



EARLY LEARNING
COLLABORATIVE

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Fall 2020 | Kendrick-Juliaetta Early Learning Advisory Committee



4	Overview Governing Board
5	Vision Mission Statement Data Sources
7	Kendrick - Juliaetta Facts
8	Family/Community Feedback
11	Business Feedback
13	Child Care Provider Feedback
14	Key Findings

TABLE OF CONTENTS

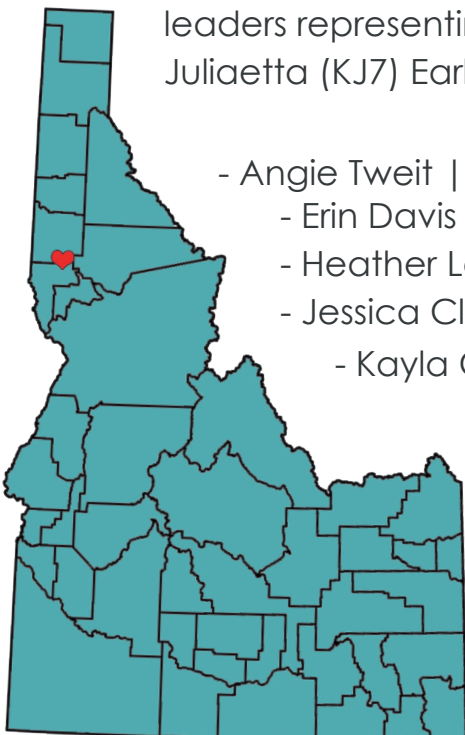
Overview

In December 2019, the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IDAEYC) was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) to analyze and augment the state's early childhood systems and family resources. IDAEYC selected Kendrick-Juliaetta as one of 16 collaboratives to carry out the work within each region. The Kendrick-Juliaetta Early Learning Collaborative collected demographic data and conducted surveys of its families, businesses and early learning programs during July and August 2020. Findings from this assessment will assist in creating both a local and state level strategic plan during the next phase of the grant to increase and expand high quality learning opportunities and resources for young children and families.

The Governing Board

The work of the local collaborative was carried out by six community leaders representing various local organizations, dubbed the Kendrick-Juliaetta (KJ7) Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC). They are:

- Angie Tweit | Juliaetta Elementary School
- Erin Davis | Juliaetta Community Library
- Heather Lee | IDAEYC
- Jessica Clemenhagen | KJ7 21st CCLC Preschool
- Kayla Collins | Kendrick Family Care - Gritman
- Valerie Lohman | River Bean Coffee



Vision Statement

We strive to nurture the future of KJ7 families and children through strong, safe, and supportive community early childhood programs.

Mission Statement

To empower KJ7 families with young children by increasing access to affordable, high quality early care and learning opportunities

Data Sources

The ELAC engaged community members, businesses, and early childhood providers through online surveys.

- [Family/Community Survey](#)
- [Business Survey](#)
- [Early Childhood Provider Survey](#)

Additional demographic statistics were gathered from the following sources:

- [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
- [2019 State of Homelessness in Idaho](#)
- [2020 Kid Counts Data Book](#)
- [Idaho State Department of Education Public Reporting](#)
- Interviews: Region 2 [Developmental Disabilities/Infant Toddler Program](#)
- [Kendrick Joint School District](#)



[Photo source](#)



[Photo source](#)

Kendrick-Juliaetta Facts

The residents of Kendrick and Juliaetta refer to their community as Kendrick, Juliaetta, and the Seven Ridges (KJ7), spanning 3 counties (Latah, Clearwater, and Nez Perce). Data collected are based on Kendrick and Juliaetta proper.

Zip Code - 83537 Kendrick, 83535 Juliaetta

Population - 975 total (2019 estimate)

Children: 0-4 years old: 61 or 6%; 5-9 years old: 30 or 3%

Family structure:

- 47% married; 14% married with children; 9% single-parent households

Race:

- 91% White (Non-Hispanic)
- 3% White (Hispanic)
- 3% American Indian and Alaska Native (Non-Hispanic)
- 2% 2% American Indian and Alaska Native (Hispanic)
- 1% Two or More Races

Languages spoken at home: 96% English, 1% Spanish, and 3% Other

Median income (2018): \$47,375

- less than \$10,000: 10%
- \$10,000–\$25,000: 15%
- \$25,001–\$40,000: 19%
- \$41,000–\$50,000: 12%
- \$50,001–\$75,000: 20%
- \$75,001 and higher: 24%

Percentage of community living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level:

-12% (2019)

Percentage of students in Juliaetta Elementary eligible for free/reduced meals:

- 44% (129 enrolled)

Percentage of children 0-17 living in poverty: (2018) 10% - poverty not defined

Number of children with developmental delays or disabilities:

- 4 children ages 0-5 receive services through the Region 2 Developmental Disabilities/Infant Toddler Program and Kendrick Joint School District

Family/Community Feedback - 91 Respondents

38% of respondents have children between the ages of birth through 5 years of age, and 63% of them rely on someone else to care for their child(ren) while at work. Of these respondents:

86%

of family/community respondents said there aren't enough child care providers in Kendrick and Juliaetta to serve the needs of young children ages birth to five

- 32% of their children are in the care of a child care professional in KJ7; 4% with a provider outside of KJ7; 59% are with a friend or family member in KJ7; and 4% are with a friend or family member outside of KJ7.

