

Citizens for Missouri's Children

Making Kids Count

High-Quality Child Care is Essential for Missouri Kids

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Why High-Quality Child Care is Important

- High-quality child care and educational experiences are key building blocks in the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of young children.
- Quality early learning has been shown to have positive long-term impacts on children, families, and the public as a whole.
- Quality early learning:
 - Improves school readiness, especially in the areas of language and math skills.
 - Improves children's scores on standardized tests once in school.
 - Reduces grade repetition and the need for special educational services.
- Children who have received high-quality early learning services also:
 - Have lower crime and delinquency rates and fewer teen pregnancies.
 - Are more likely to have higher employment rates and earn higher wages.

Despite the well-documented benefits of quality child care, the State of Missouri does not have a system in place that would create uniform, respected standards of high-quality for its child care facilities.

What a Quality Early Learning System Looks Like

- Researchers have agreed that some of the most significant components of a high-quality program include:
 - Parental involvement
 - Low staff/child ratios
 - Staff with early childhood degrees or teaching degrees
 - Ongoing training and professional development for providers
 - Adequate compensation and benefits for teachers and staff
 - Strong health and safety practices
 - Low staff turnover

Citizens for Missouri's Children believes that high-quality child care and early learning experiences are essential in ensuring that children have the opportunities to grow into engaged, informed, and productive citizens. We support efforts to increase the number of quality programs in our state, as well as support efforts to make certain that more families have access to these programs.

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