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Based on:

Michael Baker, “Universal Early Childhood Interventions: What is the Evidence Base?”, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 44(4) 2011, 1069-1105

Studies investigating the impact of public universal childcare programs

<i>Canada-</i> Baker et al. (2008)	Behaviour	2-4 years	Negative effect
<i>Canada-</i> Lefebvre et al. (2008)	Cognitive-		

Evidence for maternity leave programs and universal preschool programs presents similar issues.

In many cases there are additional questions of whether any impacts persist.

The populations of targeted programs can bear little resemblance to the populations of universal programs.

Outcomes of the Perry Preschool Program control group

Targeted programs provide relatively expensive and potentially quite differentiated education/care.

Perry Preschool

- Program cost per child of \$17,759 (2006 USD) Heckman et al. (2010).
- Children aged 3 and 4 received a 2.5 hours per day pre school program delivered 8 months per year for up to two years.
- There were 4 teachers for every 20-25 students.
- Parents received weekly home visits of 1.5 hours and participated in monthly group meeting facilitated by program staff

Abecedarian project

- Program cost per child of \$13,900 (2002 USD).
- Teacher/child ratio's of 1:3 for infants and toddlers and 1:6 for older children (up to age 5)
- Medical and nutritional services also provided

Ontario Full Day JK/SK

- Instructional component of JK-GR3 funded at \$5523.59 per child (2011)
- Funding across system for all purposes is \$10,730 per child
- Classrooms of 26 students on average with one teacher and one ECE

BC Full Day SK

- Funding across system for all purposes is \$8357 per child (2010/11)
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The distribution of cognitive scores for children aged 0-5 from the top and bottom quintiles of family SES







