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Highlights

Center for American Progress Releases Report

The Center for American Progress's (CAP) Early Childhood Policy Team published "Emerging State and Community Strategies to Improve Infant and Toddler Services." This new report outlines the need for creating a continuum of services in the midst of the current isolated and underfunded programs that support infant and toddlers and the strategies states and communities are following to do just that. Read more [here](#).

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Federal Updates

State Advisory Councils (SACs)

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released the final report on the SACs on Early Childhood Education and Care that work to coordinate and collaborate between early childhood systems and programs through nearly \$100 million funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) given to 45 states, Washington DC, and 4 territories. Read more [here](#).

Head Start

The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed collecting data for a new round of the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES). Read more [here](#).

Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA)

The Senate is expected to take up debate on the ESEA reauthorization bill currently pending on the floor. Read more [here](#).

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Policy Trends and Analysis

Early Childhood Policy

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) released an update of its state Early Childhood Policy Profiles that highlight state policies related to the well-being of young children in low-income families. The profiles are part of NCCP's "Improving the Odds for Young Children" project. Read more [here](#).

Early Childhood Policy

The Urban Institute explored the intersection of the workforce development and child care systems in its new brief, arguing that a lack of high-quality child care impedes the economic success of low-income workers. Read more [here](#).

Child Nutrition

The Center for American Progress (CAP) published a new report, "How the Child and Adult Care Food Program Improves Early Childhood Education," with recommendations for improving the program's potential in anticipation of the upcoming federal child nutrition reauthorization process. Read more [here](#).

Monitoring

In partnership with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), produced a white paper about monitoring across early childhood settings and offer options for states for improvement based on lessons learned from other relevant sectors. Read more [here](#).

Early Learning Challenge Grant

BUILD released chapters three and four of its e-book, Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Young Children and Families, about early learning-health connections and early childhood education workforce development. Read more [here](#).

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New Research

Education and Poverty

Education and Poverty: The US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES)'s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released its annual report, "[The Condition of Education 2015](#)," revealing a rise in childhood poverty. With regard to preprimary education program enrollment, it reports no measurable increase since 2000 in the percentage of 3- to 5- year-olds enrolled, however the full-day enrollment rate continued to increase, from [39% in 1990 and to 60% in 2013](#). Read news coverage [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Behavior and School Discipline

Researchers from Stanford University's psychology department examined the role race plays in disciplining and found patterns that support the hypothesis that discipline disparities are "driven by racial stereotypes that can lead teachers to escalate their negative responses to Black students over the course of multiple interpersonal (e.g., teacher-to-student) encounters." Read more [here](#).

Language Development

Researchers from New York University and McGill University published a study in the journal *Cognition* about infants' perceptions of linguistic abilities. Experiments with monolingual and bilingual infants and adult-spoken directions in a varying number of languages suggested that monolingual infants assume adults to speak more than one language whereas bilingual infants do not. Read the study [here](#).

Early Childhood Education

Wellesley College and University of Maryland economists authored a new study that finds an association between access to the older years of Sesame Street and improved educational outcomes for children; with the effects largest for boys and black, non-Hispanic children, as well as children living in economically disadvantaged areas. Read the study [here](#) and news coverage from [The Washington Post](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#).

Early Childhood Development

The American Academy of Pediatrics presented research that finds what it deems an alarming rate of technology use by young children-more than one-third of babies and one in seven toddlers using devices. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Trauma

- An Arizona State University researcher assesses the anecdotal evidence in his new discussion paper, "The Rising Cost of Child Care in the United States: A Reassessment of the Evidence." He finds a smaller cost increase between 1990 and 2011 than is reported by the Census Bureau (14% versus 39%), and that wealthier families have seen the cost increase more. Some of his differences are due to his use of median cost over average and the choice to express costs in per hour of employment. Read the paper [here](#) and news coverage [here](#).
- In a recent National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper, economists at the Inter-American Development Bank studied the effects of a 2009 Chilean law intended to increase the number of working mothers in the country's labor force. The updated required employer-subsidized child care legislation was associated with lower pay for women. Read the study [here](#) and a *New York Times* column about the study [here](#).

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Upcoming Events

June 18-20

"The Urban Education Future?"

June 21-26

"The 40th Anniversary of IDEA:

Lessons from New Orleans 10 Years After Hurricane Katrina"

[Learn More >](#)

Past is Prologue"

[Learn More >](#)

June 22-24

2015 National Family and Community Engagement Conference

[Learn More >](#)

June 24

"Determinants of Subsidy Stability and Child Care Continuity" webinar

[Learn More >](#)

News and Resources

Policy Communications

ZERO TO THREE partnered with Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC (ACS) to develop a national scan of infant and toddler advocacy message trends and offer suggestions for improvement to commonly used ones. "Infant and Toddler Messaging Guide" can serve as a resource to stakeholders as they make a case for investment in the earliest years. Read more [here](#).

