



“ They set you up for success and turned my ‘what-ifs’ into ‘you got this.’ ”

*- Kaitlin Bachelor
Ranch House
Early Learning*

CENTRAL OREGON SBDC SUCCESS STORY

Ranch House Early Learning

<https://www.ranchhouse.info>

Kaitlin Bachelor opened Ranch House Early Learning to serve families from Redmond, Powell Butte and Prineville. Kaitlin and her husband Kyle had long wanted to open an at-home farm school while homeschooling their three daughters on their full-time working ranch. After joining COCC’s Early Child Care Business Start Accelerator in the Fall of 2022, and thanks to ongoing, regular one-to-one SBDC business advising, Kaitlin is now busy running a fully licensed certified family child care program at her Central Oregon livestock ranch, with an emphasis on hands-on learning.

Kaitlin first focused on clarifying her hours of operation and legal entity, working through State of Oregon requirements. Her SBDC adviser provided pricing assistance, and also helped Kaitlin familiarize herself with budgeting tools and startup/operating cost calculations. Together, they defined her school’s policies & procedures, and Kaitlin developed a comprehensive parent handbook.

The SBDC worked with Kaitlin to do a financial analysis for the Ranch House, and she also completed a competitor analysis with other providers from Powell Butte, Redmond, and Prineville to compare her program pricing with the current market in her area. As Kaitlin says: *“They basically lined out what I needed to do to be successful.”*

After a lot of study and determined effort, Kaitlin successfully opened her licensed certified family child care business at her ranch. She is operating full time, Monday-Friday, 8am to 3pm, for ages 2 to 12 years old in the Powell Butte community, and is currently at full capacity. Kaitlin’s proud and well-deserved conclusion: *“I opened my doors... and it's a pretty good feeling.”*

<https://www.cocc.edu/news/one-thousand-new-child-care-spots-and-counting.aspx>