



ECCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Presents

“The State of Early Childhood in Southington”

May 28, 2026

Joanne Kelleher, Executive Director
www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

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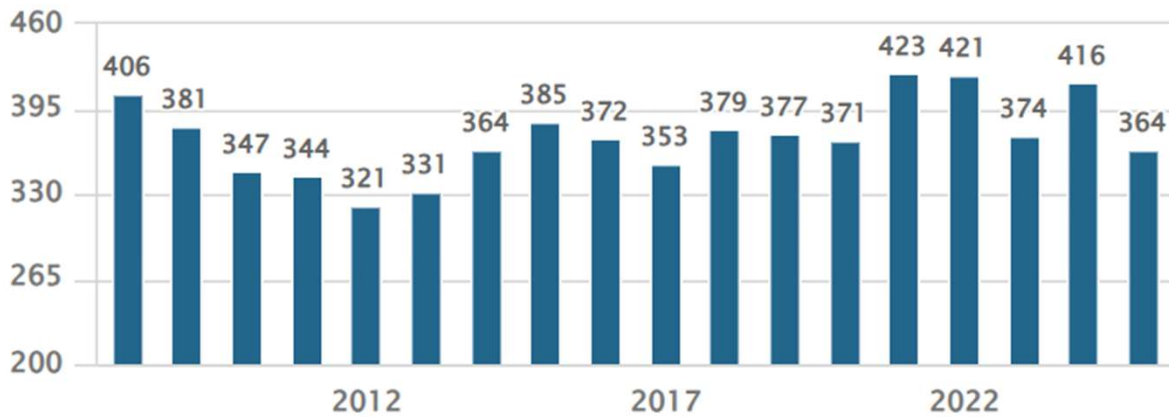
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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Data updates
- Local Needs Assessment and Caregiver Survey
- LNA Feedback
- Community Conversation

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How Many Young Children Are There? Babies Born to Southington Families



Source: Town Clerk's Office



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End of Waiver to Kindergarten Start Age

- Children must be age 5 by September 1 to start Kindergarten (previously by January 1).
- Students entering Fall 2026 were last to be offered screening for waiver to start age.
- Cut off age to start PreK not changed by OEC but programs could change their own cut-off.
- Estimated 120 Southington students born in fall.



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Licensed Childcare Centers

	# Centers	Total capacity	Under 3
May 2022	11 (9 for under 3)	1006	438
2024	Two new centers		Toddler ratio changed
May 2025	13 (11 for under 3)	1175	499
2026	1 center closed 1 center opened in same space	Goddard Academy under construction (+160)	

Year-round, full day programs.



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Family Childcare Providers

<u>Date</u>	<u># licensed</u>	<u>I/T/PreK spaces</u>
2016	30	180
May 2024	23	138
May 2025	20	120
May 2026	19*	114

* One retiring in October 2026. One may need to close due to high costs.

Women-owned small businesses owned run out of their homes. Licensed, registered and inspected. Must meet training requirements.

Limited to 2 infants and up to 6 pre-school age, plus school age



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PreK/Nursery Schools

- 3 years {
 - Southington Public School Integrated Preschool
 - Special Education students (CT requirement)
 - Community peers
 - Zion Lutheran Nursery School
 - YMCA Nursery School
- 2 years {
 - Village Green Nursery School
 - St Luke Catholic School
 - Central Christian Academy



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Summer and Before/After School

Summer: 5 licensed youth camps, plus part day programs.

Camp Korp

Camp Sloper

Camp Naciwonki

Fast Camp

Leadership Martial Arts

School age: Licensed YMCA before/after sites plus LMA, 1 center and some family childcare providers

List at <http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/resources>



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Early Start CT and Local Governance Partner


www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/

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Early Start CT's Goals and System

Early Start CT System Goals


Empower families and amplify parent voice	Strengthen system collaboration and a shared vision
	<p data-bbox="732 1402 894 1428">LGP Intermediary</p> <p data-bbox="792 1436 834 1457">LGPs</p> <p data-bbox="769 1482 857 1503">Providers</p> <p data-bbox="769 1528 857 1587">Children and Families</p>
 <p data-bbox="402 1728 639 1753">Promote best practices</p>	 <p data-bbox="829 1728 1094 1753">Improve equitable access</p>

 Office of Early Childhood

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PRELIMINARY
DRAFT

Working towards our “north star”


 **OEC Vision Statement:** All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning, and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child’s life and have the skills, knowledge, support, and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

Early Start CT Local Governance Partners

- **Local Governance Partners** help to best **respond to diverse needs of their communities**
- Will use data to assess community needs and enable **data-informed decision-making**
- **Connect the OEC and local communities** to ensure **aligned goals and feedback loops** exist

BRP Goals


- Workforce
- Equitable and affordable access
- Systems
- Funding

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2026 State Legislative Updates

