



Child Care, Agriculture, and Rural Communities

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Appleseed Childhood Education
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Appleseed Childhood Education

- Mission: Increase the availability of affordable, quality child care in Jasper County.
- 501(c)3 nonprofit formed in 2020
- Opened Appletree Rensselaer in March 2023
 - 70 seat, high-quality child care center for children 6 weeks to five years old
 - Only licenced child care center in Rensselaer (population 5,700)



Child Care: Constraints

- Child care in Indiana and the United States is viewed as a market good.
- Market is very efficient.
- Demand for child care is higher than child care supply.
 - Cost to create and maintain child care seat is ~\$18,000/seat/year
- However, there are valuable externalities and spillover effects that are unvalued in market structure.



Child Care: Business P/L

- Profit and Loss Statement for child care business:

Revenue: Fees from parents

Expenses: \$18,000 per child, per year

- 80% is labor
- Educators paid \$10-15/hr, usually with no benefits

P/L Breakeven: \$18,000 per seat.



Rural Viability and Child Care

- Rural communities have a demographic problem.
- How to attract young families?
 - Housing
 - Employment opportunities
 - Access to healthcare
 - Broadband
 - Child care access
- **Child care is infrastructure for modern rural communities.**



Agriculture and Child Care

- Agriculture has a labor force problem.
- 52% of agriculture sector jobs in non-urban counties are held by 19-44 year olds.
 - Employees miss, on average, 13 days/year due to child care lapses.
- 27% of agricultural sector jobs in non-urban counties are held by 55+ year olds.
 - Demographic and talent attraction issue.

Source: EMSI Burning Glass, 2022.



Agriculture and Child Care

- 74% of farm families experienced child care challenges in the past five years.
- 48% of farm families state that access to affordable child care is important to the economic viability of the farm business.
- 76% of farm families believe that farm organizations should represent their needs in national child care policy discussions.
- **Child care is infrastructure for the future of agriculture.**

Source: Becot, F.A., Inwood, S.M. Children needs and childcare: an illustration of how underappreciated social and economic needs shape the farm enterprise. *Agric Hum Values* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-024-10594-z>



Child Care Policy in Indiana

- No state or federal funding streams exist to
 - Build child care capacity
 - Financially support existing child care operations
- State of Indiana allocated \$62mm annually to child care in last budget
 - Licensing and regulations
 - Vouchers for low-income families
 - On My Way Pre-K pilot program
- State of Indiana allocated \$55mm annually to Westville Correctional Facility



Child Care in Rural Communities: Challenges

- A for-profit business model for rural child care does not exist.
 - Breakeven is higher than what median incomes in rural area can sustain.
 - How to fund operational loss?
- Operational expertise - who can effectively operate a child care center?
- Facility - where?
- Public-private partnerships housed within a 501(c)3 nonprofit is a viable model.



Child Care in Rural Communities: Appleseed

- Operator partner - Right Steps Child Development Centers
- Facility partner - Franciscan Health
- Local financial investment for facility renovations and ongoing operations - public-private partnership
 - Local Employers - over 30 local employers
 - Local Government - Jasper County of City of Rensselaer
 - Local Philanthropy - Jasper Newton Foundation and local donors



Child Care in Rural Communities: Cost

	Total	Per seat (70 seat center)
Renovations and Start-up Costs	\$1,500,000	\$21,428
Annual Loss from Operations	\$300,000	\$4,285
Total Funding needed: 10 years	\$4,500,000	\$64,285



How To Help

Donate to Appleseed through the Jasper Newton Foundation

<https://www.jaspernewtonfoundation.org/givenow/appleseed-childhood-education-inc/>

Spread the word!

<https://www.appleseed.gives/>

<https://www.facebook.com/appleseedchildhoodeducation>



How To Help: Your community

- Local: Odds are there is a grassroots child care initiative in your place.
 - Find them.
 - They probably need money or your expertise.
- State: Bring importance to attention of state legislators.

Contact

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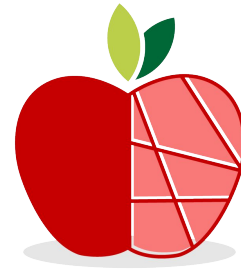
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