

DEPENDENT CARE

A Profile of Athens-Clarke County



Clarke County School District Early Learning Programs (all free)

	Number of students enrolled	Current waiting list
Pre-Kindergarten	520	198
Even Start	128 adult, 163 children	75
Early Head Start	80	154

McPhaul Head Start (2 half-day programs): 40 children

CDI Head Start enrollment: 854 in 10 counties (2 centers in Athens)

PRIVATE PROVIDERS

Type of provider	# Providers	# Children enrolled	Avg. wkly. cost for infant	Range of wkly costs for infant	Avg. wkly cost for 3-yr-old	Range of wkly costs for 3-yr-old
licensed early care & learning centers	28	2,868	\$118 (maximum DFCS subsidy: \$89 ³)	\$83 - \$170	\$97 (maximum DFCS subsidy: \$77 ³)	\$71 - \$140
registered group child care homes ¹	2	31				
registered family child care homes ²	68	375	\$92 (maximum DFCS subsidy: \$75 ³)	\$70 - \$115	\$86 (maximum DFCS subsidy: \$67 ³)	\$50 - \$115
Total	98	3,268				

1. Group child care homes can serve up to 18 children.
2. Family child care homes can serve up to 6 children for pay.
3. **DFCS child care subsidy:** For a family of 2 (single parent and 1 child) their income must be under \$19,392 per year (before taxes, all sources of income). For a family of 4, the income must be below \$29,440/year (before taxes, all sources of income). Fees are based on a sliding scale system based on household income. Single parents have to be working 25 hours per week to be eligible, and in 2 parent families, BOTH parents have to be working 35 hours a week. Parents attending a 4 year college are not eligible. DFCS will help parents if they are in a job training program or working on a GED.

- Average cost of ECLC (licensed Early Care & Learning Center) care for infants per year is approximately \$5,900 (since many centers don't charge for holidays, etc.), which is 20.8% of the Clarke County median family income (for *one* infant). Undergraduate tuition at UGA is \$4,628 per year.
- The average cost per year in Georgia is \$4,878. Only 4 states have a lower yearly cost for center-based infant child care.
- There are 2 full-time and 1 part-time ECLCs that are accredited and 1 ECLC that is state-designated as a Center of Distinction. This may be why the average cost in Clarke County is higher than the state average since accredited and state designated centers must maintain lower child-teacher ratios and may also pay higher salaries. Child Care Resource & Referral is planning to collect data on pay & benefits for child care teachers.
- There are no accredited or state-designated family or group child care homes in Clarke County.

CHILD:TEACHER RATIOS		
Age	Maximum Number of Children:Teacher	Preferred Standard*
Infants	6	3-4
One-year-olds	8	3-5
Two-Year-Olds	10	4-6
Three-Year-Olds	15	7-10
Four-Year-Olds	18	8-10
Five-Year-Olds	20	8-10
Six Years or Older	25	10-20

*National Association for the Education of Young Children. NOTE: The standard varies according to group size.

Percentage of Clarke County children under age 5 living in poverty: 27.6%

Percentage of babies born to mothers who received prenatal care											
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Clarke	86.2	83.7	90.9	89.7	92.5	92.3	87.1	81.6	79.7	77.4	70.5
GA	81.8	84.1	85.2	85.8	86.4	87.3	86.9	86.2	84.7	84.0	83.9

Percentage of babies born to mothers with less than 12 years of education											
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Clarke	23.0	22.8	24.6	23.9	25.7	22.7	18.1	25.9	26.9	31.7	29.1
GA	23.4	23.1	23.1	22.9	22.5	22.5	22.9	24.0	24.0	23.5	23.8

Teen pregnancy rate (per 1000 ages 15-17)											
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Clarke	84.9	77.7	63.2	72.8	54.4	52.1	65.3	53.0	57.9	61.2	46.8
GA	68.3	67.7	62.7	60.0	53.5	50.3	47.3	43.8	42.0	40.1	39.4

Clarke County Births											
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	1,119	1,133	1,101	1,164	1,201	1,241	1,301	1,306	1,342	1,372	1,440