

No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

New Jersey Fact Sheet



Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, but they can also be a valuable source of early education during the critically important first three years, laying the foundation for healthy development and success in school and life.

Statewide, more than 207,000 children under age 3 live in families where both parents work, meaning they will be in need of some form of child care.¹

However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed centers only have the capacity to serve roughly 55,600 infants and toddlers, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. This creates an obstacle for parents who are unable to rely on relatives, friends or neighbors to help meet their child care needs.

Infant-Toddler Child Care in New Jersey	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	1,612
Number of Children Under Age 3	314,191
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	207,366
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	55,565

In addition, the quality of infant-toddler center-based child care in New Jersey remains largely unknown as the state has just recently begun to rate centers participating in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), New Jersey’s quality rating and improvement system. According to the state’s website, as of March 2017, less than a third of the centers providing infant-toddler child care – 389, are participating in GNJK. Ratings for centers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids is not yet available.

Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

For More Information on Infant-Toddler Child Care visit <https://acnj.org/issues/early-learning/infant-toddler> to download a copy of *Where Are The Babies? Center-Based Infant-Toddler Child Care In Short Supply* and view the interactive map.

¹ Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

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Atlantic County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Atlantic County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	42
Number of Children Under Age 3	9,662
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	6,376
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	1,176

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Bergen County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Bergen County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	175
Number of Children Under Age 3	28,672
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	18,923
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	6,534

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Burlington County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Burlington County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	69
Number of Children Under Age 3	13,734
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	9,064
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	2,575

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Camden County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Camden County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	104
Number of Children Under Age 3	18,971
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	12,520
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	3,836

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Cape May County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Cape May County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	15
Number of Children Under Age 3	2,653
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	1,750
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	301

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Cumberland County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Cumberland County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	25
Number of Children Under Age 3	5,904
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	3,896
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	1,072

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Essex County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Essex County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	183
Number of Children Under Age 3	31,672
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	20,903
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	5,947

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Gloucester County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Gloucester County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	52
Number of Children Under Age 3	9,124
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	6,021
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	1,521

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Hudson County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Hudson County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	169
Number of Children Under Age 3	28,943
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	19,102
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	5,320

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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Hunterdon County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	18
Number of Children Under Age 3	2,728
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	1,800
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	518

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Mercer County Fact Sheet



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Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	68
Number of Children Under Age 3	12,825
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	8,464
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	2,423

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- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

For More Information on Infant-Toddler Child Care visit <https://acnj.org/issues/early-learning/infant-toddler> to download a copy of *Where Are The Babies? Center-Based Infant-Toddler Child Care In Short Supply* and view the interactive map.

¹ Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Middlesex County Fact Sheet



Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, but they can also be a valuable source of early education during the critically important first three years, laying the foundation for healthy development and success in school and life.

Statewide, more than 207,000 children under age 3 live in families where both parents work, meaning they will be in need of some form of child care.¹

However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed centers only have the capacity to serve roughly 55,600 infants and toddlers, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. This creates an obstacle for parents who are unable to rely on relatives, friends or neighbors to help meet their child care needs.

Infant-Toddler Child Care in Middlesex County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	121
Number of Children Under Age 3	29,232
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	19,293
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	4,509

In addition, the quality of infant-toddler center-based child care in New Jersey remains largely unknown as the state has just recently begun to rate centers participating in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), New Jersey’s quality rating and improvement system. According to the state’s website, as of March 2017, less than a third of the centers providing infant-toddler child care – 389, are participating in GNJK. Ratings for centers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids is not yet available.

Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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¹ Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Monmouth County Fact Sheet



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Statewide, more than 207,000 children under age 3 live in families where both parents work, meaning they will be in need of some form of child care.¹

However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed centers only have the capacity to serve roughly 55,600 infants and toddlers, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. This creates an obstacle for parents who are unable to rely on relatives, friends or neighbors to help meet their child care needs.