- Early Childhood Education Endowment
 - Minimum deposit: \$300 million by end of June
 - Still needs another deposit of \$400 to \$450 million in 2027 to fund the Early Start Rate increase and expansion.
- Care4Kids
 - No additional funds to address the waitlist
 - Changes to C4K processing to reduce paperwork burden

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Local Governance Partner

- **Fiduciary** – signs contract with LGP Intermediary and distributes funds - *Community Foundation of Greater New Britain with support from ECCS Board of Directors*
- **Liaison** – coordinates and assists the efforts of the LGP to deliver services and activities, supervise the Parent Ambassador(s), and visit Early Start CT programs to support and enhance quality and compliance – *Joanne and other staff*
- **Parent Ambassador** – spreads the word about the programs and services provided within each community and engages parents and caregivers in designing and implementing the LGP work – *Angelica and Jessica*



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Local Governance Partner

- **Community Table** – a body made up of community stakeholders who are committed to working towards a vision that all young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning, and thriving. The LGP Community Table is responsible for engaging parents, offering training and technical assistance opportunities to local early childhood providers, and conducting a data driven needs assessment and community plan, with the guidance of the LGP Intermediary and OEC.



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Early Start CT Timeline

- Spring 2026: ECCS conducts Community Needs Assessment
- Summer-Fall 2026: ECCS creates Community Plan
- June 2026-June 2027: ECCS will receive funding to do Quality Enhancement activities
- Fall 2026: Competitive state-wide RFP process for State-funded Early Start childcare slots effective July 2027
 - Will SPS apply for PreK slots in this or future cycles?
 - Will other providers apply?



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Local Needs Assessment

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Local Needs Assessment

- Received framework and publicly available data
- Parent/caregiver survey completed
- Provider survey underway
- Report due June 30, 2026



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LNA Framework

- Children and Family Characteristics
- Child and Family Basic Needs, Health, and Well-Being
- Additional Supports for Children and Families
- Availability and Affordability of Early Care and Education
- LGP Structure
- Strengths and Gaps
- Focus Areas



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Results from Parent Survey

Use Post-Its to record your thoughts.

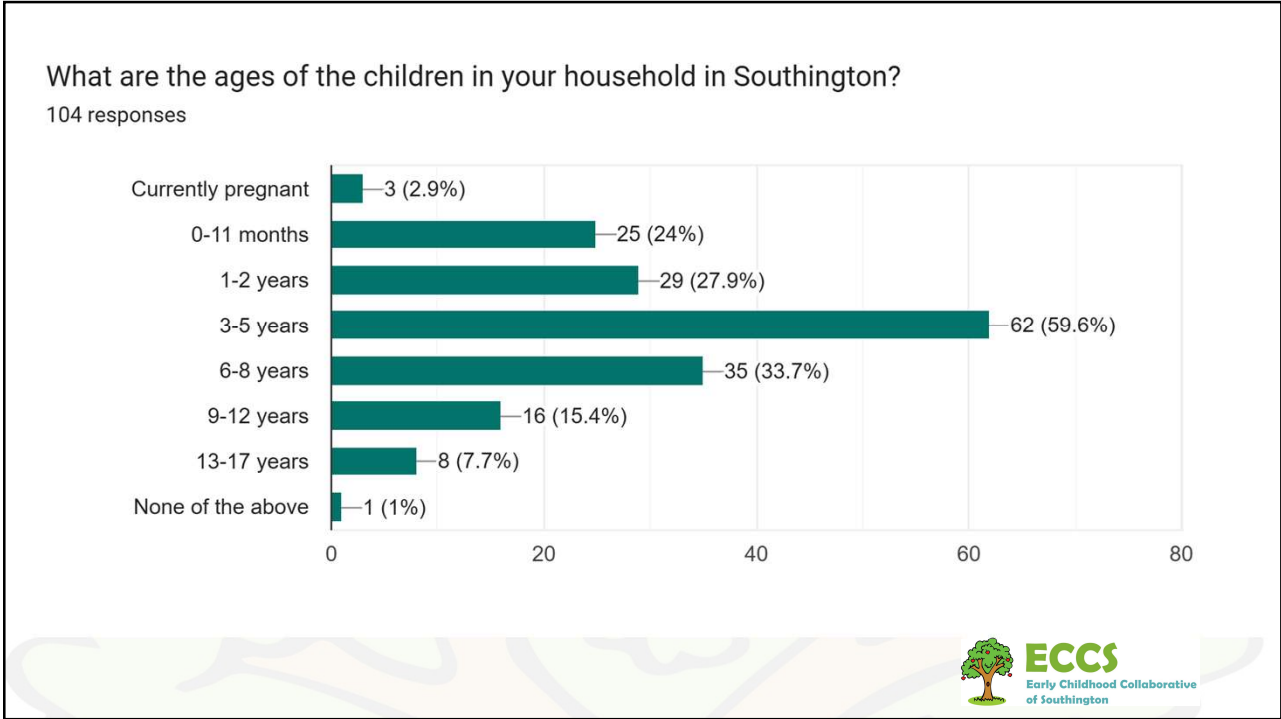
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Parent Survey

