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Empowering the Future: Best Evidence for Investing in Early Childhood Education in Canada

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As Canadian policy makers continue to debate the value of investing in preschool-aged children, they should note the consensus among Canadian scholars based on both Canadian and international research. Over 160 scholars from a broad range of disciplines agree that high quality early childhood education results in positive scholastic, social and health outcomes for children and their families, as well as economic benefits for Canadian society.



Positive benefits of high-quality preschool are seen in children from both low- and middle- socioeconomic environments, with stronger effects for children in low socio-economic circumstances, dual-language children, and children from immigrant families

Benefits of preschool outweigh the costs, through decreases in expenditures on programs such as social assistance, special education, family transfers; and a rise in economic production from increased adult earnings and tax transfers; indicating a prudent economic investment.

Preschool programs with a focus on social development result in important long-term benefits including reduced substance abuse, lower rates of school dropout, juvenile delinquency and adult criminality, and higher levels of employment and income.

Positive child development impacts are more likely to endure when programs incorporate effective elements being positive and stimulating interactions into their practice.



Diverse population

Socio-emotional

Economic benefit

Early Childhood Education

Parent engagement

Quality programs

Literacy & math skills



Early education programs with the best long-term effects on reading, math, and social behaviour also include a parenting component focused on optimizing parent-child interaction.

High quality ECE enhances a child's early language, literacy, and math skills with socio-economically disadvantaged children being likely to benefit most, thus reducing socio-economic related disparities in school achievement.

