



**University of Wyoming Childcare
Needs Assessment, 2011
Laramie, WY**

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University of Wyoming Childcare Needs Assessment, 2011 Laramie, Wyoming

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1. Introduction

In spring 2011 the University of Wyoming (UW) Faculty Senate enlisted the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) to conduct the *UW Unmet Childcare Needs Survey, 2011*. The project envisioned a campus wide web survey of UW students, faculty, and staff to gather information on the early childcare needs of the UW community and the extent to which these needs are being met. Childcare needs may vary significantly for households with varying structures. For the purposes of this survey, the bulk of data collection targeted households with at least one child five years old or younger, or who was not yet enrolled in Kindergarten.

2. Methods

2.1. Questionnaire Development

The instrument was created in collaboration with the UW Faculty Senate, using input from two focus groups. The focus groups were organized by the UW Faculty Senate; in attendance at the focus groups were students, faculty, and staff for whom childcare is an important issue both personally and in their work at UW. Both the assessment strategy and the questionnaire content were developed with the assistance of focus group participants.

The questionnaire was designed to collect relevant information that would allow us to:

- measure the unmet early childcare needs of UW employees and students;
- establish their preferences with regard to childcare needs;
- evaluate the level of importance parents place on various aspects of childcare.

The questionnaire can be found in its entirety in Appendix B.

2.2. Sample

This study was an attempted census of the entire population of faculty, staff, and student (aged 25+) households at the University of Wyoming. The bulk of the data collection effort, however, targeted those households with at least one child aged 5 years or younger, or who was not yet enrolled in Kindergarten. WYSAC obtained a list of 2518 email addresses for faculty and staff from the UW Human Resources Department. A list of 4617 email addresses for students aged 25 and older was obtained from the UW Registrar's Office. Given the mode of data collection chosen for this survey (discussed below) these lists were used in their entirety; no samples were drawn.

2.3. Data Collection Design

The data collection design was single mode in nature, consisting of a web survey only. The web survey mode fits well the content and length of the questionnaire and was relevant given the availability of email addresses for the pool of respondents. It was also the most cost and time effective approach for this project. Once finalized and approved by Faculty Senate, the questionnaire was programmed into a web-based data collection instrument using proprietary software owned by UW called the UWYO Survey Tool (built on a SelectSurvey.NET framework). Data collected through the UWYO Survey Tool is housed and stored on internal (secure) University of Wyoming servers.

2.4. Survey Administration

The email invitation to fill out the online survey (as well as the reminders) focused on the importance of the survey and specified the targeted nature of the questions. Those receiving the email invitation who did not have children living in their household were presented a link for declining survey participation.

In order to ensure that only one response per household was included in the sample, instructions were given to each respondent (in both the email invitation/reminder and on the introductory web page of the survey), to have only one member of the household complete the survey. The instructions read as follows:

“This survey should be filled out only once per household. If you share childcare responsibility with another student, faculty, or staff member at UW, only one person from your household should submit a response to this survey. Use the DECLINE link at the bottom of the page if somebody else in your household has already completed the survey.”

The data collection period was from April 21 through May 5, 2011. During the data collection period, non-responders were sent up to three email reminders. At the close of data collection a total of 869 completed surveys were obtained. Of that total, 528 surveys came from households who have children that were aged 5 years or younger, or had not yet been enrolled in Kindergarten. While not eligible to answer questions from the main body of the questionnaire, those households with children 6 to 12 years of age were asked an open-ended question about concerns they may have for that child’s childcare. Responses to the open-ended question regarding children aged 6 to 12 can be found in Appendix A.

2.5. Data Compilation, Analysis and Presentation of Results

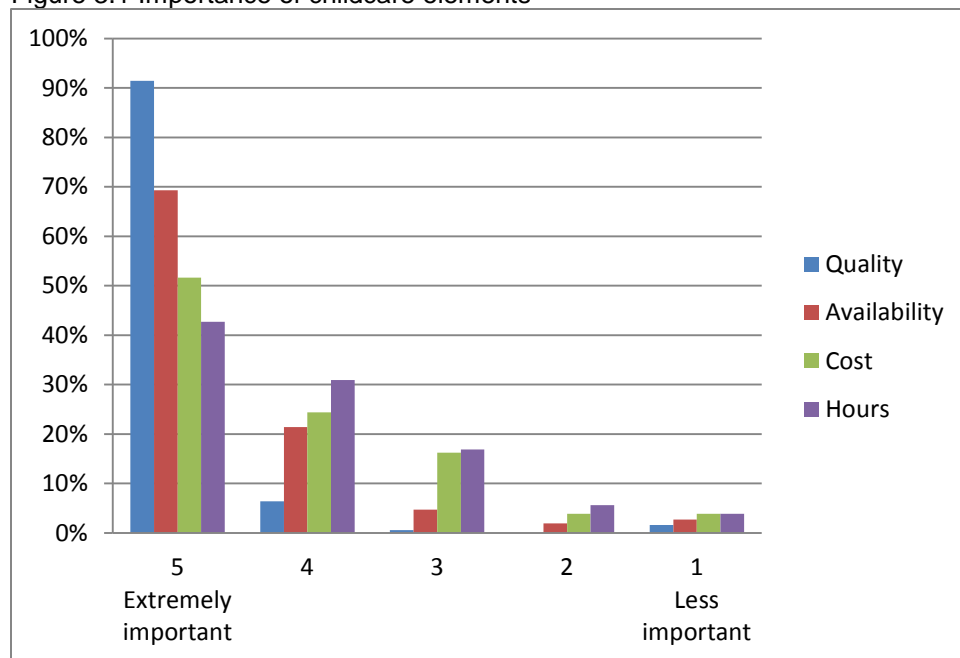
Once data collection was closed, all data obtained was exported from the UWYO Survey Tool secure servers into an SPSS format data file, where data were cleaned and prepared for analysis. Frequency counts and valid percentage distributions of responses to all questions on the survey are contained in Section 4 of this report. These are presented in the order and with the wording used in the survey. The following section, Section 3, contains some key findings.

3. Key Findings

The key findings and discussion found in this section focus on questions directed at households who have children aged 5 years or younger living with them.

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of four main elements of using a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being extremely important and 1 being less important. Figure 3.1 below displays the findings.

Figure 3.1 Importance of childcare elements



Over 90% of respondents indicated that “quality of childcare” was extremely important. In fact, “quality of childcare” was rated most highly, with a mean score of 4.86, followed closely by “availability of childcare” with a mean score of 4.53. “Cost of childcare” was indicated as extremely important by just over 50% of the respondents, and had a mean score of 4.16. The hours of available childcare seem least important to respondents, but note that the mean score for “hours of operation” still is 4.03, indicating that while it may be the least important of the four, it is still an important element of childcare for the UW community.

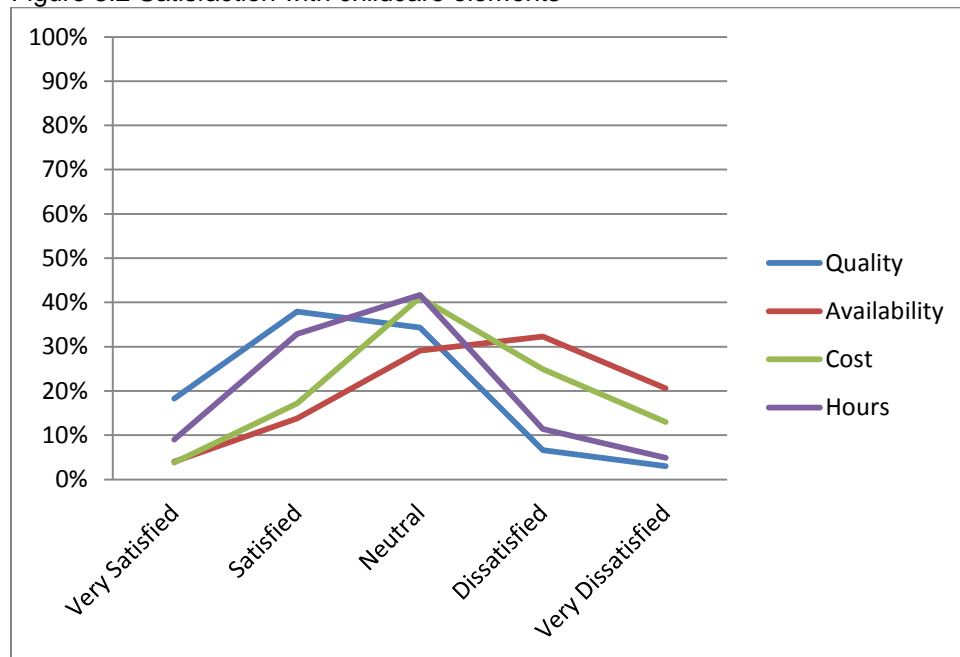
Not surprisingly, when asked which of these elements of childcare is most important, respondents overwhelmingly (almost 80%) indicated “quality of childcare”. Cost of childcare is considered most important by about 11%, and “availability of childcare” by about 8% of respondents. The least important element of childcare to respondents is the hours of operation.

Table 3.1 Childcare element MOST important

	Percent
Quality of childcare	79.3%
Cost of childcare	10.9%
Availability of childcare	8.4%
Hours of operation	1.4%

Respondents were then asked to rate their satisfaction with the same four elements of childcare. The data show that levels of satisfaction do not match the levels of importance that respondents place on these elements. Figure 3.2 shows far fewer households to be satisfied with the quality of childcare available to them than those that feel it is extremely important.

Figure 3.2 Satisfaction with childcare elements



Mean scores again tell the story. “Quality of childcare” rates the highest with a mean satisfaction score of 3.62, followed by “hours of operation” at 3.30. “Cost of childcare” has a mean satisfaction score of 2.74, and the element of childcare in the UW community that scores the lowest is availability, with a mean satisfaction score of 2.48. Table 3.2 lists the mean importance and satisfaction scores for reference and comparison. Childcare elements are listed in descending order of discrepancy.

Table 3.2 Mean scores for importance and satisfaction

	Mean score “importance”	Mean score “satisfaction”	Discrepancy
Cost of childcare	4.53	2.74	1.79
Availability of childcare	4.16	2.48	1.68
Quality of childcare	4.86	3.62	1.24
Hours of operation	4.03	3.30	0.73

Possibly related to the low satisfaction score associated with the availability of childcare in the UW community could be the fact that nearly one quarter (23.2%) of children within all responding households are currently on a waitlist. (See Section 4, Tables 4.22, 4.30, and 4.38 for frequency and percentage distributions.)

Of those responding households with children 5 years or younger, 362 (42%) are students, 205 (24%) are staff, and 293 (33.7%) are faculty. The following two tables (3.3 and 3.4) display the percentage distributions of “importance” and “satisfaction” regarding the four childcare elements for each of the three UW affiliation types (student, staff, and faculty). There are some notable differences between the groups, as highlighted in the table with “♦” notations.

Table 3.3 Importance of childcare by UW affiliation

			U.W. Affiliation		
			Student	Staff	Faculty
Childcare Elements	Quality	Not important	2.5%	0.6%	1.8%
		Neutral	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%
		Important	97.0%	98.8%	97.3%
	Availability	Not important	6.0%	3.6%	3.7%
		Neutral	7.5%	1.8%	3.7%
		Important	86.6%	94.6%	92.7%
	Cost	Not important	6.5%	4.7%	15.3%
		Neutral	13.9%	15.4%	21.6%
		Important	79.6%	79.9%	63.1%
	Hours	Not important	11.5%	6.5%	10.0%
		Neutral	16.5%	16.7%	19.1%
		Important	72.0%	76.8%	70.9%

Quality of childcare is universally regarded as an important element of childcare. The same can be said for availability of childcare, though students find availability less important than staff and faculty. Both staff and students consider cost a more important factor than do faculty.

Table 3.4, on the next page, displays data consistent with the trend of satisfaction with the four elements of childcare being scored considerably lower than importance. This trend is consistent across every UW affiliation type, though again, differences between the groups exist.

Table 3.4 Satisfaction with childcare by UW affiliation

			U.W. Affiliation			
			Student	Staff	Faculty	
Childcare Elements	Quality	Dissatisfied	7.3%	11.0%	12.0%	◆
		Neutral	45.1%	28.2%	25.0%	
		Satisfied	47.7%	60.7%	63.0%	◆
	Availability	Dissatisfied	44.0%	68.7%	45.4%	
		Neutral	38.9%	18.4%	28.7%	
		Satisfied	17.1%	12.9%	25.9%	◆
	Cost	Dissatisfied	36.3%	50.3%	21.3%	◆
		Neutral	50.8%	28.8%	43.5%	
		Satisfied	13.0%	20.9%	35.2%	
	Hours	Dissatisfied	15.1%	17.5%	17.8%	
		Neutral	52.6%	35.6%	31.8%	
		Satisfied	32.3%	46.9%	50.5%	◆

In terms of quality, students are both less dissatisfied and less satisfied than staff and faculty. In fact, less than half of student respondents are satisfied with the quality of childcare their children are receiving. Only small percentages of students, staff, and faculty are satisfied with the availability of childcare, though faculty are twice as likely than staff to be satisfied with this element of childcare.

Faculty are the least dissatisfied with the cost of childcare. Striking is that over one third of students and over one half of staff are dissatisfied with the cost of childcare. Finally, staff and faculty are more satisfied with the hours of operation for their childcare than students.

Households with children age 5 years old or younger spend, on average, \$585 per month on childcare. Almost half (43%) spend between \$501 and \$1,000 per month. Table 3.5 breaks down the distribution in more detail.

Table 3.5 Dollars per month on childcare

Dollars per month	Percent
\$0	19.6%
\$1 - \$250	9.8%
\$251 - \$500	15.5%
\$501 - \$1,000	43.4%
More than \$1,000	11.8%

Respondents indicated many different types of childcare currently being used by their household. The most frequently indicated type of childcare currently being used is a commercial day care center and the least frequently indicated type is a church or faith-based day care. Table 3.6 displays the full list of childcare types and the frequency at which they were indicated as currently being used. Note that percentages will not sum to 100% since respondents could choose more than one response.

Table 3.6 Childcare type currently used

Childcare type	Percent
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	33.6%
Family / friend	32.4%
Childcare provider in your home	18.3%
Licensed home day care	16.4%
None	14.1%
Other	13.4%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	13.0%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	12.2%
Unlicensed home day care	5.9%
Weekend / night child care	5.0%
Church or faith-based day care	4.0%

The following table presents the childcare types in the order that they were most preferred by respondents.

Table 3.7 Childcare type preferred

Childcare type	Percent*
The UW Early Care and Education Center	32.8%
Family / friend	13.2%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	12.7%
Licensed home day care	9.8%
Childcare provider in your home	8.3%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	7.8%
Other	6.9%
None	5.1%
Church or faith-based day care	1.6%
Weekend / night child care	1.3%
Unlicensed home day care	0.5%

The University of Wyoming Early Care and Education Center is most preferred (32.8%) followed by “Family / Friend” (13.2%) and “Commercial day care center” (12.7%). Not surprisingly, the least preferred type of childcare is the unlicensed home day care, with only 0.5% of respondents marking that choice.

4. Survey Results

Detailed results from the survey are presented below. Responses to all questions on the survey are reported in the order and with the wording used in the survey. Responses of *'Don't know'* and *'No response'* are considered missing values and thus excluded from the percentage calculations. Percentages for *Mark All that Apply* survey items (i.e., questions for which multiple response choices are possible) may total more than 100%.

Introductory screen:

The University of Wyoming Faculty Senate has been charged with the task to identify the early childcare needs of the UW community and the extent to which they are being met. This is the purpose of this survey and your response is crucial to the success of this project. We have designed a short questionnaire, which will take up just a few minutes of your time.

The survey is completely confidential. Results will be reported only as aggregates. At no point will your individual responses be associated with your name. Your participation is voluntary. Refusal to participate will have no effect on any of the benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you have any questions about this survey you can call Mike Dorsom at the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center at 766-6183 during business hours.

This survey should be filled out only once per household. If you share childcare responsibility with another student, faculty, or staff member at UW, only one person from your household should submit a response to this survey.

General Information

Q1. Are you...

Table 4.1. Q1. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	368	42.3%
Female	501	57.7%
Total Valid	869	100.0%
Total	869	

Q2. Are you faculty, staff, or a student at the University of Wyoming?

Table 4.2. Q2. University of Wyoming affiliation

	Frequency	Percent
Student	362	41.7%
Faculty	293	33.7%
Staff	205	23.6%
Other, please specify	9	1.0%
Total Valid	869	100.0%
No answer/Refused	0	
Total missing	0	
Total	869	

► See Appendix A for complete list of 'other' responses to question 2.

Q3. What was your household's total income before taxes in 2010? (Please include income from all sources for yourself and all other persons living in your household.)

Table 4.3. Q3. Household income – 2010

	Frequency	Percent
Less than \$25,000	161	18.8%
\$25,001 - \$50,000	171	20.0%
\$50,001 - \$75,000	197	23.0%
\$75,001 - \$100,000	153	17.9%
More than \$100,000	175	20.4%
Total Valid	857	100.0%
No answer/Refused	12	
Total missing	12	
Total	869	

Q4. Do you have any children between the ages of 6 and 12 years old living in your household?

Table 4.4. Q4. Children between age 6 and 12 in household

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	421	48.4%
No	448	51.6%
Total Valid	869	100.0%
No answer/Refused	0	
Total missing	0	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered 'Yes' to question 4 answered question 6).

Q5. Do you have any children age 5 years or younger, or who are not yet enrolled in Kindergarten, living in your household?

Table 4.5. Q5. Children age 5 or under not enrolled in Kindergarten

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	528	60.8%
No	341	39.2%
Total Valid	869	100.0%
No answer/Refused	0	
Total missing	0	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered 'Yes' to question 5 answered question 5A).

Q5A. How many children 5 years old or younger, or who are not yet enrolled in Kindergarten, live in your household?

Table 4.6. Q5A. Number of children age 5 or under not enrolled in Kindergarten

	Frequency	Percent
1	370	71.6%
2	127	24.6%
3	20	3.9%
Total Valid	517	100.0%
No answer/Refused	11	
System missing	341	
Total missing	352	
Total	869	

Q6. If yes [to Q4], do you have any concerns about your 6 to 12 year old children's childcare?

► See Appendix A for complete list of responses to question 6.

(Respondents who answered 'Yes' to question 5 proceeded to question 7, the rest skipped to question 36.

General Childcare

Q7. Please rate each of the following items on how important they are to you in terms of childcare, with 1 being "Less Important" and 5 being "Extremely Important."

Q7A. Quality of childcare

Table 4.7. Q7A. Importance of quality of childcare

	Frequency	Percent
1 (Less important)	8	1.6%
2	0	0.0%
3	3	0.6%
4	31	6.4%
5 (Extremely important)	446	91.4%
Total Valid	488	100.0%
No answer/Refused	40	
System missing	341	
Total missing	381	
Total	869	

Mean = 4.86

Q7B. Availability of childcare

Table 4.8. Q7B. Importance of availability of childcare

	Frequency	Percent
1 (Less important)	13	2.7%
2	9	1.9%
3	23	4.7%
4	104	21.4%
5 (Extremely important)	336	69.3%
Total Valid	485	100.0%
No answer/Refused	43	
System missing	341	
Total missing	384	
Total	869	

Mean = 4.16

Q7C. Cost of childcare

Table 4.9. Q7C. Importance of cost of childcare

	Frequency	Percent
1 (Less important)	19	3.9%
2	19	3.9%
3	79	16.2%
4	119	24.4%
5 (Extremely important)	252	51.6%
Total Valid	488	100.0%
No answer/Refused	40	
System missing	341	
Total missing	381	
Total	869	

Mean = 4.53

Q7D. Hours of operation

Table 4.10. Q7D. Importance of hours of operation

	Frequency	Percent
1 (Less important)	19	3.9%
2	27	5.6%
3	82	16.9%
4	150	30.9%
5 (Extremely important)	207	42.7%
Total Valid	485	100.0%
No answer/Refused	43	
System missing	341	
Total missing	384	
Total	869	

Mean = 4.03

Q8. Of the items listed above, which one is MOST important?

Table 4.11. Q8. Child care option MOST important

	Frequency	Percent
Quality of childcare	386	79.3%
Availability of childcare	41	8.4%
Cost of childcare	53	10.9%
Hours of operation	7	1.4%
Total Valid	487	100.0%
No answer/Refused	41	
System missing	341	
Total missing	382	
Total	869	

Q9. How would you rate your satisfaction with the following items with regard to the childcare available to you within the UW and Laramie community? Would you say that you are...

Q9A. Quality of childcare

Table 4.12. Q9A. Satisfaction with quality of childcare

	Frequency	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	14	3.0%
Dissatisfied	31	6.6%
Neutral	161	34.3%
Satisfied	178	37.9%
Very Satisfied	86	18.3%
Total Valid	470	100.0%
No answer/Refused	58	
System missing	341	
Total missing	399	
Total	869	

Mean = 3.62

Q9B. Availability of childcare

Table 4.13. Q9B. Satisfaction with availability of childcare

	Frequency	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	97	20.6%
Dissatisfied	152	32.3%
Neutral	137	29.1%
Satisfied	65	13.8%
Very Satisfied	19	4.0%
Total Valid	470	100.0%
No answer/Refused	58	
System missing	341	
Total missing	399	
Total	869	

Mean = 2.48

Q9C. Cost of childcare

Table 4.14. Q9C. Satisfaction with cost of childcare

	Frequency	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	61	13.0%
Dissatisfied	117	24.9%
Neutral	193	41.1%
Satisfied	81	17.2%
Very Satisfied	18	3.8%
Total Valid	470	100.0%
No answer/Refused	58	
System missing	341	
Total missing	399	
Total	869	

Mean = 2.74

Q9D. Hours of operation

Table 4.15. Q9D. Satisfaction with hours of operation

	Frequency	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	23	4.9%
Dissatisfied	53	11.4%
Neutral	194	41.7%
Satisfied	153	32.9%
Very Satisfied	42	9.0%
Total Valid	465	100.0%
No answer/Refused	63	
System missing	341	
Total missing	404	
Total	869	

Mean = 3.30

Q10. During what you consider a typical month, including the weekend, what is the total amount in dollars you spend for childcare?

Table 4.16. Q10.Total amount in dollars spent on childcare during a typical month

	Frequency	Percent
\$0	96	19.6%
\$1 - \$250	48	9.8%
\$251 - \$500	76	15.5%
\$501 - \$1,000	213	43.4%
More than \$1,000	58	11.8%
Total Valid	491	100.0%
No answer/Refused	37	
System missing	341	
Total missing	378	
Total	869	

Mean = \$585, Median = \$590

Q11. Does your UW/Department/Unit have a policy regarding childcare?

Table 4.17. Q11. UW Department/Unit policy regarding childcare

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	3.1%
No	185	38.2%
Don't know / Not sure	284	58.7%
Total Valid	484	100.0%
No answer/Refused	44	
System missing	341	
Total missing	385	
Total	869	

Q12. Are you satisfied with the policy (or lack of policy)?

