



What We Heard:

# 2024 Banff Childcare Needs Assessment – Parent & Caregiver Survey

**April 2025**  
Verbatim Comments

A notable finding from the 2023 Community Social Assessment (CSA) report demonstrated a substantial decline in the number of two-parent families living in Banff. As stated in that report, “The federal census statistics show fewer two-parent families with children from 47% in 2016 to 39% in 2021. Although this trend can be seen in other jurisdictions such as Jasper, Canmore and Whistler- the changes these communities have seen are significantly less than the marked change seen in Banff over this five-year period.” Finding suitable childcare was one of the primary challenges residents identified during the CSA engagement along with others that included cost of living, tourism impacts and housing.

To gain a deeper understanding of the state of local childcare, the Town of Banff undertook the 2024 Banff Childcare Needs Assessment- gathering information via three online surveys, aimed at three distinct populations in Banff:

- Parents & caregivers
- Frontline childcare educators
- Business owners and managers

The online survey for Banff Parents & Caregivers was open from September 12 to October 22, 2024. The final 2024 Childcare Needs Assessment Report, inclusive of the findings and some testimonials from the Parent & Caregiver Survey, can be found online at [BanffViewpoints.ca/childcare](https://BanffViewpoints.ca/childcare).

Below are the Verbatim Comments from open-ended questions in the Parent & Caregiver Survey. All verbatim statements were shared with all childcare providers, but to protect privacy and not identify individuals, some comments with specific details regarding individual circumstances have not been included.

**Question: Do you have any comments about the cost or quality of childcare you receive?**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wish there were daily updates from the daycare such as an app</li><li>• The cost is incredible and one of the big wins from our current liberal government. Very grateful for the subsidies. Only issue with the quality is that parents should be allowed to opt in or out of naps if it creates negative outcomes for the parents.</li><li>• Happy with daycare costs with the government funding as it is, however wish there were a way to</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>reduce the cost of Out of School (After) care.</li><li>• We were paying close to \$1200 per month at a private day home in Canmore. Plus \$450 a month in fuel.</li><li>• I'd like my child to be in daycare. Have been on the waitlist for over a year in 2 places (Banff Daycare and Puzzles), no luck yet.</li><li>• OSC is pretty expensive for the amount of time they operate. Also why are they not under the</li></ul> |
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government funded half price a day?

- We do not pay for the quality of care for our child as we have worked out a system with other family and switch off.
- Living in the valley is hard, it would be great to have cheaper childcare. However I am happy to support the lovely childcare providers who take great care of my son. I'm really happy with the current leaders this year.
- Although the subsidy has made my family access to early childhood care much more affordable, it appears it has not provided the support for families in terms of volume. There continues to be great demand for childcare services due to lack of spaces or staff. The quality I can testify it's of great value.
- Before the daycare subsidy for BCCC we paid \$24,000 in one year for care for our 2 kids. We are still paying off this debt. When the subsidy came into effect, it made a massive difference for affordability however, catching up from childcare debt along with everything else is challenging.
- The government grant has made it easier for us
- I think the quality of the childcare that we've used and currently use

is excellent and we feel super fortunate to have it.

- I am happy but would like to get more updates about my child from the teachers.
- Because of the government subsidies it is affordable.
- Between the cost of living and the cost of childcare there are no funds remaining
- Since the province announced funding, our costs were reduced by almost \$1000/month. What we pay now is very reasonable by comparison
- It's unfortunate that we no longer qualify for any subsidies since our child entered grade 1. \$400-500 a month is high for after school care.
- I could not afford childcare without subsidies
- Possibility of including Into the Wild in the subsidy program, as well as any other programs offered through Town of Banff.
- Possibility of raising the income levels of who is included in the Banff Access Program or a totally separate program that can support childcare after daycare options for families.
- We are so grateful for the Banff Child Care Centre staff. Everyone is terrific.

