

# Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool

## A Provider Success Story from Navajo County



### Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool

- Opened 1981
- ADHS Licensed Child Care Center
- For toddlers and school age (2-5+ years)
- Show Low, Navajo County
- Quality First: from 3-star to 5-star with improvements from this grant
- \$200,000 Grant

[ehmkepreschool.com](http://ehmkepreschool.com)

**“This grant gave me the opportunity to do things that I would not have otherwise been able to do.”** — Eve Hoskins

Since 1981, Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool has provided quality early learning to preschoolers in Show Low, Arizona. As a 5-star Quality First and nationally accredited child care center, Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool fills a critical need in their low-to-moderate income community where access to child care is limited. “Families come here from over 30 miles away,” shared Eve Hoskins, who has owned and managed the child care center since 2005.

Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool prides itself on its dedication to families and children, and after continuous operation for 42 years in the same location, the preschool was ready for improvements with a \$200,000 grant.

Like so many other early care and education providers, Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool used grant funds to improve its outdoor spaces. Eve had pergolas installed on each playground to add shade and help with the afternoon heat. She also made safety improvements including: raising the playground fence height to exceed licensing requirements and re-graveling the parking lot to ensure accessibility during winter months. But the improvement

that made everyone the happiest was the new turf and wood chips on the playground. “I was always having to till or shovel the playground sand, and the teachers were having to sweep all the time. Everything will last longer and be so much cleaner and neater.”

When Eve learned her center would receive funding, she engaged her teachers in dreaming big. “I told them, ‘Make me a wish list; I don't care what it costs. If you want it, put it down, and I will get it if I can.’” With staff who love what they do—some have worked at Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool for decades—this enhanced teacher buy-in. They asked for and Eve purchased walkie talkies to communicate between classrooms, a prefabricated storage shed to protect their library of books and toys, and new LED light fixtures in every classroom. Eve also remodeled the kitchen to make it safer to prepare healthy meals and had UV lights installed in the duct work to help kill viruses.

Eve would love to make even more improvements to her facility, but in the meantime, she's happy with the changes thus far.



## Arizona Child Care Infrastructure Grant

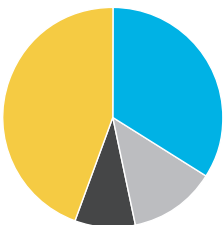
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is one the country’s largest community development organizations, helping forge vibrant, resilient communities across America. In 2022-23, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) and First Things First (FTF) awarded \$65 million to LISC Phoenix for child care infrastructure grants, training, and technical assistance. This funding came from the Child Care Stabilization Grants appropriated in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. Child care providers received nearly \$60 million to rapidly improve and expand their facilities increasing access to high-quality early childhood learning environments statewide.

The need was substantial: Arizona providers submitted 969 applications requesting more than \$176 million in funding in just two weeks. Providers from 14 of Arizona’s 15 counties applied.

Equity was a focus: Child care providers located in low-to-moderate income areas with limited access to child care were the first priority. Additional priorities included providers caring for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive child care assistance through the ADES, as well as providers with waitlists and those open nights and weekends.

Ultimately, 478 sites received grants with an average award of \$124,750.

### Statewide

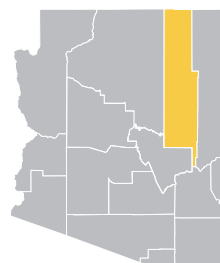


#### Grants Awarded by Provider Type

- 323 ADHS Licensed Centers received \$52,615,115
- 88 ADHS Certified Group Homes received \$4,312,397
- 63 ADES Certified Family Child Care Homes received \$1,600,000
- 4 Tribal Providers received \$1,103,048

**Total: \$59,630,560**

### Navajo County



#### Highlights

- 8 applications requesting \$1,900,000
- 10 grants awarded totaling \$1,185,000
- 46 new child care slots created
- 70% of grantees increased quality of program support spaces
- 1 in 5 grantees increased licensed capacity
- 1 in 5 grantees improved building ventilation through HVAC or air purification systems