Table 4.18. Q12. Satisfaction with UW Department/Unit childcare policy

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	32.8%
No	92	67.2%
Total Valid	137	100.0%
Don't know / Not sure	334	
No answer/Refused	57	
System missing	341	
Total missing	732	
Total	869	

Youngest Child

Please fill out the following questions regarding the YOUNGEST child 5 years or younger, or who is not yet enrolled in Kindergarten.

Q13. - How old is this child? (Child 1)

Table 4.19. Q13. Age (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
0 - 11 months	109	22.9%
1 year	79	16.6%
2 years	97	20.4%
3 years	83	17.4%
4 years	68	14.3%
5 years	40	8.4%
Total Valid	476	100.0%
No answer/Refused	52	
System missing	341	
Total missing	393	
Total	869	

Q14. – What type of childcare is this child currently receiving? (Mark all that apply.) (Child 1)

Table 4.20. Q14. Type of childcare (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
Childcare provider in your home	67	14.1%
Licensed home day care	65	13.7%
Unlicensed home day care	26	5.5%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	44	9.2%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	135	28.4%
Family / friend	119	25.0%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	34	7.1%
Church or faith-based day care	13	2.7%
Weekend / night child care	19	4.0%
None	48	10.1%
Other	45	9.4%
Total Valid	476	
No answer/Refused	52	
System missing	341	
Total missing	393	
Total	869	

*Percentages total more than 100% (multiple responses are possible).

► See Appendix A for complete listing of “other” responses to Q14.

Q15. What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Child 1)

Table 4.21. Q15. Type of childcare most preferred (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
Childcare provider in your home	41	8.7%
Licensed home day care	51	10.8%
Unlicensed home day care	2	0.4%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	160	34.0%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	64	13.6%
Family / friend	62	13.2%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	28	5.9%
Church or faith-based day care	9	1.9%
Weekend / night child care	6	1.3%
None	19	4.0%
Other	29	6.2%
Total Valid	471	100.0%
No answer/Refused	57	
System Missing	341	
Total missing	398	
Total	869	

► See Appendix A for complete listing of “other” responses to Q15.

Q16. Is this child currently on the waiting list of a childcare facility? (Child 1)

Table 4.22. Q16. Currently on waiting list of childcare facility (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	116	24.4%
No	360	75.6%
Total Valid	476	100.0%
No answer/Refused	52	
System missing	341	
Total missing	393	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered ‘Yes’ to question 16 answered questions 17 & 18, respondents who answered ‘No’ to question 16 skipped to question 19).

Q17. If yes, on how many waiting lists is this child currently on? (Child 1)

Table 4.23. Q17. Number of waiting lists currently on (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
1	52	45.6%
2	34	29.8%
3 or more	28	24.6%
Total Valid	114	100.0%
Not applicable, not on a waiting list	2	
System missing	753	
Total missing	755	
Total	869	

Q18. If yes, for how many months has this child been on a waiting list(s)? (Child 1)

Table 4.24. Q18. Number of months on waiting list(s) (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
1-3 months	20	18.0%
4-6 months	17	15.3%
7-9 months	21	18.9%
10-12 months	18	16.2%
More than 12 months	35	31.5%
Total Valid	111	100.0%
No answer/Refused	5	
System missing	753	
Total missing	758	
Total	869	

(Only respondents who answered 'No' to question 16 answered question 19).

Q19. If this child is NOT currently on a waiting list, was he/she EVER on a waiting list?

(Child 1)

Table 4.25. Q19. If not currently on waiting list, EVER on waiting list (Child 1)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	163	49.1%
No	169	50.9%
Total Valid	332	100.0%
Not applicable, currently on waiting list	26	
No answer/Refused	2	
System missing	509	
Total missing	537	
Total	869	

Q20. Do you have any other children, age 5 or younger, or who have not yet enrolled in Kindergarten?

Table 4.26. Q20. Additional children 5 or younger (Child 2 intro)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	131	27.5%
No	346	72.5%
Total Valid	477	100.0%
No answer/Refused	51	
System missing	341	
Total missing	392	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered 'Yes' to question 20 proceeded to question 21, the rest skipped to question 36).

2nd Youngest Child

Please fill out the following questions regarding the **2nd YOUNGEST** child 5 years or younger, or who is not yet enrolled in Kindergarten.

Q21. - How old is this child? (Child 2)

Table 4.27. Q21. Age (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent
0 - 11 months	6	4.8%
1 year	1	0.8%
2 years	19	15.3%
3 years	34	27.4%
4 years	36	29.0%
5 years	28	22.6%
Total Valid	124	100.0%
No answer/Refused	7	
System missing	738	
Total missing	745	
Total	869	

Q22. – What type of childcare is this child currently receiving? (Mark all that apply.) (Child 2)

Table 4.28. Q22. Type of childcare (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent*
Childcare provider in your home	18	14.1%
Licensed home day care	13	10.2%
Unlicensed home day care	2	1.6%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	16	12.5%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	24	18.8%
Family / friend	31	24.2%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	20	15.6%
Church or faith-based day care	5	3.9%
Weekend / night child care	3	2.3%
None	16	12.5%
Other	18	14.1%
Total Valid	128	
No answer/Refused	3	
System Missing	738	
Total missing	741	
Total	869	

*Percentages total more than 100% (multiple responses are possible).

► See Appendix A for complete listing of “other” responses to Q22.

Q23. What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Child 2)

Table 4.29. Q23. Type of childcare most preferred (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent
Childcare provider in your home	9	7.0%
Licensed home day care	9	7.0%
Unlicensed home day care	1	0.8%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	38	29.5%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	13	10.1%
Family / friend	17	13.2%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	17	13.2%
Church or faith-based day care	1	0.8%
Weekend / night child care	2	1.6%
None	10	7.8%
Other	12	9.3%
Total Valid	129	100.0%
No answer/Refused	2	
System Missing	738	
Total missing	740	
Total	869	

► See Appendix A for complete listing of “other” responses to Q23.

Q24. Is this child currently on the waiting list of a childcare facility? (Child 2)

Table 4.30. Q24. Currently on waiting list of childcare facility (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	19.5%
No	103	80.5%
Total Valid	128	100.0%
No answer	3	
System missing	738	
Total missing	741	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered ‘Yes’ to question 24 proceeded to questions 25 & 26, respondents who answered ‘No’ to question 24 skipped to question 27).

Q25. If yes, on how many waiting lists is this child currently on? (Child 2)

Table 4.31. Q25. Number of waiting lists currently on (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent
1	13	56.5%
2	6	26.1%
3 or more	4	17.4%
Total Valid	23	100.0%
Not applicable, not on a waiting list	1	
No Answer	1	
System missing	844	
Total missing	846	
Total	869	

Q26. If yes, for how many months has this child been on a waiting list(s)? (Child 2)

Table 4.32. Q26. Number of months on waiting list(s) (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent
1-3 months	5	20.8%
4-6 months	3	12.5%
7-9 months	2	8.3%
10-12 months	4	16.7%
More than 12 months	10	41.7%
Total Valid	24	100.0%
No answer	1	
System missing	844	
Total missing	845	
Total	869	

(Only respondents who answered 'No' to question 24 answered question 27).

Q27. If this child is NOT currently on a waiting list, was he/she EVER on a waiting list? (Child 2)

Table 4.33. Q27. If not currently on waiting list, EVER on waiting list (Child 2)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	49.5%
No	46	50.5%
Total Valid	91	100.0%
Not applicable, not on a waiting list	12	
System missing	766	
Total missing	778	
Total	869	

Q28. Do you have any other children, age 5 or younger, or who have not yet enrolled in Kindergarten?

Table 4.34. Q28. Additional children 5 or younger (Child 3 intro)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	11.5%
No	115	88.5%
Total Valid	130	100.0%
No answer	1	
System missing	738	
Total missing	739	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered 'Yes' to question 28 proceeded to question 29, the rest skipped to question 36).

3rd Youngest Child

Please fill out the following questions regarding the **3rd YOUNGEST** child 5 years or younger, or who is not yet enrolled in Kindergarten.

Q29. - How old is this child? (Child 3)

Table 4.35. Q29. Child 3 - Age

	Frequency	Percent
0 - 11 months	0	0.0%
1 year	0	0.0%
2 years	1	7.7%
3 years	2	15.4%
4 years	6	46.2%
5 years	4	30.8%
Total Valid	13	100.0%
No answer/Refused	2	
System missing	854	
Total missing	856	
Total	869	

Q30. – What type of childcare is this child currently receiving? (Mark all that apply.) (Child 3)

Table 4.36. Q30. Type of childcare (Child 3)

	Frequency	Percent*
Childcare provider in your home	2	15.4%
Licensed home day care	0	0.0%
Unlicensed home day care	0	0.0%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	2	15.4%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	1	7.7%
Family / friend	4	30.8%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	4	30.8%
Church or faith-based day care	1	7.7%
Weekend / night child care	2	15.4%
None	3	23.1%
Other	1	7.7%
Total Valid	13	
No answer/Refused	2	
System missing	854	
Total missing	856	
Total	869	

*Percentages total more than 100% (multiple responses are possible).

► See Appendix A for complete listing of “other” responses to Q30.

Q31. What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Child 3)

Table 4.37. Q31. Type of childcare most preferred (Child 3)

	Frequency	Percent
Childcare provider in your home	1	7.7%
Licensed home day care	0	0.0%
Unlicensed home day care	0	0.0%
The UW Early Care and Education Center	3	23.1%
Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC	1	7.7%
Family / friend	2	15.4%
Part-time preschool / nursery school	3	23.1%
Church or faith-based day care	0	0.0%
Weekend / night child care	0	0.0%
None	2	15.4%
Other	1	7.7%
Total Valid	13	100.0%
No answer/Refused	2	
System missing	854	
Total missing	856	
Total	869	

► See Appendix A for complete listing of “other” responses to Q31..

Q32. Is this child currently on the waiting list of a childcare facility? (Child 3)

Table 4.38. Q32. Currently on waiting list of childcare facility (Child 3)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	15.4%
No	11	84.6%
Total Valid	13	100.0%
No answer	2	
System missing	854	
Total missing	856	
Total	869	

(Respondents who answered 'Yes' to question 32 proceeded to questions 33 & 34, respondents who answered 'No' to question 32 skipped to question 35).

Q33. If yes, on how many waiting lists is this child currently on? (Child 3)

Table 4.39. Q33. Number of waiting lists currently on (Child 3)

	Frequency	Percent
1	1	50.0%
2	1	50.0%
3 or more	0	0.0%
Total Valid	2	100.0%
Not applicable, not on a waiting list	0	
System missing	867	
Total missing	867	
Total	869	

Q34. If yes, for how many months has this child been on a waiting list(s)? (Child 3)

Table 4.40. Q34. Number of months on waiting list(s) (Child 3)

	Frequency	Percent
1-3 months	1	50.0%
4-6 months	0	0.0%
7-9 months	0	0.0%
10-12 months	0	0.0%
More than 12 months	1	50.0%
Total Valid	2	100.0%
System missing	867	
Total missing	867	
Total	869	

(Only respondents who answered 'No' to question 32 answered question 35).

Q35. If this child is NOT currently on a waiting list, was he/she EVER on a waiting list?
(Child 3)

Table 4.41. Q35. If not currently on waiting list, EVER on waiting list (Child 3)

	Frequency	Percent*
Yes	2	22.2%
No	7	77.8%
Total Valid	9	100.0%
Not applicable, not on a waiting list	2	
System missing	858	
Total missing	860	
Total	869	

Q36. Please describe any POSITIVE experiences you have had regarding childcare in the UW and Laramie community.

► See Appendix A for complete listing of responses to Q36

Q37. Please describe any NEGATIVE experiences you have had regarding childcare in the UW and Laramie community.

► See Appendix A for complete listing of responses to Q37

5. Appendices

Appendix A: Responses to open-ended questions.

(Q2) Are you faculty, staff, or a student at the University of Wyoming?

“Other” responses:

- Administrative Professional.
- Affiliated org.
- Assistant lecturer.
- Both Student and Staff.
- Community Member Taking Classes, Husband works for University!
- Contract.
- Doc student--GA so partially faculty.
- Full-time staff, part-time student.
- Graduate Assistant (6).
- Outreach Student (4).
- PostDoc.
- Research Scientist (3).
- Spouse of faculty (2).

(Q6) Do you have any concerns about your 6 to 12 year old children's childcare?

- Activities that are challenging and fun instead of just a babysitting atmosphere would be a nice option.
- After school activities are sometimes difficult to get my daughter to.
- After school care (2)
- After school care is hard to find.
- After school, options other than SAC.
- All though my child is 15, I don't use childcare now. However, when I did, it was a great concern to me and her father.
- Always.
- Attending school, children's health and safety.
- Basically no but sometimes I don't like when they are left home alone by themselves even though they are at an age when they can be.
- Before and after school care need.
- Being to work a 4am.
- Between semesters the early care center is not open yet I still have to work. Need licensed childcare between semesters.
- Childcare in Laramie is hard to find and is unaffordable when you do find a spot.
- Childcare in Laramie is very expensive, and it can be difficult to find open spots at quality centers.

- Childcare in the summer for younger school age kids - especially in August - is very limited. There are several opportunities in June & July.
- Childcare is a major concern for me as I must have confidence in who I leave my children with while I work.
- Childcare is difficult to find when needed and Summers can be especially difficult.
- Cost (2).
- Cost and summer childcare.
- Currently both of my children are enrolled in elementary school. In addition, my wife is currently not working. As such, she is able to care for the children after school and during school vacations.
- Currently, no. Both are in school and their mother does not work. When they were younger, they did attend UW childcare - great place, great care.
- Everyone does.
- Finding good childcare is hard to do.
- For the summer.
- Frequently she and her brother need evening/weekend care because I am in classes in Laramie.
- Hard to find full-time summer care, use SACC program during the school year.
- Hours of availability.
- I am thankful that my son is now 12 and can stay home. Quality daycare is hard to find and even harder to afford.
- I can't afford child care for my boy during the summer.
- I can't find childcare and it is a huge stress for me.
- I can't put a price for my child's care, however I believe that what we pay now is too high for the little amount of time she is in the UWECEC After School Program!
- I cannot get childcare needs for my class times after 5 pm until 9pm for pharmacy school in my fall semester.
- I did, but she is now old enough to take care of herself.
- I feel as though there are too many children in the child care system. Children should be raised at home by their parents.
- I have a child with special needs and it can be challenging finding care for her after school and on the days that the public school has off during the school year. Also, during the summer, it is hard to find care for her that works for her temperament. There is also very little available in Laramie in August.
- I have been blessed with some good friends that take care of my son after he gets out of school, if I'm still in class.
- I have concerns about the availability of quality childcare in Laramie.
- I have had to drop classes because I do not have child care on those days or mine falls through.
- I have to pay for a half day charge when he is only at the daycare for about .5 - 1.5 hours a day.
- I have to pay for before and after school care for her when I have school myself and that hurts my budget.
- I haven't liked the after-school childcare options available.

- I only have my son on weekends now, but next semester I am going to have him for the week, and am concerned about how to handle that.
- I think there is a lack of options for occasional school-age care.
- I want them to be in a fun learning environment.
- I wish my child was in a better after school program that provided better activities and structure for her age group.
- I worry about quality care and availability of care after school hours.
- I'm a single parent and need daycare outside of the normal 7:30 - 5:30 time slots...to go work out, buy groceries, etc...
- It is difficult after school gets out to have child care and during the summer.
- It is difficult to obtain dependable childcare, both during the day, and at night, if I take night classes.
- It is expensive.
- It is hard to find after school care.
- It is hard to find quality childcare.
- It is not always easy to accommodate childcare needs for work and school commitments.
- It is not ideal, but it is ok.
- It is very expensive for afterschool. Also, they need more learning type activities than just play.
- It's difficult to find, especially when there is no school because of staff development or because a child is sick.
- Just finding childcare for the summer and vacation time that my daughter has off but I don't and being able to afford childcare.
- Lack of available and affordable childcare.
- Mostly in summer.
- My concern is mostly keeping them active and having fun a good experiences while in childcare.
- My husband and I alter our schedule so we can be sure that she is home when not at school. However, I have not found care that I am comfortable with for evening events.
- My kids are 9 & 11. They are in many ways too old for standard daycare centers but too young to stay home alone. It is difficult to find quality care for this age and even more difficult to find affordable part-time care.
- My son isn't in childcare anymore but in school.
- My youngest who is eight often presents the greatest challenge to my ability to be a full-time student and full-time mother. In fact, I have a dilemma right now with regards to what I will do next fall. I have a class from 2:10-6 PM on Fridays that will make it impossible to pick her up on time from the school bus. The friend I relied on last fall is moving to Missouri, and I have no family here to assist me. We also do not have the disposable family income to afford after-school care for her.
- N/A (3).
- No (114).
- No - but primarily because we have very good and flexible care through Basic Beginnings.
- No - have older sibling to watch.
- No - work at school.

- No at this time.
- No availability of childcare in the community.
- No because I do not work because I am a full-time student. My child is in Kindergarten this year and she does not need child care outside of that time. Once I enter the working work I'm sure it will be more of a concern.
- No because I have older kids who can watch my son when we aren't there. I understand from talking to other students that there is a big need for childcare in Laramie specifically for UW students who have children.
- No both 10 and 12 year olds are in the lab school.
- No childcare utilized as care only needed part time and no part time care available in this community. Friends and family are utilized when needed.
- No concerns, as she is in school and if ever a conflict should arise, she stays with a friend.
- No I have a stay at home wife.
- No major concerns.
- No my significant other watches the kids during the day and I watch them at night while she attends class.
- No place for them after school or holidays. The few childcares in town are expensive.
- No serious concerns.
- No, Although I do wish there were more facilities and spaces for them on campus schemes.
- No, as the youngest of three, she does not need childcare.
- No, but I hire an afterschool babysitter to take care of kids until I can get home from work.
- No, he is in school the same time as me.
- No, I meet my children after school.
- No, my children are not in childcare.
- No, my mother watches my children in my home. It is ideal for me.
- No, my wife works from home and provides the childcare at the same time.
- No, my wife works part time during school hours and is able to care for them after school.
- No, our 6-year-old is in care at home after Kindergarten and will be at the UW ECEC this summer.
- No, they are in school all day...I have a 16-yr. old who can watch the younger ones while I am in school.
- No, unless you call public school a source of child care. Then I have concerns.
- No, we are very pleased with the school system. The kids attend Indian Paintbrush. They do not go to childcare before or after school.
- None. We have never used childcare (so my input might not be very helpful).
- Not any more - but that's because I now have an older teenager who can help out. But, because of poor (non-existent) childcare, I had to work part-time when my children were younger.
- Not at all during the school year.
- Not at this time (6).
- Not at this time, but probably in the coming years.
- Not enough adequate and flexible availability.

- Not enough spots available city wide. There is no place in town that I'm aware of that is for kids about 4th grade during the summer.
- Not particularly. Most of his day is in school. When he gets home his mother looks after him.
- Not presently, My wife owns a home childcare facility.
- Not so much, there mom stays home with them.
- Not today, but it was a major issue when we moved to Laramie in 2002.
- Now that my six year old is in the public school system, my concerns are lessened. Finding child care for younger children is the problem.
- Of course!
- On the weekends and nights that I have class, I struggle to find child care if my husband is unavailable.
- Only cost.
- Only during the summer, when my 7 year old is not in school.
- Only once in a great while is after school care an issue.
- Outside of school hours, yes.
- Preschool, kindergarten, pre-kindergartenfor 4 year old, lack of options, only daycare available.
- Quality summer childcare for our 6 year is difficult to find.
- Rarely needed, but difficult to find childcare for weekends or after 6pm.
- She is currently not in daycare, but if she was we would be concerned about if her needs were being met and if there was enough staff to safely oversee the children.
- Social skills.
- Some ... due to the limited childcare options available in Laramie my spouse works less/ does not work to provide childcare for our household.
- Some concern about after-school care.
- Some of the community providers rely too much on TV and computer games.
- Some.
- Sometimes. When the older kids have sports and other things to do it is difficult to find childcare on short notice.
- Somewhat limited.
- Summer care is difficult to find if your child doesn't attend daycare throughout the school year.
- Summer care issues.
- Summer programs for this age group are limited. The rec center has programs that are okay, but I wish there were a few other options.
- Sure, it's expensive for good care like ECEC and sometimes as a parent you have to scale back quality of care to be able to afford it.
- That special education needs are met. Safety of kids while playing outside.
- The cost for after school care is huge! Also trying to find child care in the summer months can be a challenge.
- The expense!
- The lack of care available first; the cost of care second.

- The staffing ratios in the child care centers are at state minimum and the training of care providers is minimal. The communication with parents in resolution of problems is poor in my experience.
- The usual, certified care, nutritious meals, appropriate discipline, educational, outdoor activities, LOW-COST.
- There are limited opportunities for afterschool childcare in Laramie.
- There are times during the summer that I do not have child care, and not sure what to do.
- There is NOT enough childcare in Laramie - period.
- This is always a concern. Who is taking care of our children should be of a major concern, since everything in today's world is controlled by transnational corporations who prefer the lowest bidder in all work without regard for quality or safety.
- Trying to obtain quality childcare in this community is stressful and expensive, especially afterschool care.
- Usually deals with the other children at the day care, they are not fully watched and my children get hurt at times
- Very few interesting and high-quality childcare opportunities exist for school-age children in Laramie.
- We are able to access an afterschool program (at the same location where our younger children are) which is nice. However, my preference would be to pick our child up more frequently (if not every day). He's hard to go from school all day and then on to another place away from home....and he gets tired of going there too. I think he would benefit from some 'down time' at home instead of being shuffled to another locale. It would also better facilitate homework and other activities instead of saving everything and shoving it into the 2 hours at home between when we get home and he need to go to bed. Gets a little hectic. It would be fantastic if the University could be more proactive in advocating for childcare. For example, even though I am a faculty member I have been told that I cannot work from home (e.g. when caring for a sick child). This is ludicrous. If a faculty member can consult a certain percentage of his/her time, then why can't one 'work at home' for an equal or lesser amount of time? This takes away the autonomy and flexibility of a faculty member and we might as well be punching a time clock. I know some departments are VERY flexible with work at home policies and apparently mine is on the other end of the spectrum. I see how this could be abused, but consistent and reasonable guidelines should be available for everyone.
- We are extremely fortunate to have a spot for our daughter at the UW ECEC. My concern is the afterschool care for my son. It is very pricey all across town. My guess is many parents are leaving their kids at home from 3-5 p.m. and that is a concern.
- We are very fortunate to have a wonderful care provider.
- We currently do not have childcare due to unavailability of programs that are suitable and affordable for this age range.
- We have some difficulty in the summer finding childcare, and we hire a babysitter during the semester to help with after school care.
- We need a good childcare program during spring break, summer break and winter break (except the 10 days when UW is closed).