**Question: Do you have any comments about what type of childcare service provider(s) you use?**

- We were waitlisted on BCCC for the first 22 months of our son's life. We used Lady Bug Day home for 5 months prior when we were lucky enough to get in. She is absolutely needed. We were lucky to find her, as it was a struggle for us to work, pay bills, and manage our relationship before her after my maternity leave ended and we went over 7 months in financial stress because of it.
- The BCCC and Lake Louise provide excellent daycare options. We waited over two years to get in at BCCC and the drop in nature of daycare at LL really provided a service I really needed for respite and work opportunities as I awaited full time care to be able to go back to work in a more meaningful way.
- They are all WONDERFUL
- Finding childcare has been by far the most challenging part of moving to Banff. As parents, we work full time and it's been impossible to find a sustainable solution until our child miraculously got into daycare after being on the waitlist for 2.5 years. All the other solutions were just patchwork; Nannie's with child care qualifications who couldn't easily get certified in Canada (Aus/NZ/UK qualifications) and all these people left Banff for BC because of bad work environments and accommodation and cost of living. Not a sustainable option for us. There is a bidding war for Nannie's and we couldn't afford a permanent nanny.
- Our day home provider in Banff we had for 11 months moved away, so we had to bring our child to multiple day homes in Canmore. When the day home teacher was on vacation for 6 weeks my husband had to bring our 2 year old to the day camp at Elevation Place and work out of the car, while waiting to pick up my child for lunch, then bring him back to the day camp for another 3 hours while working in the elevation place car park. We were seriously considering moving from Banff because burnout was not the price we were willing to pay to live in this town.
- Child care options in Banff focus on a traditional 1950s family structure of one working parent and one caregiving parent and it's extremely hard to afford Banff with only one parent working; the services available push people to work odd jobs and strange hours

around what child care options are offered. FRN and Play School (these are a life saver for many).

- For a long time we used child care providers we were happy with but could not get government assistance from so we paid approximately \$1650 per month. We tried to avoid this but couldn't get enough hours at our jobs to make ends meet here.
- We came very close to leaving Banff for purely childcare reasons.
- We have had to make other arrangements for our child because the town does not offer a service for kids above grade 4.
- Really excellent.
- BCCC is absolutely amazing
- Take whatever help I can get
- Grandparents provide additional care
- Before our child was in school, they were at licensed day homes and the Banff Pre-school. When

we moved to town it was very challenging to find childcare.

**Question: Do you have any comments about the childcare service you use?**

- Unfortunately because my child will not be of age when a position opens I need to pay for two months before her start date to save her spot or else we may never get into the centre.
- There are good options for childcare for school aged kids, but there are EXTREMELY LIMITED

options for kids under 5. This is extremely disruptive to parents living in Banff because our jobs are tied to our need to reside in this town.

- My child is in a day home.
- Wish there was weekend availability as my shifts sometimes

require me to work on Saturdays and there is no option in Banff

- We use a service now that my child is older but we were never able to get into daycare when he was little. We were waitlisted for a long time and never got in. I had to work two part time jobs the first few years of his life while my partner worked 9-5 so that we always had someone home with him.
- Weekend service would be beneficial.
- Both BCCC and OSC are incredible.
- I would need a full-time subsidized childcare spot as I need to work full-time to afford our life.

- I would prefer to have a part time option at our day care, 3 days a week would work well for us but they only offer full time. It's unfortunate as I know how hard it is to get into a daycare and would be happy to split days with another family.
- Use family to help reduce the cost of care
- I work Sundays and some of my work hours are beyond daycare operating hours.

**Question: Do you have any comments about barriers accessing childcare in Banff?**

- We need more spaces. We put our son on the list the day he was born. We know other families who are at the daycare, and don't get full time care just a couple of days per week. This is not good, having one parent lose their career to look after their child, because there aren't enough daycare spaces is not what I expected of Canada and of a municipality like Banff that makes the province so much money in tax revenue.
- I feel that my situation is the exception. I moved to Banff in September which is ideal for accessing childcare as children

are beginning kindergarten and there is therefore movement taking place in daycares. There was a spot available for my older child and the younger child was then given sibling priority.

- Lack of space and being on the wait list for multiple years makes looking at other places to live a sad reality
- My child is 6 months old and I require care at 1 year, so my barriers are anticipated based on what I've heard from friends. I don't have any friends that got childcare when they needed it (age 1) and I'm worried it will be the

same for me. My friends have family they have relied on to fill the gap. I don't have any family here to help.

