

DESCRIPTION

Licensed family-based child care makes up the majority of child care providers in Minnesota. With the growing number of families who speak a language other than English at home, it is becoming more important for services, especially child care, to become linguistically diverse.

HOW ARE WE DOING

Parent Aware, a child care rating system administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, conducts a survey of child care providers in Minnesota. In the 2017 survey, participating providers were asked “What languages do you or your helper speak fluently?” The majority of family child care providers in Minnesota (97 percent) spoke English. The other languages most spoken included Spanish, Somali and Hmong.¹ Altogether, providers speaking languages other than English only made up about 3 percent of all family child care providers in Minnesota. In the seven county metro area, this percentage triples with 9 percent of family child care providers reporting that they speak languages other than, or in addition to English.

DISPARITIES

Families who do not primarily speak English at home are more likely to use family members for child care who may not be licensed. Some parents equate lack of recognition for their language as a lack of respect for their culture. Although unintended by providers, parents may feel rejected and may isolate themselves further.² A 2016 survey of child care providers in Minnesota identified a great need for cultural diversity training, and a desire for easier communication with parents.³

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Ramsey County Child Care Licensing welcomes providers from diverse language backgrounds to serve families who speak languages other than English. We collaborate with ThinkSmall because they have connections in the community that are trained to work with these providers. Ramsey County CCL staff is from diverse backgrounds and collectively speak several languages including but not limited to Spanish, Hmong, and East African Languages. Ramsey County also has interpreters’ services in several languages. Please call our intake Social Worker at (651) 266-4166 if you speak any language other than English and would like to become a Licensed Child Care Provider.

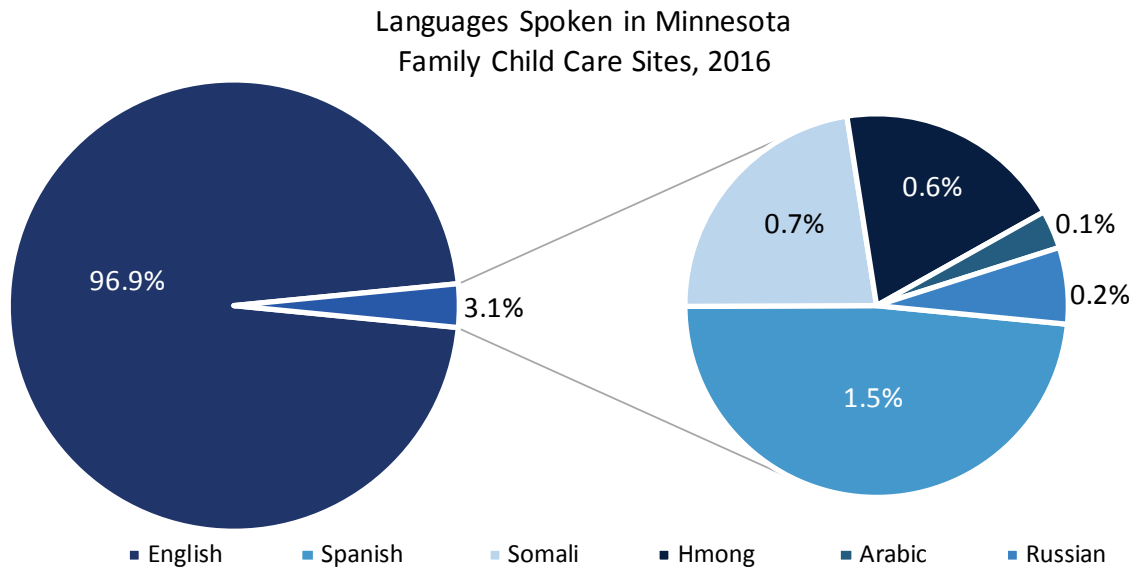
Information to note

- The most common languages spoken in child care facilities (other than English) were Spanish, Somali and Hmong.
- Family based child care providers speaking languages other than English only made up about 3 percent of providers in Minnesota and 9 percent in the metro area which does not adequately meet the needs of Ramsey County parents.

¹ Diversity of child care programs participating in Parent Aware: An equity lens. Minnesota Department of Human Services Web site. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-7086Ca-ENG>. Accessed July 20, 2017.

² Lee, L. Working with Non-English-Speaking Families. Teaching For Change. 2012. http://www.teachingforchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ec_nonenglishspeakingfamilies_english.pdf. Accessed July 20, 2017.

³ An Important Partnership in Child Development: Child Care Providers and Screening Programs. Minnesota Department of Health Web site. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/topic/devscreening/content/document/pdf/childcaresurveyrpt.pdf>. Accessed July 20, 2017.



Source: Diversity of child care programs participating in Parent Aware: An equity lens.⁴

⁴Diversity of child care programs participating in Parent Aware: An equity lens. Minnesota Department of Human Services Web site. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7086Ca-ENG>. Accessed July 20, 2017.