- We no longer use childcare for our youngest, age 9, but during finals week and other occasions, a drop in center would be great. When she was younger and when my teen daughter was younger, and I was an undergraduate, child care was often a crisis in this town.
- Well, one of them got his arm lobbed off a few days ago. I managed to get most of the bloodstains out of the carpet, but you know, there's really nothing you can do about the smell...
- When school district holidays do not coincide with university holidays problems can arise finding childcare.
- Wife is stay at home mom.
- Wish I could flex my schedule to get off of work so I could pick them up from school. Current childcare only goes through age 9 so I have to try to find someone who will watch the kids in my home.
- Would like to see a place where kids can have an opportunity to engage in physical activities or have help with schoolwork or engage in a craft or quiet activity. Usually most places are just babysitting instead of engaging kids.
- Yes (14).
- Yes - 1. After school care 2. Quality of available education choices in Laramie. This is the number one concern we have with raising children in Laramie.
- Yes - it is quite scarce in this town for kids under 5
- Yes I need some because I plan to have kids and we both work and will be going to school.
- Yes she goes to UW lab and very few daycares pick up from there. UW does but your daycare is only open when class is in session. I am staff and work during spring break and summer etc. I am a single parent and have no family living here to help me out with childcare when the daycare is closed. I end up having to have 2 daycares to meet my needs. yours picks up from UW lab but isn't open most of the time I need it to be open so I have another for that.
- Yes- My 6-year-old needs after-school care since she is too young to be home alone and I need to work.
- Yes, but it depends on context. Educational, health care, etc?
- Yes, childcare in Laramie is prohibitively expensive. I usually adjust my course schedule to meet the needs of my children.
- Yes, during summers and days off.
- Yes, finding affordable, quality care outside of daycare facilities.
- Yes, having good and accessible childcare is a major concern.
- Yes, i don't have any childcare so i have to schedule my classes during her school time. if she misses class i miss class. i am doing summer classes and i can't afford daycare for only one hour a day every day. no childcare or expensive childcare is a severe issue of inhibiting proportions.
- Yes, if I needed it, I would be worried about the availability and likelihood that we would get in to local programs.
- Yes, in the evenings.
- Yes, it is not easy to get quality care for our children after school and in the summer.
- Yes, most specifically for after school times.
- Yes, my children currently attend Lights On afterschool programming to accommodate for childcare.

- Yes, particularly options for the summer and the expense.
- Yes, summer programs.
- Yes, that they have day care that provides a learning/development or structured environment and not just babysitting.
- Yes, the 12 year old wants to be latch-key since most kids in day care are younger.
- Yes, there are none which meet minimal expectations of care.
- Yes, there are not enough child care options in Laramie for children of this age group on the many teacher work days that occur throughout the year and in the summer/on long breaks. August is particularly brutal.
- Yes: very limited options in town
- Yes! The schedule is consistent with the UW Academic calendar and makes it a challenge for those of us with kids who work on regular nonacademic calendar. Plus space is limited and it is hard to get kids into the program.
- Yes. At this time, we are unable to afford childcare services in Laramie and rely on a family member. If that family member becomes unable to care for our child, we will struggle to find a suitable situation.
- Yes. The preschool options in Laramie are simply dreadful. There are NO truly high-quality providers or schools. Everywhere the provider: child ratio is unacceptable; the facilities are mostly run-down, and the programs are pathetic. I want to emphasize we love our grade school now and we loved our providers from before we moved to Laramie -- this is not a griping of a generally unhappy person but an honest evaluation of the horrendous situation in pre-K childcare in this town.
- Yes. Affordable evening care for my children is very hard to find in Laramie.
- Yes. After school care.
- Yes. Childcare is very expensive.
- Yes. It is hard to find afterschool care, it is hard to find full day care during the week before UW starts when faculty have to be on campus. SACC fills up very quickly, and there seem to be no other options in town.
- Yes. It is very difficult to find childcare when the public school have off-days while we, university members, still have school in session.
- Yes. It is very difficult to find childcare. After school childcare is as expensive as full time care. Also, some child care facilities we have used were very poor. Several had very poor supervision. At one, I went to pick my daughter up and there was no adult around anywhere. I was able to pick her up without any adult seeing it.
- Yes. My husband works out of state, and it is hard to arrange child care sometimes so I can attend class.
- Yes. The biggest concern is education. Current K12 education in WY is almost a joke, and creates significant disadvantages for the healthy growth of talented children. The worst part is that the local superintendent's office is happy about and encourages such a deteriorated education system. Examples from other states should be followed: based on their performance they all should be fired. Bring in new people with open minds and creates a better K12 education system.
- Yes. There are very little quality child care providers and often little to no availability. The price is extremely high and the flexibility in scheduling is problematic.

- Yes. Now that my oldest is 12 and is therefore able to babysit if need be, my fears have been allayed. Until this year, however, the millions of exceptions, whether a mandatory work meeting or one of the many days the kids have off from school have always been a struggle.

(Q14) What type of childcare is this child currently receiving?

“Other” responses:

- 6 weeks old - on maternity leave.
- Born April 2011.
- Childcare/ Preschool in Cody WY.
- College students.
- Cooperative Preschool.
- Full time pre-school (3)
- Head Start (2)
- Her mother, a stay-at-home mom, is the best care any child can receive.
- Her very own mother.
- I am on maternity leave.
- I stay at home with my child.
- Just mom and dad.
- Mother (4).
- Mother has left the workforce.
- My fiancé stays home with our daughter and I watch her when my fiancé is in class.
- My husband cares for our children.
- My wife (child's natural mother) -- the way it should be!
- My wife (his biological mother) stays home with him.
- My wife does a fantastic job, I highly recommend trying this.
- My wife is a stay at-home mom.
- My wife stays at home with the boys.
- My wife stays home and takes care of the kids.
- No childcare, I am expecting twins, will be born in May.
- Not for profit. Developmental Preschool and Daycare Center.
- Occasional babysitter.
- Parent.
- Parent staying home because couldn't find childcare opening.
- Parents, Church Nursery.
- Primary care is provided by their mother. (It would be great to see this option added to the survey choices).
- Stay at home mom.
- Stay at home mom.
- Stay at-home-spouse.
- Still on maternity leave.
- The Open School (private pre-school with extended hours).

- We live in Casper - he goes to the Early Childhood Learning Center during the week and family care on weekends that I am in Laramie.
- We take care of our grandson at home several days/nights per month, in addition to daycare.
- Wife quit job to provide child care.
- Wife stays at home with children.
- With my husband.

(Q15) What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Child 1)

“Other” responses:

- Age appropriate preschool environment with educated teachers.
- An educationally based, SAFE center.
- Church- or faith-based full time preschool.
- Full time Montessori Pre-K center.
- Full time pre-school (5).
- Hospital Based Care, child on site.
- I work so that my wife can stay at home, as is her choice.
- Just babysitting a couple times a month is fine.
- Mother (6).
- My husband.
- My wife (child's natural mother) -- the way it should be!
- My wife is the best childcare provider for our kids.
- My wife to stay home with my boys.
- Myself.
- One that actually teaches preschool material--doesn't matter if home care or center.
- One that she is able to learn and grow.
- Parent.
- Preschool, pre-K.
- Stay at home Mom.
- Stay at-home-spouse.
- The Open School.
- UW ECEC or Basic beginnings.
- UW Outreach Childcare.
- Wife staying at home.

(Q22K) What type of childcare is this child currently receiving? (Child 2)

“Other” responses:

- College students.
- Coop preschool.
- Headstart.

- Kindergarten.
- Mother (4)
- My husband cares for our children.
- My wife (child's natural mother) -- the way it should be!
- My wife stays at home with the boys
- Parent staying home because no openings available.
- Pre-School
- Stay at home mom
- Stay-at-home spouse
- Wife / mother
- Wife quit job to provide child care
- Wife stays at home

(Q23) What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Child 2)

“Other” responses:

- Mom (8).
- My husband.
- One that teaches preschool material, doesn't matter if home or center.
- Preschool.
- Stay-at-home spouse.

(Q30) What type of childcare is this child currently receiving? (Child 3)

“Other” responses:

- His mom.

(Q31) What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Child 3)

“Other” responses:

- His mom.

(Q36) ‘POSITIVE’ experiences regarding childcare in the UW and Laramie community.

- We have been thrilled with our children’s progress at the UW ECEC. There are some headaches with the schedule and operating hours, but the quality of both care and education are outstanding.² When we were looking for childcare for our eldest, many community members were very helpful in assisting us in networking to find care.³ While our child was at Bright Horizons, one of the providers took a special interest in him to help him learn Spanish when she realized that he was being taught that in the home.
- 1st year of Head Start was very successful. I thought my child received a good quality care.

- A woman from a different church than I go to takes very good care of the kids, and strictly limits the number of kids so she can pay attention to all of them. Takes them to the library, geology museum, park, etc. Seemed to genuinely care about the kids.
- Affordable childcare good teachers good arts, PE, music programs.
- All childcare facilities seem to have great quality of care but there are just not enough infant spaces available in this town. The hours of operation is also a concern, I would prefer that somewhere open early (5:30am) or stay open past 5:30pm so as to allow for extra hours I must work at especially during very busy times of the year.
- All my experiences with actual care have been positive. I have had children in 4 of the centers around town-Bright Horizons, Basic Beginnings and Kid's Connection, and the Hill-Top church one. Everyone has seemed professional and genuinely concerned about children and their welfare.
- All of our options seem to be positive, warm environments
- All of the childcare providers that we have taken our children to have been very attentive and caring to our children.
- All of the commercial daycares we've used are very caring; I've never been concerned for my children's safety or lack of a caring adult in the room; problems have always been dealt with in a manner that I've always approved of.
- All three of my children received an excellent preschool education at the Developmental Preschool & Daycare. They were asked to leave summer/afterschool care at the age of 10.
- Although more than I can actually afford, I am quite pleased with my daughter's daycare, Kids Just Wanna Have Fun. The children are divided out by age and skill level, and she really enjoys going.
- Angela's Home Daycare is great. She works with the children on vocabulary and all kinds of other things. My son's speech has improved greatly by going there.
- As an Outreach student I have not had UW or Laramie childcare. UW Outreach students have to find childcare independently from the local WWCC's Children's Center, which makes it very difficult to find affordable, quality care. It is also difficult to find care for children older than kindergarten age for Outreach students. As a southern transplant we have minimal family available to assist with child care locally.
- As I have not utilized any childcare providers in Laramie, I am not able to offer anything positive about an experience with it.
- As mentioned above, we are very happy with our elementary school and the SACC program. I have little positive to say about our preschool experiences. Not that they were truly dreadful, but that there were no outstanding or at least satisfactory preschool options.
- At the Kids Just Wanna Have Fun daycare, when I dropped by to pay my registration/wait-list fee, I was given a tour of the facility and given a lot of beneficial information regarding their center; they were very on-top of everything, organized, and somewhere I am strongly considering sending my child as I feel my child will be safe and proper care given.
- Basic Beginnings has provided excellent care and works with parents to accommodate their schedules. THIS is what appropriate daycare provision looks like. It is the case that in general daycare availability - especially for newborns - has been limited. The new Basic Beginning facility should address this though. In general our providers have been very good and our experiences excellent through Basic Beginnings.

- Basic Beginnings is an excellent facility in all respects. All experiences there have been top-notch.
- Basic Beginnings is AWESOME!
- Best child care facility I know of.
- Both my boys were at Basic Beginnings in the 1980's. Everything was great, both the regular day care and the after school program.
- Brought in some cool educational stuff.
- By the nature of the small community, you get to know the day care operators and teachers. You see them outside of the daycare environment, and since my daughter has been school age, she has attended school with children of our daycare operators. Really feel like there is a personal connection. Responsiveness--daycare started a separate, quiet homework room for the afterschool kids when there was a need.
- Caregivers are smart and dedicated. Caregivers take education component seriously. Caregivers respect and follow regulations.
- Child care providers care for children.
- Childcare are off good quality.
- Childcare has not be an issue in my household for twenty years, so my experiences in this domain our long out of date. At the time we did need childcare we largely turned to private, professional providers. For the most part our experiences were positive.
- Choice of child care (UW, Private companies, individuals etc.).
- Cost is always a concern.
- Current teacher really seems to care about her.
- Daycare is cheaper in Laramie than in Boston.
- Do not live in Laramie
- Do not live there.
- Do not use childcare.
- Don't live in Laramie.
- During preschool ages for both our children, we had outstanding experiences from The Open School, The UW Preschool, and private childcare providers.
- Eager to help, quality program at current school, developmental screening.
- ECEC and Lab School have been excellent!!
- ECEC is a good school.
- ECEC is great!
- ECEC must be one of the best child care facilities in the region, if not the country.
- ECEC teachers have been very open to working with my child and provide him many opportunities to learn within the local community. They are often visiting campus to take advantage of the opportunities a university campus has to offer (faculty expertise, music, sports).
- ECEC was great for their summer program.
- Everyone at the daycare centers I have looked at have all be very friendly and willing to answer any questions.
- Everyone says the UW childcare is the best.
- Excellent preschool experience at Montessori Children's House.

- For the most part, very friendly and caring childcare providers. Always willing to help the children.
- Fortunately we love the in-home daycare we found.
- Friday night kids at the Rec center has gone well.
- Friendly environment.
- Full time childcare was easy to obtain and costs were comparable to other communities.
- Good caretakers with variable schedules.
- Good communication with current providers.
- Good quality of child care at Basic Beginnings day care center.
- Good schools.
- Good Service, Good location, safe environment.
- Good teachers for 2-3 year olds.
- Good teachers, positive environment to grow in.
- Got connected with a great home daycare from the beginning.
- Grandma watches baby, which works well.
- Great experiences with two in home childcare places([name withheld] house, [name withheld] house)Great experiences with UW Childcare Center Open School a little less exciting than UW Childcare Center but very good for older kids who don't take naps.
- Great Home based Daycare.
- Great service from provider.
- Great teachers!
- Happy with where my daughter is currently.
- Have never used after school daycare services.
- Have not had any child care experiences.
- Have not used any UW or Laramie childcare.
- Have not yet put my son in a Laramie childcare facility.
- Have used a baby sitter a couple of times and have been pleased. We trusted the people who recommended the sitters.
- Haven't needed any outside our home since moving here in 2008.
- Haven't needed to use it yet. I have good family support.
- He is currently enrolled at the YMCA in Cheyenne, WY but will be transferring him to Laramie shortly.
- Head start one of the best childcare I know.
- Hilltop Christian child care has been very good, but kind of expensive.
- Home daycare providers in general tend to be more flexible, spend more time with kids, and offer better nutrition than centers.
- Honestly the greatest help that my wife and I have received has come from SNAP, WIC, and Cheyenne housing. They made it possible for my wife to stay home with our kids.
- I am a former child care facility inspector and know several of the providers in the area where I would feel good leaving my children.
- I am a part of the UW/CC community in Casper, and have never utilized childcare through them.

- I am a UW employee elsewhere in the state - not in Laramie, so I'm not sure if this applies to me. I am very lucky that my supervisor is extremely flexible. As long as I get my work done, I have been able to work from home or an alternate work schedule when necessary to meet my child's needs. Flexibility is a HUGE benefit!!
- I am an outreach student and have not had any experiences in UW/Laramie community.
- I am currently pregnant and have heard childcare is tight in Laramie, especially for infants/toddlers. Would definitely like to see more done about this.
- I am in Montana.
- I am lucky to have a close group of friends that help each other out.
- I am not in Laramie, but rather an outreach student, so I do not have any experience with daycare in Laramie.
- I am not in the Laramie community.
- I am very pleased with the daycare my child is currently in. It currently is a licensed preschool as well as childcare facility. Our provider is also on the food plan through the state and makes nutritious meals for all the children.
- I am very pleased with the highly qualified pre-school teachers at ECEC. In addition, they have a wonderful staff who work well with teachers and parents.
- I can't think of any. It's fairly well removed from me, not having kids, except for occasionally when a friend needs someone good in the home.
- I commute from Cheyenne, and my childcare needs are met there. I do not have any positive or negative experiences related to Laramie childcare.
- I consider myself part of the UW community because I am a student, however, I may not be part of your target population because I live in Casper. I have an awesome baby-sitter.
- I do courses in Casper.
- I do love my daycare because it is a preschool in the morning for all the children.
- I do not have experience with the UW or Laramie child care community.
- I do not live in Laramie.
- I do not need any childcare for my children, as they are in school and I am off work by the time they are dismissed.
- I don't know about that.
- I don't know it will ever have open spots.
- I don't live in Laramie (5).
- I don't use childcare in Laramie.
- I don't use UW or Laramie child care. I live in Cheyenne and my child goes to school full time.
- I don't know of any childcare.
- I feel that it has helped my child develop socially and has helped to provide him with structure.
- I felt lucky to find adequate childcare when I needed it, because there were few openings at any childcare facility in Laramie. What I found, however, met our needs through pre-school. I am also fortunate in being able to schedule my work day to minimize child care needs in the first place. I work at home when I can, and when my daughter is sleeping; my public work day is done by 3pm so I can pick my daughter up from school and be with her. As a

single parent, available childcare and work flexibility made a warmer, easier domestic life possible for us.

- I find that the commitment to quality care and to good teacher student ratios is high in Laramie. Most of the centers I've visited or used were committed to active learning and created a warm atmosphere for the children. UWECEC in particular is so active and also provides an extremely healthy diet for the children.
- I found a very nice neighbor who watches my daughter. She watches a few other children as well. The quality is fantastic. She spends a lot of one-on-one time with my daughter. My daughter absolutely LOVES it there.
- I go to a commercial daycare that is very good. They care about my children, and enhance their lives and education.
- I have a child with special needs and have an individual child care provider who is amazing.
- I have a couple dependable people I could use to watch my child.
- I have a wonderful friend who watches my daughter after school.
- I have always had my children in in-home daycare with family or friends and have been fortunate enough to either not had to pay for said services or have paid an extremely discounted rate.
- I have been able to hire UW students as after-school babysitters using UW classifieds.
- I have family and friends who provide care for my children.
- I have found a friend to look after my child during the day so I can go to class. We do not pay her very much as we do not have the money!
- I have great connections to a couple of high school seniors who help me with my kids when I have class.
- I have had a great experience with my in-home licensed daycare provider. She is great with both of my kids and they have both learned a lot and enjoy going there each day.
- I have had care providers that I feel truly care about my children, their development and their wellbeing. I have been able to see my children grow and blossom with these providers and I have seen the love that they have for each other.
- I have had no positive experiences with childcare in the UW and Laramie community.
- I have had positive experiences with home-based childcare in Laramie.
- I have had such a great two years with my children at Basic Beginnings. They treat my children as their own. I am satisfied with their center and staff. I only wish they had more help from the state in order to keep their facilities newer and updated. Not all rooms have sinks, which is not acceptable in my eyes.
- I have never used childcare services in Laramie.
- I have no experience with childcare within the UW community.
- I have no positive experiences with UW child care. We like the COOP and Open School but are disappointed in the lack of choice in Laramie.
- I have not had a chance to take advantage of this service
- I have not had any experiences with childcare at UW or in Laramie because I live in Cheyenne and my daughter goes to a daycare there.
- I have not had to use any childcare when my children were very small.
- I have not used the UW childcare. The care we have used was east of Laramie (mostly Cheyenne).

- I have not utilized childcare in the Laramie area, no comment.
- I have not yet had much experience with childcare in the Laramie community.
- I have the BEST childcare provider in the city, and I found her through a mutual friend. I could not be happier with her, and as long as she'll keep my child, I will continue to take her there.
- I have two older children - 10 and 11 years. When they were young, they went to a couple different daycares in Laramie. I had only pleasant experiences with all of them. However, when my children entered the daycare system they were over 1 year old.
- I have worked at a local daycare for the past 7 years, it's been a wonderful experience.
- I haven't ever had anyone watch my child outside of my family.
- I haven't had any mostly because the cost figures we received were outrageous. We'd have to get another job just to pay for having our child in childcare. Which would kind of defeat the purpose.
- I haven't had any experiences dealing with childcare in the UW and Laramie. My child has been taken care of by my family members at home since born till now.
- I haven't used childcare in Laramie, but would like to so that I could bring my kids to Laramie while I am in class and see them during evenings rather than miss an entire weekend while I am gone.
- I initially enrolled my youngest son, age 5 as of March, in Headstart at the beginning of the year. This was a great alternative to the daycare provider which would have cost me a large amount of money had I not been able to get my son into Headstart. Headstart has been a great experience for my son and has really helped us prepare him for kindergarten.
- I know several people whose children go to daycare and who are pleased with the outcome.
- I like my daycare.
- I like the SACC program at rec center for the after school program.
- I live in Basin, WY so I don't use services in Laramie.
- I live in Casper so I cannot fairly answer this question.
- I live in Cheyenne (2).
- I live in South Dakota, so i don't use childcare in Wyoming.
- I live in Wellington, CO and use childcare in CO.
- I LOVE ECEC. They are exceptional! I was on the waiting list for a year or more, but happily got in this year. The staff and student interns are just amazing and I couldn't be happier.
- I love Kids just wanna have fun -- [name withheld] is an amazing supervisor.
- I love my current child care provider. At home day care, not as many children, I can trust she is not feeding my son things I wouldn't approve of.
- I love the atmosphere of the UW Early childhood center.
- I love the SACC program (ran by the school district and the city of Laramie) There are so many activities and it keeps my kids engaged.
- I really appreciate the strides the ECEC has taken to finally provide high-quality, research-based daycare.
- I really have no experience with childcare at UW or Laramie.

- I really love Basic Beginnings. They were willing to work with my son when he wasn't potty trained at three (which is not unusual for a boy). Other locations would not let him attend. Basic Beginnings has been super awesome.
- I see a lot of parents who are interested in improving child care in the Laramie area.
- I take my child to independent child care providers, or family or friends.
- I think that the community is working hard to meet the childcare needs in the community. I know there are good childcare centers and individuals out there.
- I think that with great effort and luck we have found a local childcare facility that has quality teachers, is reasonably priced, and has reasonable hours.
- I think the childcare is pretty good. My kids currently go to the afterschool program at the recreation center. It's not perfect but overall I'm satisfied.
- I think the daycare centers here are mostly good with well-educated staff.
- I think the University daycare's infant room has been fantastic.
- I think there are many people in the community who genuinely care about kids and their well-being.
- I visited the early care center and was very impressed. I would send my child there if I needed to but I know I would probably have trouble getting in.
- I was able to enroll my children in Headstart which is great because it is an all-day program 4 days a week that gets them ready for kindergarten.
- I was fortunate to have been accepted at what I consider to be one the highest quality daycare facilities in Laramie. This was an exception to the rule as they had a list of 100 children waiting to get into the daycare, however we had special circumstances that allowed for us to receive placement.
- I was lucky enough to find a really great lady to watch my daughter. But beyond her, I was very disappointed in the other places I saw.
- I was lucky to find good childcare quickly when we moved to Laramie
- I worked at a daycare in Laramie and found it to be a place many parents thought positively about.
- I'm happy that I was able to get my child in some place for now, even though it's not ideal, at least there are some openings.
- I've had my son at a daycare in town when I was working full time, it was a good place. Now that I am in school full time I'm not really sure where he can go after he's done with school.
- I've heard great things about the UW daycare.
- In a pinch, many parents try to help each other out as best they can. There are many good folks balancing far too many balls, and yet are still willing to help out other often in the same spot. Good folk here.
- In my opinion, the UW ECEC is the best daycare in Laramie. They provide top-notch care, offer regular staff development opportunities for teachers, provide amazing learning opportunities for children of all ages, and have a wonderful facility.
- In our experience we have found our current day care provider to be very well informed and keeps us up to date on any concerns and day to day events.
- It is nice that SACC has a bus from the school to its afterschool program.
- It seems easy to get quality childcare from trustworthy individuals for evenings and weekends, mostly from students who have done a lot of babysitting in the past, children of professors, etc.