- Extremely limited childcare spaces
- Waitlists, stressful enough living here without support and then to have to wait 1-3 years for daycare makes it feel unrealistic to stay in the community.
- We are on the list(s) but don't expect a place until our child is at least 12 months old. But likely won't be given a place (if at all) until he's 18 months. Parental leave is only a year for us, so we have at least 6 months to try and find childcare, without help from family as we are immigrants (Canadian Citizens now) whose family did not join us. How we do this is not really clear.
- It's only barriers! How else to put it?
- To summarize: We need more day homes here the town should proactively recruit licensed providers with reasonable wait times - months not years.
- Can the town give Puzzles more space?
- The barriers bond people together at the FRN where everyone shares information tips and tricks to try to get childcare. The staff at FRN are the only thing keeping a lot of

parents sane, if that ever lost funding there would be an exodus of young families from Banff.

- Rundle playschool provides quality care and has great facility but the hours are not working for most families. If only funding can be given so this school can operate full time.
- Wait list is massive
- The wait list is extremely long, particularly when needing childcare after the age of 1. Siblings receive priority, and so have barely moved positions on the wait list due to this. Also knowing people from Canmore are entering their name at the same time and there is no prioritization list for Banff residents.
- At the end of the day I am glad we didn't end up with childcare so that we could be the ones to watch our son. However it was very tiring being in school, working two jobs and raising a child. I was lucky to have a supportive partner with a flexible schedule but not everyone in the valley is that lucky. I also want to point out because of the barriers we faced I became an unofficial childcare provider once things became a bit easier for us. I am currently rotating between having three different kids ( 2 from the same household) most weekends so other parents can

work while childcare is unavailable or too expensive.

- We haven't got that far yet.
- I was fortunate to have a space available for my first born at Puzzles and the rest of my children were in. That being said, one of my children had to remain with the younger group due to lack of staff and space in his age group.
- When you're in full time OSC, you get priority. I'm not sure what it's like for kids that aren't full time. I think I will learn more this year as my one child isn't attending full time and the other is.
- There isn't enough daycare options in Banff... We waited 15 months to get a spot and put our son on the list when he was 5 days old. It was crazy to have to think about so soon after delivering a baby and caused us a lot of stress on how we were going to manage working and caring for our child with no daycare available after maternity leave was up.
- Not enough childcare options. Parks Canada is also making it harder for Day homes to operate.
- When our child was younger the waitlist was very long for the daycare in town. So we went with a day home provider which was a life saver.

- I can't work because I can't get childcare for my 2 yr old because there is no space.
- No space is the biggest challenge
- I stayed home until both my kids were at school so only required care after school and sometimes before school.
- I've received a LOT of great support with my childcare and have received additional needs support, however I know that's rare and unfortunately there's an increase in kids that do need some support to be able to participate in programs like their peers. In a town as small as Banff, it should be a priority to include all kids and if hiring more bodies isn't possible, then continued training of those who work with kids to be inclusive and understanding more of the high needs and gaining more skills around managing that in group environments, would benefit everyone.
- We are very lucky to have family in town which influenced our decision to move back home. Given current challenges with finding childcare in Banff, we would not have moved back to town from Calgary we had high quality and convenient childcare there.
- My neighbor runs a day home which is the only registered day home in Banff then Parks Canada

questioned her eligibility. I had no trouble getting into her day home because of the location and I was looking for part time day home last summer and she got a spot.

- I had to wait 6 months for my first child but got into a wonderful day home right away while we waited for a spot
- I feel that the refund policy is extreme. A 5 day notice with no

refund is unacceptable. With a consistent waitlist they have a 3 day notice should be suffice. I really hope this can be reviewed.

- We should not feel guilty and be forced to keep our children in child care if you have the opportunity to spend time with our child if the time is permitted.
- Grandparents live here

**Question: Do you have any comments about how finding suitable childcare affects your family?**

- I am fully aware that it's likely we won't get care that suits our needs and we will take what we get offered (if anything). We won't be able to claim EI and so will as a family be poorer. It's created a lot of mental health issues for both of us, anxiety, regret, depression are all results. We don't have family nearby (like many Banff parents) to rely on for help and I am sure our relationship will suffer because of this.
- I have previously lived in Jasper (AB), Inuvik (NWT) - obtaining childcare was difficult in both locations but was achievable with some patience. Before coming to Banff we were splitting time between Ottawa and Iqaluit. As a family we decided to leave higher paying jobs in Nunavut to accept positions in Banff because we

could not secure childcare in Iqaluit and one parent was having to take a leave of absence from work. If we had not secured childcare in Banff we would not have accepted the job offers.

