



# Supporting Early Learning Facilities

A brief for **Faith-Based Organizations** prepared by Build Up for San Mateo County's Children, a new initiative growing and improving the supply of early education and care



San Mateo County has a **shortfall of 19,000 child care, preschool, and after school spaces**, directly impacting children's early education and families economic opportunities. By 2025, this shortage is expected to rise by 27%.

Faith-based organizations can play a critical role in closing the opportunity gap for San Mateo County's children. By hosting early education programs at their facilities, faith-based communities can help local children and families thrive while strengthening their congregations' ability to flourish.



## Early Learning and Care Helps Children Reach their Potential

Children who have access to a high-quality preschool education are **more likely to excel in school, attend college, and exhibit lifelong initiative and persistence**, and are less likely to become teen parents, suffer from chronic disease and participate in criminal behavior. By expanding access to early learning and care, faith-based organizations can take part in shifting outcomes for our community's youngest members, especially those in need.

## San Mateo County Needs the Help of Faith-Based Organizations to Solve the Crisis

Among the primary drivers of the shortage of high-quality early learning and care spaces is the lack of facility space. The good news is that **many faith-based organizations have a resource they can share: facility space with ample parking and weekday availability.**

## A Win-Win for Faith-Based Communities

- A flourishing preschool **connects local families to the faith-based community** and opportunities to serve and belong
- Partnership with an independent preschool operator provides **sustainable funding** to faith-based hosts
- The faith-based organization will **connect with and support children during a critical time** in their development

## Basic Facility Requirements for an Early Learning Program

- At least 35 square feet of indoor play space per child (50 square feet is considered high quality)
- Access to 75 square feet per child of outdoor activity space (though waivers are available for programs that schedule use of the space for small groups of children)
- Access to short-term parking for child drop-off/pick-up plus one onsite parking space for each employee (close proximity to public transit may result in fewer required employee parking spaces)

## We Can Help! Partner with Build Up to Provide Opportunities for All Children

**Build Up is here to support you.** We provide technical assistance to faith-based communities to:

- Assess organizations' potential for hosting onsite early learning programs
- Assist with the permitting, licensing and renovation process to open (or expand) child care facilities
- Connect with early learning partners that can operate high-quality preschool and child care programs on faith-based sites.

## Thank you to Build Up's Seed Funders and Partners:



To learn more, visit [www.buildupsmc.com](http://www.buildupsmc.com) or contact Christine Padilla, Director, Build Up for San Mateo County's Children, 650.517.1436 or [cpadilla@sanmateo4cs.org](mailto:cpadilla@sanmateo4cs.org). Twitter/Facebook: @BuildUpSMC Instagram: TheBuildUpInitiative

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