- It seems to be quality care - it's just that no one can ever get in a daycare though!
- It was easy to find a place for our child when we needed it.
- It was relatively easy to find an opening, the teachers were mainly qualified and kind.
- It's quite safe here.
- It's relatively cheap. Hours are fairly flexible and accommodating.
- Kid Connection rocks!!! I was on a waiting list for 10 months at UW when i was a student and was never even called back!
- Kiddie Cottage is awesome (affordable, loving, caring and a very flexible schedule. Carrie and Jeff are the best. I refer a lot of colleagues and friends to Kiddie Cottage.
- Kids Connection has a great staff and good quality care.
- Kids Connection has been very good, flexible and attentive to our child.
- Kids Connection has worked with us in our ever changing schedules and transitions.
- Kids Connection is flexible to work with and pleasant. They will allow drop in child care if they have room. This is a very nice benefit and I wish more centers would do the same. there is often times when i get in a bind and need someone fast but often impossible if you haven't agreed to pay a full day or month.
- Kids Just Wanna Have Fun is an excellent facility! I have two wards (previous therapeutic foster children) with special emotional needs. Kids Just Wanna Have Fun has a group of professionals who work with each child's needs. They are patient, understanding, and caring. [name withheld], the owner is well educated in meeting the needs of children no matter their developmental ages or needs.
- Kids just want to have fun is where our child goes now...she actually just started today and they have been very welcoming. We used to do in-home babysitters and they were wonderful but we want our daughter to have some friends to play with that are her age. :)
- Kids' Connection Early Learning Center is really great!
- Live in Cheyenne, No experiences with either.
- Lucky to have found the Open School.
- Many good day cares for younger children and high quality for the most part.
- many of those out there strive to provide good care with an educational aspect
- Many unlicensed home providers try to help with care and wait lists, but have extremely limited hours of operation, no backups if they are sick and questionable environments and staff. Our daughter was lucky enough to be on a waitlist for Basic Beginnings right when they were expanding and got a position, but we will still have to find alternative care for a few months before her spot is open and it is not our first choice.
- Most of my instructors are very understanding if I have a child which falls ill or otherwise needs my care, they are accommodating, allowing me to bring them to campus or otherwise make adjustment to meet my needs. As long as I communicate with them they are happy to work it out.
- Most places in Laramie are good. Pre-school options a bit limited though.
- My baby is fifteen now.
- My best experience has been at my daughter's preschool/daycare. She has learned the most and has the best care ever.
- My child has been at the same childcare facility since he was an infant, he is now 6 and is taken to and picked up from Kindergarten by the daycare.

- My child has been in private (home) daycares, the big canned daycare and @ the UWECEC for the last 4 years. By far the preschool program is the best @ UWECEC.
- My child is currently at Sunflower Daycare, a home daycare where they work in the garden, do yoga, play outside a lot, help cook and bake bread, and are fed local and organic foods as much as possible. They're exposed to a wide range of activities (like gardening and cooking) that are not typically offered in daycare environments, and I really appreciate this approach to child care.
- My children are still in Casper until the end of the school year, so I have no experience with childcare in the UW and Laramie community.
- My children had a great daycare option that was flexible. I only paid for the hours used.
- My children have gone to the same daycare since the youngest was a baby and it has been mostly a good experience.
- My children have never attended any UW childcare programs. The times we have used childcare services in the community we have had positive experiences.
- My children have gone to a home daycare and Kid's connection in the past five years. I was pleased with both arrangements. Cost wise my current situation is ideal and putting my children back in daycare at the current costs would be a strain.
- My children went to a private home daycare and to Basic Beginnings. Both were great and met the needs of our family at the time.
- My current daycare provider makes their own baby food and the staff are great with the children.
- My current provider is great, but does not have any type of actual learning activities in her home. I want my child in an actual preschool when she turns 3 and I am really nervous about getting her into a school at all, and one I can afford.
- My daughter has been able to socialize with children her own age at daycare; we were able to hire a teacher at her daycare as a weekend/overnight babysitter.
- My daughter goes to school when I am in school, so she does not go to day care.
- my daycare is able to take my son to school and pick him up afterwards
- My friends and neighbors came forward to help me locate childcare options for my child after seeing me struggle during the first semester at UW.
- My kid has attended daycare in Casper while I worked. The facility was very aware of medical needs of my child and contacted me anytime regarding them.
- My kids are currently at developmental preschool and daycare. Although no childcare experience is perfect I think they do a good job. The best part is the stability of the teachers. My kids had the same teachers for the entire year and we could count on the fact that the teacher in the next level would still be there.
- My kids do not live in Laramie.
- My kids have always enjoyed their time at daycare - I have never worried about them not being treated well, not having fun/being bored, etc.
- My kids have had some excellent daycare providers that were very good with kids and attentive to their needs.
- My oldest daughter is at the Open School and we have loved the program, teachers and overall experience there. I wish they could expand to offer daycare for babies/infants.

- My only positive experience has been with the UWECEC. It is a place where people enjoy going to work and being with children. It helps that university students get to have experiences there, my child enjoys his days there.
- My sister was my daycare provider and she is absolutely AMAZING!
- My son attends the Busy Bodies in-home childcare. Suzy is wonderful. Green smoothies & healthy food daily. Treats my son like her own child which makes it easier for me to leave him each day.
- My son had the opportunity to attend the UW preschool that was housed at the Hitchcock House -- it was wonderful! It was a part-time program that fit very well into our schedule. It was reasonably priced, and just the right amount of hours per week for him. We loved that program.
- My son is at Basic Beginnings. We have been very satisfied with the care (staff and programs), the facility, the management and the cost. Four years ago when we moved to Laramie there was no room for one of our two kids at the UW daycare but Basic could take both kids. Now I understand it is much, much more difficult to get childcare and that is a recruiting problem for UW as well as a problem for local families.
- My son is currently placed with Basic Beginnings and receives very valuable preschool and childcare.
- my son is in head start at the civic center and he loves it and i volunteer when i can.
- My wife does an amazing job of staying home and caring for our children. It is a real sacrifice for her.
- My wife is a UW and LHS grad whose work is freelance and flexible, so we have been able to be very picky about our childcare providers. By being patient we have been able to find exceptional childcare providers.
- My wife works in a commercial child care facility and I think it is one of the better ones available.
- N/A (23).
- Never have used childcare, my wife stays home with the kids.
- Never used childcare (2).
- No experience (4).
- No positive experiences.
- None (14).
- None -- Laramie is full of childcares/daycares that take care of parents who are not responsible enough to care for their own children. The University, business, City of Laramie, etc. should not be in the business of providing childcare. Children do best when raised by a parent in a caring loving environment -- NOT a childcare facility!
- None (have not returned to work yet).
- Not applicable I am a Cheyenne resident.
- Not in the Laramie community, SW Wyoming Outreach.
- Not many.
- Once in the daycare we got into, it has been amazing. They are wonderful and I trust them with my child.
- Once they were able to get in they have had a good experience in their daycare. Both kids went to the same place and both seem to enjoy their time there.

- Once we've been able to actually get childcare, we have not had a bad experience. Even our in-home care for our younger child was excellent. The UW ECEC was a real bitch to get into, and I felt that their communication with us while on the waitlist was unsatisfactory. But since our child has started there, I have nothing but good things to say about ECEC - their staff, their facilities, their interactions with us, all have been tremendous.
- Once you find childcare, the situation and the people are positive.
- One wonderful lady when 1st child was young, who did home daycare, but she moved after 2 yrs. One daycare facility ok (Kids Connection), but lots of turnover, so some individual employee problems from time-to-time; but they were pretty good about responding to issues and dealing with the.
- Online student, no child care.
- Only experience is calling for info.
- Open School: Highly qualified and caring teachers. Well-managed facility.
- Other parents seem pleased with the care their children receive.
- Our child has good care and good friends in her after school day care program. Good environment, and good activities.
- Our childcare, Basic Beginnings, is a well-run facility.
- Our children have learned some good values to share, learning colors, ABC, counting, made friends, etc.
- Our current childcare provider is wonderful. She has 17 years of experience and cares deeply for the children, providing very individualized care.
- Our current facility offers a variety of projects, games, learning for our child. He's able to spend time with a group of children his own age. I certainly appreciate that their staff are CPR/1st Aid certified.
- Our daughter had excellent child care at the UW early childhood center.
- Our daycare provider is a very sweet and competent person. I appreciate her honesty and integrity. She is always willing to do what we ask of her in regard to our child, and I feel that he gets one on one attention and is in a structured environment that will enable him to grow.
- Our eldest son is in the Open school and it is fantastic. We were on the waiting list for the UW early education place for over a year, and then were notified that we had a spot 2 weeks after we had started him at the Open school. We opted not to switch him and are glad.
- Our five-year-old twins go to Developmental Daycare and Preschool, where they have been since they turned 1. They LOVE it there, and they are learning so much, academically, socially, emotionally. They will be very prepared for kindergarten in the fall, and any extra services they needed were right there. An excellent facility.
- Our home daycare is the best, wouldn't trade it for the world.
- Our licensed home childcare provider is extremely good at her job and is extremely caring. She treats our child as one of her own and was a good resource early on in our child's life when we did not know what we were doing.
- Our preschool strongly focuses on social skills and being kind to others and being a good person. Our home daycare provider is very nurturing and treats the children with respect and also expects from them to make them good little people.
- Our son currently attends The Open School - it has been a great experience and he has really excelled there. We highly recommend this school to other parents. I only wish they could take children under 3.

- Our son has adapted well to the pre-K program at Kids Connection and this has been a good experience for him to learn and develop
- Our son has been diagnosed with ADHD. He is enrolled at the developmental preschool/daycare. Prior to that he was kicked out of another daycare provider here in Laramie. The Developmental school was able to accommodate him and saved our family. They are very good at handling non-standard children. The best in town.
- Our son's home day care provider is not licensed, but is otherwise just incredible. She maintains a completely clean, safe, fun, healthy stimulating environment for several small kids; she has great relationships with all of them and they love to be there; and her rates/hours/policies are SO good and flexible that we can't figure out how the business is profitable for her. We feel more than lucky.
- Our younger son is enrolled at Developmental...we absolutely love these folks!
- People around are friendly, and they offer me flexible schedules.
- Pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm and energy at SACC- kids are busy and happy
- Positive is definitely the program through the rec center. The caregivers (all college age) spoke to you every time you arrived and they were very kind and energetic with the children.
- Pre-school and Montessori.
- Pre-school at the church on 12th & Gibbon was fine, and the Open School childcare was good, too.
- Private childcare was our best option. We had someone come into our home.
- Puddle Ducks daycare was outstanding (private) as was the Open School.
- Quality of care once I got into ECEC.
- Really not applicable - one income family and spouse stays at home to care for children.
- SACC at the Rec Center is great. They provide lots of activities for the kids. It is also reasonable priced.
- SACC is valuable
- SACC program is wonderful, all the staff seem to enjoy working with the children and the projects and experiences the children participate in are very stimulating.
- SACC works well bussing kids from school to their facility.
- Safe and good environment.
- Safety.
- Satisfied with quality and cost of care provider I found.
- See above. Our kids went part time before they were in school - UW childcare and overall had a great experience. This prepared them well for school.
- Several providers.
- Since I can afford good child care, it's been mostly positive...
- Since I only commute to UW for weekend or evening classes I have not had any experience with childcare in the Laramie community.
- Since we switched to a center, the reliability is great and the field trips for the kids are nice too.
- Slade elementary school is best school my family has had.
- Some individuals who are very caring and very committed, working with limited budget and limited resources.
- Some of the friends my child makes with the other children. Being social.

- Some of the help that we have gotten has been very good.
- Teachers are nice. The childcare center are well connected with parents.
- Tenure stop clock policy for university faculty, allows new parents to attend to these issues, but given the lack of childcare options, one year seems insufficient particularly for female faculty members.
- The after school programs at the recreation center fit my needs for childcare for my children. The hours were sufficient to provide care for my children while I was in afternoon classes or taking examinations. The activities kept my children occupied and content.
- The beating policy. Too many kids nowadays think they are over privileged and think the world should be handed to them on a silver platter. It's good to knock a little sense into them once in a while. Or every chance you get.
- The best daycares (in my opinion) are the ones that employ passionate people. The cleaner the better too. I really think that quality of personnel correlates with cleanliness. I have used one daycare that was superb in both areas. The rest of the daycares I looked into didn't compare. This particular daycare was full of friendly, loving people who really took care to make sure the kids were safe and that they were learning. They didn't just babysit the kids, they really tried to teach them things.
- The care my children have received has been quite good. My son has a developmental delay and we have also been extremely impressed with the responsiveness and accommodations for children with special needs.
- The childcare center my child goes to teaches him colors, numbers, and positive interactions. They have also already accepted my unborn child due in December.
- The childcare facility includes well trained professionals who are aware of the individual needs of each child. They are also really creative and have a clean work environment.
- The cost is overall lower compared to other part of the country. Eventually if you try long enough, you can get a spot somewhere that you like.
- The current childcare facility is great.
- The Day care people so far was very kind.
- The daycare our son goes to is good- they keep the activities stimulating/ interesting and I know he is learning a lot.
- The daycare we are using is very friendly, I like the Laramie in home daycare association.
- The daycare we currently have our daughter in has accommodated use greatly. When we lost our previous childcare, they rearranged classes just to fit our daughter in.
- The developmental preschool was great.
- The Developmental pre-school was very good for my daughter. Excellent teachers and very caring personnel at the school.
- The Directors of ECEC are amazing and responsive. While the approach to learning is not exactly the way I would prefer, my child is happy and safe.
- The ECEC is excellent, but very few spots. Still expensive.
- The environment is friendly and the staff is very open and takes the time to acknowledge the children and parents within the facility. The environment provides the children with open-ended material and freedom to explore. I believe that all children have the potential to learn in an environment that is accepting, nurturing, respectful and challenging and the UW Childcare Center provides this. The childcare philosophy is a student-centered philosophy. The staff looks at the whole child and develops curriculum that meets the unique strengths,

needs, and learning styles of each child, helping them to reach their full potential in life. The teachers use effective, differentiated instructional strategies that will increase student achievement. Instruction includes the implementation of scientifically research-based curriculum that is implemented with fidelity. The environment where this instruction takes place is a culture and climate that focuses on an inclusive community, considerate of all individuals and their cultural and learning differences.

- The home day-care in which my child attends is what I believe to be a great setting for early education development.
- The home daycare and center that we have used have been very good.
- The home daycare we use is excellent.
- The hours that the daycare is opened work well with my schedule. There is not much turn over in teachers at my daycare. I feel my child has learned the skills to ready him for Kindergarten.
- The in home providers at least have small numbers and consistent staffing.
- The Lab School seems to be genuinely good for the students and for the community.
- The Montessori Pre-school is fantastic, but the hours didn't work for us. We've had a great experience with the Open School. Teachers are dedicated, they do extra-curricular activities, swimming, gymnastics, dance, music, art, visits to the public library.
- The only experiences I have had were positive -- my younger son was in the Hitchcock House for what was (I think), the last two years it was open (before the new Childcare Center opened).
- The Open School and The New Life Christian Pre-school have been wonderful.
- The Open School has a progressive, forward looking curriculum.
- The parents who respect the childcare provider as a care giver, educator and nutritionist will get the best care.
- The people working with the kids really seem to do a good job keeping the kids active and get them outside to play on nice days.
- The preschool my 4-yr-old attends has several specialists who help her development. She is hearing impaired and has a learning disability, so having quality people help us to teach her is vitally important.
- The preschool my children went to had a diverse student population and encouraged the arts and cultural activities as well as physical activities like swimming. This gave my children a well-rounded education.
- The programs that were provided by day care. The good connections between the teachers (caregivers) and parents.
- The provide additional food and help kids to communicate to others.
- The provider has taken the time to get to know my children individually and treat them that way.
- The quality of care at Developmental Daycare is great, once we were able to get in.
- The quality of childcare has been adequate. The quality of preschool instruction delivered at the Open School has been commendable.
- The Recreation Center has been a wonderful asset. They engage the kids in different activities, some physical some quiet and will help the kids with any school work all at a reasonable price. The quality of the care those young adults give the kids is awesome.

- The School Aged Child Care (SACC) program through the City has been good until the last two years or so.
- The search for quality child care is exhausting and frequently nonproductive.
- The Staff at ECCE is fantastic.
- The staff at the UWECEC take excellent care of my children. They are responsive to our needs, and communicate most things well.
- The subsidized 'after school' program for UW apartment residents was great.
- The teacher at my daughter's cooperative preschool is wonderful and she loves her friends and is learning a lot. It's small and she gets individual attention.
- The teachers at the Open School have in general been the best.
- The teachers have been great at Developmental Day Care, hours are great, it was the only available child care when we needed it in a pinch and we have since stayed for 2+yrs.
- The University Apartments is a wonderful place to raise kids. We lived there when our eldest child 4-5 years old. She had several friends and she enjoyed playing at the common playground there. We live off campus now, and it is hard to find such atmosphere.
- The UW ECEC facility is fantastic. The directors and staff teachers are great.
- The UW ECEC facility is top-notch and I see the benefits of my daughter's attendance at home.
- The UW ECEC has a very progressive child care philosophy which I highly appreciate. My children are very happy and comfortable there. I like that they include male caregivers, and my two small sons who have gone through the ECEC have appreciated having positive male role models during their time there.
- The UW ECEC has been tremendous in terms of availability and quality of care.
- The UW ECEC has fantastic teachers, and a fantastic facility.
- The UWECEC has and is doing an amazing job!
- There are a number of options available in town and all that we have been involved with have been good.
- There are few amazing home daycare facilities in Laramie. But they are just that AWAZING!!!
- There are some free public pre-school services but the quality is not good.
- There are some great summer programs, however they are not set up for all day care.
- There are some wonderful people in Laramie and childcare providers. Indian Hills daycare was a wonderful experience for my daughter along with the Open School.
- There are spots available, but to get a quality spot takes a bit of luck. Getting into UW's childcare is next to impossible and it would be nice if more spots were available.
- There are very wonderful and loving care givers in Laramie. We are pleased with the staff at Basic Beginnings.
- There are wonderful people watching the children in every daycare our kids have been in.
- There exists excellent child care options that compare favorably to the best child care options to be found anywhere, but there are not many of them. The price of child care is quite affordable, too.
- There is a positive atmosphere in the community about the reality of needing childcare and the time involved in raising children.
- There is not a sufficient amount of facilities willing to take infants.

- There was an immediate spot open for my two year old, and the daycare was willing to work with me on my hours.
- They are safe.
- Though it cost a lot, I managed to find childcare providers who came to my house to take care of my child till the age of 3.
- To be clear I am an outreach student and live in Casper. I have been trying to get my daughter into the ECLC here at the college but have been waitlisted forever... What I hear from most parents is that the ECLC is great and I work at the college so it would be ideal to be close. They are also the only game in town in terms of part time day care.
- Tricia Johnson from Early Childhood Education at UW mentioned I needed childcare to her class of students and that is how I found a babysitter.
- Unknown. not currently using childcare.
- UW Child Care Center, now ECEC, was terrific when our children attended for preschool (circa 1999, 2004).
- UW Childcare Center has wonderful resources and caring instructors.
- UW childcare facility is excellent; teachers are very high quality. We are fortunate to have our child in this setting.
- UW childcare has a great program when they are there. My work at the university doesn't allow me all the break or closures that they have.
- UW ECEC has been a great facility. We love having our children go there.
- UW ECEC has been provided satisfactory childcare for our daughter.
- UW ECEC is a wonderful place, and we were just lucky to get our oldest in at the last minute (which automatically allowed our youngest in). The infant and toddler rooms are incredibly family-oriented. The stress of waiting and the financial burden were unsustainable, so we are thankful that we are there at all, but moreover at such an excellent experiential, learning-oriented place. Having the Ed students as part of the staff-family allows the ratios to be manageable for the lead teachers and provide the kids with individualized attention.
- UW ECEC is an incredible childcare center. [name withheld] is an amazing director and I know the center would not run as well as it does if it weren't for his leadership. My children have thrived at UW ECEC and I am grateful for what it offers and incredibly fortunate to have a spot there.
- UW ECEC is the most outstanding facility I have ever observed (we are not from Laramie and have used child care in other states as well as other university child care centers). The focus is on play, problem solving, and relationships. The teachers are well trained and focused on the children. I could not have hoped for a better experience for my children.
- UW ECEC is the only child care facility where I feel comfortable and even ecstatic about having my child on a daily basis. He has been in 4 different childcare situations since 12 weeks of age. I can't say enough how thankful we are to have our child at the UWECEC. It is outstanding. However, we were on their waiting list for over 2 years. That would be our only complain. Yet would not complain now because it is their child to caregiver ratio that we appreciate the most.
- UW ECEC's facility and services are fantastic. They provide an extremely enriching experience for my daughter at a relatively affordable cost, and their hours are non-restrictive.
- UW ECEC's program is very nice. They have very new building and environmental condition, good lunch, good program for small kids, very nice student teacher ratio, very

good teachers and assistants. Kid's connection is good at very flexible hours, almost open all year around including most of the time when ECEC is closed.