- We are very thankful for the care we have now, that none of these Barrie's now affect us. I know this isn't the case for many families
- I seek childcare 6 months from now, so it hasn't had a negative affect yet other than the stress of wondering what we'll do if it doesn't work out. It already has me questioning how long we can stay in Banff though. We bought a house here and we have careers here, but without childcare we can count on, our plan to be here doesn't work.
- We are in a position where we are able to work opposite shifts. But

this is tiring and we don't get much time together as a family.

- Having my mom here would not have been my first choice, but now that she is here and can't get back to her job of 28 years I feel like we have to make it work, which means supporting her financially more than what the cost of childcare would have been if it was easy to get in, as well as supporting her past the point of needing childcare.
- So if we can't find childcare between my partner moving off parental leave and a place becoming available we don't really have many options. I could quit my job (which gives us our medical benefits, a salary etc.) What other options are there?
- The mental stress this is putting on us (and we are still 6 months away) is massive: 1) Financial hit of me not working 2) What if there is no space for more than 6 months? 3) Loss of my career 4) Mortgage rates are only going up, and groceries are already expensive, with only 1 income how are we going to live? etc. These are just some of the fears I have because childcare is not available for Banff residents.
- I am looking for child care for my son, he is mostly attached to screen time want to stop that, and he is not eating well so seriously

looking for childcare in Banff so he can play with other kids. Mostly I am busy with work and household so I want him to spend everyday 3 hours same time my daughter going for school.

- The opposite/positive side of the list above. Since getting child care recently our family have commented that we seem happier and less stressed, that we spend more time with our children and less time cleaning and cooking with them on screens, our house is cleaner and more organized, we are less tired, we can see a future in the community, we are more present with our children, we snap at them less, we have begun to look at engaging more in the community and less being in a state of survival in our home not getting out.
- The government subsidy allowed us to have our third child otherwise we wouldn't have had another kid due to daycare costs
- Not wanting to have our child at home with the parent that sleeps during the day as they work nights, having to get them to "hang with friends" to subsidize for a baby sitter.
- Time together as a family is a big one and still affects us now. My spouse and I worked opposite schedules the first 5 years of my child's life and have to do it again

every summer. I also was only able to maintain a part time job the first few years as my schedule wouldn't work for a normal job. My career had to be put on hold until my child went to school.

- I find myself in a fortunate and privileged situation were my needs have been met, although not always or perfectly yet I am grateful for the services my family has, this is a contrast from other couples and families who do not find themselves with a residence and/or employer that provides the financial stability my family has received.
- We had to work opposite shifts for 4 months while we waited for a daycare spot. This was a really hard time for our family. We didn't get much time to recharge together, the time we did spend together was transactional in the sense of moving from one task to the next to keep our family unit functioning. It was hard to work FT then solo parent on days off. There was no break.
- I am very worried about not being able to return to work after my maternity leave. The cost of living is an enormous stress for my family and without returning to work we would have to leave the Bow Valley

- When we didn't have daycare it was very difficult to juggle family and work.
- The fact that we likely will not have a daycare place by the time I have to go back to work has been a source of significant stress and anxiety and affects my ability to enjoy my maternity leave.
- We do not have any family close by.
- We have heard no feedback regarding places coming up leading me to believe we are low on the list even though we signed up the day my child was born.
- If we are unable to find care, my partner and I are considering having to both cut back on work (increasing financial stress) and caring for our child on alternate days, meaning we will not have any days off to spend time together as a family.
- Because we waited over 18 months for childcare, I (the mother) could not make any concrete plans for my return to work. We tried having our daughter in a day home before getting into daycare when I returned to work, but I never felt right about leaving her in the care of someone I hardly knew and was unlicensed. I ended up returning to work and quitting before our daughter ever got into licensed day care. This has set back my earning potential and

career trajectory. Childcare and housing in this community is a constant source of stress for our family. It continually makes us consider moving and therefore makes it hard to actually form a real community here.

