

# EDUCATION

## Early Years



United Way of South  
Wood & Adams Counties

**GOAL: CHILDREN ARE READY TO LEARN BY THE START OF SCHOOL.**

**35% of Wood County and 44% of Adams County households are struggling** – despite most of these households earning income above the Federal Poverty Level. Working, yet unable to afford all essentials or save for emergencies, we term these households **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.**



At a cost of thousands per child each year, child care is unaffordable for many ALICE families.

For ALICE families who may not qualify for Wisconsin Shares, United Way's investment helps bridge the gap – meaning children who need it most get quality care, and parents remain in the workforce.

**6**

Families received child care aid through partner programs in 2023 and were able to stay employed as a result.

The need for child care far outpaces the number of available child care slots.

United Way's investment reduces barriers & provides resources to new programs, helps providers become regulated, and ensures training opportunities to improve safety & quality of care.

**40**

Providers received support and assistance through partner programs in 2023 to increase accessibility.

**\$8,000**  
invested in  
partner  
programs in  
2024.

**4,725**  
books mailed to children  
in south Wood County  
through Women United  
and Dolly Parton  
Imagination Library in  
2023.

**832**  
books were  
provided to children  
through Great Book  
Giveaway events in  
2024.

**100+**  
volunteers made an  
impact through Great  
Book Giveaway, Stuff  
the Bus, and the Early  
Years  
Coalition 2023.

**Brought to you by:** Early Years Coalition & Dolly Parton's Imagination Library