- UW provided wonderful services for my children, it needs more supervised learning activities to help prepare them to move on to K.
- UW Speech clinic helped out enormously with my son's hearing and speech problems. The COOP we go to allows us to be a part of the school but has since changed administration and seems to be more about the checkbook than the quality of care.
- UWECEC has been supportive, encouraging, and flexible in assisting me with my child's special needs. Their willingness to help my family has been instrumental to our family. I'm extremely grateful for this service--which has become an extension of our family.
- UWECEC provides very good quality care. My only complaint is the hours, particularly summer hours. While I don't like them, quality is more important to me than hours so we take the lumps. Moreover, I would trust [name withheld] with my children's lives. I know he knows them and he knows their names (older ones went there too). Having him as the Director makes all the difference in the world. That's quality and you have it in him.
- Very much experiential and permissive.
- Very pleased with quality of providers and flexibility with schedules semester to semester.
- Very pleased with the curriculum that he is receiving.
- Very positive learning environment! Loving people caring for my children.
- Very satisfied with UW ECEC as a whole.
- Was able to find 2 very qualified students that can help take care of my son.
- We are extremely pleased with The Open School, which is where our children attend. (I classified it as a preschool, and not a childcare facility even though they do offer full day care, since they call it a school and not childcare).
- We are fortunate enough to have one parent at home full-time. Cost of full time childcare is one factor in why we chose to go with less and keep a parent in the home.
- We are thankful and blessed that our son and granddaughter are able to attend the ECEC.
- We chose the UW Early Care & Education Center, as we believe it is a 'THE BEST' early care and preschool available in Laramie. Their philosophy honors early development and the natural ways children approach the tasks of early childhood. There is a sensitivity, caring, and comfort at the ECEC that I respect, appreciate and thoroughly support.
- We consider ourselves lucky. When we moved to Laramie our oldest child was 2 years old and we were able to secure a spot (because he was not an infant) at what we consider to be a good daycare in Laramie. This then helped us secure spots for the next 2 children (born in Laramie). We are happy with the place that they are at (Basic Beginnings) because they have daycare, preschool and afterschool care programs. All of our children can be in one place which is positive for them and convenient for us. We've been pleased with the quality and would not move our children.
- We currently have the perfect daycare provider who meets our needs. She provides a wonderful preschool setting, quality home cooked meals, fun, caring and safe environment. She takes the kids on daily outings through the whole summer, which both my kids love. I really could not be happier with her care for my children.
- We do appreciate the quality we get at our daycare center and were glad when we finally got a spot somewhere. It is more expensive than some of the options we looked at, but we realize we are paying extra for a very important role in our toddler's life.

- We do not put our children in day care.
- We don't have kids so I haven't had any experience with childcare.
- We don't use any childcare. My wife is a stay at home mom.
- We finally got into 2 home day cares where the caretakers were good people who loved the children. They were treated good and the day care followed the public and University schedules.
- We find Basic Beginnings to be fantastic childcare.
- We found the ECEC to be a safe and well managed program for our child when she was 4 and for afterschool when she was 5. However, we were very lucky to get in.
- We go to Basic Beginnings and LOVE LOVE LOVE it. The care is excellent, they are open for appropriate hours for my family, and they always have the children engaged in learning that is appropriate for their age. They do NOT use TV which is incredibly wonderful and they build relationships with my children. The staff and administrators are fabulous. Would pay above and beyond what they charge to keep my children in their care.
- We had a great child care provider when my 16 year old was 4 and I was an undergraduate. When we moved back to Laramie with a baby in 2002, child care was impossible to find, but Bright Horizons found us and was a shining light.
- We had a positive experience with a childcare program the Laramie Community Rec Center this past summer.
- We have a wonderful at home daycare with a great family. They are my kid's home away from home.
- We have amazing friends that watched our daughter for free for 3 days a week and she went to a day care center only one day a week. We were extremely grateful that we were able to find a daycare for one day a week. However, the daycare has since stopped providing daycare on a daily rate.
- We have been able to find medium to good quality care in Laramie.
- We have been fortunate to find a reliable childcare provider.
- We have been thrilled with our son's experience at the Open School since he turned 3.
- We have been very lucky as we obtained a slot at a local daycare center which provides quality, reliable day care. We can go to work knowing that our child is getting good care. The positives of having a child in a daycare center I think in addition to the general caring are the opportunities they have to socialize/interact with other kids and their care givers. Important for an only child. They also build in learning activities for the kids which we consider important.
- We have been very lucky, for the most part - home daycare and then with Mark Bittner's operation were both very good.
- We have been very satisfied with the care given to our oldest child from age 1 to 4 by a commercial provider (Basic Beginnings).
- We have found a source of talented childcare providers through our church.
- We have had many positive experiences. Our daughter was in full time day care from 12 months onward. She had excellent in-home day-care providers. When she was old enough, she went to the Open School for full-time pre-K. At her school, there is an after school program which we make use of at least three days per week. We never used UW child-care. We are fortunate that our salaries were always sufficient to pay for full time day care.
- We have not required child care since we have been in Laramie.

- We have not utilized childcare services at UW or in Laramie.
- We have our middle child enrolled at Basic Beginnings pre-school at it has been a great experience for her. She enjoys school and they have done a good job at preparing her for kindergarten.
- We have the best possible home daycare situation, with a caring and highly trained daycare provider. She also accommodates my son's dietary restrictions very well and provides extremely healthful foods (mostly organic).
- We know several caregivers in town and are confident in their abilities. However, we have had no need of outside childcare, so I cannot speak from direct experience. Overall, I have heard mixed feedback from other parents in town depending on the provider.
- We like where our child is at now in terms of daycare, UWECEC. We also had a good experience at an in-home daycare the year before our son started at ECEC.
- We looked into the childcare at UW but the waiting list was so long we decided to have my wife just stay at home with the kids.
- We love ECEC!
- We love ECEC. They are wonderful, and prior to that our son was in an in-home daycare that was also excellent, so our childcare experiences have been overwhelmingly positive.
- We love the Open school and are glad our children have gotten to attend.
- We love the SAAC after school program!!
- We loved the Child Development Center.
- We loved the Open School, which has flexible hours (up to full time) and a great preschool and kindergarten program.
- We take my daughter to the developmental preschool and she loves it there. They are teaching her well.
- We use the Developmental preschool for our childcare and they are fantastic to work with. The only charge for the days our child is in school, vs. having to pay if he is out sick or we go on vacation. They also worked with us to provide a 4 day a week schedule vs. 5 days, which other child care facilities would not do.
- We used Bright Horizons when she was younger and liked it a lot.
- We were able to find a place with flexible enough hours to work with our chaotic schedules.
- We were extremely lucky and were able to get into a great situation this year. However, I know that we will not have a predictable situation in coming years and it weighs in on whether we want to have another child at this time.
- We were lucky to find an in home daycare close to campus before our son was born. It was the cheapest compared to daycare centers and the woman who runs it is the best.
- We were lucky to get our child into the UW Childcare Center after school program our first year here.
- We were very fortunate to find a highly qualified wonderful care giver to look after our son in her home. However, I think the availability of quality child care in Laramie overall is low.
- We were very fortunate to get into an excellent home daycare in our neighborhood, but most people are not that lucky with regard to care for very young children. We were also very happy with the Open School, but again, not everyone can get in or afford such care. More subsidized options are very important for this community, especially for very young children. And for school age children, we were also able to use the after school care offered

by Snowy Range Academy; other kids have to bus to locations, but SRA offers continuous care for their students, through 5 :15 pm.

- We would like to know more about childcare in Laramie. However, the information seems limited especially for people from other country.
- We've been blessed to find good in home childcare and private home daycares for 5 years now. I'm not sure we could ever feel comfortable doing a large institutional daycare.
- We've been lucky to find a relatively affordable daycare facility that has great hours of operation and (mostly) does a great job with curriculum and activities for children.
- We've had a wonderful experience with the Montessori Children's House. We just wish that a full-time, Montessori option was available within the community.
- We've had great luck employee dependable, engaged UW students for childcare in our home. We've also had a positive home daycare experience with [name withheld].
- We've had very positive experiences both at the Developmental Daycare and at the Open School. We like that there are a variety of different options available, since different situations fit different children. We like that there are very caring and highly trained teachers/caregivers.
- When I worked at the day cares and volunteered at the day cares I loved the teachers interactions with the children and wanted the same opportunity for my child.
- When my 9 year old was younger, she attended the Montessori preschool, which was only part time, but it was an exceptional experience for her. I have also had good experience with hiring a variety of college-aged students to assist with child care--the quality of care is very good. Also, currently, my daughter attends St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic School, and they have an after school program that is very flexible, and affordable which has made my life A LOT easier.
- When my child was 3 months to 12 months old he attended a home daycare, which was very good and I was very comfortable with him there. Unfortunately she only took care of infants during their first year and then she graduated them.
- When my children were little, and I was not working, I found the Laramie Co-Op to be a great facility (parents took turns helping out at the facility); however, that demanded flexibility of parent's time - and only covered a couple of hours per day. And then, when Prep (Lab School) still had an on-site pre-K program, my children attended that, and it was a fantastic experience (but we were very lucky to get a spot).
- When our children were young they attended Basic Beginnings and we were very pleased with the quality of care.
- When our daughter was younger, we used an excellent daycare provider, who took care of kids at her house. Now that our daughter is in school, an academic schedule allows the flexibility to do childcare ourselves.
- When younger, took my children somebody's home. She was great; unfortunately, she's not in Laramie anymore. My household has the benefit of flexible work schedules, and so we haven't had use.
- while it has good learn for children that make it in to it.
- While living in Laramie, I was able to find amazing home-daycare for my daughter. But it is very hard to do so.
- Wow my child has been on 6 months on a waiting list and I can't proceed with this questionnaire until I say they have not been on a waiting list. You have an issue with this

questionnaire. Please fix it. I have not seen any positive experiences except Kiddie Cottage - flexible until 6pm. What do I do after 6pm when the class expects me until 9pm?

(Q37) 'NEGATIVE' experiences regarding childcare in the UW and Laramie community.

- Incidents happening at daycare without parent's being informed i.e. chicken pox outbreaks, fights, kids getting hurt, etc.
- #1 when she was a baby she hated the home daycare she was in, I later realized it was because the woman was really mean.#2 Once she was in school I had a hard time finding summer daycare that was fun and not boring.
- Our first child was at a home care for a few months. The care seemed mediocre to poor, the hours were not great and education was simply not an issue that the owner addressed.2. Then our child was at Bright Horizons (after the fire and before the change of ownership). The quality of care was certainly better than what the home care center supplied, but again the education was lacking. The variety of children and toys helped indirectly provide education, but it wasn't really deliberate or programmatic.
- Very weak options for children 7 and over for summer childcare, when the public schools are not in session; 2. UW daycare does not fit with the UW academic semester, which is a severe problem; 3. Public schools and childcare that is pegged to the public schools often have no school days when UW is in session, creating problems in finding coverage for the children; 4. When one of our children was at the UW preschool, there were problems of change of teacher midyear and also a lack of experience in teaching children with special needs.
- Our bright shining light of a child care facility burned down. The school district and community did not help at all.2. When we moved back in 2003, there was no childcare available for my daughter while I taught school for the first 6 months. What childcare did arrive was usually out of my affordability range.3. I had to drop out of graduate school in 2005 because I did not have access to childcare for my two daughters and went through a divorce. I needed NIGHT and/or EVENING daycare. When I returned to graduate school, I was placed on probationary status because I'd dropped those classes. Without help of my second husband and my family in Denver, I would never have been able to go back to school. Child care may keep many single and divorced parents from returning to school or even completing a first degree if they must work during the day!!!!
- A minor negative was being waitlisted for the ECEC for over a year. But, it was WORTH the wait, given the alternative choices. Many of the centers we visited when we moved to Laramie (approx. 3 years ago) ranged from simply inadequate to flat out scary! There was one center where a teacher was monitoring outdoor play while smoking a cigarette and talking on a cell phone. Other facilities had too small or no outdoor play areas. A common theme seemed to be dirty and broken toys. No doubt there were teachers out there who really cared and really wanted to a good job, but who were shackled by facilities/owners who were more interested in making money.
- After visiting, investigating (for lack of better terms) most childcare in the community is very grossly expensive, and is to be directly honest very disgusting in cleanliness, quality of facilities, and lack of individuals with proper certifications.
- Again no experience as I do not live in Laramie.
- Again, we don't use any childcare.

- Although I was happy with the UW Childcare Center, the primary instructor for one class/age group was hardly available. Fortunately, the aides were wonderful.
- Although we personally did not have too much difficulty finding childcare, I know that in Laramie we are in the minority. Finding high quality childcare in Laramie is a very difficult task.
- As a low-income parent in graduate school, finding affordable, quality childcare has been a stressful situation.
- As I have not utilized any childcare providers in Laramie, I am not able to offer anything negative about an experience with it.
- As our children entered school it was harder to get care for them as the childcare providers did not want to take kids for part time care.
- At one particular daycare, there were many employees that I know would use their cell phones at inappropriate times. There was also one instance where a provider lost a child from her classroom. I also know of instances where there are providers that I can hear yelling down the hallway at the children in their classroom.
- At the Basic Beginnings daycare, I was not offered a tour or asked if I had any questions or anything when I stopped in to pay my registration/wait-list fee. The staff did not seem overly friendly or organized. Also, it smelled bad there. I honestly don't plan to ever have my child receive daycare from this facility.
- At the time we were looking in summer 2010, we were told the wait list there was so long we didn't have a chance. Thank goodness that turned out not to be true, and she got a spot in Sept. No other place in town was even acceptable, really. She was at Open School, which in theory is good but in practice is not a warm and caring environment. It was the least bad option, however. The new Waldorf-inspired place might be OK, I hear. Summer camp options are incredibly difficult to identify, and there aren't any good after school programs for school-age kids. E.g., SACC is chaos with too many kids per adult. Again, thank goodness having a younger one at ECEC makes that available for our older child for after-school care.
- At times conflicts with providers and teachers, and sometimes a less than desirable experience with other kids, bullying, and sickness.
- At UW we have always been rejected services based on student status, income and availability. For the rest of the providers in the community, there has always been limited availability, poor service, rude staff, outrageous cost, no flexibility with schedules, most facilities are in poor repair and the meals are of terrible quality and lack any healthy nutritional value.
- Availability of daycare is poor. It also seems that children can either go to small, in-home daycare centers or very large centers, with little in between.
- Availability of facility.
- Availability of quality childcare is lacking in Laramie, especially for working professionals. I was very surprised at the lack of quality childcare facilities and the emphasis on kindergarten readiness as compared to larger cities. In many instances, I have seen hitting and other negative behaviors normalized in childcare settings.
- Availability, the amount of GOOD childcare facilities, cost.
- Basic Beginnings was non-transparent regarding sicknesses at their daycare. In fact, ex-employees have described to us how they were not supposed to tell parents certain items (i.e. hand, foot and mouth going through the school).

- Because it's a cooperative preschool, parents are required to help out a few times a month. Because the timing of her classes are at the same time as mine this makes it very hard for me to help or take classes that I need because I'm juggling time slots that work for everyone.
- Been to a few day care facilities as an appliance repair man. Quality of care was low. Provider was watching TV while children managed themselves in another room and outside.
- Before I got admit to my current day care service, my children need to wait for a long time in waiting list. The fees is very expensive especially for me as an international student.
- Being a single parent, and a student, the price of daycare was too much and I could only put my child in half time which meant he was in daycare only when I was in class and study time was difficult to come by. DFS was a mess to deal with, as I already had one degree and was going for a second.
- Both of my children have been on waitlists for daycare; my son was on the UW Early Care waitlist for over three years. There is also very little available in the summer for children after they leave Kindergarten.
- But we can't get in!
- Called every person on licensed home daycare list - only one provider had an opening for our son. We have also been on the waiting list at most daycare facilities in Laramie since my wife was 5 month pregnant with only one response (may have an opening at the end of August). Our son is now 5 months old. The cost of daycare in Laramie is also outrageous. \$750 a month at the UW daycare is unaffordable for UW employees.
- Can't get part time day care without paying full time prices. It's hard to get into the better day cares.
- Center claiming they taught preschool, but my kids never really seemed to learn anything. Terrible hours - not being open early enough for me to get to work on time, closing before I can get there after work. Home daycare was very small for the number of kids they were allotted - I always felt like my child didn't really have enough room to play.
- Child care employees standing outside the child care center doors smoking cigarettes (Head Start).
- Child forgotten at school, swimming when ear ruptured and doctor note provided said no swimming.
- Childcare costs more than I make At U.W.
- Childcare is expensive and difficult to arrange for students. There is no drop-in type of service available for students.
- Childcare is extremely difficult to find in Laramie. We have been on waiting lists for months with no calls. Also, the cost of child care in Laramie is high and with two kids in daycare, especially in the summer is very difficult to manage financially.
- Childcare is very difficult in Laramie there are few choices and if you do not enroll your child early there will be no spot available and summer care is next to impossible.
- Childcare rates are ridiculously overpriced in this town. There are programs to help low income families, and wealthier families can afford services, but there is really nothing available to middle class families who struggle from paycheck to paycheck.
- Colleagues have said there is not enough child care available for a variety of ages but the issue is more significant for the infant ages. The City has helped sponsor an expanded private daycare near the Ice Rink/Rec Center and many have issues with that sponsorship.

Why is the City of Laramie helping one private child care? There appears to be some conflict of interest issues.

- Cost.
- Cost is a major factor. I've seen some places that were horrible.
- Cost so high it nearly makes it too expensive to work. Too many field trips.
- COST, COST, COST, child care is very expensive in this town. It is not uncommon for a student spend 25% or more of their income on child care, that is not acceptable for a student to pay.
- COST, COST, COST. Just found out I was pregnant, and worry about costs with one child alone. It's going to be around \$1,300.00 to send both of my children to daycare, and that's with discounts. My son was on a waitlist for 8 months before he got into a daycare, and that was with him being on several different lists. Also, the UW daycare center does not offer year round childcare. It basically shuts down whenever school is not in session. What about the staff members that work for UW year round? I'm glad that someone is doing research because I'm sure that we are not the only family affected. Thank you.
- Costs are too high and limited availability of open spots.
- Could not get her into daycare as an infant.
- Daycare in Laramie is very expensive.
- Daycare is extremely limited in this town as far as availability. I'm sure day care in any town is expensive but I had to quit my job in order to start an internship and paying for daycare services 5 days a week would have been difficult. My wife works full time and provided a lot of financial support to our family while I was in school, I cannot imagine what difficulties a single parent must face.
- Despite contacting childcare places early in my wife's pregnancy to be put on waitlist, and not needing childcare until she was seven months of age, was still not able to get into any childcare places at first. Was extremely frustrated with the childcare culture surrounding Laramie, and caused me to view the town in a negative light.
- Despite having an in with our daycare, our second and third child has to be on a waiting list and honestly it was down to the wire whether or not we'd get in. It is stressful knowing you are coming back to work and not knowing for sure that you have a place for your baby. Probably the majority of faculty members do not have family support in Laramie, so this puts you in a major bind. My other negative experiences relate to the head of my department who has said that his faculty cannot work from home....ever. This creates a very un-flexible environment that is ludicrous in this day and age. Ironically, ALL the faculty in the department are women, the majority of whom have young children. While it's OK if we work 'extra' on the weekends and in the evenings, we can't work from home if our child gets sick (i.e. must take sick leave). A more consistent ruling for faculty at the University level would be appreciated regarding work from home, flexible hours, job sharing etc.
- Difficult to find infant care. Tried to get into UW's center, but with it only being open when school is in, makes it difficult to use (i.e. no care in August, spring break, etc.).
- Difficult to find it. Once found, it comes and goes with the flux of Laramie's community.
- Difficult to get into a quality daycare center, very expensive regardless of option one chooses
- Difficulty finding an affordable situation for the summer where they can engage in meaningful activities but not necessarily attend full-time.
- Discrimination based on ethnic/genetic background

- Do not live in Laramie (3).
- Do not use childcare.
- Due to availability of students, UW ECEC is not open when the students are out of town. There are times in the year when I need to report to work but do not have access to child care. This causes significant stress. The quality of child care is so poor in the rest of the community that it is worth this stress to keep my children at UW ECEC. We were at Basic Beginnings for one of our children for an entire year while that child was number one on the wait list at UW ECEC (yes, for a whole year). Basic Beginnings child care was so poor due to the nutrition (e.g., doughnuts and sugar cereal for breakfast) and the philosophy of watching kids, not interacting with them. I felt like these teachers liked my kids, but they were so poorly trained in how to promote language and play that I considered quitting my job as a professor to stay home.
- During the interview phase, the department presented itself as particularly child friendly. Faculty members with children implied (perhaps inadvertently, because that had been their own experience) that our child (then one year old) would have a place in the UW childcare center and then in the lab school. We were surprised, disappointed, and alarmed when we arrived here and discovered two weeks before classes started that there were no openings at the UW Childcare Center and that the waiting list was impossibly long. We also found the same situation in the centers in the community that our colleagues referred us to (home daycares and others). With luck, after two solid weeks of making calls, visits, and searching, we found a local childcare center that, two days before classes began, had a child leave and thus was able to make room for our child. But it was a harrowing experience. And regardless, we would have preferred to have her at a childcare center on campus so she would be closer to us and we would have more access to her care providers. The one complaint we have with her current childcare center is that there seems to be a great deal of turnover among the teachers, though now that she is in preschool she has had one teacher since the beginning who is wonderful and remained a constant in her life.
- Early care center closes between semesters and during breaks yet I still have to work. Cannot secure care for such a short period of time. No space in daycares for short term or part time care.
- Expecting my first child within the year and very much concerned about where to find childcare for an infant. Cost is a major factor right now as it may look like there is a significant amount of income on our tax return, but most is being used to pay existing debts. Have heard horror stories about daycare in town and about the cost. Trying to work out a part time schedule or seeing if I could share responsibilities with another mom/parent.
- Expensive.
- Expensive childcare expenses.
- EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND GOOD DAYCARE!!! Especially for younger kids & under 1year. One lady did at home (Rosie's posies or something), but had a prejudice against girls & a favoritism for boys; my daughter got hurt and cried every day going there - had to turn her in to the State. Another lady at home (Little Sprouts) who lied, she did not seatbelt kids when she had them in her car, & her husband was arrested, etc. One daycare facility (Bright Horizons), where they ignored my kid, she cried every day going there, & they let her chew on their shoelaces (Bright Horizons). One daycare facility (Basic Beginnings, where they had unsupervised kids, so the bullies got away with harassing other kids, & one boy coerced several girls into showing their body parts, & my kid got hit with a metal robot

toy so hard that it left a solid black mark & yet none of the teachers knew anything & the director/owner ([name withheld]) did nothing about it, & when we turned in a complaint to the State we were told that it wouldn't do much good because the director/owner [name withheld] was also on the State's review board for complaints against daycares.