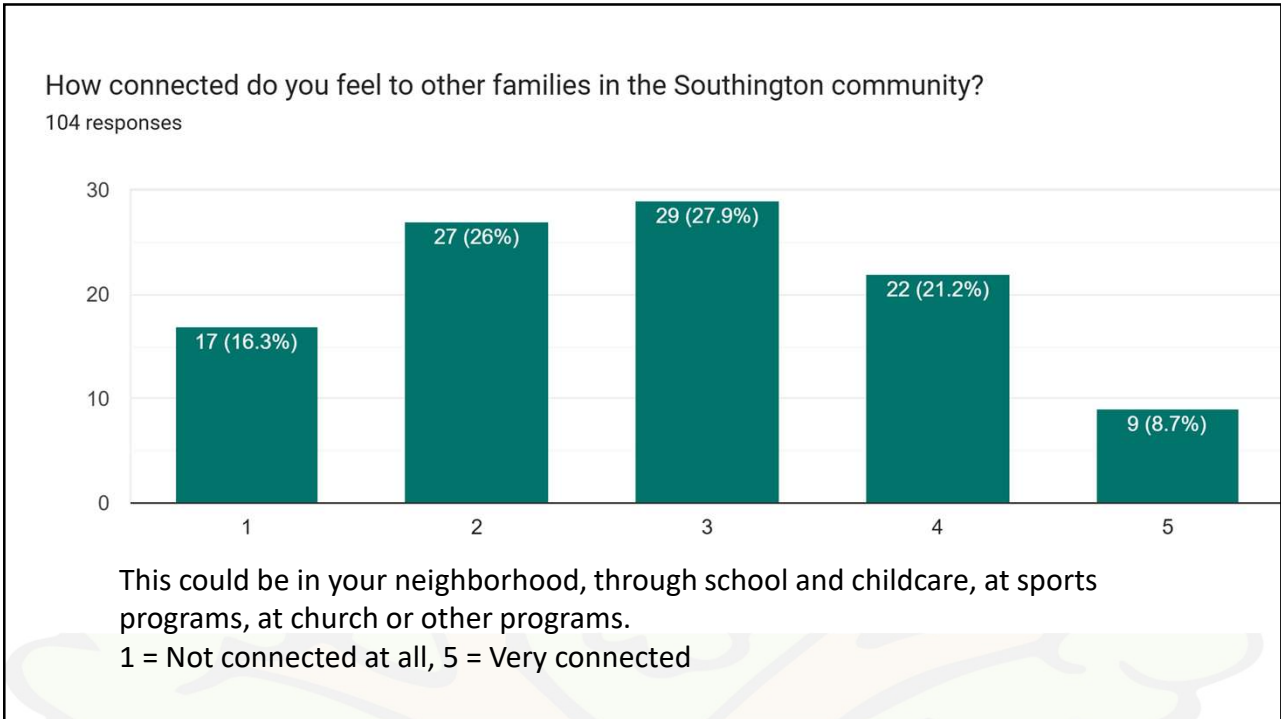
- Open May 5 to May 25, 2026
- 104 responses
- Categories:
 - Basic info
 - Healthcare and Support Services
 - Screen Usage
 - Education
 - Employment and Childcare Needs



