When defining quality, parents emphasize the student-teacher relationship and a safe and loving environment.

Parents mostly feel the quality of their child’s care could improve.

Affordability is a top barrier to families accessing quality care.

Parents especially struggle to find care for infants and toddlers.
We received 5,845 responses in English and 639 responses in Spanish. Due to the relatively low number of Spanish responses, our Spanish data may not be representative compared to the larger sample size of the English survey. When added together for a total, the Spanish data does not significantly change the results viewed in English. We present both results for your information but suggest you take the English results as the most representative snapshot of the state.

We are grateful to the numerous respondents who took the time to complete our survey, which averaged at about 8 minutes to complete. Given the length, we understand long-answer questions are more work-intensive for respondents, and as a result we had fewer substantive responses to qualitative questions.

We had the unique challenge of wanting to offer respondents the opportunity to distinguish between up to three different children’s experiences in child care. In the end, the majority of our responses were gathered in the Child #1 section of our survey, with participation dropping drastically for Child #2 and #3. This survey design made it difficult to aggregate statewide data, particularly across English and Spanish versions of the survey. As such, much of the data shown is just from the Child #1 section.

We did not have the resources and network to create and circulate a Creole version of the survey and as a result, the Haitian population may not be fully represented in our findings.

Given that the survey was only offered online, those who do not have reliable or regular access to the Internet may not be fully represented in our findings.

### METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+6,400</td>
<td>Florida parents and guardians of children ages 0-6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 days</td>
<td>Survey took place June 15-July 8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIMITATIONS

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FINDING #1
When defining quality, parents emphasize the student-teacher relationship and a safe and loving environment.

Respondent definitions of "high-quality child care"

“Good environment and teaching quality. Care and guide children's learning.”

“A safe environment where the child is motivated to learn and develop social skills. Clean and healthy place with reasonable teacher-to-child ratio. A place where I can trust.”

“A safe and nurturing environment that promotes learning and creativity. Structured, clean, as well as well-trained staff.”

“The degree of the teacher, the size of the class and the atmosphere.”

“Over and over, parents noted they felt that high-quality child care is tied to the education-level of the staff, a safe, clean, and loving environment, and the connection between the student and the teacher. When parents see happy children, they feel that is high quality.”

“For me, high quality is easy. It is enough to make children happy and safe.”

Florida’s 2021 Child Care Survey
FINDING #2
Parents mostly feel the quality of their child’s care could improve.

"Please note we received 5,845 responses in English and 639 responses in Spanish. So our above statement about parents corresponds to the larger sample size from the English survey responses."

English-speaking parents don’t say their child care is "high-quality"

When asked to rate the quality of their child care, respondents answered on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being “low quality” and 10 being “high quality.”

The average response in English was 6.5. In Spanish it was 8.
FINDING #2
Parents mostly feel the quality of their child’s care could improve.

Florida parents want more from their child care

When asked to rate how close to exactly what they wanted from a child care center their child's care was, respondents answered on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being “not at all what you want” and 10 being “exactly what you want.”

- **12%** of English respondents rated their child care as exactly what they want for their child (10).
- **37%** of Spanish respondents rated their child care as exactly what they want for their child (10).
- **26%** of English respondents rated their child care in the 5-6 range.
- **11%** of Spanish respondents rated their child care in the 5-6 range.
**FINDING #2**
Parents mostly feel the quality of their child’s care could improve.

Respondents were asked
Which of the following are you having trouble finding when looking for child care?

**ENGLISH RESPONSE**

1. Staff with higher education and ongoing training
2. Director with excellent prior experience and education
3. Low teacher/child ratio
4. Small group size
5. Low teacher turnover

**SPANISH RESPONSE**

1. Convenient location
2. Open hours that meet my needs
3. Low teacher/child ratio
4. Good health and safety practices
5. Positive teacher/child interaction
**FINDING #3**
Affordability is a top barrier to families accessing quality care.

43% of English respondents and 67% of Spanish respondents either cannot afford child care or take on a significant financial burden to send their child to care.

**ENGLISH RESPONSE**
- Yes, I have found child care I can afford: 56.5%
- No, I have not found child care that is affordable: 9.6%
- I have found child care that is a challenge to afford: 33.9%

**SPANISH RESPONSE**
- Yes, I have found child care I can afford: 32.4%
- No, I have not found child care that is affordable: 31.2%
- I have found child care that is a challenge to afford: 36.4%
**Finding #3**
Affordability is a top barrier to families accessing quality care.