- Falling sick very often..
- Feel that it is a bit expensive, not flexible with the older sibling not having care on vacation days.
- Finding a quality program with hours that are flexible enough to accommodate both my class schedule and my desire to spend my free time with my children has been very stressful. Without the security of the knowledge that childcare would be available when I needed it, no other aspect of my school or work schedule could be settled. This caused a huge amount of uncertainty and stress in my life. It also made it very hard to focus on my studies.
- Finding afterschool care is difficult. My children were on a waitlist for 6 months before getting in and that is only because a new facility is being built. I have heard through other parents that it is extremely difficult to find infant childcare, honestly that is one of my reservations in regards to having any more children, Would I even be able to find my baby a good yet affordable daycare?
- Finding daycare is a nightmare. The school (UW) advertises their day care but I've never known anyone to get offered an opening. Personally my child has been on the wait list since we moved to Laramie 2 years ago. Other daycare providers are not much better. It took about 6 months on every wait list in town before getting offered our first opening. It took another 3 months before we actually found one that we trusted our child to. Most of them I wouldn't trust my dog to much less my child. Frankly, after moving from CA I was appalled at the daycare situation in Laramie.
- Finding summer child care is difficult. I would like my children to be more involved in community programs, but have no way to get them there during the work week.
- First, the issue with infant childcare. It's been awhile since I've had small children, but it still seems like a struggle to find infant care. Second, summer care for my older children. So many of the programs don't run in August or are only half days. There are day cares that would provide full time care, but my kids are older (9 and 12 now) and their needs are different. Last summer I had to hire someone for the month of August and although they were wonderful it seems like my husband and I are often struggling to make a good childcare plan for the summer and often have to piece together 3 or 4 different programs. I feel for the parents that can't afford to handle childcare like we do.
- For a short time we had our daughter with a different home daycare provider, which was disastrous. We pulled our daughter out of that situation very quickly.
- Getting into a daycare. We were on the waitlist for ECEC for a very long time, and for the school we got into for a long time. I put my child on waitlists when I was pregnant, he didn't get in anywhere until he was 15 months old.
- Goodness, there are so many. I left most of the nursery day cares in tears after my first visit; the quality of child care was so low. It seems impossible to get into a home day care with an infant. It takes several months to recruit a well-qualified person to care for an infant at home. The UW care center is our preferred option, but we also think Montessori is strong. We have had struggles with certain areas of quality at the UW center as different teachers have different standards. However, we see it generally as a good environment for our child. It would be nice if it were available to more people without increasing class sizes. The

preschool class sizes are probably larger than they should be at the moment. The UW center also has a problem as a lab school dealing with children with emotional and psychological problems. It isn't clear whether it is the center's fault or parent's fault, but we see at least two children in need of therapy who may not receive the proper attention. It may be easier to deal with such situations if the center is linked with other Head Start-type programs. In other words, they are able to deal with some children's special needs, but not all children's special needs.

- Had a hard time getting our youngest into childcare. He is now in college so it isn't a problem.
- Had difficulty in finding a reliable babysitter for afterschool when children were younger, but did not need a full-blown day care facility
- Hard to find quality care, especially in home. Blue Ribbon facilities I've been too were disgusting!
- Hard to find, with a long waiting list. No existing or hardly available information and help for UW students who are parents.
- Hard to get childcare for younger years (infants); some programs not very good, have too many kids packed into a small room, some better programs are hard to get into (SACC).
- Have not had any child care experiences.
- Haven't needed any outside our home since moving here in 2008.
- He is currently enrolled at the YMCA in Cheyenne, WY but will be transferring him to Laramie shortly.
- He was in a home daycare, I would not say it was negative as much as it was just a kids holding tank.
- High demand for the limited number of childcare spaces in the UW and Laramie community have resulted in too high costs and a lack of choice among childcare providers, when there are positions open at all.
- Hours of operation - I love the UWECEC but their hours are not friendly - they close when UW students are not in session - I still have to work - it makes it stressful and expensive to find alternative day care - I know from talking to other parents that this is a shared concern.
- However in researching preschool we find the cost to be VERY high with only limited part-time options available.
- I absolutely HATE the way the daycares around here cycle through college kids working on their degrees. Basic Beginnings was awful! One of my kids had 23 different teachers in less than two years. It was no wonder she struggled every day when we left her. I finally had enough when I went to pick up my kids and I had to ask a general question in the classroom as to who was in charge. I understand that the kids need experience but put at least one permanent teacher in each classroom. A college kid should never be the only one in charge!
- I am a bit disappointed for not finding a cheaper/free option for my kid. For a student like me, there should be some cheaper/free options.
- I am disappointed with the lack of faith-based full-time daycare options. I have also watched a high turnover of 'teachers' in my older child's classrooms, and am annoyed that there cannot be more consistency.
- I am not in the Laramie community.
- I am unable to afford child care at this time and my children are currently living with their grandparents until I can afford a better opportunity for them. I commute at least once a

month to visit them, but would prefer to have them with me if time/money/schooling could all be accomplished.

- I cannot afford it. I'm a graduate student, my wife works part-time, and we cannot afford to pay for childcare. So far, our time commitments have not overlapped, but they are likely to do so next semester. Both dependable people I know will be gone, and the cost of any childcare will wipe out a good deal of the money my wife makes working. Given the lack of opportunities for highly educated spouses of UW grad students/faculty, it is a tough place to raise a family. Laramie is fairly cheap overall, but this dilemma has influenced my decision about my career.
- I could not find a licensed childcare provider (in home or otherwise) and was on at least 5 waiting lists. It came down to two weeks before I had to return to work before I found my current provider. I was appalled at the lack of available, reliable childcare.
- I don't live in Laramie (4).
- I don't use childcare in Laramie.
- I don't know of any childcare.
- I feel sorry for those coming to Laramie without local connections who are trying to get into quality childcare. Waiting lists are long everywhere, and good childcare providers do not need to advertise.
- I figure if kids are going to have someone's bad habits, they might as well come from their parents. In most cases, the cost of child care would virtually cancel out my wife's salary and then we would have to juggle sick time every time a child was sick.
- I find that the creativity in terms of art projects is lacking. Also we were told by UW early care that we had a spot for our son before he was born so we did not put him on other waiting lists and were then sent a letter that there was no room. This situation put a lot of stress on us and though we managed- it was not easy. There are way too little daycare businesses for the amount of kids in this town.
- I go to school on the weekends for outreach and they do not offer it.
- I had a very difficult time to find a daycare for my daughter when I first moved down here. She was 3 at time. Every daycare I talked with, it had a long waiting list. I started searching for daycare for my daughter 6 months before I started the job, however I was not able to get her enrolled till two weeks after I was into the job.
- I had my child at a licensed in home daycare, Spring Creek Daycare. The lady that owns and operates is really great with the kids, but she was terrible to me and as a business owner was horrible. We had to sign contracts with her that gave us, as unsatisfied parents no rights at all. Great learning experience for me, but very unsatisfied with her.
- I had my daughter at Basic Beginnings for a few months, but the quality of care was poor in my opinion. There were 16 children in her room with 2 adults. My daughter was constantly complaining about other children being mean to her, hurting her, etc. She was afraid of some of the children in her class. Basic Beginnings did not want to discipline the children who were behaving badly and attributed poor behavior to boys being boys. I don't think the teachers spent quality time instructing the children. I don't think the teachers could possibly keep an eye on all 16 2-year-olds in the class. Also, our belongings were stolen by another parent and never returned. Very disappointing experience. We had to switch her to a neighbor who watches children. However, my neighbor who watches my daughter is unlicensed and that bothers me a bit. Overall, there's some major problems of quality and availability of care in Laramie.

- I had my son on a wait list for the university childcare center and gave up after one year.
- I have a hard time finding time to study and it would be nice to have a care area for student study time on campus.
- I have been on every waiting list for all license commercial daycares in this town since we found out we were pregnant (over 8 months ago). Not a single place has had a spot open up nor has anyone bothered to call regarding what the status was. We were only able to get a FT infant care spot due to a new daycare opening up and being the first one to call...we have also had to pay the month charge \$775 since we signed up since January even though our son will not be attending until May or June...that is how hard it has been to find a FT infant spot in this town. My husband and I would like to have another child soon but finding daycare is one of our major holdups.
- I have had negative experiences at the Open School and at Basic Beginnings here in Laramie. At the Open School my daughter was left unattended outside during a rainstorm. And at basic Beginnings I have observed lazy and neglectful childcare.
- I have had several experiences when mine and other children were not properly supervised and got themselves into troubles that could easily been avoided.
- I have had the worst experience ever I got here my son had been on a wait list for 6 months at that time I called UW to put him on their waitlist they never returned my call. I found a home provider and she was a nightmare thank goodness I saw a friend in Wal Mart. I don't think there is enough coverage to meet the needs of students and others in Laramie. Also, nowhere is open past 6 so it is hard for students to work and go to school.
- I have heard very un-positive things about the care at all places in Laramie! Things about policies for sick kids that make no sense. They are not meeting basic needs for children, which has been a problem for some parents I know. I also feel that these kids are much sicker than others who receive in home care. Also the two places I was in smell bad and I am thankful that I do not have to send my kid to any of them!!!!
- I have none, see #21.
- I have not been able to afford a day care center in Laramie for my children. I am a single father raising two children.
- I have not had a negative experience but I have known a number of people who have had a hard time finding child care in Laramie.
- I have not used the UW childcare. The care we have used was east of Laramie (mostly Cheyenne).
- I have not utilized childcare in the Laramie area, no comment.
- I have only used the above mentioned services because they are the only location that offers the variety in options and have the facilities to accommodate the kids.
- I haven't had any really negative experiences because I am very picky and careful about childcare. The most negative thing is that childcare is so expensive and it is difficult to find reasonable childcare for people who work shift work or have on-call and their schedules vary. Most places now make you pay even when your child isn't there and you have to make a set schedule which is hard for people who work in jobs where their schedule changes frequently.
- I haven't had many negative experiences.
- I haven't encountered any negative experiences with the childcare.

- I heard about the waiting lists at the places in town, so I did not even bother trying to get my baby into a childcare facility. I decided to find my own in-home sitter.
- I know I should not have taken this survey because I do have children--but children are not too far off in my future. It is really sad that I have to get on a childcare waiting list before pregnancy to make sure there is a space available. This was one of the first pieces of advice that I was given when I started working here... It has been backed by a number of my friends who do have children who cannot get into childcare.
- I know of several faculty in my department who have had a terrible time trying to enroll their baby in childcare and have had to rely on babysitters instead. Absolutely this should change.
- I live in Casper so I cannot fairly answer this question.
- I live in Cheyenne.
- I live in Wellington, CO. and use childcare in CO.
- I put my kid's name on ECEC's waiting list when she was one year old and she finally got in when she was 3 and half. My husband and I need to work when UW does not have an offices closed day, but ECEC closed two more months than UW (spring break, one month during summer break, winter break). After she finished Kindergarten, my girl has no way to get into ECEC summer program. The other childcare centers in Laramie do open year round but have much lower quality than ECEC. UW contributes very little in meeting the needs of qualified childcare.
- I put my name on waiting list for UW daycare when I was 16 weeks during my pregnancy. However, I was number 20 on waiting list and UW daycare estimates that my baby can be enrolled one year later, so my baby will not be infant anymore, he will be a toddler. These are what I am wondering: 1. How does the enrollment for UW daycare procedures work? 2. When do I need to put my name in waiting list (before I am even getting pregnant)? 3. Whose baby infant is enrolled in UW daycare? (I mean if I put my name during my 16 weeks and he will be enrolled when he is a toddler, so where do they get infants?? Thanks,
- I really hate how impossible it is to get into the UW daycare. The only other complaint i have is that daycare is so expensive and there is nothing i can do about it. my husband had to get a second job just to help pay for the daycare bill that is more than my mortgage!
- I think as being my kids I am responsible for their upbringing.
- I think that the number of quality daycare facilities for a college town is insufficient. The success of a parent during the work day is heavily reliant on knowing that their children are safe and secure and being well cared for while we work. I think there are a lot of parents forced to make bad choices for day care due to the lack of quality care available.
- I think there is a dearth of options, like with many things in this community. But I could be mistaken.
- I think there is a serious lack of qualified and experienced child care attendants. Too many of them do the job simply because it's a job and not because they love children. However I know that this is not a characteristic specific to UW or Laramie communities; it is a problem everywhere. To be responsible for young children is a huge responsibility. They should be more qualified and they should make much better wages.
- I think there should be free or very affordable childcare available on campus for everyone, especially during exam times.
- I tried for 3 years to get into the UW childcare and education system, to no avail. My husband and I were both faculty, and were denied entrance to the Early Childhood Education program, as well as the Lab School. I was EXTREMELY disappointed that

professors were denied access to university childhood programs. I knew of graduate students and brand new faculty who were ushered in immediately.

- I tried to look around, but could not find any that would allow only a couple of days a week. They had to be enrolled full time or part time and so I found a friend that was willing to watch my 2 youngest. It does not seem that there is allowance in the financial aid process for childcare.
- I was going to move to Laramie for on campus education, but the UW childcare center was way too expensive and I could not find another reasonable source at that time.
- I was on a waiting list for 10 months at UW when i was a student and was never even called back!
- I was on waiting lists for well over a year (more than 18 months for some). I only received a call from ONE daycare, yet my name was literally on every center's list for more than a year. Very frustrating.
- I wish the same opportunities for high-quality after-school care were available. Although I think the SACC program is better than what used to exist in the schools, there is so much more that they could be doing to really foster school-age development.
- I work part-time and my husband is a full-time student. There is just no way we can afford any childcare at this time. It has worked out - we switch off in the care of our son, but this isn't always ideal as my husband has had to limit the classes he can take to my non-working hours, and he sometimes has to miss departmental meetings. We are now expecting another baby and don't know what we'll do since we still can't afford childcare, but the prospect of my husband being able to get any work done with two children at home is slim to none. We put my son on the wait list for ECEC when I was 5 months pregnant with him.
- I would have like him to get into UW's facility, but a space never opened and the vacation closures would have been a problem.
- I would like the UW Child Care facility to have a priority for students.
- I would like to see more play space with grass, rather than rock & concrete. I also often wonder about how students are managed in regard to bullying and aggression, especially when a teacher isn't able to watch everyone at once. This is especially true with the after school program. A better after school system is BADLY needed in this community!
- I've just heard hearsay, but that is gossip. I don't have any personal experience with this matter.
- If I would have not been able to get my children in head start I do not know how I would have been able to afford childcare for them. The state would not qualify us to get daycare assistance because my husband was home during the day, they would not take in consideration that he works nights so he sleeps during the day. The other problem I have run up against is finding someone to watch my kids at night when I have a test once a month or need to go to a meeting or required activity for school.
- In the work-life balance, it seems people assume stable lives and schedules. I have worked out day care issues for these stabilities but it's the constant instability that causes so many problems.
- Incredibly expensive for this market. Terrible care all around. Nice work, Laramie--you really make me want to have another child, knowing that it will be next to impossible to care for it.
- Infant care is extremely difficult to find in Laramie.
- It can be difficult to find openings for childcare. There is very limited coverage in the summer as dwell.

- It costs way too much on campus and off for staff member. a person make in 1,500 a month has to make a choice weather working or pay someone to take care of the children. i know we use to pay 500 dollars a week to have or children at day care. U.W. day care was way out of our price it seems only the rich get in to that and the poor. get to try and get and education to start school.
- It hasn't been a problem.
- It is basically impossible to get child care for school age children with special needs.
- It is difficult because his schedule for day care is sort of patched together depending on other children in his class. Also his daycare does not stay open until I get off work at 7pm.
- It is difficult finding child care during breaks and teacher in-service days.
- It is difficult in finding someone who wants to do it in the evening.
- It is difficult to find a reasonably priced high quality childcare facility in Laramie. My husband also does not work normal hours, it is difficult to find a facility that is willing to adjust their schedules as ours adjusts.
- It is difficult to find childcare. I was worried prior to the spring semester 2011 about getting him into a safe, quality child care.
- It is difficult to find childcare. Childcare is often not available when the university is on break. It is difficult to find childcare between the hours when school lets out and the end of the work day.
- It is discouraging how hard it is to get into a quality childcare center in Laramie, especially the UW care center.
- It is expensive.
- It is extremely expensive, but employs just students (probably for very low wages), i see children playing outside, and caregivers don't pay enough attention to them. The only prestige it has is its name and the parents of the kids. too expensive otherwise.
- It is hard to find care for a few hours in the evenings to attend UW events. It is also difficult to find full-time (7:45am to 5:30pm) care in the summers.
- It is next to impossible to find childcare here and if you can find it, it is going to cost you an arm and a leg. It has really put me in a bind. It has been easier to find a place to live with a dog.
- It is quite expensive, and social services can be abrasive and off-putting as parents search for help in paying that expense.
- It is really hard to find daycare centers that are open for people who work most of the year and do not have a faculty/student schedule. It is VERY difficult to find a daycare that will pick up from the UW Lab school.
- It is scary when you trust someone you don't really know to watch and care for your child. It creates even more stress when you are not able to get your child the care they need/deserve/want. Waiting lists are stressful, especially for people who are new to town who are coming in and have to work full time. You may have to shuttle your child between three different centers to get full time care. This is what we had to do at first and it was stressful and scary and our children did not want to go and cried all the time. We also had to choose a facility based on availability and not the care they would receive. We had sub-par caregivers at one facility in the beginning and it was horrible to know that we didn't have any other choice. Maybe I'm neurotic, but it is stressful to have to leave your child(s), especially when you are worried about the care they will receive.

- It is too cold.
- It is too expensive. The pick-up times are too regulated.
- It is very, very hard to find childcare, period. And it's a word-of-mouth affair trying to ascertain quality of that childcare, if you can actually find it.
- It is virtually impossible to have a flexible daycare schedule. My experience has been that with an infant you pretty much need to pay for full time even if you may not need it. Also, in-home providers tend to leave when their spouse finishes school.
- It took 2 years on the waitlist at UW ECEC to get in (from the time we first got on the waitlist when my wife was pregnant till the time my daughter reached the top of the waitlist). At one point as my daughter's birth approached, we were unsure if we were going to get into any child care facility whatsoever. We were on 5 separate lists, and finally got in to a facility of more questionable quality than UW ECEC. While I always felt she was safe while at the prior facility, I never felt she was fully stimulated or enriched, and there were extremely serious problems with staff retention there. It seemed like every other month, my daughter had a new teacher. We kept my daughter on 3 different waitlists for higher quality facilities once she got into this prior facility, and were extremely relieved when she finally got into UW ECEC. If there is any possible way in which the availability of high-quality child care can be expanded in Laramie, I would highly encourage it.
- It was nerve-racking to find an opening when I was looking for one, and anxiously waited for news that an opening had become available. There is clearly not enough high-quality childcare available in Laramie. I visited home day care situations that were appalling. Few childcare facilities looked, felt, or sounded humane. The one we ended up with was friendly, clean, comfortable, competent & cheerful, with adequate play areas outside and inside.
- It was quite scary when we were looking for day care. First we had our child in an in-home licensed day care for a short time which probably provided reasonable quality childcare but was unreliable as far as if the provider was sick we had no other recourse. (several others we contacted were full, could only find one with an opening) Researching childcare providers was a bit of a daunting task. We were also on waiting lists for two center-based child cares as they both had huge waiting lists - one told us there would not probably be a slot open until our child was 1 year old (50+ kids on waiting list). We lucked out getting in as many opening slots are taken either by children of employees at the centers or by parents who already have another child at a center. The only negatives in center-based care that we've seen are 1) the large number of viruses your child will inevitably bring home the first year - one every 1.5 weeks this winter for us 2) the turn-over in caregivers - rather inevitable given their general ages, etc. Life happens.
- It was very difficult to find childcare when we moved here. There do not appear to be any options, really, for kids near middle school. Now we pick them up after school and take them to their after school activities.
- It was very hard to find available daycare that was acceptable to me. My son was on waiting lists for over a year before one had an opening at a daycare, and only then did we get in because we knew people who worked at that daycare center.
- It's expensive.
- It's very stressful being new and moving to the community and having virtually no options for childcare. Then, what I got the older child into was horrible (also a daycare facility). But, then I was able to secure a place with [name withheld] and the UW system and then everything was okay.

- Lack of availability and cost.
- Lack of available child care for babies. UW Child Care caters to faculty and staff and students are not served well in sufficiently high numbers in comparison. Laramie does not have enough day care facilities for the number of students we have. Not enough marketing on available child care services.
- Lack of available options. Many of the options are very expensive.
- Lack of choices. Would like to see different kinds of choices for the older school age children; many parents start to let their older elementary-age kids stay home, so if you continue to send yours to daycare, they feel out of place and too old for daycare. Especially need something different for the older elementary-age kids for the summer. Cost, but my experience is that the operators do everything they can to limit cost increases without compromising safety, quality, etc.
- Lack of diversified activities.
- Lack of options and availability of spaces.
- Lack of quality child care. I have to choose among the least poor day cares because the only good one in town is full.
- Lack of resources and too many kids on the UW wait list.
- Laramie has a paucity of care esp. for infants and toddlers under 2. When my first daughter was born in April 2007, there were 38 infants under 6 months on waiting lists for care in this town. Piecing together adequate care for my children during the first 6-9 months of their lives was nearly impossible, and I almost was forced to quit work. The cost for care is higher than in towns with more competition (e.g., the entire Front Range of CO). One does not so much choose childcare in Laramie as hope a space opens up ANYWHERE, whether the care is acceptable or not. It makes Laramie not a very attractive place to live for working parents with young children, and the lack of care and UW's complete inattention to the matter makes the university seem a not very hip or concerned employer. ECEC in particular does not have equitable enrollment policies, as the waiting periods for my children can attest. Several of my faculty colleagues have gotten their single children (no siblings) into the center since my kids have been on the waiting list, and obviously there are children under 4 there, so something untoward is taking place in the filling open slots. I hope that the new Basic Beginnings center will help to alleviate the scarcity of care for kids under 2, even though I did not support the city subsidizing that business venture at the expense of other daycare providers. All in all, without home daycare providers in this town, many workers would be forced to quit and many still are.
- Limited part-time openings especially for children under 2. Cost nearly prohibitive.
- Limited places. High cost. Poor to medium to reasonably good quality care.
- Limited to non-existent spaces for children from birth to 5; quality of commercial and some home daycare facilities; cost is way beyond my means!
- Live in Cheyenne, No experiences with either.
- Long wait lists are a strong negative. UW provides little to no support locating child care options for nontraditional, international students. The DFS declined my application for child care support as I am enrolled in graduate school, which does not make sense to me at all.
- Many facilities we visited were NOT acceptable- seemed dirty, had staff that were uninformed, or were too expensive- and even the facility we chose does not serve nutritious, whole foods and lets the kids watch TV more than is appropriate. There just aren't that many choices in town.

