

# Still No Room for Babies: Child Care Staffing Crisis Impacts Supply of Infant-Toddler Child Care

March 2023

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 three live in families where both parents work, meaning they will be in need of some form of child care.<sup>1</sup>

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 child care for babies is in short supply with only enough space to serve roughly a third of the children that need care because all parents in the household work. Furthermore, although centers report that they have the capacity to serve approximately 68,000 infants and toddlers, they typically serve closer to 55,000, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. The primary reason centers reported serving fewer children than they have the capacity to serve is that they cannot find enough staff to work in the infant-toddler room.<sup>2</sup>

1. 2015-2019 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

2. Help Wanted! Child Care Staffing Crisis Means Still No Room for Babies, ACNJ August 2022



## Monmouth County Fact Sheet

### Infant-Toddler Child Care Monmouth County As of March 2022

Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care	105
Number of Children Under Age 3	17,167
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	11,398
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers are Willing To Provide	4,754
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers Typically Provide	3,813
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Participating in Grow NJ Kids	27
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Rated by Grow NJ Kids	7

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

- Develop creative policy and legislative options aimed at increasing compensation and benefits for child care staff.
- Ensure the successful implementation of Thriving by Three, a grant program signed into law in 2022 to incentivize the development of child care programs for infants and toddlers.
- Raise the infant-toddler child care subsidy reimbursement rate to enable child care programs to increase salaries that will help to attract and retain staff to work in the infant-toddler classroom.
- Consider new options to strengthen and expand New Jersey's family child care system.

For more information, visit [acnj.org](http://acnj.org) to download a copy of Still No Room for Babies (March 2023) and County Profiles.

Giving Every Child A Chance To Grow Up Safe, Healthy and Educated

Advocates for Children of New Jersey | 35 Halsey Street | Newark, NJ 07102 | 973.643.3876 | [advocates@acnj.org](mailto:advocates@acnj.org)



## Still No Room for Babies:

### Child Care Staffing Crisis Impacts Supply of Infant-Toddler Child Care

# Monmouth County Infant-Toddler Child Care

We need to elevate the early childhood education profession in our country and pay ECE infant/toddler teachers a lot more money in order to hire and retain them. The job carries heavy responsibility and stress.

-Monmouth County Child Care Provider

### Infant-Toddler Child Care by Municipality, As of March 2022

Municipality	Number of Children Under Age 3	Estimated Number of Infants-Toddlers in Need of Care	Number of Centers Serving Infants and Toddlers	Number of Infants-Toddlers Centers are Willing to Serve	Number of Infants-Toddlers Centers Typically Serve	Percent of Slots Typically Available for Infants and Toddlers
Aberdeen Twp.	657	436	4	190	150	34%
Allenhurst Boro	12	8	0	0	0	0%
Allentown Boro	59	39	2	101	76	211%
Asbury Park City	589	391	2	55	36	9%
Atlantic Highlands Boro	107	71	1	23	20	28%
Avon-By-The-Sea Boro	23	15	0	0	0	0%
Belmar Boro	139	92	0	0	0	0%
Bradley Beach Boro	91	60	0	0	0	0%
Brielle Boro	115	76	0	0	0	0%
Colts Neck Twp.	212	141	1	65	56	40%
Deal Boro	41	27	1	30	26	96%
Eatontown Boro	412	274	4	244	204	74%
Englishtown Boro	53	35	0	0	0	0%
Fair Haven Boro	172	114	0	0	0	0%
Farmingdale Boro	46	31	1	24	15	48%
Freehold Boro and Twp.	1299	863	9	422	270	31%
Hazlet Twp.	575	382	3	149	131	34%
Highlands Boro	95	63	0	0	0	0%
Holmdel Twp.	307	204	4	236	183	90%
Howell Twp.	1,454	965	7	300	251	26%
Interlaken Boro	25	17	0	0	0	0%

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Continued

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Keansburg Boro	310	206	0	0	0	0%
Keyport Boro	248	165	2	26	17	10%
Lake Como (South Belmar Boro)	36	24	0	0	0	0%
Little Silver Boro	176	117	0	0	0	0%
Loch Arbour Village	6	4	0	0	0	0%
Long Branch City	1,228	815	1	37	31	4%
Manalapan Twp.	834	554	6	299	251	45%
Manasquan Boro	115	76	3	193	163	214%
Marlboro Twp. (including Morganville, Wickatunk)	641	426	8	414	379	89%
Matawan Boro	335	222	4	270	210	95%
Middletown Twp. (including Belford, Leonardo, Lincroft, Port Monmouth)	1,900	1,262	12	442	336	27%
Millstone Twp.	198	131	0	0	0	0%
Monmouth Beach Boro	53	35	0	0	0	0%
Neptune Twp. & Neptune City Boro (including Ocean Grove)	1,052	699	7	338	257	37%
Ocean Twp. (including Oakhurst, Wanamassa)	865	574	5	124	93	16%
Oceanport Boro	152	101	0	0	0	0%
Red Bank Boro	424	282	4	126	114	40%
Roosevelt Boro	18	12	0	0	0	0%
Rumson Boro	145	96	1	23	23	24%
Sea Bright Boro	29	19	0	0	0	0%
Sea Girt Boro	13	9	0	0	0	0%
Shrewsbury Boro and Twp.	142	94	1	70	58	62%
Spring Lake Boro	22	15	1	34	34	227%
Spring Lake Heights Boro	85	56	1	56	46	82%
Tinton Falls Boro	506	336	2	138	117	35%
Union Beach Boro	172	114	3	69	61	54%
Upper Freehold Twp. (including Cream Ridge)	142	94	0	0	0	0%
Wall Twp.	617	410	3	177	139	34%
West Long Branch Boro	220	146	2	79	66	45%
<b>County Total</b>	<b>17,167</b>	<b>11,398</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4,754</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>33%</b>

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