



2021

Service Snapshot



Introduction

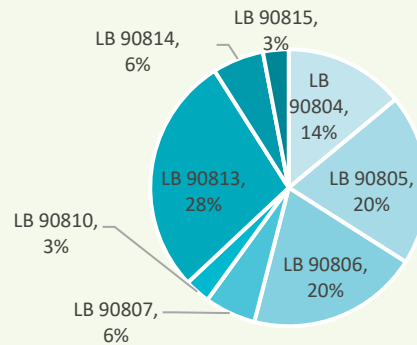
Children Today is a Long Beach non-profit organization that provides trauma-informed childcare, preschool, and family support services to help children and families who are facing homelessness or who are involved in the child welfare system find stability and success.

This service snapshot provides a bird’s eye view of the year that was 2021. We’ll share who we served, what and how we did, who we partnered with, and the ways that COVID-19 has impacted our work. We hope this document offers insight into not only the needs of the population we serve, but also how community comes together – parents/guardians, service providers, local and regional government – with the common goal of helping vulnerable young children get the best possible start in life.

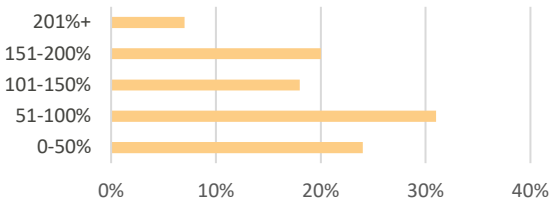
Household Demographics

Children Today provided trauma-informed childcare, preschool, and family support services to **62** children from **45** households. Of the households enrolled in 2021, half were experiencing homelessness at entry and half were involved in the child welfare system.

In 2021, 78% of households served lived in Long Beach, and the remaining 22% lived across LA and Orange counties, from Culver City to Huntington Beach. Our Long Beach families are well-represented throughout the city, with the highest concentrations living in the 90813, 90806, and 90805 zip codes.

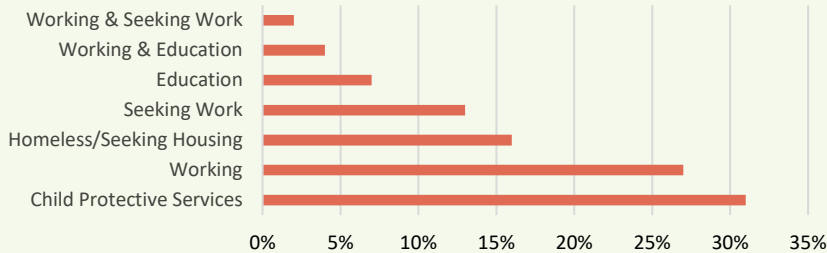


Poverty Line Status



In 2021, **55%** of households lived at or below the federal poverty guideline which, for a family of three was just \$21,960 per year. Another **18%** lived just above the poverty line.

Need for Services



Households accessed Children Today’s services in order to help them meet a variety of needs. The most common were to fulfill a care plan for children with open DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) cases who were either still in their home or had been placed in foster care, to allow parents or guardians to go to work or look for work, and to allow households who were experiencing homelessness to maintain their temporary housing or to look for permanent housing.

Services Provided

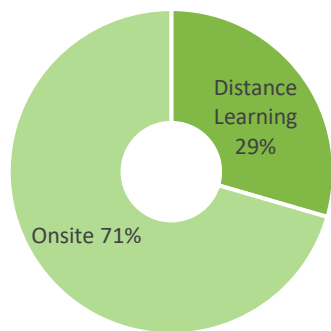
Children Today operates Eco House, a licensed childcare and preschool facility that serves 9 infants, 16 toddlers, and 32 preschoolers daily. Teachers utilize the Creative Curriculum – a widely used and respected evidence-based early childhood curriculum whose focus is on response caregiving through routines and experiences, and features exploration and discovery as a way of learning. Using the Creative Curriculum as a guide, teachers: conduct careful observations of children to understand their development, needs, and interests; create a variety of tools and teaching methods to address individual and group needs; respond appropriately and specifically to each child; and plan different interest areas to promote exploration and learning.