- We have jobs and both have to work once parental leave is over at 1 year but are uncertain that we will be able to find childcare. May have to consider leaving Banff.

- I am very fortunate to have family in town who looked after my child when I had to go back to work. They were willing and enjoyed looking after my child, but it was extremely taxing. Their daily flow, including daily fitness regimes, volunteering and attending events, were interrupted. They never complained but it was a pretty large disruption. It is also extremely exhausting to look after a toddler 40 hours a week.

**Question: Do you have any comments on care start times?**

- It's more flexible in summer for me with my start times, but in winter I leave at 6am so my partner would take him to daycare. She works from home or in Canmore/Banff/Lake Louise and starts at 8am.
- 8 or 8:30 would work
- One of us would be able to typically drop our child off before 8am.
- 12:20
- Weekends can be in the afternoon
- About once a week my partner or I need to use our vacation time to accommodate for being ~15 minutes late for work because of when the daycare opens.

**Question: Do you have any comments on when you would require care until?**

- I work in winter in Lake Louise and finish at about 4.30/5pm. Getting back for 5.30 is a rush, 6pm would be best. My partner works an 8-5 but often has a lot of overtime and again the option to go until 6 would be helpful.
- 4:30 or 5:00 would work, preference for 5
- Currently working opposite shifts from my husband. So our shifts and times would change when she gets into daycare. So the hours that we need may differ.

- Depending on our schedules, we maybe able to pickup before 5:30 but the option to go to 5:30 would be good.
- 3:30
- Would be great to have after hours on demand if available
- Varies
- It depends on the day or work
- Between 4-6
- At times we are required to work overtime and we need to make arrangements with others to pick up our child.

**Question: Do you have any comments about the location of your childcare?**

- Waiting on childcare. Preference is on Banff but we are on all waiting lists in Banff and Canmore.
- Location is great
- After 2.5 years on the waitlist we were only recently offered a spot in Banff daycare. This was only for part-time initially.
- Need one in Canmore
- Perfect location that is central to the elementary school and afterschool programs
- Its just out of school club at the school. Which is a great program.
- Excellent
- We are lucky to have the after school care at the elementary school.
- At the end of my mat leave, we can only use childcare providers in Banff because we are a one-car household, and my husband works very long hours in Exshaw and needs to use the car. I wouldn't be able to drive my child to care in Canmore or any other location.
- Childcare in Banff is almost impossible to find, and when you do find it the cost is astronomically and the hours aren't suitable for someone who works two jobs. I solved this by hiring my mom to move here and be my "nanny".
- Family provides some care
- We are very fortunate to have family in town, but we recognize that privilege.

**Question: Do you have any comments about why childcare for your family is not needed at this time?**

- Caring for child while on parental leave. Will need childcare in March when leave ends. We are on all waiting lists but have not heard back. There is no certainty if we will get into daycare and me or my

partner may have to stop working while waiting for care to become available.

- When we found out I was pregnant with twins, I knew of a couple moms who couldn't return to work as planned because their child didn't get into care yet. Further to that I didn't want to be out of the workplace for 12+ months and there is no care in Banff for infants. So, my mom retired and moved to Banff to be our fulltime caregiver, which is convenient for us, but because of need to reside she feel like she isn't meant to be here.
- I'm 8 months pregnant and plan to have a year-long maternity leave. I will need childcare at the end of my maternity leave
- See previous comment. We have primarily used childcare through

TOB after school programs over the years which were amazing!

- We have cobbled together childcare for after school, which includes: one primary caregiver, a family member, and at times Town of Banff after school programming like Into The Wild

**Question: Do you have any comments about things you consider when choosing a childcare provider?**

- Local day homes seem to lack structure and oversight, some unlicensed day homes seem to exist within Banff.
- In the end, we need daycare. Taking him to Canmore is simply not a good option. Banff is really where we are, where we work and where the childcare needs to be. It needs to work with our schedule, which is Mon to Fri. The costs is important too, if I have to take time

off because the daycare cannot fit us in each day we need, then I'm losing income, and then paying for daycare on the days I go to work on a lower salary. Its hard.