Child Care

- *The Washington Post's* Wonk Blog discussed Britain's plan to double the amount of free child care for working parents to 30 hours for 38 weeks each year and how access issues may limit the impact of such a policy. Read more [here](#).
- *Fast Company* highlighted employee benefits, which, research reports, includes subsidized child care. Read more [here](#).
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) created a new fact sheet outlining research that shows the importance of child care assistance to low-income families, as well as the downward trend in the funding of and participation in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funded-child care. Read more [here](#).

Early Childhood Investment

- The Heckman Equation released "Building a Scaffolding of Support," which outlines eight guiding principles for effective early childhood investments. Read more [here](#).
- The Brookings Institution's Isabel V. Sawhill penned an article for the organization's Social Mobility Memos blog about the relationship between inequality and mobility and the need to invest in evidence-based programs, including home-visiting and high quality pre-k. Read more [here](#).

- David and Lucile Packard Foundation invested \$4 million through a 'program-related investment' in the for-profit Acelero Learning that attempts to help Head Start organizations win contracts and improve programs. Read more [here](#).
- Thomas B. Edsall penned an opinion piece in *The New York Times* about getting more people to have good lives and features prominent early childhood intervention research. Read more [here](#).

Poverty

The Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc. surveyed the 2015 Teachers of the Year about a variety of education-related topics including the barriers to learning that most affect their students' academic success. Read more [here](#).

Early Childhood Development

- The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) updated its online interactive tool, 'The Young Child Risk Calculator,' that shows by state how many children are at serious risk for development problems. Read more [here](#).
- An anonymous \$20 million donation to the San Diego-based National University coupled with \$10 million from the university's endowment will help expand the Sanford Harmony program—a program developed by researchers to improve the relationships of young children and elementary school students between genders, different racial and ethnic groups, and children with disabilities. Read more [here](#).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed the Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers, a website full of videos, activities, and print materials that help parents with common childhood parenting challenges. Read more [here](#).

Early Intervention

The Virginia Early Intervention Professional Development Center (VEIPDC) created a video that shines a spotlight on early intervention through the telling of a personal story about Brandon by his mother. Watch the video [here](#).

Child Nutrition

The Huffington Post profiled the fear many educators have about their students spending the summer months hungry. Read more [here](#).

Kindergarten Readiness

Valerie Strauss wrote about kindergarten readiness assessments in her *Washington Post* blog "The Answer Sheet." Read more [here](#).

Workforce Development

Forbes reviewed the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS)'s Occupational Employment and Wages data to profile the wages of education professionals in which they note teaching assistants bring in the lowest compensation (mean annual salary of \$26,000), followed closely by

preschool teachers (around \$30,000 mean annual salary). Read more [here](#).

Trauma and Violence

Futures Without Violence published "Safe, Healthy and Ready to Learn," a report about helping children exposed to violence. Read more [here](#).

Child Welfare

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)'s Health Program updated its Child Maltreatment Prevention project that tracks child maltreatment prevention legislation. Read more [here](#).

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News From The States

[AZ](#) | [CA](#) | [CO](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IL](#) | [LA](#) | [ME](#) | [MI](#) | [NE](#) | [NY](#) | [OK](#) | [OR](#) | [TX](#) | [WA](#) |

Arizona

- Prescott, Ariz., hosted a training for mental health providers on child trauma and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) as part of Mental Health Awareness Month. Read more [here](#).

California

- With the support of policymakers and business and community leaders, the Right Start Commission has been launched with the goal to provide recommendations to improve the state's early childhood services. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The California Legislature has made child care- and poverty, more broadly-a priority as numerous bills are advancing through the chambers including ones that would increase the number of child care slots and reimbursement rates, as well as allow child care providers to unionize. Read more [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- The state legislature is poised to repeal the maximum family grant (MFG) rule, a family cap policy in the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, CalWORKS, which denies additional cash assistance to children born while a mother is already receiving funds. Read more [here](#).
- California could become the first state to extend health coverage to children of undocumented immigrants as a Senate-approved bill would allow immigrant children under the age of 19 to enroll in Medi-Cal. An estimated 240,000 children would be served by this legislation. Read more [here](#).
- *The Los Angeles Times* profiles California's steps to restoring and investing more in early childhood education programs including home visiting. Read more [here](#).
- *Marketplace's* Morning Report discussed how a decline in the share of California's

population that smokes is impacting the ability of California to pay for preschool and other early childhood services as tobacco tax revenues wane. Read more [here](#).

Colorado

- *The Denver Post* highlights the different challenges facing poor rural families compared to those that live in urban settings. In rural areas for example, poverty is less visible and supports are more spread out. Read more [here](#).

Florida

- The stalemate over Medicaid expansion continued as the state Senate voted to pass the measure and sent it over to the House that is predicted to reject it. Read more [here](#).
- For 21 years, a Florida businessman devoted some of his fortune to Tangelo Park, a small community with a population of about 3,000 people, which now includes free day care centers and a prekindergarten program, The New York Times reports Read more [here](#).
- *The Orlando Advocate* celebrated Head Start's 50th Anniversary by reprinting Congresswoman Corrine Brown's statement for the occasion. Read more [here](#).
- *The Gainesville Sun* editorial board discussed the need for communities to embrace what Florida voters supported back in 2002: free, voluntary prekindergarten for all. Read more [here](#).