We offer a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack, prepared daily by our cook. Food is available for families to take home at the end of the day, should they need it. We keep a stock of new and gently used clothes, socks, and shoes, along with hygiene products, diapers, and other staples for families so they can focus their resources on housing and financial stability.

Children Today has many strategic collaborations across the greater Long Beach service community to ensure that children and families who need additional services and supports, can access them. Our partnership with Long Beach Head Start allows their staff, including nurses, dietitians, mental health consultants, behavioral interventionists, or speech therapists, to provide direct services to our clients when the need for these services arises. Similarly, our partnership within the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Program (comprised of over a dozen homeless services providers) enables us to refer clients to each other and coordinate services to make the process as smooth and seamless as possible.



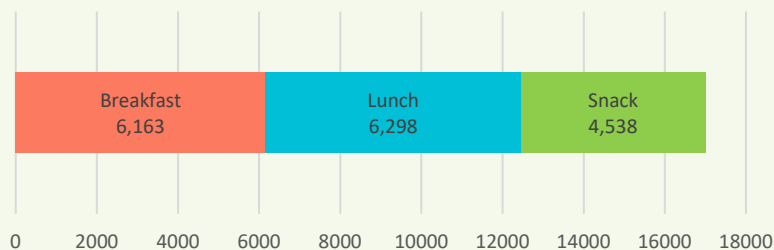
Days of Service and Distance Learning



Children Today provided **8,957** unduplicated days of service in 2021. Because of COVID-19 related class-size restrictions, 29% of those service days were offered via distance learning. Teachers set up daily online Zoom sessions for children who were learning at home. They emailed parents and guardians a weekly classroom curriculum so they could follow along with onsite instruction. Finally, they connected families to helpful digital and online resources that complemented the curriculum or addressed parent questions or concerns about their kid’s learning and development. Thankfully, class-size restrictions ended in June, and all children were able to return to Eco House by July 2021.

Meals Served in 2021

Children Today’s kitchen served **16,999** meals to the children in our care in 2021. All meals met USDA guidelines for a balanced diet and included lots of fruits and vegetables, whole-grain rich ingredients, low added sugar and fat, and high-protein.



Developmental Assessments

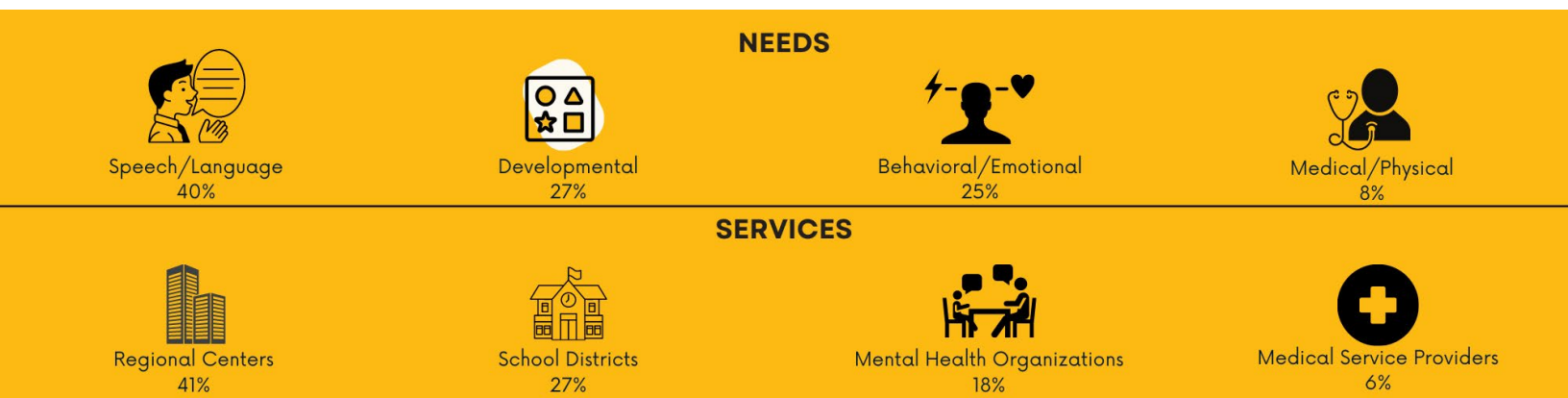
A key component of Children Today’s work is to provide appropriate, responsive care and early childhood education to guide children’s social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development. We assess children’s developmental progress using the Desired Results Developmental Profile, an early childhood assessment tool developed by the California Department of Education to measure children’s development across several domains, including approaches to learning/self-regulation, social and emotional development, language and literacy development, cognition, including math and science, physical development and health, history and social science, and visual and performing arts. Individual measures are rated along a continuum from **Responding Earlier** (expected in early infancy) to **Integrating Earlier** (expected for kindergarten-ready children). The table below shows where children assessed in 2021 fell along the ratings continuum by age group.