- A lot of the above answers to 37 are redundant- we're just lucky to have affordable childcare close to home IF we get in. No one here is able to be picky, we have to accept what is available just so we can work and afford to live here

- Many of the points are very important hard to rank when you need to rank to keep a job in the town vs care for child
- There's currently no choice - I'm on every list everywhere, and will have to take whoever calls me back first. The quality of care is important, but so is being located in Banff. If me or my partner are commuting to Canmore or further everyday that's a real quality of life issue. I don't want to lose 2 hours a day to commuting, then work 8 hours... There would be no time left in the day for real living!
- Many of the items above I consider equally valuable to each other.
- Take what you can. Cannot be picky, as options are very limited
- Proximity and quality is definitely the most important. Available weekends is a huge bonus.
- Positive reviews and availability
- The number ranking wasn't clear. We have ranked in order of importance being ONE - least important NINE
- Canmore is just not an option as we are both in Banff and only have 1 car.
- I am looking for childcare, 4 days for my son specially for playing and eating habits
- The quality of care is most important. If my child feels safe and cared for. If my child's day is

structured and centered around their age and needs for development. A focus on nature and outdoors is key, as we live in a National Park.

- all of the above.
- Desperation sets in pretty quickly in Banff. Hard to comment with no choice locally and needing to only consider choices in Canmore.
- I think you just take a whatever you can get
- Need to start earlier and finish later and be open on weekends.
- Screentime, availability, class sizes
- I just want to clarify as it wasn't mentioned above. I ranked this as 1 being most important to 9 being least.
- That is a tough list to rank 1-9 when every single thing is very important. I would almost say what I ranked 9 is as important as 1.
- In the Bow Valley is more a question of which daycare will have the space to accept your child first. All parents rush to apply to every daycare just because the lack of registration slots available at times, this appears to have a rising trend.
- The options aren't vast in this town however, the programs offered are great.

- Cost, proximity to our home, hours of operation, type of care for our child, the staff working in the facility, etc.
- We live in Banff and have childcare here so the question about proximity to work/home is irrelevant to us.
- 9-most important, 1-least important
- The childcare provider must be in Banff for us to be able to use them.
- These values are all important and difficult to rank.
- When I had my child in daycare, there was only one option. It was expensive and the timing was challenging as I was supposed to be at work by 7am, however couldn't drop my child off until 730.
- Luckily, my daughter is old enough now that she can stay home by herself if needed.
- Criteria are they available and can we afford it
- Many of these things are equally important considerations. Ranking does not capture my true feelings
- Reputation, cleanliness, experience
- The current situations leaves little option for choose: you just take whatever is available
- That my kids will have fun and want to go back. That is run by kind, kid friendly people!
- Licensing and oversight by families/community members/board, natural lighting and outdoor space/time spent outdoors
- They're all interconnected to some degree so hard to rank individually, but the quality of care for a child with specific needs and knowing they will get some one-on-one attention is very important and knowing that they have an excellent instructor are the priorities.
- Amount of care providers per child. The more the better.
- We don't really have the luxury of ranking based on any of these as there are 0 spaces available. Puts parents in the position of having to accept whatever is available.
- I don't think this question is really applicable in the Bow Valley- we end up taking what we can get.
- It's extremely important the reputation and quality of care. On my phone I was not able to select the highest numbers. As with the last question.
- Grandparents are here to help

**Question: Do you have any comments about your ideal childcare?**

- The ideal schedule for us would have daycare be full time Mon-Friday. From at latest 8am until 5pm all year round for it to work.
- Ideally a day care here would use two weekdays as the “weekend” as most jobs are tourism biased and on the weekend
- I'm flexible on the form it takes (day home or institutional). I just want it to be safe, clean, professional and run by people with a passion for child care.
- Available during weekends and weekdays. Ideally from 7am to 8pm
- Daycare
- It would be nice to have a childcare offering for those that work in restaurants/nights (4pm onward)
- Needs to be full time Monday-Friday unless one of us leaves our job.
- I am looking for my son 3 hours of childcare
- I would prefer to have childcare that is open on weekends.
- Having some weekend programs would be ideal for parents that work in hospitality
- Affordable, full time hours, accessible.
- We have signed up for the waiting list in January 2023 and my child is still 23 spot in the waiting list.
- Will need Monday to Friday 8/9am-4/5pm once our daughter is old enough.
- I need to work full-time to afford the cost of living in the bow valley without full-time care, I wouldn't be able to afford our lives.
- It will be more challenging with half days of school.
- I will require full time daycare when maternity leave ends. When my child is old enough, I will require childcare before/after school, PD days and during school breaks.
- I almost applied a year ago, nothing comes up
- My work requires a mix of childcare. I am a single parent so it is just me.
- Very flexible but would like something consistent
- We on waiting list for over a year and a half and is not looking good for at least next summer.
- Currently looking for full time daycare for our baby. Will require care before/after school and for holidays and PD Fridays once our child is in school.
- We are currently enrolled in OSC and also was enrolled in summer fun. Both programs my daughter had to be grouped with children younger than her because there