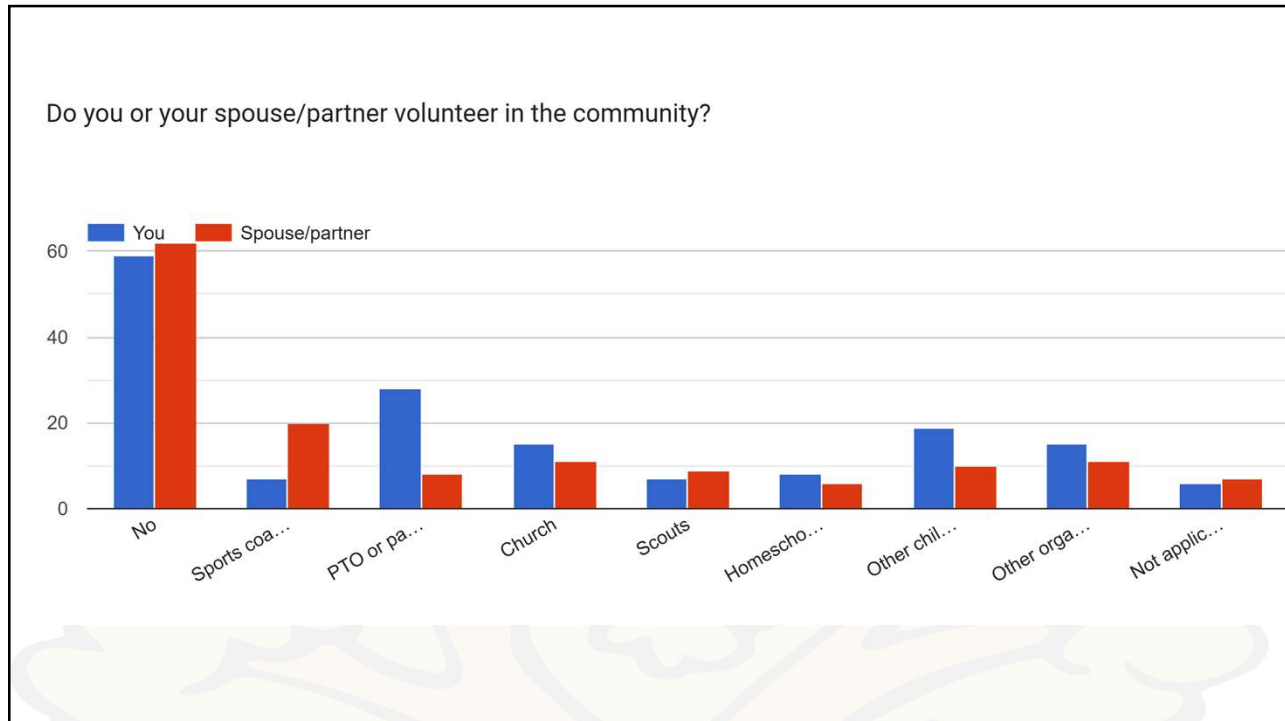
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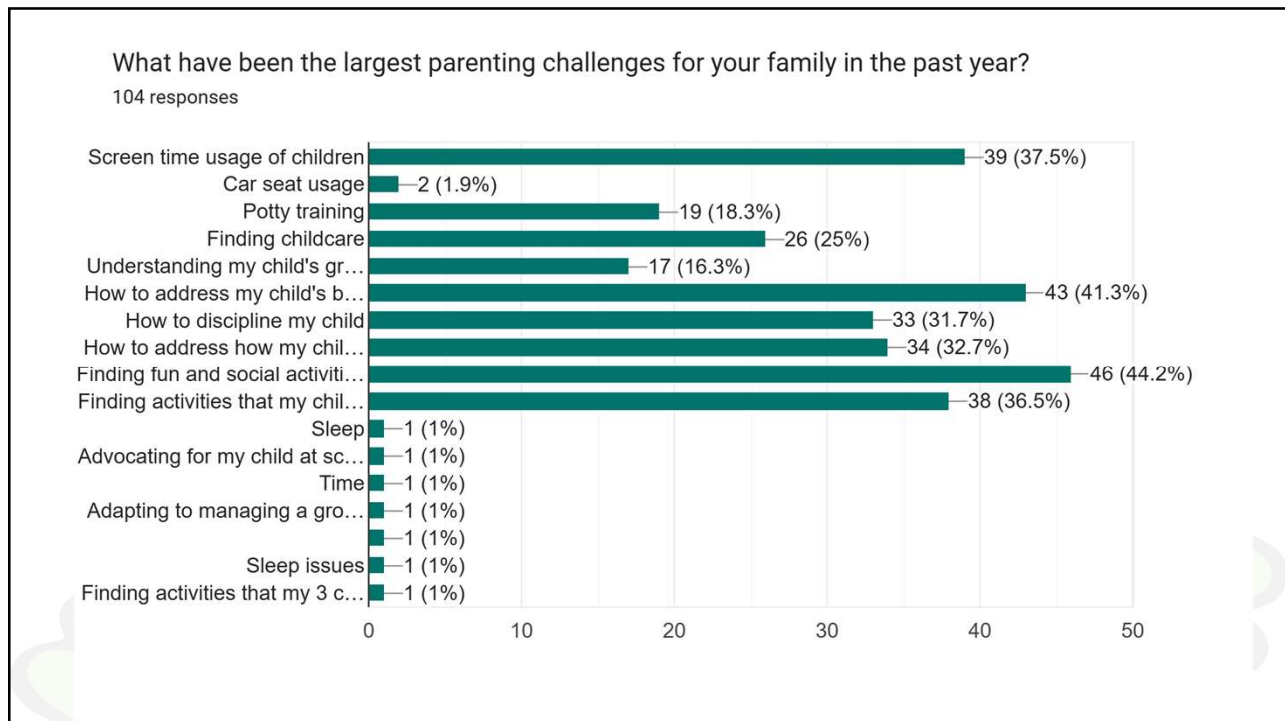
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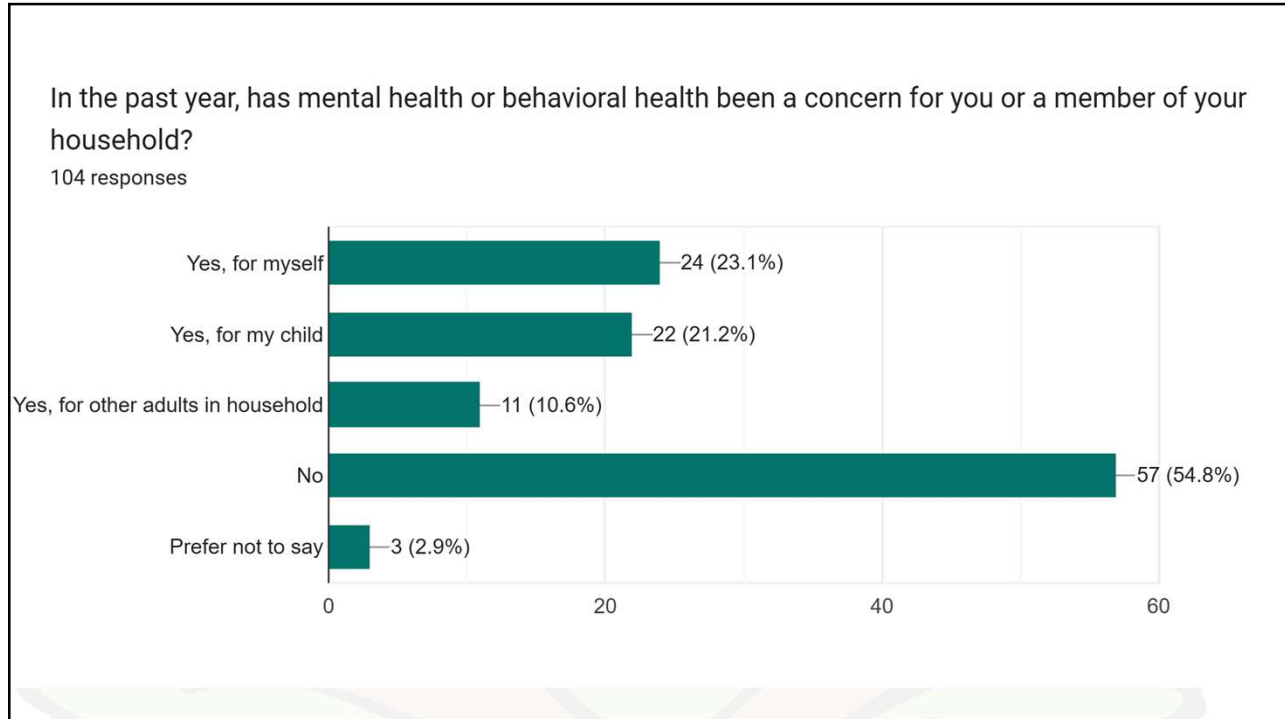
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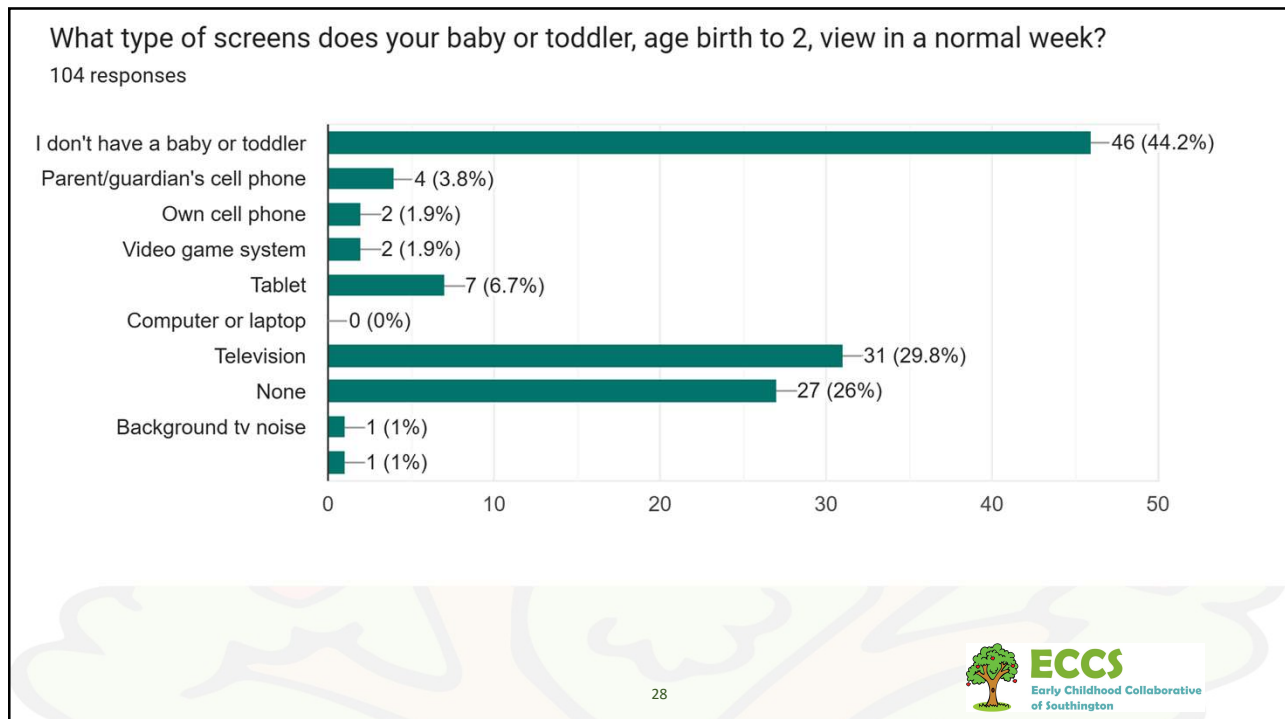