Parents have a lot holding them back from accessing quality care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33% of respondents say</td>
<td>60% of respondents say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that the expense of child care is holding them back from putting their child in higher quality care.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43% of respondents say</td>
<td>26% of respondents say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that child care being too far from their job/house is holding them back from putting their child in higher quality care.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Respondents were asked
*What are the top reasons you do not move your child to a higher quality center?*

**English Response**

1. Too far from my home/job
2. Costs too much
3. No open slots
4. Can't find high-quality option

**Across English and Spanish respondents, the top 4 answers are consistent, except #1 and #2 were reversed.**

So for Spanish respondents, #1 was "Costs too much" and #2 was "Too far from my home/job."
FINDING #3
Affordability is a top barrier to families accessing quality care.

Affordability is rated as the highest struggle for Spanish respondents (67%), and the second highest struggle for English respondents (27%).

Parents who do not have affordable child care or who struggle to afford their child care report using unlicensed or unregulated child care or leaving their children with a friend or family member to work or go to school more frequently than people who do have affordable child care.

18% of respondents who struggle to or cannot afford child care have left their child in unlicensed care 20+ times in the last two years to work or go to school.

6% of respondents who do not struggle to afford child care.
**FINDING #4**
Parents especially struggle to find care for infants and toddlers.

*For the purposes of this survey, we rated infant/toddler as the age range between 0-2 years old.*

64 percent of English respondents reported it was especially difficult to find care for their infants and toddlers.

52 percent of Spanish respondents

For both English and Spanish respondents, the top two kinds of care infants/toddlers are using are child care centers/preschools and family child care homes.

"The cost of the care and the distance were a headache."

"Hard to find openings in good daycares. Long wait lists."
**FINDING #4**
Parents especially struggle to find care for infants and toddlers.

20% of Spanish respondents and 10% of English respondents with infants/toddlers have used unlicensed care +20 times in the last two years to work or go to school.

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**ENGLISH RESPONSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-5 times</th>
<th>20+ times</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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**SPANISH RESPONSE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-5 times</th>
<th>20+ times</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**English parents of infants/toddlers don't rate their child care as high quality**

When asked to rate the quality of their child care, respondents with infants/toddlers answered on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being “low quality” and 10 being “high quality.”

Please note we had 2,913 responses in English and 137 responses in Spanish.

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Only 29% rated their child care as high-quality (8-10).

**vs**

63% rated their child care as high-quality (8-10).

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The number rises when looking at respondents with children ages 3-5.

35% of English respondents with children ages 3-5 rate their center as high quality (8-10).

71% of Spanish respondents with children ages 3-5 rate their center as high quality (8-10).
APPENDIX 1: SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Map of Respondents

ENGLISH RESPONSE

SPANISH RESPONSE

English Respondents

5,845

Spanish Respondents

639

Number of responses for Child #1 Section

4,736

Number of responses for Child #1 Section

275
What kind of care are respondents' children in?

**ENGLISH RESPONSE**

- Child care center: 60%
- Family child care home: 40%
- Stay-at-home parent: 20%
- Stays at home with older children: 0%
- Family or friend care: 60%
- No child care but need it: 40%
- Other: 0%

**SPANISH RESPONSE**

- Child care center: 60%
- Family child care home: 40%
- Stay-at-home parent: 20%
- Stays at home with older children: 0%
- Family or friend care: 60%
- No child care but need it: 40%
- Other: 0%
Total number of children whose parent/guardian reported they receive financial assistance for their care.

**ENGLISH RESPONSE**

- School Readiness: 2,000
- Head Start: 1,500
- Early Head Start: 1,000
- Scholarships from the school: 500
- Other (please specify): 0

**SPANISH RESPONSE**

- School Readiness: 2,000
- Head Start: 1,500
- Early Head Start: 1,000
- Scholarships from the school: 500
- Other (please specify): 0

Total number of children whose parent/guardian reported they have a disability across 4791 English and Spanish respondents.

1,742

Percentage of English and Spanish respondents reporting their child has a disability.

36%
APPENDIX 1: SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS
ENGLISH RESPONSES

Role

Mother: 75%
Father: 50%
Grandmother: 25%
Grandfather: 0%
Other (please specify): 0%

Race

- Asian: 10%
- Black or African American: 20%
- Hispanic or Latino: 30%
- Middle Eastern or North African: 40%
- Multiracial or Multiethnic: 50%
- Native American or Alaska Native: 60%
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 70%
- White: 80%

Another race or ethnicity, please describe below: 0%

Number of children respondent has

- 1 child: 43%
- 2 children: 37.6%
- 3 children: 11.8%
- 4 children: 4.4%

Household Income

- Less than $20,000: 0%
- $20,000 to $34,999: 10%
- $35,000 to $49,999: 20%
- $50,000 to $74,999: 30%
- $75,000 to $99,999: 40%
- $100,000 to $149,999: 50%
- $150,000 or More: 60%

FLORIDA'S 2021 CHILD CARE SURVEY