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Why Canada can't work without good child care: How early childhood education and care supports the economy

Martha Friendly 31 Aug 2008 4pp

Many economists argue that government spending on people should not be contracting when the economy needs stimulation. Failing to invest in people - especially through investments like good quality early childhood education and child care - is bad economics. The evidence shows that universal community-based systems of high quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) are part of the backbone of strong economies: ECEC has short-term, medium-term and long-term economic and social impacts on children, their parents, the labourforce, local economies and the larger economy.

The benefits of accessible, good quality early childhood education are far-reaching. The following BRIEFing Note discusses the economic benefits, including competitiveness; economic and social returns; keeping families out of poverty; women's workforce participation, education and training; strengthening of local economies; and, combating a diminishing labour force.

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