- Many of the licensed day care centers literally laughed at me when I asked about availability and wait lists. They wouldn't even give me information or direct me to a web page with answers. They just laughed and said we'll take your name, but no reason to do so.
- Many! no openings, unwilling to work with students on payment.
- Medium good experience with SACC - too many kids and therefore some tension and dynamics that make it more stressful. The negative about the Snowy Range Academy After school program is that it is in the same place as school (so no variety) and fewer creative activities (although it is nice for them to come home with homework done!).
- Most daycares that we attempted to get our child into had waiting lists a mile long. It's stressful and frustrating when you are trying to plan for your child's arrival.
- Most negative experiences are due to not enough financial support from the city of Laramie to make sure that quality childcare is available to everybody.
- Most of our difficulties have arisen in summer. Kid Connection has been our saving grace, as they provide full time summer programming, including August. We determined early on that we could never enroll our daughter in UW's daycare because they do not provide care in the crucial week before classes begin in August. That always made me wonder just who they think their clientele is.
- Mostly the cost is prohibitive. However, now that I am a senior, I have fewer and fewer course options. The majority of my courses are now in the late afternoon, early evening, and this is extremely difficult to work around a childcare schedule.
- My baby was born in December and openings in daycares were not until late summer July/August, far after when I needed them. She went to an unlicensed daycare provider until she got into Developmental Daycare. The waitlist to get in places is ridiculous. I would love flex time at work and a daycare facility (that had space for my baby) at UW. I would also like the option to bring my baby to work with me part-time or work from home.
- My child attends Kids Connection sometimes. Depends on teacher, she does not receive a good care. When I picked my child up one day, I realize all the kids had their coats on in the part, but not zipped while couple teachers were bundled up. All the kids had runny nose and their faces were red from cold. If the teachers are cold, it is obvious that the kids are cold. Also, my child, who is done with potty training couple years ago, had an accident at Kids Connection. It was the first time, and somehow my child did not want talk about the accident and seem troubled a little.
- My child was formerly at Basic Beginnings, which is a very institutionalized environment. I had trouble getting staff cooperation in feeding my daughter the diet I wanted her to have (no formula, for instance). My wishes were frequently disregarded, but switching daycares is a long process in this town, so I was frustrated to have to keep her there longer than I wanted to.
- My daughter was on the UW childcare center's waiting list the entire two years we lived in Laramie. The quality of care is also an issue I observed. While I was fortunate to find a very experienced in home daycare, before this I interviewed and visited close to 15 childcare centers and in home day cares and was honestly saddened. I would not have put my daughter in one of these places. The other most negative issue is the cost. While DFS does provide some relief, they only pay for the actual hours you are in class and do not take into account the time needed for study and homework. We moved away from Laramie after the birth of my son and I became an Outreach student so I could be closer to my family (who help with child care) and because of the outrageous living costs in Laramie. We were simply

unable to make ends meet. A large part of that had to do with the cost of childcare. Two children in daycare run about \$1200 a month. While I graduate this spring, I hope you take into consideration the needs of families (especially single-parent families) when it comes to child care. It can be THE deciding factor on whether or not someone can afford to get their education and better their situation.

- My friends and colleagues have had a lot of trouble in finding quality care. I cringe at the stories I hear from them and only wished we had more spots available. I think there needs to be something offered for the elementary school aged children for after school care that isn't so pricey. I think there are a lot of latch key kids in the community just waiting for their parent(s) to get home from work. The only concern I have with the UW ECEC is that it is closed for too long over Christmas break and for the two weeks in August. I understand the reason why it has to be closed, but would like for there to be another option for parents who need to work and can't take off during that time.
- My kids do not live in Laramie.
- My oldest child was at Kids Connection from the age of 18 mos. to 21 mos. and I was not satisfied with this center (But it was the only center in town at that time with an opening). My child never had a permanent head teacher in her room so she would cry every time I would drop her off. The building is set up so that most rooms are open (they only have a half wall) and my daughter would always have troubles sleeping because of the noise. Also, she would come home with other children's diapers on, dressed in other children's clothing, etc. Kids Connection was unorganized. This was back in 2007.
- My only concern, and I understand their logistical challenge, is that they run in accordance with a student schedule. Thus, I am left to find childcare at Christmas (2 - 3 weeks), spring break (1 week), summer break (2 - 3 weeks) and various holidays throughout the year. I wish the program offered an alternative for staff and faculty. This is hard on my son as well as it throws him off schedule, so I genuinely wish they would provide an alternative.
- My wife and I have 7 month old twins. We have found that finding an opening for twin infants is daunting and affording reputable child care is challenging at best.
- N/A (27).
- Namely having to wait forever to get into UW when both my wife and I are UW employees while non-UW people have their children there. That doesn't make sense. The other issue is lack of ease to find out the quality of daycare providers in Laramie. It takes a lot of effort to do figure out to contact DFS and ask the right questions. Why does it have to be so complicated?
- Need to have more daycare with extended hours and holiday hours for single parents who have to work and/or do other things after work...
- Never used childcare.
- No experience. (3)
- No feedback when on waiting lists. Not enough individual attention for infants, too high costs.
- No personal negative experience, but there is a lack of high quality daycares in our community. High quality being the key words.
- No significant negative experiences.
- No specific incidence -- just an overall low quality of every option. We looked into family-based care but EVERY provider fills their home with the maximum allowed: 10 kids. Anyone who has ever been around children knows that it is impossible to care adequately

for so many children. The emphasis in town is on price. I would (perhaps not happily but always) pay lot more to get my children the best quality -- only there was no such option here.

- None (28).
- None here in Laramie.
- None, I live in Evanston.
- None, really. My wish I had more family in town to help watch the kids so my husband didn't have to come home from work to watch them when I go to class.
- Not allowing children in in Outreach classes was unfortunate, and I believe unfair.
- Not being able to access the university childcare.
- Not enough affordable and available childcare in Laramie.
- Not enough childcare centers and childcare is very expensive.
- Not enough childcare period!
- Not enough daycares in town; commercial day cares need to offer more infant care; turnover at daycares; was on waiting list for over 2 years at UW ECE...and people who were on the waiting list after me got called first; UW ECE should be open year round for staff employees who need daycare - not cater to the academic schedule.
- Not knowing if we were going to get into daycare was by far the most frustrating. When having to face a decision on quitting jobs because there was nowhere to take the kids was very frustrating.
- Not much choice for quality regular daycare centers. Waiting list are long.
- Off campus, people have different attitude and have very different background. So our kids have difficult time blending in. They end up playing by themselves and watching TV.
- One home daycare I had took my daughter to run errands on several occasions without permission or notifying me. Another home daycare allowed the children to spit on her, kick her and yell at her. She believed that it was just the children expressing themselves...and she use to work for the city in the child care licensing office.
- Online student, no child care.
- Options for part-time care for infants/young children were limited or expensive.
- Our biggest problem came from waiting to get on to Cheyenne housing. we Waited almost 2 years for it. I also am disgusted with the section 8 policy that Cheyenne housing can't transfer into another state unless we have had it for over a year. It's not our fault because we waited to get on it so long and we would otherwise qualify. Now we're transferring to another state and have to get onto another longer waiting list. Plus I know people who received Cheyenne housing much faster simply because they were relatives with people who ran Cheyenne housing.
- Our children went to the UW Child Care facilities. They did not receive any type of educational curriculum but instead were immersed in programs that supposedly focused on socialization. All three had to have Reading Recovery and were not as well prepared as children who came from other preschool/daycare settings. If we had to do it all over, we would have them go to the Open School or Montessori School for their preschool needs.
- Our first option was the UW Child Care Center, which is virtually impossible to get into without a long period on the waiting list. As a two-career family who relocated to Laramie to work at the University, this is unacceptable and caused considerable hardship during our first critical year at the University. In fact, it was almost enough to cause us to decline the

offer in the first place. To summarize our thoughts on this: Like we are, most university employees are likely to be very discerning and demanding of their child care choices. Laramie has a lack of child care, in general, and a lack of excellent child care, in particular. This is an issue for both university employees and for the university as an employer hoping to attract talented employees who happen to have families.

- Our six year old daughter was in two different child care centers before entering Kindergarten. Our preference had a longer waitlist and so we transferred her when they had an opening. Prior to getting in with our second choice, she had to be home for a while because there was no availability. Our 3 year old son was even more difficult to find care for. At first the only option we had was an in-home daycare and we were fortunate to find that. Placement in child care centers of any kind in Laramie are more difficult the younger the child. For new professionals coming to Laramie, this is a HUGE obstacle. One question asked about UW department policies regarding child care. My department has none that I am aware of, but I would be curious to know if it should. My department, in fact, at times has a palpable distaste for just the idea of children, which I find to be a source of stress for me in my workplace.
- Our son was on the wait list for over a year. We adopted him when he was 2 days old, so we did not have the ability to get on a wait list prior to him being born. Thankfully my wife's mother was able to watch him the entire first year so we were able to make accommodations, but without her I am unsure what we would have done.
- Our time at Kids Just Want to Have Fun was horrible. They gave our daughter the wrong food and the wrong bottle. They were on a regular basis not following code by having too many babies to workers. One time the fire alarm went off and nobody knew what to do. A parent had to show the workers how to take the kids out of the building. We would love to be at the UW center but the hours are horrible. It would make more sense to follow the school district calendar than that of UW.
- Out of the 7 facilities in Laramie, all but one are full for Summer 2011. The one that does have spots will take my ENTIRE paycheck to have my children there.
- Paying for daycare has been a challenge, though. DFS helps, but not enough so I was constantly behind on payments, but I managed.
- Piecing it all together takes me at least an hour each week. Sometimes more. Summers can be very hard. It can be hard to find someone to work for us that fits our family and the hours we need (my children are not able to go to the summer programs at the rec center or similar types of programs). There was one day a few summers ago that I spent at least an hour trying to find a sitter to watch the girls so I could work, and I could not find ANYONE. I was in tears. Literally. The school year is also hard, but not as difficult for some reason.
- Playing outside in cold weather.
- Please provide the center with the necessary funds for appropriate staffing.
- Poor management of the daycare center; high turnover of teachers; children with rooms and do not have consistency of care.
- Price and shortage of available daycares.
- Prior to joining UWECEC we experienced daycare's where teachers yelled at children, directors' who were not flexible or caring, and discipline policies that weren't obvious nor cohesive with parent's wishes. We were on a wait list for UWECEC for 18 months--wait lists

are a huge problem for quality and non-quality care alike. More options, more competition is needed to help families who need to work but want quality care for their children as well.

- Probably the most frustrating thing with our 3 kids daycare has been the constant turnover of staff. Teachers are not employed for extended periods which makes the kids have to adjust to new teachers on a regular basis.
- Provider is not always aware of bullying within the program.
- Quality affordable care is largely unavailable.
- Quality of food, teachers poor cleanliness difficult hours/holiday closures.
- Racism.
- SACC does not have age appropriate activities for the kids and the older kids are mixed in with the younger kids. The cost is also getting out of hand. If you do not fall within the sliding-scale you pay a lot more.
- School stinks needs more cleaning and open windows at Slade elementary.
- Since I am a distance student, some of my classes are on campus in the summer and I could not bring my child with me because I did not know about child care availability.
- Since I only commute to UW for weekend or evening classes I have not had any experience with childcare in the Laramie community.
- Some centers I visited seemed like child warehouses, I would like to get on with UW's child care program, but the wait list is longer than I will most likely be staying in Laramie.
- Some of the in-home daycares were not appropriate, cleanliness and attitude of person taking care of kids.
- Some place spend most of the time just playing outside.
- Sometimes difficult to find people who want to work in a nanny position.
- Sometimes I am scrambling to find child care when the high school kids have activities that conflict with my school schedule.
- Sometimes it is easier to realize who we are and who we come from; so that we do not end up with frustrations.
- Sometimes she has days off or she will go on maternity leave and we have to find replacements. Horrible situation!
- Spent over 6 months on the waiting lists of 3 day care centers before finally getting a slot. During that time, we visited several home day cares, and were extremely disappointed with the apparent lack of quality in care. The lack of availability of child care in Laramie is a serious detriment to livability of the community and a challenge to UW employees with children.
- Start the after school program.
- Summer daycare is hard to find for younger children, can be expensive, and isn't very educational.
- Teachers may not be as personable to parents as well as communication needs to be worked on. They don't tend to work with you in hard situations more specifically bus service. We had some things come up where it was hard to pick up my child at noon and they wouldn't make any special arrangements with us to get us through the issues we were having.
- Terrible communication with providers that I chose not to go with. Long wait lists. Poor facilities (appearance, smell, buildings in need of repair, etc...). Location. Cost. Programming. Access.

- That there is really not too many options for child care. I had to be on a waiting list for 8 months before we got into one.
- The availability of quality child care is huge problem. The only child care facility I've been satisfied with as far as quality is the UW Early Childhood Center. My husband quite his job and is now staying at home with our daughter because of the poor care she was receiving before at Kids Just Wanna Have Fun. The only other center we might consider is the new Basic Beginnings childcare center. The current BB facility is run down, dirty and not a healthy environment for our daughter to be in. We remain on the waitlist for UW ECEC, but even after 8 months there are 32 families ahead of us.
- The childcare in Laramie is very few and quality is not good.
- The cost and lack of full time openings.
- The cost of child care is so high along with the cost of living, as it pertains to housing, that it does not make a lot of sense to stay here. Wages are nowhere close to what is needed to sustain a household with children. Thank you for doing the survey and I hope you come up with some solutions.
- The cost of childcare can be expensive. I think UW's childcare facilities are by far the highest in cost.
- The cost of childcare is often very expensive. The lack of childcare for summer.
- The day care my son was at when we first arrived in Laramie burned down (Bright Horizons).
- The daycare in Laramie that I worked at was a different place behind closed doors.
- The down (closed) times at UWECEC make it difficult for parents, especially when we still have to work and find alternative care. The summer hours, @ UWECEC, are difficult as I have to leave work prior to close of business to pick up my child, but during the school year they are open 30 minutes before and after the work day??? I don't like that the school-aged child walk to Washington Park and cross Grand Avenue...I think a bus should be taken or they don't go to the park. I think the price is too high for the After School Program, but I really don't have a choice as it all seems to be about the same. It would be nice if bus service would be provided to all the schools and not just a few that pick up and take kids to UWECEC. Having to find alternative daycare, between Fall/Spring semesters, during Spring Break, and then in August is a challenge...but one we have taken on since we want to keep our child @ UWECEC.
- The enormous prices for the care, and incredibly low pay for the employees in daycares never ceases to amaze me...they should be paid more!!!!
- The facilities where my 4-yr-old goes to preschool are often in poor sanitary condition. More attention needs to be given to keeping the children's environment clean and free of germs. Also, for our winters, every childcare facility should have adequate indoor play areas. My daughter catches far too many colds because of being made to go outside on freezing days.
- The hardest thing was just finding quality daycare that was available. We ended up in an in-home daycare because could not get a spot in a reasonable time (particularly when our kids were under 1) at a commercial daycare, even placing our child's name on the lists about 8 months before we needed care. Also, you haven't asked, I guess because my kids are not old enough, but I am very concerned about the availability of quality after school care for my children once they become school age.

- The hours and vacation time is very difficult. also we do not receive any vacation time without pay!
- The lack of infant child care in Laramie is unbelievable. We were on waitlists for 19 months to find a spot for our infant son, and initially had to accept a spot at a lower quality facility. Months later we had to accept a part-time slot at a better quality facility to get in full time, driving around town during work hours to transfer our son from one facility to the other.
- The Laramie community does not provide enough activities for home school or preschool aged children. I would like to see more activities based on creative play, story time/story reading, children's museum, children's theatre, and more focus on children and family events in the community.
- The large commercial centers are usually overcrowded and poorly run. They don't pay enough to keep highly trained or certified teachers so turnover is always high.
- The low quality of elementary education curriculum as compared with other areas we have lived.
- The main concern is the lack of affordable childcare in Laramie. For one, there is not enough childcare available and, secondly, the cost is prohibitive for lower-income families. Overall, there need to be more affordable childcare options in Laramie.
- The negative and poor quality facilities outweigh the goods ones 5 to 1. There needs to be some form of complaints that others can view on individuals and facilities. We used a home daycare that was completely shadowed by her own perception of what parenting was. She admitted in front of both of my children that she thought I was the worst parent on the planet. Refused to take my son even when healthy with drs notes. Refused notes from the nurse indicating he was fine. Attempted to know indicate she knew more about asthma than I or my spouse even though we have both had it since small children. BAD person, never recommend and would love to see her license removed. Had another home put my son on the list and was reassured several times that he was good to begin care there on a specified date and then just a few days before she called a family member to tell them she wasn't going to take the child because she didn't have a spot, when the day before she did. Bad business in my opinion, never recommend.
- The only drawbacks to the UW ECEC are price and hours of operation. The daily hours of operation are reasonable; however, they are closed for over a month ever year. The price wouldn't bother me if I didn't have to pay for the times that the facility is closed. I end up paying someone else \$8-10.00/hour to care for my child during closures, which almost doubles my total daycare bill for that month.
- The ONLY high-quality care available in Laramie is through ECEC, and it has an exceptionally long waiting list. Had my children not gotten in there, I would have considered declining my job offer by the University. The University should also realize that individuals are less productive if they are worried about childcare problems. There is such a shortage of childcare in Laramie that any institution with an opening can reasonably be dismissed as providing terrible care; some places I visited should be illegal.
- The ONLY negative experience we ever had in Laramie was when we first contacted UW Early Childcare and Education Center about care for our firstborn son. My wife works 3 days per week and we were hoping to keep him at home 4 days and get daycare for 3 days (something that Basic Beginnings easily accommodated). The director of UW ECEC either misspoke or flat out misled by saying that kids need to be in daycare 5 days per week as it's optimal for them in terms of consistency. Just think about that. It's BETTER to have a kid

in daycare 5 days a week and home with parents for 2 days than it is to have a kid in daycare 3 consecutive days and home 4 consecutive days? Not only is this counter-intuitive, there's not a shred of empirical data to support it! In order for this to be true a baby would need to be able to discern the difference between a 5-2 week and a 4-3 week and it would need to be the case that empirical research supported more time away from primary caregivers as opposed to less. It's ok if the 5 consecutive days helps UW ECEC with scheduling issues - but just say that. Don't try to make parents feel guilty for sub-optimal care based on non-existent research. It's also ok if the 'lack of consistency' argument applies to widely varying days, hours, providers, etc. But that wasn't the case in this instance and I would imagine isn't the case in most instances of parents trying to arrange part-time childcare so they can have their kids home as much as possible. (Clearly, I'm hoping UW ECEC is apprised of qualitative results. If this is not the case, the comments are still relevant: parents need flexible childcare, not rigid scheduling imposed by daycare facilities that aren't based on any valid research.)

- The only negative point about the ECEC facility is the closures in August, December, January and Spring Break. Being a staff member, it is challenging to find care during these closures.
- The only negative thing I have to say about UW ECEC is the hours of operation. They are closed any time UW students leave. From an operations standpoint I can understand the reason for this, but it does pose problems during extended closures.
- The only thing I can think of is that there are not enough care givers out there to meet the needs of the community. There are many UW students who have children as well.
- The opposite of above where the caregivers did not speak and they were not motivating the children to do anything other than stop yelling and sit down .
- The parents who just want to get their money's worth should do it themselves.
- The price and their rules. I don't think a childcare provider should tell you how to raise your child. You should tell them how you want your child taken care of.
- The price of daycare centers in this town is outrageous! It is more to send our son to daycare than to pay for our mortgage. Also, even though my husband and I are employees of the University of Wyoming, we get no special consideration when it comes to the UW Center. Plus, even if we were to get into that center, we would go broke trying to pay for it.
- The primary (and significant) drawback of ECEC is that during the school year, it is only open when UW classes are in session, but we (both parents) as faculty members in two different departments with major research programs have obligations even when classes are not held (e.g., Spring Break, etc.). This creates scheduling problems and can be quite difficult.
- The supply relative to demand is too high. Getting a child in preschool is really difficult!
- The timing in hearing about waitlists and whether you have a spot is extremely stressful. Finding good, reliable, affordable care in this town is a real challenge. I don't feel like there is a lot of choice and I've ended up going with something for next year that I'm not absolutely sure about. That doesn't feel good.
- The UW Child Care Facility should be available for faculty - this should be a recruiting benefit for faculty. I'm shocked at how terrible UW is at making sure that there are enough childcare options for faculty. This will likely be one of the reasons I will leave UW as a faculty member.

- The UW childcare center seems to be over burdened with its responsibilities. It astounds me that as a faculty member with 3 children under the age of 5 that we cannot make the cut into this facility. That either means it has insufficient resources to adequately serve the UW community, or it is poorly run.
- The UW early childcare place was going to open up when my daughter was born. Though I filled out paperwork, somehow it was never acknowledged, and I was never ever contacted. I ended up (above) hiring someone to come in and look after my daughter as I had to go back to work. She then went to another pre-school in town (Open School), which closes down completely in August. The UW childcare center also used to be closed for August. This is ridiculous for a university town, where many of the parents work at the University and cannot go on vacation in August as used to be the case in the early 20th century. In my experience, the childcare schedules are still set up for having mommy at home. Given that only about 50% of children live in 2 parent households, and that even in those, both parent work, the childcare model needs to be updated.
- The UW ECEC closures have been very difficult on our family and other families that we know in the community. This is the one area where an improvement is needed to meet the needs of all families.
- The UWECEC hours are awful on many fronts. The door lock time and the time on the clocks for the rest of the planet do not match. It is exceptionally frustrating to have been told for the last (___) months that there is nothing that can be done. I take pride in my work and want to be there on time. Not being able to get to my office on time because daycare won't open is not an acceptable excuse in my book. It is a huge burden that the UWECEC is only open when students are here. The staff is not willing to even discuss the issue. It is not right that I should have to burn every minute of PTO and sick leave I have each year in order to take care of my kids when the school is closed. The excuses are awful - we don't have food. Um, how does every other daycare in Laramie handle food? We only get vacation during those times. Okay, those staff get more vacation time than the full-time faculty then. Why not have a couple of extra people who can float rooms? That way people can have sick days, and take vacation when they want to, not when they are told to. Yes, I would pay more to have my kids in school for 12 months a year. It is a burden that the only change in the hours in the summer is closing an hour early. They don't open a half hour early with the rest of the University, thus making it IMPOSSIBLE to get to work on time. While faculty technically doesn't punch a clock, I have pride in my work and desire to be in my office when the school is open. It is an enormous stress to have to race back and forth from work to pick up my child every day. Regarding tuition - I have been told that UWECEC is the cheapest or one of the cheapest in town. Well, not when you consider the 2 months of a year that we don't have care, while we pay for 11 - taking into account the holidays, 2 weeks in August, the month at Christmas, and spring break. When you consider you are paying the full year (11 months) for 10 months of care, and with the challenging hours, it is not even close to the cheapest.
- The wait-lists are just terrible.
- The waiting list at UW is so long and they are unable to even guess when children will be accepted. It is frustrating for me being a student, I feel there should be options for students to take spots over other community members at the UW child care center.
- The waiting list for UW childcare is pretty long, but at the same time understandable.... so I don't have many negatives to say, just that we will wait until we can get in.

