

Has The Time Arrived for Universal Preschool?

Yes	No
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Universal Pre-K is the groundwork for a more ambitious effort to expand public and social services for children.</li> <li>2. America can address urgent education challenges before Kindergarten.</li> <li>3. Kids are the best social investment the government can make.</li> <li>4. The <i>Abecedarian Project</i> proved successful – delivering intense support to poor children starting a few months after birth – higher IQ’s, stayed in school longer and held down better jobs.</li> <li>5. Kids gain a sense of self-sufficiency.</li> <li>6. 41 states support Pre-K.</li> <li>7. A sizeable percentage of voters’ rank increasing the Head Start budget and guaranteeing health care to all children above paying more for homeland security or farm support.</li> <li>8. It would give families 0-5 care and education.</li> <li>9. Promotes safe and strong communities with schools as the hub.</li> <li>10. Provides kids the support of a stable, caring adult.</li> <li>11. Promotes cognitive skills that can lead to decent jobs and effective membership in society.</li> <li>12. Encourages perseverance, dependability, consistency and the ability to keep one’s emotions in check.</li> <li>13. Helps young, poor teenage mothers cope.</li> <li>14. Those who participate in programs such as the <i>Nurse Family Partnership</i> are less likely to need social services, food stamps, are less likely to expose their children to abuse and less likely to have additional children during teen years.</li> <li>15. Children pick up language more</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kids with attentive parents might as well be better off spending more time at home during their formative years.</li> <li>2. It’s highly unlikely that large scale implementation would produce the results promised by proponents.</li> <li>3. It’s a cheap way to park infants and toddlers while their mothers are on the job.</li> <li>4. Pre-K will only succeed if it’s top notch.</li> <li>5. Quality means engaged parents and small class sizes so that well trained teachers can pay attention to each kid – <a href="#">What’s the likelihood of engaged parents at any socioeconomic level?</a> <a href="#">Smaller class sizes mean more teachers and more teachers’ means more money.</a></li> <li>6. Perry Preschool, for example, costs \$12,000, that’s more than the government is likely to commit.</li> <li>7. Some women are just enrolling their children in a preschool or nursery school because they want them to be with other children in a structured learning environment, but it would have little or no educational effect.</li> <li>8. It ignores the immediate needs of low income families.</li> <li>9. 70% of all three- and four-year-olds nationwide already spend at least some time in some form of center-based child care or Head Start. Just expand the programs that already exist.</li> <li>10. Pre-K pays teacher-level salaries, on an hourly basis – costing about 50 percent more than center-based care.</li> <li>11. There is little to no attempt to coordinate with existing child-care programs like Head Start. What about the four-year-olds in Head Start? And</li> </ol>

<p>quickly.</p> <p>16. Less likely to get into trouble as teenagers.</p> <p>17. Teenage mothers do better if they do not have to fare it alone.</p> <p>18. Every child should have access to good care and education from birth to 5.</p> <p>19. Infants and toddlers are natural explorers whose brains are developing at a phenomenal rate and in the right setting they can flourish.</p> <p>20. Kids are social well beings who learn from example.</p> <p>21. Give poor kids access to decent elementary schools, with good teachers and a proven curriculum, and there will be still greater gains to report.</p> <p>22. It can bring together parents, kids, and the child-serving agencies and everything from sports clubs to health clinics.</p> <p>23. Child care, health care, after school care, and summer programs could be housed under one roof.</p> <p>24. Evidence suggests that it works and kids do better on standardized tests, they are also physical and emotionally better off.</p> <p>25. They close the achievement gap between low income children and their affluent peers; they prepare all children, including middle-income children, for school; and they provide financial relief to working mothers who have been paying for child care.</p> <p>26. It would raise test scores, thus helping to prevent the financial penalties for failing to meet the standards no the No Child Left Behind Act.</p> <p>27. Why can't children on Head Start go to both programs? Head Start in the morning and Pre-K in the afternoon or vice versa?</p> <p>28. When kids try to squeeze too much in during Kindergarten, they may burn out.</p>	<p>the four-year-old children of full-time working women – children who need more than part time care while their mothers work?</p> <p>12. It would cut into Head Start enrollments.</p> <p>13. Where are the Pre-K kids going before and after the program? Are they ending in some informal care setting?</p> <p>14. Pre-K does little to solve the achievement gap that puts low-income kids behind the more fortunate children. Low income children suffer large and troubling social and cognitive deficits compared with others.</p> <p>15. The family is the primary teacher of young children.</p> <p>16. Multiple years of educational and support services for the parents as well as the children is what it will take to close the achievement gap.</p> <p>17. If Pre-K programs really worked then it would widen the achievement gap. Poor children would have to accelerate even more than the middle class children who will accelerate in their development.</p> <p>18. It would cost \$55 billion a year versus \$9 billion for federal and state governments now.</p> <p>19. Deeply disadvantaged kids will not be prepared for Kindergarten by a Pre-K program.</p> <p>20. Worksheets will replace student choice work and learning styles.</p> <p>21. The universal approach does not take into account the diverse needs of families.</p>
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29. Kids go to Kindergarten and with the foundational skills to know how to be in school.
  30. Opens a dialogue between preschool and elementary school teachers to ease the transition for students.
  31. Public school teachers are better educated and better compensated.

## References

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