Georgia

- The Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) hosted elected officials, funders, educators, providers, and business and community leaders for its inaugural annual Early Education Journey-a "field trip" showcasing replicable, high-quality, and innovative early childhood programs in Georgia. Read more [here](#).

Illinois

- The Illinois state legislature passed a budget for FY 2016 that authorizes spending at levels nearly \$4 billion above expected revenues. Gov. Bruce Rauner announced closures and other emergency measures in response, including changes to the state child care program that would increase co-payments and create waiting lists. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced new board members for the Chicago Public Schools, replacing four whose terms expired. Read more [here](#).

Louisiana

- The Final Draft Bulletin 140, the Early Childhood Care and Education Programs Accountability & Enrollment Systems Proposals is now available. To see the Revised Proposed Bulletin 140, click [here](#).

- The legislature passed HB 844 and HCR 174 ensuring, in statute, that during the implementation of the assessment and accountability system for publicly-funded early childhood programs, there will be no grades and no funding consequences in the 2016-17 learning year. The legislation also instructs the Department of Education to find funding sources for an \$80 million increase for early childhood care and education, respectively. There have also been multiple failed attempts to cut and abolish the School Readiness Tax Credits.

Maine

- The state legislature's Health and Human Services Committee met in May to discuss four early childhood bills and provided support for LD 552, An Act to Provide Funding for Home Visiting Services. LD 1054, An Act to Provide Funding for Head Start Services, is predicted to be supported, however the vote for LD 977, An Act to Improve Child Care in the State, was split, and legislators agreed to hold over LD 1267, An Act to Assist Working Families with Young Children, until next session. Read a bill status report by Maine Children's Alliance (MCA) [here](#) and [here](#).
- The Maine Children's Growth Council is going to embark on an effort to study and gather additional data on the social emotional development of children in conjunction with the Maine Children's Alliance, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University.

Michigan

- The Michigan Legislature approved the FY2016 general budget that includes a combined \$15.8 billion for education services and programs. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The legislature fully supported Gov. Snyder's commitment to improving 3rd grade reading proficiency through these and other early literacy initiatives for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. The early literacy initiative represents \$31.5 million (mostly from the School Aid Fund) in new investment and the child care initiatives add another \$13.7 million (all federal money).
- Gov. Snyder's Third Grade Reading Workgroup released its report, which focuses on K-3 efforts but also includes a strategy focused on early childhood. The report endorses home visiting and other early interventions to strengthen parent-child relationships. Read more [here](#).
- Central Michigan University's College of Education and Services in conjunction with Michigan's early childhood communities hosted 'The Early Childhood: Shifting Mindsets Summit' in early June. Read more [here](#).

Nebraska

- Buffett Early Childhood Institute officials traveled to the state's Panhandle to meet with area school district officials and early childhood education champions. Read

more [here](#).

New Mexico

- The executive director of the Robert Wood Johnson Fund (RWJF) Center for Health Policy as the University of New Mexico published an op-ed in the Albuquerque Journal about the importance of early childhood help and the center's recent hosting of the national 2015 Early Childhood Development and Health Symposium. Read more [here](#).

New York

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio released information about the city's pre-k programs with parents' choices claiming that 57,000 children got one of their top three choices. Read more [here](#).
- Mayor de Blasio responded to concerns about the city's child care program, Early Learn, and made changes to improve the stability of its financing and the quality of staff and safety measures. Read more [here](#).

Oklahoma

- Gov. Mary Fallin signed into law legislation that would promote early learning and literacy. Read more [here](#).

Oregon

- The *Statesman Journal* published an opinion piece about investing in early childhood literacy and the formation of the Early Literacy Success Alliance (ESLA), a coalition of nonprofits and libraries. Read more [here](#).

Texas

- Gov. Gregg Abbott signed into law multiple early childhood education bills such as a set aside of \$130 million for school districts that are expanding pre-k programs. Read more [here](#).

Washington

- The governor had to call a special session for the legislature to finalize the state's two-year operation budget. Agreement was had on the amount of education money to include, but the priority of programs-including statewide all-day kindergarten-is still up in the air. Read more [here](#).
- The Seattle School Board agreed to partner with Seattle's new preschool program, sending the agreement to the Seattle City Council for review. Read more [here](#).

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The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age 5.

The Ounce National Policy Team partners with and supports early childhood leaders in states as they advance a comprehensive agenda for at-risk children and families. We do this by providing individualized strategy and policy consultation and resources; facilitating peer-to-peer learning and networking across states; and supporting Educare Schools and the Educare Learning Network in the development of their policy and advocacy work.

The National Policy Digest is a bi-monthly newsletter that shares up-to-date and noteworthy developments in state and federal early childhood news, policy and funding changes, research, policy trends and analyses, upcoming events, etc. culled from diverse sources in the field. To subscribe, please contact Eleanore McKee (emckee@theounce.org)



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