

# How does your kindergarten classroom affect your earnings? Evidence from Project STAR <sup>[1]</sup>

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**Source:** Harvard University. Department of Economics.

**Format:** Speech

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## AVAILABILITY

PowerPoint presentation slides <sup>[2]</sup>

Excerpts from the project presentation:

- Large literature on how interventions such as better teacher quality or smaller classes affect achievement as measured by test scores
- Much less evidence on whether interventions that increase test scores improve outcomes such as earnings
- Problem: few datasets link information on early childhood test scores with data on adult outcomes We link data from the STAR experiment to US tax records to evaluate the long-term impacts of education interventions
- Question: Are higher test scores a good proxy for improvements in adult outcomes? Do small classes and better teachers/peers improve adult outcomes to the extent they improve test scores?

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## Conclusions

1. Early childhood class effects fade out in test scores but reappear in adult outcomes
  2. Contemporaneous test scores are a valid proxy for the benefits of early childhood interventions
- 1 SD higher in test scores increases earnings by 14.8%
  - Intervention-based estimates similar to OLS with controls

**Related link:** NEWS ARTICLE: Kindergarten skills pay off in big bucks [US] <sup>[3]</sup>

**Region:** United States <sup>[4]</sup>

**Tags:** kindergarten <sup>[5]</sup>

outcomes <sup>[6]</sup>

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**Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/10/10/how-does-your-kindergarten-classroom-affect-your-earnings-0>

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/10/10/how-does-your-kindergarten-classroom-affect-your-earnings-0> <sup>[2]</sup> [http://obs.rc.fas.harvard.edu/chetty/STAR\\_slides.pdf](http://obs.rc.fas.harvard.edu/chetty/STAR_slides.pdf) [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/10/08/kindergarten-skills-pay-big-bucks> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7865> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/kindergarten> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/outcomes>