was no room for her to be with her friends/ classmates.

**Question: Is there anything else you would like to share?**

- Please find ways to increase daycare or day home spaces. Please. Please. Please.
- We are very happy with our current child care and can not stress enough the value of having our children cared for in a licensed and accredited centre.
- I think the town should run a daycare. Take existing employees, cut drop-in programs, use the space above the library or partner with a church with underutilized space and offer daycare. Drop-in programming is very nice to have, but only if you're able to stay here. It seems more pressing to offer day care so people can keep their jobs and afford to stay here so that our community continues to have families live here. Slowly we are transitioning to young people and old people, folks only living chapters of their lives in town because the Town offerings are serving families less and less.
- Day homes require unicorn employees that have a need to reside outside of their employment, since day homes can't provide you a need to reside. I think that's why we don't see many day homes filling the gap in Banff. I don't see any other organization having the space or ambition to start a day care...I think we're stuck with the two we have, and the town seems to be the most capable organization to fill the gap.
- Childcare is the linchpin for my family, and I'm grateful this survey came out when it did. My family has been incredibly privileged to figure out all our other life factors here (work, housing). If we have to leave for ~5 years because of a lack of childcare I'll be so...devastated. "
- Need child care for my child
- Possible to consider more childcare in the town. I have my first born 5 months old, right after I gave birth I put her name on the waiting list unfortunately they advise me to keep looking for a daycare as it is not guarantee they will accommodate her at 12 months. It is so stressful for us to bear that everyday hoping you can really take it seriously how resident in Banff consider to relocate because of this concern. Thank you

- The daycare wait lists in this town are very long and create a bottleneck for skilled workers to return to their jobs. It would be a huge asset to the town to create a drop in style of childcare a couple days a week for both residents and tourists to use with different rates according to whether they're local or not. If said drop in daycare could also accommodate kiddos on holidays when some of us have to work but have no options for childcare.
- Need more childcare options. Whether day homes or daycares
- Banff is hospitality driven, it is sad to see that there are very few options with childcare for those who work in that industry.
- There are many concerns we have with the lack of daycare in Banff: I pay my property tax and I try to be engaged but I feel really disheartened that there is not enough support for Banff Families. The town wants families to stay in the area and in order for that to happen there needs to be daycare.
- If I have to quit my job in order to look after my child, because there is no daycare spaces for us we may no longer will meet the need to reside, there are many families who may well be in this position.
- With more residents than ever calling Banff home and the increases in density, the services

such as daycare, hospital beds, Dr's and dentists also needs to increase. The lack of daycare has been a well known issue in the town for a long time. EVERYONE asks when we tell them we had a baby if we put them on the list yet? That's not a good thing.

- Large Employers should be forced to provide Daycare for their staff as part of the condition on operating in the Town/Park. These companies/organizations have the means (\$) and the space to do this, but choose not to. Why? It would alleviate the pressure on the two daycares that exist.
- There aren't enough daycare workers, the pay is too low and there is no housing for them. Can TOB help providing housing for the daycare? Can some of my taxes or the paid parking revenue go towards helping increase spaces?
- My mental health is suffering due to this. If I lose my benefits because I have to quit my job to look after our child I will be without the mental health care I need. Please help us.
- Thank you.
- I can't believe you still have to run surveys to assess the need for childcare. Everyone knows that there's virtually no childcare places available within the Bow Valley. This should have been obvious years ago but alas, we

rather worry about pedestrian zones and snow clearing. Please support new childcare space immediately (both physical room and increased wages as they have a hard time filling positions as I hear).

