The Economic Case for Investments in Young Children

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Arizona Population Projections, Ages 15 to 64



Source: Arizona Department of Administration

U.S. Job Growth by Primary Source of Education and Training, 2010 to 2020





Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program

U.S. Median Annual Wages by Primary Source of Education and Training, 2010





Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program

The Economic Case for Investments in Young Children



- Early investments yield a high public return
- Benefits sustain into adulthood
- Key investments: Home visiting, preschool, quality child care, parent education and health care
- Role of public-private partnerships

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Barriers to Social Mobility Emerge at a Very Young Age



Cumulative Vocabulary (Words)

Source: Hart & Risley (1995)



High/Scope Study of Perry Preschool

- In early 1960s, 123 children from low-income families in Ypsilanti, Mich.
- Children randomly selected to attend Perry or control group.
- High-quality program with well-trained teachers, daily classroom sessions and weekly home visits.
- Tracked participants and control group through age 40.



Perry: Educational Effects





Perry: Economic Effects at Age 40



Perry: Arrested 5 or More Times Before Age 40





Perry Preschool Costs and Benefits Over 62 Years



Perry Preschool — Estimated Return on Investment



- Benefit-Cost Ratio = \$16 to \$1
- Annual Rate of Return = 18%
- Public Rate of Return = 16%
- Heckman Reanalysis = 10%

Sources: Schweinhart, et al. (2005); Author's calculations; Heckman, Moon, Pinto, Savelyez, & Yavitz (2010)

Benefit-Cost Ratios for Other Longitudinal Studies



- Abecedarian Educational Child Care
 - \$4 to \$1
- Chicago-Child Parent
 - \$10 to \$1
- Elmira Prenatal/Early Infancy Project
 \$5 to \$1

Sources: Masse & Barnett (2002); Reynolds, Temple, White, Ou, & Robertson (2011); Karoly, et al (1998)

Short-Run Benefits



- Fewer low-weight and pre-term births
- Fewer emergency room visits
- Reduced child abuse and neglect
- Reduced grade retention and special education



Short-Run Benefits to Businesses

• Allow parents to enter workforce

Reduce absenteeism and turnover

• Stronger local schools



Lessons Learned from Research

- Invest in quality
- Involve parents
- Start early
- Reach at-risk population
- Bring to scale

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Head Start Randomized Control Trial



- "Head Start improved children's preschool outcomes across developmental domains, but had few impacts on children in kindergarten through 3rd grade."
- Measures Intent-to-Treat
 - Includes Head Start enrollees who don't show up
 - 60 percent of the control group children participated in child care or early education programs

Source: Puma, Bell, Cook, Heid, Broene, Jenkins, Mashburn, and Downer (2012)

Head Start children continue to improve, but control children catch up



WJ-III Letter-Word Identification



Source: Presentation by Steve Barnett, Rutgers University

Study of siblings in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth show fade out of test scores, but other short-run and long-run effects



Test scores: Standardized PPVT and PIAT math and reading scores

Nontest score: Grade retention and learning disability diagnosis

Long term: High school graduation, college attendance, idleness, crime, teen parenthood, and health status.

Source: Demming (2009)

Key Investments



- Home visiting
- Preschool
- Quality child care
- Parent education
- Health care

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The Saint Paul

Early Childhood Scholarship Program

Helping Families Get High-Quality Child Care and Early Education

Now earoling 3-year-old children in Saini Rau's froglown and North Eacl neighborhoods!

Terr si no yog Lib si fisever nav cov nenyuen musi insb nyoog 3 syoos use nyob haav 58. Paul oli tõog sej sog Frogtovn fisisõ North Edd cav npe kõon jebi

Imminisa waxaa la opravjaa ilmaha 3 samto jinta ah ee saashdaha Rogiown iyo North Inti ee Saint Real I

périons registrando a los minos de 3 anos de educi de los vecindarios de Saint Paul. Regionar § North Endi



Source: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation



Programs reported benefits of scholarship funds





Source: Gaylor, Spiker, Williamson, & Ferguson (2011)

Sources



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