Age	Responding Earlier	Responding Later	Exploring Earlier	Exploring Middle	Exploring Later	Building Earlier	Building Middle	Building Later	Integrating Earlier
Early Infancy					Kinder Entry				
0-12 months		59%	38%	3%					
1-2 years			64%	7%	27%	2%			
2-3 years			26%	4%	39%	26%	5%		
3-4 years					12%	50%	27%	10%	1%
4-5 years					4%	27%	34%	28%	7%
5-6 years					2%	17%	29%	31%	21%

Additional Resources for Children and Families

Children

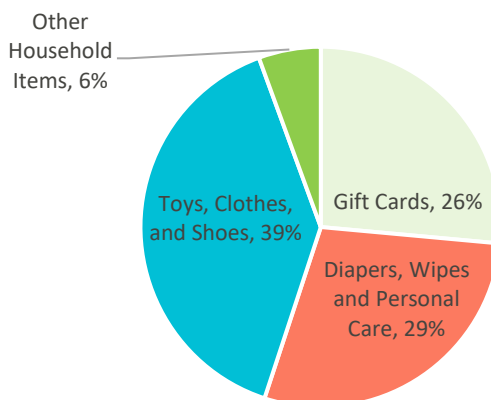
Due to higher incidences of physical, behavioral, and developmental concerns that the children we serve experience, we emphasize identifying potential problems, linking families to services, and advocating for proper interventions. In 2021, we identified **34 children** with potential concerns. Of those, **81%** had services completed or referrals in progress. Below is an infographic showcasing the most prevalent needs and the most frequently used service providers.



Families

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued unabated in 2021, the families we serve acutely felt its impacts – economically, psychologically, physically.

In response, we redoubled our efforts to ensure they had access to the resources they needed to make their lives easier. We collaborated with other nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and community members to distribute well over **\$40,000** in gift cards, personal care products, clothes, toys, and other household goods.

