

CHILD CARE

WHEREAS, Investment in children and education is an investment in the future; children with better early childhood care and educational opportunities grow up to be more likely to work and less likely to interact with the criminal justice system; and investing in early childhood is a solution that creates upward mobility through opportunity; and instead of costly and marginally successful programs later in life, quality early childhood education helps prevent the achievement gap by building the cognitive and social skills necessary for school readiness; and the long-term benefits of an influential early childhood program have an overall rate of return of 13.7% per annum and the benefits/cost ratio of 7.3;^{1, 2, 3} and

WHEREAS, As of 2018, 54 percent of Utah children under age six are living in families for which there is a child care need with this rate equating to 157,345 children; and the percentage of Utah families with all available parents working in Utah has increased from 62.5 percent in 2010 to 64.1 percent in 2019 significantly increasing the need for child care;^{4, 5} and

WHEREAS, Utah is experiencing a significant gap between the need for child care and the capacity of Utah's child care system to meet that need; and new research is contributing to an expanding role and expectation for child care beyond simply providing a healthy and safe place for children to be cared for while parents are working; and from a 2019 analysis, Utah has a much higher child care gap of 64% compared to the national average of 31%;^{6, 7} and

WHEREAS, The human brain undergoes rapid growth during childhood, driven in part by a child's acquisition and integration of skills across many developmental domains and 85% of brain growth occurs before kindergarten, the educational experiences a child receives between ages 0 to 5 have an outsized impact on the child's future;^{8, 9} now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage more public and private efforts to provide after-school care; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA support appropriate regulations to ensure quality child care; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage business and community groups to support child care; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA encourage affected agencies to examine existing policies and create new policies which will better serve the needs of both children and parents; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA help to educate parents concerning the dangers of leaving all school children unattended, even if the children appear to be mature and have learned survival skills.

(Updates and replaces FAM-1990-1 Child Care)

Documentation:

1. It's Time for an Ambitious National Investment in America's Children: Economy, Bivens, Josh; García, Emma; Gould, Elise; Weiss, Elaine; Wilson, Valerie, Economic Policy Institute, April 2016 <https://www.epi.org/publication/its-time-for-an-ambitious-national-investment-in-americas-children/>
2. Impacts of Early Childhood Education on Medium- and Long-Term Educational Outcomes - Dana Charles McCoy, Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Kathleen M. Ziol-Guest, Greg J. Duncan, Holly S. Schindler, Katherine Magnuson, Rui Yang, Andrew Koepp, Jack P. Shonkoff, 2017 <https://www.ffyf.org/new-harvard-study-reveals-lasting-benefits-quality-early-childhood-education/>
3. Garcia, Heckman, Leaf, Prados, The Life-cycle Benefits of Influential Early Childhood Program, Dec 2016, p ii <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/13-roi-toolbox/>
4. U.S. Census, Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US49&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Detailed%20Tables&tid=ACSDT5Y2018.B23008&hidePreview=true>
5. Utah Kids Count Data Links: Working Parents in Utah, https://www.utahchildren.org/images/pdfs-doc/2021/Voices_Data_Links_Working_Parents_in_Utah1.pdf
6. Child Care Access in Utah, Workforce Services Child Care, March 2020, <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/ccaccess.pdf>
7. The Supply of, Potential Need for, and Gaps in Child Care in Utah in 2019, Bipartisan Policy Center, Bipartisan Policy Center, 2019 <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/download/?file=/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Utah.pdf>
8. Robinson LR, Bitsko RH, Thompson RA, et al. CDC Grand Rounds: Addressing Health Disparities in Early Childhood. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:769–772. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6629a1.pdf>
9. 5 Before 5. Love + Talk + Read + Count + Play. 2021. 10 Dec 2021. <https://5b45kids.com/>