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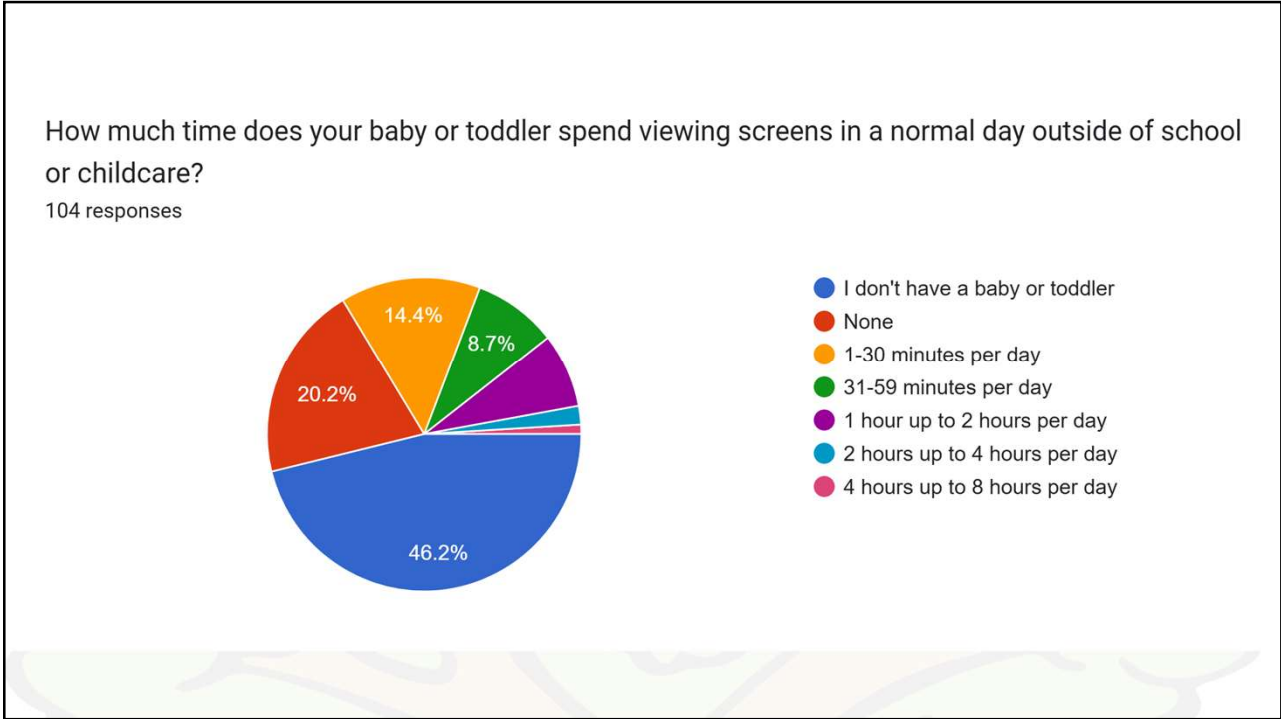
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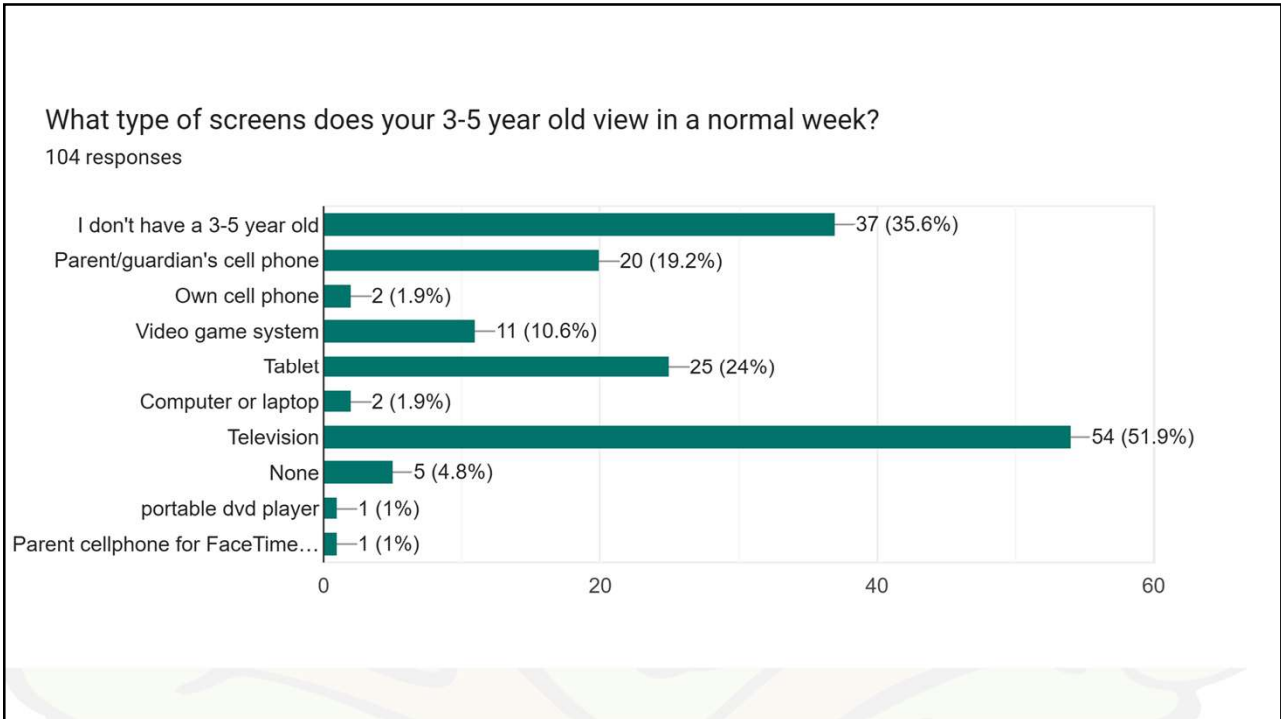
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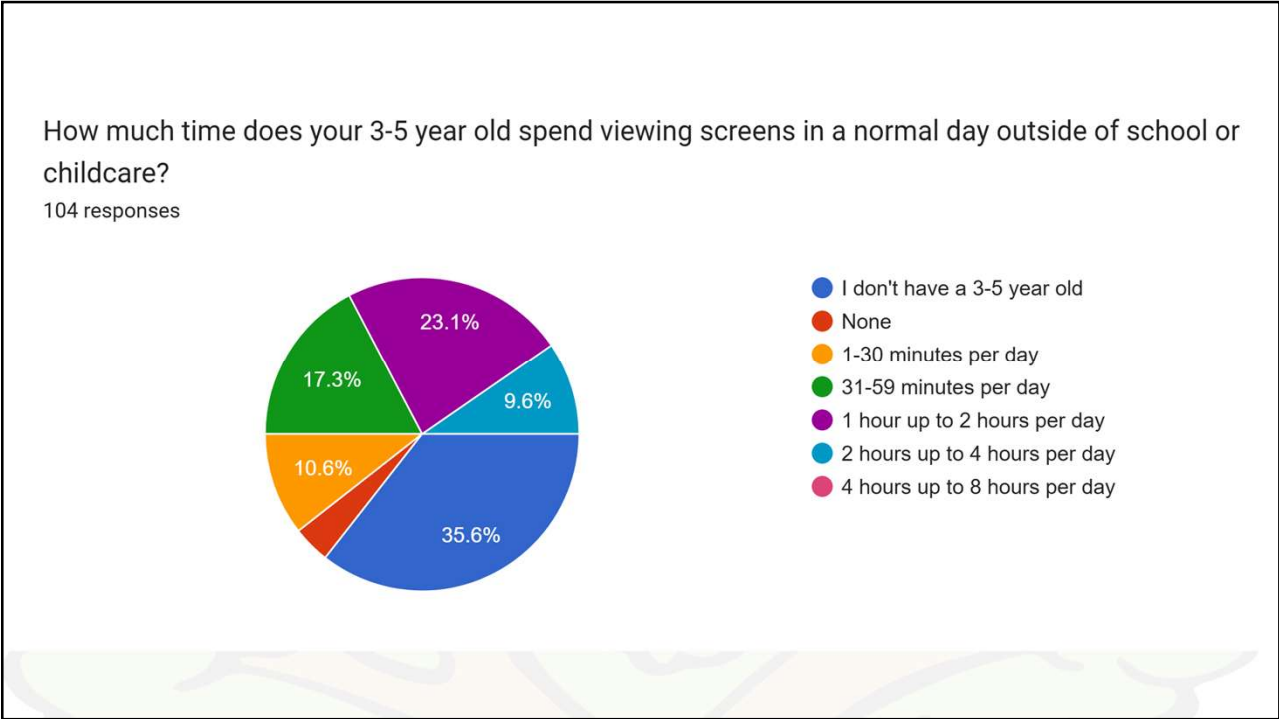
