

How does access to early childhood services affect the participation of women in the labour market? ^[1]

Education indicators in focus

Source: OECD

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AVAILABILITY

Access full PDF online ^[2]

Abstract

While the benefits of early childhood education and care (ECEC) services to better learning are now widely acknowledged, a widespread and accessible provision for these services also helps support gender equality in the workforce. In particular, the availability, intensity, reliability and affordability of ECEC play an important role in engaging women full time in the labour market. While ECEC has experienced a surge of policy attention over the last decades, wide variations still exist across countries and its costs remains a barrier to accessing paid work for poor families and lone parents, mostly mothers. More efforts are needed to increase the provision and accessibility of free ECEC services, especially for children under the age of

Related link: [The pursuit of gender equality: An uphill battle](#) ^[3]

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