- 36% work within 1 mile from home; 5% work within 10 miles; 18% work a distance greater than 10 miles; and 41% work more than 25 miles from home.

- 81% have their child(ren) cared for by the same person(s) on a regular basis.

- 77% feel that the current availability of child care providers is inadequate to serve the needs of KJ7 children ages birth to five years.

81% believe that early childhood education and child care services are important for the community.

- 40% of all respondents feel satisfied with the quality of child care in the community.

- 36% of respondents who are currently utilizing child care services for their young children (birth to age five) report they are satisfied; of this group, 36% have children in the care of a child care provider.

- 49% say that COVID-19 has impacted the ability of families to find services for children due to safety risks, reduced number of spaces available for child care, and changes in families' financial situations. The shuttering of community programs has also decreased opportunities for young children.

Parents see the following gaps in the community's early childhood services:

- Lack of affordable, reliable child care; families report that the two main child care options fill up quickly.
- Need for more preschool/pre-kindergarten programs that allow children early access to learning
- Lack of community programs and information database for families
- More flexible child care options needed (after school, drop-in, extended hours)

When asked what the community can do to better support our young children and their families, the top two answers given are requests for more affordable child care (36%) and an increase in child care opportunities (24%).

- Child care is reported by participants as the third most important community service for families with children ages 5 and younger.
- Library 84%, Parks/Nature Center 76%, **Child Care 68%**, Rec/Community Center, and Early Intervention 44% (tied), School District 40%





Business Feedback - 11 Respondents

13%

OF BUSINESS
RESPONDENTS
ARE SATISFIED WITH
THE QUALITY OF
CHILD CARE IN
GARDEN CITY

73% believe that child care is an important component for the success of employees in their company.

- 64% say that employee performance can be or is negatively impacted due to child care issues though only 27% of company employees are reportedly missing days of work due to child care issues.

- 82% feel that the available services provide quality care or meet the needs of employee families.

- None of the companies surveyed provides any type of financial assistance for families needing child care services.

55% believe that support of early childhood education and child care services strengthens the current workforce and develops a competent future workforce.

- 64% do not view investment in early childhood education as a waste of money.

36% believe that there are adequate child care services available in the KJ7 community.



Child Care Provider Feedback - 4 Respondents

The options for child care are limited in the KJ7 community. Two main child care providers offer care for children on a full time basis with a before/after school care facility supports school aged children five years and older. One of the two child care providers declined to participate in this survey, and only her business model is listed here. Only one provider takes infants at this time. One child care provider recently closed her program permanently. A preschool provides part-time classes. [Detailed survey results can be found here.](#)

Description of child care programs

Business model

- Home-based full-time child care (M-F): 2 (with one now permanently closed)
- School-based before/after school care for school-aged children (M-F 7am-8am; M-Th 3pm-5:30pm): 1
- Center-based preschool (M-Th, half day): 1

Licensure

- No programs licensed by the state; one is in the process of becoming licensed
- 2 would like to become licensed but need support
- None is accredited by a national early childhood accreditation system

Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- No programs certified to serve families participating in ICCP
- 1 participant in CACFP

IdahoSTARS Steps to Quality

- 1 participating at Level 1

Educators' hourly wage: \$8-\$20/hr

Level of education: varies from HS degree to Masters degree

Children served:

- 23 children total, birth through age 5
- 1 language spoken: English
- 48% would qualify for ICCP if providers participated
- One program which used to serve 14 total children is permanently closed (not included in total count)

Challenges facing providers:

- Finding high quality staff
- Challenges in licensure; mentoring and substitute support welcomed
- Space
- Funding
- Keeping a full enrollment during the pandemic and limited revenue
- Providing updated learning materials to keep current
- Inadequate help to provide transportation to and from the preschool program

Key Findings

KJ7 survey respondents across all groups indicated that families need greater access to affordable high quality early care and education opportunities. Business respondents reported that early childhood education and child care services are an important component for success of their employees which strengthen the current workforce and develop a competent future workforce. Child care providers stated that they struggle with the dip in enrollment due to COVID-19. They also spoke of the challenge of finding and retaining quality teachers. While no program is licensed, providers are willing to become licensed or explore licensure but require additional support to do so. The majority of family/community respondents currently accessing child care feel that the current availability of child care providers is inadequate to serve the needs of KJ7 children ages birth to five years, with more than half of families turning to a family member or friend to care for their child(ren). With the sharp decrease in community activities for families, respondents reported a desire to have more early educational opportunities above and beyond routine care; this points to a need for a more integrated high quality care and education to meet families' needs.