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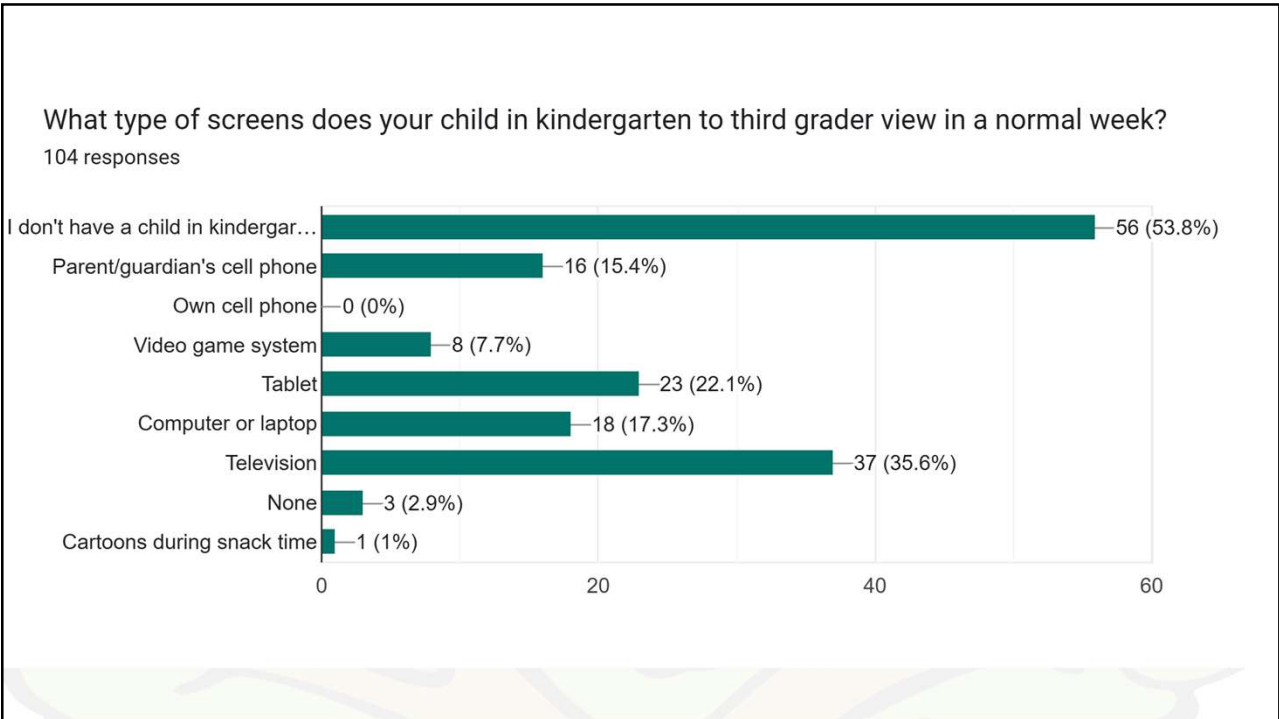
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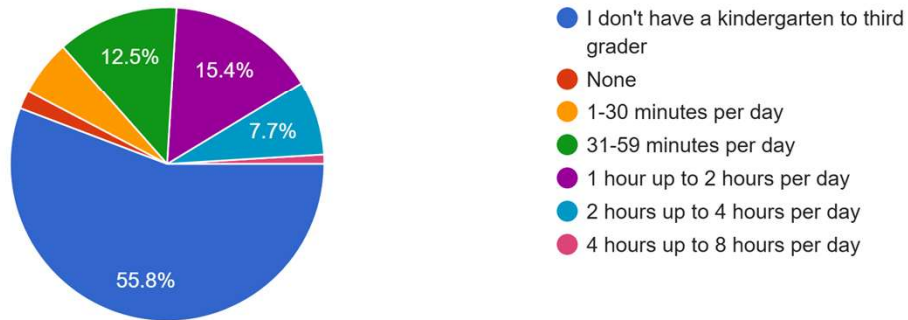
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How much time does your kindergarten to third grader spend viewing screens in a normal day outside of school or childcare?

104 responses



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Support the ECCS

- Volunteer for Community Table or Board
- Help with Community Needs Assessment
- Tell a young family or make referral
- Make a Donation
- Follow, Like, Share Us on Social Media
- Attend Workshops, Events or Fundraisers -
www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/events/



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Questions?

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