



Kids & Us Community Childcare

Bluewater District School Board
Community Planning and Partnership Meeting
April 25, 2023

Current Status and Challenges

- ▶ Kids & Us operates 5 licensed childcares and 10 Kids Clubs in Bluewater Schools.
- ▶ Kids & Us is a CWELCC (Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care) participant. Since signing onto the CWELCC in 2022, the demand for childcare has increased and far exceeds current supply.
- ▶ Current supply is limited due to staff shortages of both qualified and unqualified staff, unstable/unknown funding (both CWELCC and Provincial) and physical space.
- ▶ 9 Kids & Us programs are operating below licensed capacity due to staff shortages.
- ▶ Kids & Us recognizes that some of our Kids Clubs (Before and After School Programs) are at risk due to qualified staff shortages and unstable funding.
- ▶ Communities experiencing the highest demand for childcare; Dundalk, Markdale and Durham.
- ▶ We cannot meet the current needs for childcare in our communities. Without impactful changes to funding and staffing challenges the childcare system will not succeed, let alone grow. We are not alone - we hear similar challenges across the province, and country.



Community Childcare and Family Education Centres

Current Capacities & Waitlist Data

Includes high demand communities only.

<u>Current Childcare Capacity</u> *Organization Current Licensed Capacity = 915 *Organization Current Operating Capacity = 479	<u>Current Wait List</u> *Kids & Us organization wait list total = 500+, and gets longer every day
<u>Dundalk Kids & Us and Dundalk Kids Club</u> Combined Operating Capacity - 89 Combined Licensed Capacity - 121	<u>Dundalk Kids & Us/Kids Club Wait List (151+)</u> 56 Toddlers (60% have requested Infant Care - N/A) 38 Preschoolers 57 Primary Junior School Age (includes Proton and Highpoint wait list)
<u>Markdale Kids & Us and Beavercrest Kids Club</u> Combined Operating Capacity - 66 Combined Licensed Capacity - 81	<u>Markdale Kids & Us/Kids Club Wait List</u> 70 (all ages)
<u>Durham Kids & Us and Spruceridge Kids Club</u> Combined Operating Capacity - 82 Combined Licensed Capacity - 133	<u>Durham Kids & Us/Kids Club Wait List (76+)</u> 17 Toddlers 29 Preschoolers 30 School Age

*Data for the entire Kids & Us organization.



New Projects with BWDSB

- ▶ Durham - We moved into the new Durham Childcare in May 2022. This new childcare facility expanded our toddler and preschool spaces from 20 to 39. (No additional Provincial operating funding for 19 new spaces)
- ▶ Holstein - Holstein Childcare and EarlyON is almost complete, tentative June 2023 occupancy. This new childcare and EarlyON Site will create 9 additional childcare spaces and 2 EarlyON rooms with an outdoor EarlyON space.
- ▶ Markdale - Looking ahead to the Markdale childcare at the new Beavercrest Community School. This new space will allow for 3 new childcare spaces, from our current childcare at Grey Gables.