Infant-Toddler Child Care in Monmouth County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	98
Number of Children Under Age 3	18,831
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	12,428
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	3,689

In addition, the quality of infant-toddler center-based child care in New Jersey remains largely unknown as the state has just recently begun to rate centers participating in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), New Jersey’s quality rating and improvement system. According to the state’s website, as of March 2017, less than a third of the centers providing infant-toddler child care – 389, are participating in GNJK. Ratings for centers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids is not yet available.

Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Morris County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Morris County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	101
Number of Children Under Age 3	14,744
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	9,731
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	3,951

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Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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¹ Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Ocean County Fact Sheet



Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, but they can also be a valuable source of early education during the critically important first three years, laying the foundation for healthy development and success in school and life.

Statewide, more than 207,000 children under age 3 live in families where both parents work, meaning they will be in need of some form of child care.¹

However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed centers only have the capacity to serve roughly 55,600 infants and toddlers, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. This creates an obstacle for parents who are unable to rely on relatives, friends or neighbors to help meet their child care needs.

Infant-Toddler Child Care in Ocean County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	70
Number of Children Under Age 3	24,488
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	16,162
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	2,262

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Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Passaic County Fact Sheet



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However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed centers only have the capacity to serve roughly 55,600 infants and toddlers, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. This creates an obstacle for parents who are unable to rely on relatives, friends or neighbors to help meet their child care needs.

Infant-Toddler Child Care in Passaic County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	96
Number of Children Under Age 3	21,407
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	14,128
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	2,617

In addition, the quality of infant-toddler center-based child care in New Jersey remains largely unknown as the state has just recently begun to rate centers participating in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), New Jersey’s quality rating and improvement system. According to the state’s website, as of March 2017, less than a third of the centers providing infant-toddler child care – 389, are participating in GNJK. Ratings for centers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids is not yet available.

Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

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- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Salem County Fact Sheet



Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, but they can also be a valuable source of early education during the critically important first three years, laying the foundation for healthy development and success in school and life.

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However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed centers only have the capacity to serve roughly 55,600 infants and toddlers, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. This creates an obstacle for parents who are unable to rely on relatives, friends or neighbors to help meet their child care needs.

Infant-Toddler Child Care in Salem County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	14
Number of Children Under Age 3	2,137
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	1,410
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	309

In addition, the quality of infant-toddler center-based child care in New Jersey remains largely unknown as the state has just recently begun to rate centers participating in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), New Jersey's quality rating and improvement system. According to the state's website, as of March 2017, less than a third of the centers providing infant-toddler child care – 389, are participating in GNJK. Ratings for centers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids is not yet available.

Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
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- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Somerset County Fact Sheet



Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, but they can also be a valuable source of early education during the critically important first three years, laying the foundation for healthy development and success in school and life.

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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Somerset County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	77
Number of Children Under Age 3	10,468
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	6,908
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	3,117

In addition, the quality of infant-toddler center-based child care in New Jersey remains largely unknown as the state has just recently begun to rate centers participating in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), New Jersey’s quality rating and improvement system. According to the state’s website, as of March 2017, less than a third of the centers providing infant-toddler child care – 389, are participating in GNJK. Ratings for centers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids is not yet available.

Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

- Increase the subsidy reimbursement rate for infants under 18 months to reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality child care for this population.
- Create a multi-tiered reimbursement system that could motivate providers serving infants and toddlers to move up the quality ladder.
- Encourage providers to serve infants and toddlers by offering incentives that will compensate for the higher costs related to providing high-quality care to this population.
- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Sussex County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Sussex County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	27
Number of Children Under Age 3	3,874
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	2,556
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	647

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Recommendations to address the shortage of high quality infant-toddler care

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- Require all staff providing direct caregiving services to infants and toddlers to have a minimum of an Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA), preferably credit bearing, or an NJ Infant-Toddler Credential.
- Strengthen systems of support to encourage and reward infant-toddler caregivers to continue their education.

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Union County Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Union County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	70
Number of Children Under Age 3	21,275
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	14,041
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	2,912

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No Room for Babies

Center-based Infant- Toddler Child Care In Short Supply

Warren Fact Sheet



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Infant-Toddler Child Care in Warren County	
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care in NJ	18
Number of Children Under Age 3	2,847
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	1,879
Number of Slots in Licensed Centers	389

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