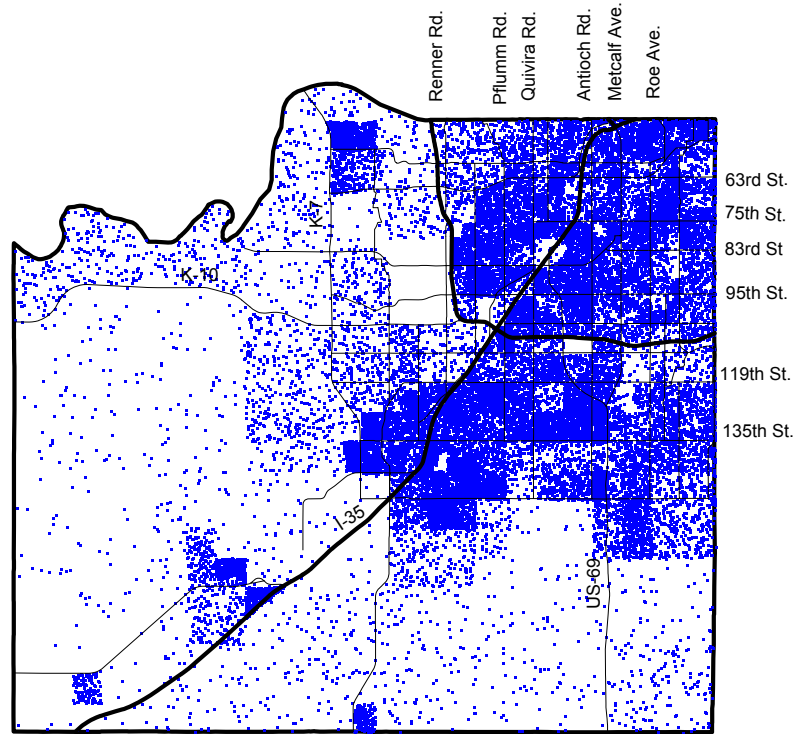


### YOUNG CHILDREN IN JOHNSON COUNTY

Early childhood is a critical time to lay the foundation for school and later life success. Investment in quality early learning programs and supports for families contributes to overall community well-being in many ways. Families who feel confident about the services their children receive are more productive on the job. And, young children gain the pre-literacy, math and social skills they need to succeed.

#### KEY FACTS

- 33,641 children under age five live in Johnson County, a 20% increase over 1990. The number of children younger than five decreased in 79 out of Kansas' 105 counties from 1990 – 2000.
- An estimated one out of five of these young Johnson County children arrives at school without the skills they need to succeed.
- The majority of young children spend at least 30 hours per week in some form of non-parental care. 43% of children with a stay-at-home parent attend an early learning program on a regular basis.
- Three out of five children under age six live in households where all parents in the family work.
- Infant care costs the average family \$8,268 per year or 13% of the 2002 median household income (\$63,378) in Johnson County. Early care costs are second only to the mortgage payment in the average family budget.
- Nearly one out of every ten Johnson County children under age five lives in families at or below the poverty level. For these households, child care costs can comprise 25-50% of the family budget for only one child.



**Johnson County Children Under Age 5**

	1990	2000	% Change 1990 – 2000
Under Age 1	5,038	6,681	+33%
1 & 2 Years	11,626	13,372	+15%
3 & 4 Years	11,385	13,588	+19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,049</b>	<b>33,641</b>	<b>+20%</b>

Sources: Metropolitan Council on Early Learning's *The Status of Early Learning in the Greater Kansas City Area, 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census.*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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