



Why Quality Matters in Pre-K: Quotable Quotes

The Cost of Quality Preschool estimator ([CPQ](#)) provides reliable cost calculations and funding estimates, enabling you to respond with confidence to questions about the expense and benefits of implementing high-quality preschool. Use these quotes for testimony, presentations, handouts and events for effective messaging about high-quality early learning and why investing is worthwhile.

Why Quality Matters in Pre-K

“It would be particularly dangerous for the public and policymakers to ignore the evidence that policies which encourage poor quality child care can actually harm the development of children.”

[W. Steven Barnett](#)

Board of Governor’s Scholar and founder, National Institute of Early Education Research, Rutgers University

“Children who start behind stay behind—they are rarely able to make up the lost ground. Greater investments in pre-K programs can narrow the gaps between students at the start of school.”

[Emma García](#) and [Elaine Weis](#)

[Education Inequalities at the School Starting Gate](#), Economic Policy Institute

“Attending high-quality early childhood education has been repeatedly shown to improve children’s cognitive skills and reduce school readiness gaps.”

[Hirokazu Yoshikawa](#)

The Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education, New York University

Quality early education “builds essential skills in young children that have significant, beneficial short- and long-term effects on education, health, social behavior and lifetime employment and income.

[James Heckman](#)

The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, and a Nobel Memorial Prize winner in economics

Investing

“Increased public investment in early learning is a pro-growth strategy that can reduce overall government expenditures.”

[W. Steven Barnett](#)

Board of Governor’s Scholar and founder, National Institute of Early Education Research, Rutgers University

“The earliest years are the most promising for brain and skill development, yet it is when the U.S. invests the least.”

[Hirokazu Yoshikawa](#)

The Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education, New York University



CENTER ON ENHANCING EARLY LEARNING OUTCOMES

“The path to STEM education starts early, before kindergarten, and we need to engage throughout the education process, not just at the college level.”

Ellen Kullman, *CEO of DuPont (member, [ReadyNation](#))*

“Most brain development is complete well before a child enters kindergarten...Common sense tells us, investing in our children early is the right thing to do.”

Bill Frist, MD, *former US Senator (member, [ReadyNation](#))*

“High-quality early childhood programs can [boost the upward mobility](#) of two generations by freeing working parents to build their careers and increase wages over time while their child develops a broad range of foundational skills that lead to lifelong success.”

[James J. Heckman](#)

The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, and a Nobel Memorial Prize winner in economics

“Future coders and pilots must build a foundation for literacy, critical thinking and problem solving in the earliest years of life.”

Roy Bostock, Vice-Chairman (ret) Delta Airlines/Former Chairman Yahoo! (member, [ReadyNation](#))

Costs and Benefits

“Given this return on investment, providing support for early education is more prudent than waiting until high school when issues are often more difficult to remediate.”

Brian Bucher, PNC regional President, Alabama School Readiness Alliance's Pre-K Task Force Members AL.com; June 6, 2016

“Pre-K pays off so well because we pay a high price for failure, particularly in a time when even children from middle-income families have much too high a chance of needing long-term special education or dropping out of school.”

[W. Steven Barnett](#)

Board of Governor's Scholar and founder, National Institute of Early Education Research, Rutgers University

“Investing in our children's early development is an effective way to build the future workforce and customer base we need to be successful.”

James Powell, *Managing Partner, Nashville Office KPMG (member, [ReadyNation](#))*

“Helping parents afford quality early childhood education...is an investment. It increases economic productivity by helping parents work, build careers and income, reduce absenteeism on the job and be a part of a capable and stable workforce.”

[James J. Heckman](#)

The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, and a Nobel Memorial Prize winner in economics



Teachers

“High-quality preschool education depends on effective, high-quality teachers.”

[W. Steven Barnett](#)

Board of Governor’s Scholar and founder, National Institute of Early Education Research, Rutgers University

“Research shows that early childhood teaching quality is actually quite malleable,” she wrote.

“Professional development, particularly when it involves regular in-class support from a mentor teacher or coach, has been shown to significantly improve the quality of teacher-child interactions.”

Rachel Valentino, educational consultant at McKinsey & Company

“Teachers with at least a bachelor’s degree are more likely to aptly approach instruction—they are more sensitive, less punitive, and more engaged.” (IOM & NRC, 2015; Whitebook, 2003)

Class Size and Student-Teacher Ratios

“Teaching young children requires immense energy and relentless attention. When there are fewer children in the room, the teacher has more time to devote to each child, and managing the group requires less teacher time. As a result, teachers have opportunities to have longer conversations with each child.”

[W. Steven Barnett](#)

Board of Governor’s Scholar and founder, National Institute of Early Education Research, Rutgers University

“There is general agreement among experts in the field of child development that the quality of classroom interactions between teacher and child contributes substantially to children’s learning and development.” (Bowman, Donovan, & Burns, 2001)

“High-quality ECE programs employ knowledgeable, highly skilled teachers who receive strong support and coaching, use research-based curricula, provide access to a variety of developmentally appropriate materials and activities, and have small class sizes and low child to teacher ratios.”

(Barnett et al., 2016; Espinosa, 2002; Mashburn et al., 2008)

Early Learning and Development Standards

“Young children’s learning and development depend on the educational qualifications of their teachers.”

Diane Schilder, Ed.D., *Education Development Center, Inc.*

“Today, educators and leaders are faced with the challenge of building a developmentally appropriate primary school without sacrificing the academic rigor needed to support young children in achieving success in school and beyond.”

Shannon Riley-Ayers, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor, NIEER



Continuous Quality Improvement Systems

“CQI is a data-driven process used to create an environment that supports ongoing reflection and change that can support program improvement and build program capacity over time.” --[A Blueprint for Early Care and Education Quality Improvement Initiatives](#) (2015)

“Research confirms that adults learn best when they have the opportunity to practice applying new knowledge and skills in the presence of a supportive coach or consultant who can scaffold their learning.” --[A Blueprint for Early Care and Education Quality Improvement Initiatives](#) (2015)

“Establishing a high-quality UPK program is a critical first step toward creating equity in access to early education and ensuring that all children begin kindergarten with an equal opportunity to succeed.”

[W. Steven Barnett](#)

Board of Governor’s Scholar and founder, National Institute of Early Education Research, Rutgers University