

# New research: Free, all-day early care sets families on a better financial trajectory <sup>[1]</sup>

Families who access free, full-day, universal early care earn more—for years to come

**Author:** Yale Tobin Center for Economic Policy

**Source:** Yale Tobin Center for Economic Policy

**Format:** Article

**Publication Date:** 10 Oct 2024

## AVAILABILITY

[Access online](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

[Access infographic online \[PDF\]](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

## Excerpts

...

Researchers find the earnings gains for admitted families are high and last long after the completion of pre-K. They identify the three key elements of care that unlocked these earnings gains: it was free, offered at times that match typical work days, and was not means tested. In terms of return on public investment, as seen in the figure below, researchers state: “Our main finding is that UPK is one of the most cost-effective active labor market policies ever evaluated in the U.S.”

...

The incremental cost increases of work-enabling care offer high return on public investment. The study demonstrates that care policies designed to maximize economic opportunities align with providing high-quality childcare and promoting child welfare. It is the most instructive study to date on what aspects of care most effectively enhance earnings:

...

This research provides the most definitive evidence to date on the positive impact of non-means-tested, free, all-day pre-K on family economic outcomes.

**Related link:** [Parents' earnings and the returns to the universal pre-kindergarten](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

**Region:** [United States](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

**Tags:** [economics](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

[investment](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

[labour force participation](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 29 Oct 2024):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/24/10/new-research-free-all-day-early-care-sets-families-better>

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/24/10/new-research-free-all-day-early-care-sets-families-better> <sup>[2]</sup>

<https://tobin.yale.edu/news/241010/new-research-free-all-day-early-care-sets-families-better-financial-trajectory> <sup>[3]</sup>

[https://tobin.yale.edu/sites/default/files/publication-documents/2024-10/Yale Tobin Center - Pre-K Infographic.pdf](https://tobin.yale.edu/sites/default/files/publication-documents/2024-10/Yale%20Tobin%20Center%20-%20Pre-K%20Infographic.pdf) <sup>[4]</sup>

<https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/24/10/parents-earnings-and-returns-universal-pre-kindergarten> <sup>[5]</sup>

<https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7865> <sup>[6]</sup> <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/economics> <sup>[7]</sup>

<https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/investment> <sup>[8]</sup> <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/8923>