Integrating Early Childhood Research and Trends into 21st Century Practice

Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education

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Based on current research what we know now..

- Scientific evidence shows that quality preschool programs have substantial impacts on children’s early learning.
- A critical key component of preschool education is centered on the quality of meaningful interactions between teachers and children and effective use of curriculum.
- Supporting teacher’s in their implementation of instructional approaches, on how to implement content rich curricula for children through coaching or mentoring.
- Quality preschool education can benefit all children whether they be middle-class, disadvantaged, special needs or leaning English as a second language (DLL)

“Early Skills Matter” and preschool can help children build these skills.
Why Does Early Learning Matter?

Impact of early experiences via home life, community, quality of relationships, and their influence on the development and quality of the brain’s architecture.

Promoting growth across all developmental domains through quality preschool education.

*Investments in early learning pays off!*

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Brain Architecture

Image: www.brainconnection.c© 1999 Scientific Learning Corporation
Building Relationships to Support Early Learning
All children need

- Nurturance
- Support
- Security
- Predictability
- Focus
- Encouragement
- Expansion

Nurturing Early Brain Development
Short Term Impacts on School Readiness

• Rigorous evidence suggests positive short-term impacts of preschool programs on children’s academic school readiness and mixed impacts on children’s socio-emotional readiness.

A pep talk from Kid President to you.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-gQLqv9f4o&feature=em-share_video_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-gQLqv9f4o&feature=em-share_video_user)
- Published on Jan 24, 2013
Effects on Social and Emotional Development.

Children show larger gains in higher-quality preschool programs: gains sustained after child leaves preschool.
Research tells us that quality in preschool is in need of improvement. With instructional support levels particularly low.

Longstanding and recent research tells us that the average overall quality of programs is squarely in the middle range of established measures.

Solutions: A promising route to quality:
Developmentally appropriate curricula and professional development for teachers.

Coaching and Mentoring
Effective Curriculum - Positive Outcomes
Global Curriculum

- Research Based
- In alignment with state early childhood guidelines - child development domains
- Ideally linked to ongoing Assessment
- Electronic-On line
- Using Apps to document progress

Developmentally Focused Curricula
Preschool’s effects for different subgroups.

Family Income and Statistics

Race and Ethnicity

Dual Language Learners

Disabilities and Special Needs

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**Family Income**

Recent evidence suggests that high-quality preschool positively contributes to the language, literacy, and mathematics skills growth of both low- and middle-income children, but has the greatest impact on children living in or near poverty.
Race/Ethnicity

Substantial Improvements In School Readiness

Dual Language Learners and Children of Immigrant Families.

Positive impacts of preschool can be as strong or stronger for dual language learners and children of immigrants, compared with their English-speaking or native-born counterparts.
Supporting English Language Learners

Special Needs

More research is needed replicating and extending initial findings of positive effects for children with special needs.
Benefits of Quality Preschool Outweigh Costs

Do the benefits offset the considerable costs?

Benefits to individual and society.

Consistent finding identify benefits that substantially exceed preschool program costs indicates that high-quality ECD programs are among the most cost effective educational interventions and are likely to be profitable investments for society as a whole.

Conclusion of Research:
Recent analysis drawing together across decades of evaluation research now permit us to say with confidence that preschool programs have a substantial impact on early learning and development and boosts early learning from a range of backgrounds.
Nurturing the Nurturer

Child Care Workforce Statistics

- Provider Setting Number of Workers Percent of Workers
  - Center-based Staff 550,000 24%
  - Family Child Care Home Providers 650,000 28%
  - Paid Relatives 804,000 34%
  - Paid Non-Relatives 298,000 13%
  - Total 2,301,000 100%

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the size of the formal child care workforce at 1.25 million. 94.7 percent of these workers are women.

- 16 percent of the formal child care workforce is Black or African-American and 19.1 percent are of Hispanic or Latino origin.
Statistics

- Low compensation and high job turnover adversely affect the quality of care that child care workers are able to provide.
- Despite the important role they play in child development, child care workers are among the lowest paid workers in the United States. Only 24 of 823 occupations reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics have lower average wages than child care workers. Child care providers earn an average wage of only $10.15 an hour. With average salaries of $21,110 a year for child care workers, many individuals holding these jobs do not earn very much more than the 2011 federal poverty level of $18,530 annually for a family of three.

Cause to Pause: Navigating the Industry

Research Shows
- Quality preschool works:
  - Establishing relationships to promote socio/emotional development and early learning
  - Mentoring and Coaching Teachers
  - Implementing content rich curriculum to ensure positive outcomes and school readiness for young children

Current Reality
- Many programs lack the infrastructure
- Budgetary constraints
- Resources
- Adequate compensation
- Adequate time
- Access to training
- Turnover rate 30% 2012
Wrap Up

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