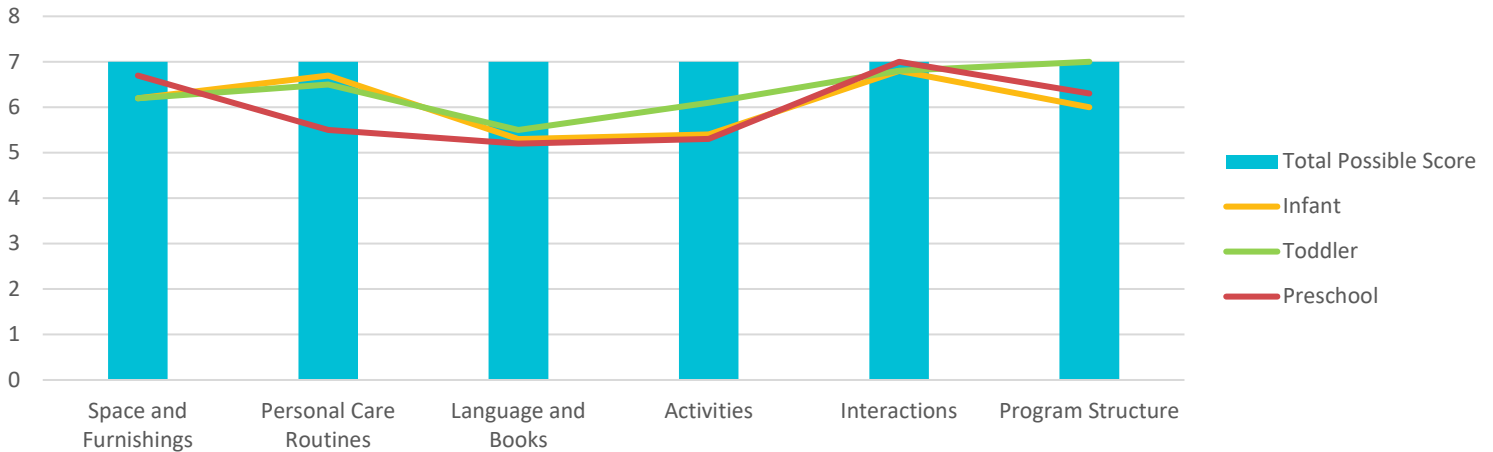


Quality Metrics

Children Today conducts environmental assessments approximately twice a year to evaluate classroom quality. We utilize the Environment Rating Scale (ERS)—a widely used research-based tool that measures whether programs are providing for children's health and safety, opportunities for children to build positive relationships, and opportunities for stimulation and learning from experience. The tool is divided into several subscales that are rated along a 7-point scale. Scores of 5.0 or higher denote high quality and scores of 4.9 or lower require a program improvement plan.

The most recent assessment occurred in November 2021 and was conducted by an outside evaluator from Long Beach Unified School District's Head Start/Early Head Start program. The chart below shows that each classroom scored 5 or higher for each assessed domain.

Environmental Assessments

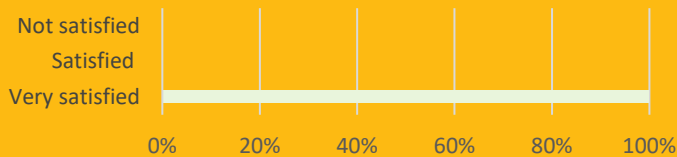


Parent Survey

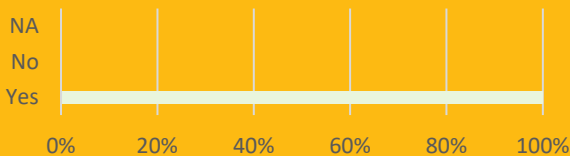
Each year, we ask parents and guardians to complete an anonymous survey to learn how they feel about our services and to help us develop continuous program improvement strategies. The survey conducted in May 2021 demonstrated that families are overwhelmingly happy and satisfied with the care their families receive.

Select Survey Questions

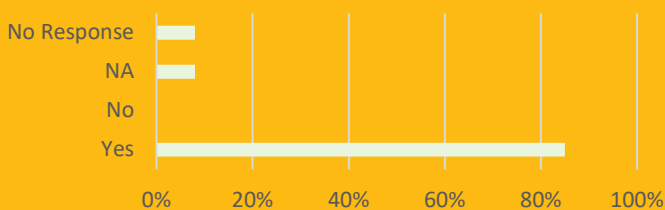
How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the program.



Do you feel your child is safe in the program?



Has your child's enrollment made it easier for you to accept or keep a job, get a better job, or attend education or training?



"This program and staff have made it possible for our family to grow and become stable after being homeless. They nurture my child and I have seen his abilities strengthen. I am so grateful!"



Eco House Kids 2021 Year in Review

Preschool Class

Favorite Activity

Painting with Paintballs

Best Toy

Magna-Tiles

Tastiest Food

Cereal, Goldfish

Song of the Year

The Encanto Soundtrack

Toddler Class

Favorite Activity

Playing with Playdough

Best Toy

Duplo Blocks

Tastiest Food

Macaroni & Cheese, Apples

Song of the Year

Baby Shark (doodoodoodoo)

Infant Class

Favorite Activity

Water Play

Best Toy

Cardboard Boxes

Tastiest Food

Spaghetti, Strawberries

Song of the Year

One Little Finger



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