li> </ul> <p>State Median Income as of 2015:  Family of two – \$34,090  Family of four – \$50,133</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children must be 4 years of age by August 31 of the school year</li> <li>Prioritization for enrollment: children with no previous child care experience; children with active duty military caregiver(s); children with special needs</li> </ul>	<p>Contact Buncombe Partnership for Children (828) 285-9333, ext. 1007  <a href="http://www.buncombepfc.org">www.buncombepfc.org</a></p> <p>NC Pre-K classrooms are located throughout the county. Check the Buncombe PFC website for the most current listing of participating sites.</p> <p><i>Applications are available online and are accepted throughout the school year.</i></p>
<p><b>Child Care Subsidy (Vouchers)</b></p> <p>State and federally funded</p> <p>Parent fees may apply</p> <p>This program serves approximately 2500 children annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For children birth to 12 years of age; parent fees are 10% of gross monthly income for all vouchers.</li> <li>Financial assistance for child care and after school care provided to eligible families for children enrolled in participating 3, 4 and 5 star programs, as well as GS110, (church/religious sponsored) programs. Families are able to choose their own child care provider. Child care providers are reimbursed per child at a rate set by the state.</li> <li>Vouchers may be used for full-time care, summer care, after school care, or wrap around care for free part-time programs like Early Head Start and NC Pre-K.</li> </ul>	<p>Children 0-5, not in K  200% Federal Poverty 2015</p> <p>Children 6-12  133% Federal Poverty 2015</p> <p>200% Federal Poverty as of 2015:  Family of two – \$31,860  Family of four – \$48,500</p> <p>133% Federal Poverty as of 2015:  Family of two - \$21,187  Family of four - \$32,252</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families must be working and/or enrolled in school for a minimum of 30 hours a week</li> </ul>	<p>Contact the Child Care Subsidy Unit at the Department of Health and Human Services (828) 250-5664</p> <p><i>Typically, there is a waiting list for vouchers. As soon as you know you will need child care and think that you may be eligible for financial assistance, contact the Subsidy Unit at the number above.</i></p>

### Private Child Care Options

- For families who are not eligible for subsidized child care, private child care providers offer full and/or part time care options.
- Families are encouraged to ask providers whether they offer scholarships, a sliding fee scale for private payers, and/or other discounts.
- Half day programs, (four hours or less,) are another option for families to consider.
- Families are encouraged to contact Mountain Child Care Connections to locate child care. Phone 1(877)752-5955. Email: [childcareinfo@swcdcinc.org](mailto:childcareinfo@swcdcinc.org). This is a free referral service for families seeking child care and after school care. Calls are answered Monday through Friday, 8 am – 12 pm and 1pm-5pm. If you receive voice mail, leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.



Supporting Children's First 2,000 Days