- Banff definitely need more space available for children
- Thank you
- No
- Some programs for the children from Canmore school on PD days would be nice. Bus does not get back to town until after 1pm so they can't participate.
- I am grateful to out of school club and summer fun! We love having it available to us and so does my child.
- The bow valley is a challenging place to live in, all resources available to guests and residents are scarce and limited due to many factors, Geographical challenges being a major one.
- Legislation, restrictions and other gatekeepers of businesses and carers alike are the only impediment for the supply of services to meet the demand."
- It would be amazing to see a third daycare open in Banff. We absolutely ADORE Puzzles and are so happy to see our son thriving there, but it was hard to wait 15 months for a spot to open up, and

we're one of the lucky ones because that is considered a 'short' wait. A lot of my other friends in town who had babies all within 3 months of me are still waiting for daycare spots and working opposites from their partners, solo parenting, etc. It's really hard on a family unit to manage. If the town is committed to keeping young families in Banff, then we need more access to childcare options! So many people end up leaving due to not having adequate supports in place to raise families. It really does take a village...

- Thank you for looking into this. :)
- I am glad Banff is looking at and exploring our need for more child care. I know several friends (4 families) who have had to leave the bow valley due to the stress of finding childcare.
- It's hard for families here. Very hard. We've come close to have to consider leaving a few times
- Government should pay our child care workers more. Housing should be provided for them. Especially in Banff with housing crisis. I am pregnant with my second and there is no guarantee that my 2nd child will get into daycare. They miss the bump as my daughter will start kindergarten before he is able to attend. This is so stressful. The unknown of what

we will do. How will I work? Will I ever be able to find child care?

- My husband transfers here for his job with the RCMP but I can't work or even look for a job as an RN because we can't get all day child care during the week. So we are in a position financially to cope while we are on the waitlist but how many people are able to do that. It's amazing how communities prioritizes recreational activities by opening registration up first to local members then outside communities but can't do that for childcare placements.
- If we cannot find childcare in Banff at the end of my maternity leave, we would have to consider leaving the Bow Valley. We cannot afford to have me stay home with our child.
- Thanks and hopefully we find some innovative local solutions so families have more options and can stay in Banff. Without childcare we would have moved elsewhere.
- I disagree with the fact that families based in Canmore have access to the childcare in Banff due to the severe lack of spaces.
- There are a couple of day homes in Banff, however one has a very poor reputation and the other is unregistered.
- Uncertainty around childcare causes significant stress.

- The childcare subsidy seems great, however we can't access it as there are no places.
- Childcare workers are so poorly paid, I am aware of at least 2 individuals who previously worked at Banff Daycare and have moved to unskilled work as they are able to make more money elsewhere in a less stressful job.
- Need a child care so that me n my spouse can work together to support my kids n family
- I am very stressed on finding place to stay, finding a child care. Thinking to leave Bow Valley, but I can't find jobs in Calgary.
- It was incredibly difficult to find childcare after Covid. I left an abusive relationship & have been a solo parent to my child. I was on both wait lists for over a year before I found a place for my child to be cared for so I could work. I know the barriers to finding & affording childcare are a reality for a lot of parents but I believe they are more acutely felt here in Banff. The cost of living & difficulties finding a home make raising a child even harder. Do appreciate the subsidies that made sending my child into care easier.
- I have watched so many families come and go over the years because of the cost of living here.

Anything you can do to help with this would be awesome!

- Thank you for assessing the need.
- We moved here when our child was two and we never got called off of the Banff Daycare/Puzzles wait list. It was frustrating, but we made it work, due to our situation.
- I can imagine this is a massive barrier for others and have heard challenges from other parents in town.
- I don't have childcare issues as my kid is older, but I do have friends with daycare aged children who struggle to find childcare. Banff really does need more daycare spots to be opened.
- Lack of childcare is looking like one more nail in the coffin of

livability for families in Banff. No wonder more and more are moving away.

- In the last two years we have started to discuss moving to another community for a better quality of life for our family. We are getting more and more frustrated as the town continues to be focused on meeting the growing needs of visitors and the business community. We are in our late thirties and many of our good friends have chosen to leave Banff for a better quality of life. With the recent changes that council has made (increased density and rail lands development approval) Banff is becoming a less desirable place to call home.