



Child care for children with special needs

Fundamental facts from the
2004 Minnesota child care survey



More than one in six Minnesota children age 12 and younger has a special need that affects their child care, as reported by their parents.

- Needs requiring extra attention include health care, physical or developmental disabilities, emotional or behavioral problems or learning disabilities.
- 8 percent of children have more than one of these special needs.
- Parents report that children age 3 to 12 are more likely than younger children to have special needs (21 percent versus 10 percent).
- Among all households, children age 6 to 12 are more likely than children under 5 to have special needs (9 percent versus 5 percent). Among households with low incomes, these proportions double (17 percent versus 10 percent).
- For all ages of children, households with low incomes are more likely than households with higher incomes to have a child with special needs requiring extra effort (13 percent versus 5 percent).

Parents of children with special needs have fewer child care options.

- 39 percent of parents who have a child with special needs report that they “had to take whatever child care arrangement they could get,” compared with 27 percent of parents whose children have no special needs.
- Parents of children with special needs are more likely to know about child care subsidies than other parents (71 percent versus 57 percent).

Family, friend and neighbor care is a vital resource for families who have children with special needs.

- Households with a child who has special needs are more likely to use family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers *only* (38 percent versus 23 percent of households whose children have no special needs).

continued

Parents of children with special needs have fewer child care options and more child care related work problems.

- About 16 percent of FFN caregivers say that they care for a child whose special needs affect the way they take care of the child.
- FFN caregivers of school-age children are more likely to report problems meeting the special needs of the children in their care (16 percent, compared with 6 percent for those caring for children age 5 and younger).

Parents of children with special needs have more trouble balancing child care and work.

- About a third of parents whose children have special needs report that child care problems interfered with accepting or keeping a job in the past year, double the percentage of parents whose children do not have special needs (17 percent).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Download fact sheets and full research reports—*Child Care Use in Minnesota and Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers*—at www.wilderresearch.org. 2004 Minnesota statewide household child care survey funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and conducted by Wilder Research, Richard Chase study director.

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This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 282-5329 (voice). TTY/TDD users can call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529.

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