



preschool facts

The Advantages of Preschool

Strengthening our educational system begins with effective early childhood education programs. When kids have access to preschools and start school ready to learn, our K-12 schools perform better, and all of California benefits.

According to research, good reading skills are the foundation for all learning. And it's best to build this foundation before kindergarten in effective quality preschool programs.

Studies show when kids enter kindergarten after preschool, they are more ready to succeed and the benefits spread rapidly to the K-12 education system, the economy and public safety as such children are more likely to become successful and productive citizens.

Research also shows that children enrolled in high-quality preschools generally outscore their non-participating peers on vocabulary tests and on tests of early math skills.

Upon entering kindergarten, children who attended preschool typically showed an advantage of eight months in pre-reading skills, six months in early writing skills, and four months in early math skills.

According to surveys, about 95 percent of California kindergarten teachers say their students who attended preschool are better prepared in both social and academic areas, from pre-reading skills to early math concepts to the ability to share and play well with classmates.

In the long-term, studies show that children who attend a high-quality preschool are:

1. More likely to graduate from high school.
2. More likely to be employed.
3. More likely to earn a higher income.
4. Less likely to need public assistance.
5. More likely to lead healthy lives.
6. Less likely to be involved in crime.

Stronger Communities

By attending preschool, not only do our public schools benefit because children are better prepared for kindergarten, but our local communities benefit from increased investment in small businesses and infrastructure. And taxpayers benefit because the government has to spend less tax dollars on special education, and because the children are less likely to get in trouble with the law.

To find a list of preschools funded by LAUP, or to sign up for the LAUP newsletter, please visit www.laup.net, or call 866-581-LAUP (5287).

A Wise Public Investment

Many studies show a sizable social return for public dollars invested in quality preschool education for children. One study by the *RAND Corporation* shows that for every \$1 invested in preschool education, a social capital return of \$2.62 is earned. Another study, (*The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*), states that the real return is \$17 in social benefit for each dollar invested as a result of the children paying higher taxes as productive adults, as well as requiring less hospitalization and less time behind bars and in the court system. Such returns, even at the lower end of estimations, are hard to match in the business arena, let alone in the public sector.

Preschool Spaces Needed in Los Angeles County

There are about 156,000 four-year-old children living in Los Angeles County, roughly 27 percent of the state's total. About half of them do not attend preschool. Cost is one reason, but the lack of available spaces is another major factor.

To increase enrollment, LAUP has made great strides in funding and adding preschool spaces throughout Los Angeles County.

Because of LAUP, thousands of more children in the county will start kindergarten better prepared and more ready to succeed in school and in life as productive adults.