- The waiting lists to get into childcare caused problems at times.
- The waitlist for the UW daycare is so long. When our son was born, we got him on the waitlist immediately. They told us then that he might get in for preschool. That's four years!
- The waitlists are horrible; my child has been on the waitlist for two daycares since conception and still has not been accepted into a daycare at this time. I love the time I have with my child but I wish I could just get my schooling out of the way real fast. With some child care help, I could take a full course load and graduate more quickly instead of having to only take 2 classes at a time. I just want my degree and to be able to be home with my child.
- The waitlists are long at the UW Childcare facility, Basic Beginnings, and the Open School. However, none of these facilities come close to comparing to the preschool our child went to in Tempe, Arizona when I worked at ASU. There is a lack of quality commercial childcare facilities in Laramie.
- The waitlists are very long to even get into daycare. It is very expensive, especially for students. Because there were no openings I sought other avenues.
- The waitlists. There seem to be not enough daycares and too many kids. I looked for child care for 3 months before I moved here. I luckily found one. The cost is really high, but I am willing to pay it for quality care.
- There are no evening care options.
- There are insufficient slots for children and an insufficient variety of experiences. There need to be more childcare centers dedicated to learning.
- There are limited options in Laramie. It would be nice if a daycare would continue to educate children over the summer. I.e. a sort of summer school program.
- There are NOT enough childcare facilities in Laramie and most places have long waiting lists. ECEC on campus was impossible to get into because of the long list. The most difficult part of childcare is often finding someone to take your child on school holidays or in-service days or in the case of ECEC long closures. Many daycares or preschools also take those days off. This does not help parents who work year round and don't follow campus or school district schedules. Most parents need to have 2-3 back-up caregivers for these instances.
- There are too few childcare options for students.
- There are very few places that I would trust with my children. I researched providers extensively and between the lack of supervision and/or cleanliness, I wouldn't have been able to leave my children. I was at the point of quitting my job when my sister offered.
- There is NOT enough childcare in Laramie - period. Being on a wait list for nearly a year is unacceptable - especially in a University community. It is also outrageously expensive - from checking that I have done - how is this affordable in a small community like Laramie?
- There is a lack of quality and little educational benefit in most child care centers. They are too expensive and there is a lack of variety and choice. Early education isn't stressed enough and there should be more options.
- There is a need for more childcare providers in Laramie.
- There is limited availability and the programs available are costly.
- There is limited quality childcare in Laramie. We would have preferred to use the UW facility, but i) we could not get in ii) hours of operation are limited.
- There is no agency in the Laramie area to help parents or other caregivers to help in the search for child care. There should be a clearinghouse set up for parents and caregivers to

do the footwork for them. The state of Wyoming or the University should fund a program like Child Care Information Services as in other states.

- There is not enough available and you have to take what you can find. It is too expensive when they are caring for a 6-12 year old.
- There is very little flexibility in care if you want a quality place you have to pay full time. This is difficult as two student parents and there are very little resources available to graduate students to help. It seems there are more financial resources for undergraduates. I am currently trying to find a job before receiving my graduate degree because we can no longer afford \$1000/mo. for childcare and healthcare for our toddler on two student stipends. Also, I wish the nutrition programs emphasized freshly made foods versus processed foods.
- There were no childcare facilities available. We waited for 6 months to get into basic beginning but my daughter was very seriously ill after one week. We had to bring her home. We waited for two years for ECEC. Whenever the kid was sick, there was no support for the childcare. When my daughter was young, we had to rely on babysitters, but the sitters were not very reliable. They cancelled the work sometimes whenever they had something else to do. Laramie should have more high quality day care facilities. Childcare should be as important as college education.
- These so called childcare/daycare facilities in town, exist to make money off of parents who choose to have somebody else raise their children than taking that responsibility themselves. These facilities are overcrowded, dirty and unsafe.
- Too expensive, Not geared towards older children 10-12.
- To many parents don't keep their children home when sick, not enough quality teachers.
- Too bad there are not more options.
- Too expensive and don't have half day programmer for students like (which at least reach in a range that is affordable).
- Too expensive, not enough facilities or room for all the kids in Laramie.
- Too long of a waiting list too expensive compared to the daycare providers we have talked with.
- Too many recesses during the winter. it is too cold outside for some kids.
- Too much money.
- Trying to get a spot at a quality center that works with our schedules.
- Unavailability of the childcare facilities at UW.
- Unavailability, and lack of good preschool.
- Unfortunately our experiences are quite negative - especially with our older child. He has special needs and although we had a spot at the Early Beginnings daycare for him he was rejected because the Developmental Preschool here in Laramie conveyed to the daycare that he would require a one-on-one aid for which the Developmental Preschool would not pay for. He didn't need such a one-on-one aid in the daycares before we came to Laramie and in addition he was not properly evaluated for it (we were never notified and such an evaluation has to be done in our presence). Due to his special needs Early Beginnings was actually the only daycare that we thought he could be appropriately taken care for. With the evaluation of the Developmental Preschool it made it almost impossible to find daycare for our child. After some questioning at UW and elsewhere we were also told that our child does not get all the services he is entitled to. This prompted us to consult various advocacy agencies to get these services for our child organized. Even with the advocacy agency it took us more

than 2 months to get him these services and there are still issues that are still not resolved. We are still trying to get a proper evaluation whether he would require an one-on-one aid in a daycare setting or not. In this respect it appears to us that the UW daycare is the only real option for our child as all other daycares in Laramie appeared either inappropriate or somewhat reluctant to take our older child (Early Beginnings put us again on the waiting list since he had been rejected in January this year and we have not obtained a spot since then). We were also told that there are even fewer spots in the UW daycare this year and that daycare spots at the UW daycare are strictly given according to the placement of the waiting list irrespective if the applying child has disabilities or not. Given the situation here in Laramie that puts us severely in a disadvantage to get any daycare at all for a child with disabilities and I have quite some difficulties to see equal treatment here because the conditions are quite distorted. In this respect I would like to note that we never had such experiences before we moved to Laramie.

- Unknown. not currently using childcare.
- Unlicensed daycares and a home daycare provider that didn't feed our daughter for hours at a time. In a different home daycare our daughter had her arm broken. In yet another home daycare the provider smoked and then lied about it. It is very hard to leave our babies and not feel 100% confident in the care they receive while we are away. However, since our son has been with ECEC I come to work and know that he is safe and enjoying his day.
- Unreliable, inconvenient, inconsistent and too expensive.
- Upon arriving in Laramie, I was appalled at the lack of available openings. As a student, I thought I would have no problem enrolling my daughter at the campus facility. Unfortunately, I was basically laughed at and told it wouldn't be worth the effort to put my daughter on the waiting list. After calling around town, only one daycare had a current opening. It was disgusting! There was a dumpster and trash all around the front entrance. Around 20 children, ages ranging from newborns to about 8-years-old were crammed in the front room. Bigger kids were bullying the smaller kids, and the 'workers' just sat in rocking chairs without actively engaging the children. There were 2 very large dogs roaming the house, and it the building was dusty, musty and dark. Thankfully, my daughter's current daycare called with a last-minute opening because I couldn't in good conscience leave my daughter at Little Sprouts.
- UW Child Care center policy of offering only full-time (8 hours & 5 days/week) choice for day care. It will be good if they also accept kids on a part-time (e.g., AM only) basis.
- UW childcare facility needs to be open during hours more in line with the working hours of the parents, not the academic school term of UW students (i.e., closed in Aug. and over Christmas.).
- UW childcare has an outrageous fee and wait list and their hours are only school days. I would pay the fee for Open School instead of using UW daycare now.
- UW daycare got overpriced for most and was not structured enough.
- UW does not seem to care much about its student's needs.
- UW Early Childcare Center has an extremely long wait-list and I was surprised to see other individuals (without other children there nor associated with UW) move up the waitlist quicker than myself and others I knew. Daycare costs are also an exorbitant amount for the quality daycare centers in town.
- Very costly for a small town.
- Very expensive, likely due to the lack of available providers.

- Very frustrated that I have been on the waitlists for 6 months and will not have day care available by the time I must return to work. We do not have family here and have no other options.
- VERY limited selection of providers for infants. Only two centers had openings for an infant when I started looking. This makes it very difficult to find high quality providers in a timely fashion, especially for adopting parents that cannot plan the start of childcare with an estimated due date. With limited parental leave (practically and by policy of employers including FMLA), this puts added pressure on parents.
- Very long closures, no child care before semesters begin each year, very few options in August, had to wait 18 months before first child could get in and had to use fairly poor quality facility in the interim
- Very long waiting lists. Apart from Basic Beginnings and UW ECEC, the quality of care at group day-care facilities is unsatisfactory, sometimes even appalling.
- Wait list at ECEC.
- Waiting list for UW facility is too long. UW should work with Laramie community to improve the education quality beyond childcare to high school. This will be an important factor to attract a good faculty.
- Waiting list with UW Childcare with absolutely no communication regarding status or anything else.
- Waiting lists; cost; have more of a breakdown between part-time, three quarter time and full-time daycare.
- Waitlist. On waitlist for 2 years for UW childcare. Enrolled in school before making it to the top of the list.
- Waitlisted, communication between caregivers/teachers and parents, previous preschool-bullying by school-aged children.
- Wanted to have my child attend the university's day care but since they are not open year round, had to look elsewhere for care.
- We are at the UW Early Care and Education Center, and we have been there for quite some time (with two kids). We love the teachers and the facility, but we have not had our needs met in terms of the schedule/calendar. We have lobbied for changes; discussed this with numerous parents who have the same concern, and presented our issues to the UW ECEC administration. While they have been receptive to feedback, they have not changed their practices, citing (in my mind, bogus) concerns about food availability through catering on breaks, or student's inability to work additional hours/breaks, teacher contracts, etc. Their scheduling issues are particularly difficult immediately before school starts in the fall, and spring, when they are closed for weeks at a time. I know a few other faculty members have expressed similar concerns in their juggling of spousal schedules to prep for classes while not having care. I am grateful for Faculty Senate looking into this issue, as our efforts with Academic Affairs and the UW ECEC administration have been fruitless. I know of no other University-affiliated child care facility with such a limited calendar. Fortunately, we've had a great sitter whom we've paid well to take care of our kids over the breaks. Others are less fortunate.
- We are less happy with the mixed-age classrooms for such a young age, since learning curves are vastly widened from one year to the next. We are also dissatisfied with one teacher and hope that ECEC has more than adequate funding to continue hiring the best possible teachers. Due to having two toddlers, I am unable to make it to frequent evening events,

and I was penalized anonymously for such absences by my colleagues. I more than made up for absences with campus-wide, interdisciplinary service, which was less recognized and has caused research time to suffer. A clear policy about family responsibilities during off hours, even after clock stoppage, or about hours recognized toward university service, needs support and enforcement.

- We are not satisfied with the current teacher for our 2nd youngest child.
- We could not find adequate, let alone more than adequate, childcare in Laramie. The UW center has a very long waiting list! And it is the only center I would have used.
- We did have a very bad experience with one home daycare, which highlighted how important it was to have multiple quality care options. Also, had we not made the choice for Snowy Range Academy, the after school care situation for young grade school aged kids would have been very different.
- We did have one bad experience w/ a child care provider w/ our younger child. Provider was not patient w/ children, angry, etc... We pulled her out shortly after she started.
- We did not receive a spot for our son at the UW day care when he was young and were not happy with our child care situation from when we arrived in Laramie when he was 2 to when he was eligible to start at the Open School. Basic Beginnings was available and affordable but of very marginal quality and we felt committed to a proper day care rather than a home day care provider.
- We don't have kids so I haven't had any experience with childcare.
- We found the cost to be extremely expensive and finding a child care provider that would take a newborn child was extremely challenging. We started searching when my wife was just 2 months pregnant and we did not secure a position until after 6 months of intense searching.
- We gave tried it all it seems. Great in home daycares and not so great in home daycares. We have also had great afterschool care and not so great. It's always a gamble. I would much prefer stay home with them but it's just not an option being a single mom.
- We had a horrific licensed home day care experience (our only available option as we were on several waiting lists) where we discovered that our newborn was in grave danger from DFS violations. Thankfully this daycare is no longer in operation. Other center based daycare facilities lacked quality caregivers (those who seemed only there for the paycheck), were essentially very unclean, our child was ill constantly, yet their rates were outrageous.
- We had difficulty finding decent after-school care for our school-aged son. I had high hopes for the Rec Center, but was very disappointed when we had him enrolled there a couple years ago. At that time, at least, they were contracted with the school district to run the local Lights On program, meaning they receive federal funding to provide these services. Yet we were paying rates equal to those charged at the commercial centers. So you would think they would be well-funded and offer a quality program. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. It was more like a free-for-all in there. While a few staff members would interact with the kids, any time we picked him up we observed over half the staff chatting with each other and messing with their phones.
- We had great difficulties finding childcare when the kids were newborns, during University breaks i.e. ~2 weeks before fall semester in August, spring break, and summers.
- We have a preschool teacher who singles out our son. I have personally witnessed her yell at him. I have seen her approach a group of children all engaged in the same activity yet only

punish my son. I feel that with better training/regulation our son wouldn't be in that situation.

- We have been very dissatisfied with the availability of infant care on Laramie, both for our older child when we moved here 4 years ago, and for our new baby, born this year. For the former, we were initially forced to use a licensed in-home daycare (with care we found to be substandard), and were only saved from this when a spot opened at Basic. For our new baby, we couldn't even get a spot at Basic until he will be 6 months old. This has again forced us into a temporary non-preferred option (in-home nanny). For neither child did we ever have a chance of getting into the UW center, which would have been our first choice. I believe the lack of quality infant care on campus is a serious faculty recruitment problem for UW, and that UW should take steps to expand its center similar to the expansion to a new facility currently under way by Basic.
- We have had many interviews with home-based childcare centers that were frankly a bit scary. While these places were licensed, they all paled in comparison to our current unlicensed provider.
- We have not required child care since we have been in Laramie.
- We moved to Laramie in 2007 so that I could take a job with UW. We have 2, 5 year-old sons and we were on the wait list for 2 years. We had to go with a private daycare facility because your facility did not have enough space.
- We need more daycares.
- We went through a string of babysitters.
- We were lucky to be referred to our current provider; the licensed institutions were full, huge waiting lists, and not very helpful. The town appears to have a lot of options, in that the phonebook has lots of listings for providers, but in practice we spent some very frustrated and worried time finding appropriate care.
- We were on a several waiting lists for several years and had to scramble to find daycare during our son's first year. It seemed like we lucked into it, which shouldn't be how daycare options are decided.
- We were on several waiting lists including UW. There was no feedback, time estimates etc
- We were on the waiting list for ECEC for over 2 years (even before our son's arrival), so we feel lucky to be at ECEC. There is definitely a need for more really good daycare in Laramie. And one issue is also quality of the facilities. Other than ECEC, many of the daycare facilities seem old and run down -- or housed in sheds. They all seem well staffed, but that was an issue for us.
- We were on the waiting list of UW ECEC for more than 2 and a half years before our daughter was admitted to the facility. My impression was that before a child was of age 2, it was very extremely difficult to enter a childcare facility, let alone a good one.
- We were very fortunate. The only negative, as anyone would say, is the expense.
- We've had numerous problems with our current daycare. The most recent is the discussed issues with our daughter's health with my sister-in-law, rather than coming to us.
- Well, please help me find quality childcare after 5pm until 9pm? No I really mean it, it is not there to find - but my pharmacy school requires it.
- When I called different childcare businesses they were either full or I was not able to afford them. It was very stressful trying to find childcare. I am very worried about finding fulltime childcare for the summer months.

- When I had my youngest he was on a waiting list starting from when I was 3 weeks pregnant until he was 2 and half years old. That's 3 and half years on a waiting list!!!! During that time period he was offered a half time slot at 2 years. Availability is just terrible-particularly for infants.
- When I initially enrolled at UW, I was told by admissions that there was family housing, childcare and an elementary school on-campus. None of these services were available to me after I moved here and the waiting list for UW child care is apparently so long, that both me and my son's father have attended UW for two semester without a phone call, email or update as to our son's status on the waiting list. Resources for childcare are extremely limited in the area and it was an unattractive thought to have to change from one childcare center to another during the school year. It was also less than ideal to have all of my children attending different facilities while trying to work and attend a varying weekly class schedule. The UW childcare was less than affordable and the community college where I transferred from has much better facilities at a more affordable cost. It was definitely a big disappointment and we had to scramble the month before school started to find other options.
- When interviewing daycares I found that true quality care was very few and far between. The first licensed home daycare I considered was awful. I interviewed at another daycare, which was better and it was my only option left so we chose it. My child ended up falling out of a high chair because he was not properly buckled and out of a crib onto his head after I specifically requested not to allow him to sleep in a crib because he can climb out. On my child's last day there my husband watched our child get yanked off a step stool to the point his little head flew sideways. When my husband finally got inside, after watching that from the window, our child was on the floor crying. We pulled him from there that day. Unfortunately, this daycare is still caring for children.
- When looking at daycare's they seemed overcrowded and way to expensive.
- When looking for daycares for him to go to it was so outrageously expensive and not worth the money to send him to be neglected by the understaffed childcare facility.
- When my home daycare provider called a month before I was planning on going back to work to say she was no longer providing daycare I was frantic. My child has been on the wait list at the Early Care and education Center since I first found out I was pregnant and he still is on the wait list (more than 15 months). It was a struggle finding care for him in such a short time even though he was on numerous waitlists. Our current daycare is not convenient to UW and it is hard to go pick up the child if he is sick. Finding daycare that caters to infants is hard in Laramie and I did not realize how hard it was until I had a child.
- When my second child was 6 months old (Fall 2004) we were unable to find any childcare for him in town. Ended up having to hire someone in house for entire academic year.
- When my son was ages 2-3, there were very few options in Laramie for child care. We ended up switching him several times before we found a suitable option (he finally got potty trained and then went to Open School). Luckily the situation has improved somewhat with the UW Center opening. The main issue for us now is during summer and after school, there are few programs that are interesting and diverse. The after-school club at the Rec Center for grade school kids is crowded and boring, so my son doesn't like to go there. Alternative programs with smaller groups of kids would be worth exploring.
- When our daughter was just a small baby, we had to use a daycare in West Laramie where we live. The daycare was run by [name withheld], and she left our baby on a cold cement floor on a thin blanket all day. She never changed her and refused to feed her the milk she

required. I tried to file charges against her along with other parents, however, the County Attorney, [name withheld] would not do it. Our baby almost died because of this uncaring animal.

- When we arrived to Laramie 2 years ago, the university didn't offer any childcare support. We met at least 10 people who had been on the UW center waiting list FOREVER, and we unsuccessfully tried that as well. The university does a VERY POOR job at attending their employer's needs in terms of child care. Nobody helped us to find a solution, we have been lucky to have my older son to attend Montessori, and the younger one the Open School, but when we arrived the younger one was too little for the Open School and we struggled big time to figure out how to get a proper day care for her. In gral, I guess Laramie has an adequate offer for 4-6 year old kids, but not for younger ones.
- When we moved here, we had to delay our move for almost a year before we could find daycare for our youngest, who was 1 year old at the time. None of the daycares had space for young children. Our son has faced several situations where the staff, uniformly young college students, have been completely unable to handle his behavioral problems.
- When we tried to enroll our daughter in the UW childcare facility, at age 2, it quickly became apparent that it was ill-conceived since the childcare facility shut down on university breaks and over summer. We needed something more that would go beyond or during UW breaks since we are both faculty who work full time.
- With infant care, the waitlists can be very frustrating. In terms of UW-specific care, while I LOVE the UWECEC, the fact that they are closed on UW closure dates is absolutely frustrating! Many UW employees and students have obligations on UW closure dates that require childcare.
- With my youngest - the only place I want him to be right now is home with his father. I do not feel there is adequate daycare for children under 1 year old in Laramie. At this current time, it is cheaper for my husband to stay at home (unemployed) than it would be for him to work and put the baby in daycare - it just doesn't make sense to pay someone SO much money to watch him.
- Working nights there are times that there is not enough availability with hours of operation
- Would like to see more childcare facilities that will accommodate school age children with special needs.
- Would really like to move my son to UW childcare, but I also need childcare in the summer and over breaks due to work and military obligations.

Appendix B: Questionnaire.



Childcare Needs

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UW CHILDCARE NEEDS SURVEY, 2011

The University of Wyoming Faculty Senate has been charged with the task to identify the early childcare needs of the UW community and the extent to which they are being met. This is the purpose of this survey and your response is crucial to the success of this project. We have designed a short questionnaire, which will take up just a few minutes of your time.

The survey is completely confidential. Results will be reported only as aggregates. At no point will your individual responses be associated with your name. Your participation is voluntary. Refusal to participate will have no effect on any of the benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you have any questions about this survey you can call Mike Dorssom at the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center at 766-6183 during business hours.

This survey should be filled out only once per household. If you share childcare responsibility with another student, faculty, or staff member at UW, only one person from your household should submit a response to this survey.

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Cancel



Childcare Needs

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General Information

1. Are you...*

- Male
 Female

2. Are you faculty, staff, or a student at the University of Wyoming? (Please mark the most appropriate response.)*

- Faculty
 Staff
 Student
 Other, please specify

3. What was your household's total income before taxes in 2010? (Please include income from all sources for yourself and all other persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$25,000
 \$25,001 to \$50,000
 \$50,001 to \$75,000
 \$75,001 to \$100,000
 More than \$100,000

4. Do you have any children between the ages of 6 and 12 years old living in your household?*

- Yes
 No

5. Do you have any children age 5 years or younger, or who are not yet enrolled in Kindergarten, living in your household?*

- Yes
 No

6. If yes, do you have any concerns about your 6 to 12 year old children's childcare?

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Cancel



Childcare Needs

General Childcare

7. Please rate each of the following items on how important they are to you in terms of childcare, with 1 being "Less Important" and 5 being "Extremely Important."

	Less Important 1	2	3	4	Extremely Important 5
Quality of childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hours of operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Of the items listed above, which one is MOST important?

- Quality of childcare
- Availability of childcare
- Cost of childcare
- Hours of operation

9. How would you rate your satisfaction with the following items with regard to the childcare available to you within the UW and Laramie community? Would you say that you are...

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Quality of childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hours of operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. During what you consider a typical month, including the weekend, what is the total amount in dollars you spend for childcare? (\$9,999)

\$

11. Does your UW/Department/Unit have a policy regarding childcare?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

12. Are you satisfied with the policy (or lack of policy)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



Childcare Needs

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Youngest Child

Please fill out the following questions regarding the **YOUNGEST** child 5 years or younger, or who is not yet enrolled in Kindergarten.

13. How old is this child?

-- None --

14. What type of childcare is this child currently receiving? (Mark all that apply.)

- Childcare provider in your home
- Licensed home day care
- Unlicensed home day care
- The UW Early Care and Education Center
- Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC
- Family / friend
- Part-time preschool / nursery school
- Church- or faith-based day care
- Weekend / night child care
- None
- Other, please specify

15. What type of childcare would you MOST prefer for this child? (Mark only one response.)

- Childcare provider in your home
- Licensed home day care
- Unlicensed home day care
- The UW Early Care and Education Center
- Commercial day care center, other than UW ECEC
- Family / friend
- Part-time preschool / nursery school
- Church- or faith-based day care
- Weekend / night child care
- None
- Other, please specify

16. Is this child currently on the waiting list of a childcare facility?

- Yes
- No

17. If yes, on how many waiting lists is this child currently on?

- Not applicable, not on a waiting list
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

18. If yes, for how many months has this child been on a waiting list(s)?


19. If this child is NOT currently on a waiting list, was he/she EVER on a waiting list?

Not applicable, currently on waiting list
 Yes
 No

20. Do you have any other children, age 5 or younger, or who have not yet enrolled in Kindergarten?*

Yes
 No

[If other children age 5 or younger the same set of questions as above are asked]



Childcare Needs

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General Comments

21. Please describe any POSITIVE experiences you have had regarding childcare in the UW and Laramie community.

22. Please describe any NEGATIVE experiences you have had regarding childcare in the UW and Laramie community.