

# Let's give our children the best start in life.

#BestStartInLife



## Academic Research:

### The benefits of early learning and a play-based learning environment

#### Australia

- *Lifting Our Game: Report of the review to achieve educational excellence in Australian schools through early childhood interventions (2017)*

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/LiftingOurGame.PDF>

The report finds that quality early childhood education makes a significant contribution to achieving educational excellence in schools. There is growing evidence that participation in quality early childhood education improves school readiness and lifts NAPLAN results and PISA scores. Children who participate in high quality early childhood education are more likely to complete year 12 and are less likely to repeat grades or require additional support. High quality early childhood education also has broader impacts; it is linked with higher levels of employment, income and financial security, improved health outcomes and reduced crime. It helps build the skills children will need for the jobs of the future.

- *Early Bird Catches the Worm: The Causal Impact of Preschool Participation and Teacher Qualifications on Year 3 National NAPLAN Cognitive Tests -*  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/preschoolparticipationandqualis/summarypaper2013.pdf>
- *No Mind Left Behind; Building an Education System For A Modern Australia*, by Marieke D'Cruz, October 2016, The McKell Institute - <https://mckellinstitute.org.au/research/reports/no-mind-left-behind/>
- *Quality Early Education For All*, by Megan O'Connell and Stacey Fox, 20 April 2016, The Mitchell Institute - <http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/reports/quality-early-education-for-all/>
- *Preschool: Two years are better than one*, by Stacey Fox, The Mitchell Institute, 31 October 2016 - <http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/reports/two-years-preschool/>

- *Productivity Commission 2013-2015 inquiry into childcare and early childhood learning* - <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/childcare/report>
- *Putting a value on early childhood education and care in Australia* (2014), PwC - <https://www.pwc.com.au/publications/early-childhood-education.html>
- *OECD 2016 Starting Strong IV Early Education and Care Data Note Australia* - <http://www.oecd.org/education/school/ECECDCN-Australia.pdf>

### **International**

- *The Heckman Equation Project*, Professor James J. Heckman, Professor of Economics, University of Chicago - <https://heckmanequation.org/>
- *Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy*, Professor James J. Heckman, Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago - <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/invest-in-early-childhood-development-reduce-deficits-strengthen-the-economy/>
- *Early Intervention: Good Parents, Great Kids, Better Citizens*, Graham Allen MP and Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP September 2008 - <https://www.scribd.com/document/13137849/Early-Intervention-Good-Parents-Great-Kids-Better-Citizens>
- *Dunedin Longitudinal Study: Childhood forecasting of a small section of the population with large economic burden* - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-016-0005>
- *Abecedarian Project*, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute - <https://evidencebasedprograms.org/programs/abecedarian-project/>
- *Research Report: Early childcare type predicts children's emotional and behavioural trajectories into middle childhood. Data from the EDEN mother-child cohort study*, Ramchandrar Gomajee, Fabienne El-Khoury, Sylvana Côté, Judith van der Waerden, Laura Pryor, Maria Melchior on behalf of The EDEN mother-child Cohort Study Group - <https://jech.bmj.com/content/72/11/1033>
- *Effective Pre-School, Primary & Secondary Education Project (EPPSE) Research Report: Influences on students' GCSE attainment and progress at age 16*, Department for Education, London, Sammons, P, Sylva, K, Melhuish, E, Siraj, I, Taggart, B, Toth, K & Smees, R 2014, <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/20875/1/RR352> - [\\_Influences on Students GCSE Attainment and Progress at Age 16.pdf](https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/20875/1/RR352_-_Influences_on_Students_GCSE_Attainment_and_Progress_at_Age_16.pdf)
- *Abbott Preschool Program Longitudinal Effects Study: Fifth Grade Follow-Up*, National Institute for Early Education Research, New Jersey, Barnett, S, Jung, K, Youn, M & Frede, E 2013, <http://nieer.org/research-report/201311apples205th20grade-pdf>
- *Moving up the Grades: Relationship between Preschool Model and Later School Success*, by Rebecca A. Marcon, University of North Florida - <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v4n1/marcon.html>

- 'Study finds improved self-regulation in kindergarteners who wait a year to enrol'. Standord Graduate School of Education - <https://ed.stanford.edu/news/stanford-gse-research-finds-strong-evidence-mental-health-benefits-delaying-kindergarten>
- *High Quality Early Childhood Education in the Early Years of School*. Every Child, 20(3), 22-23, Jay J., Knaus, M. & Hesterman, S. (2014).
- *The pushes and pulls of pedagogy in the early years: Competing knowledges and the erosion of play based learning*. Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, 41(4), 36-43, Barblett, L., Knaus, M.& Barratt-Pugh, C. (2016).
- *The Role of Make-Believe Play in the Development of Executive Function: Status of Research and Future Directions*. American Journal of Play, 6(1), 98-110, Berk, L., & Meyers, A. B. (2013).
- *Make-believe play versus academic skills: a Vygotskian approach to today's dilemma of early childhood education*. European Early Childhood Education Research Journal, 16(3), 357-369, doi: 10.1080/13502930802291777, Bodrova, E. (2008).
- *Younger children experience lower levels of language competence and academic progress in the first year of school: evidence from a population study*, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 57:1 pp.65-73 Pennsylvania State University Press, Pennsylvania, Norbury, C.F., Gooch, D., Baird, G., Charman, T., Simonoff, E. & Pickles, A. (2016).
- *Self-regulation and metacognition in young children's self-initiated play and Reflective Dialogue*. International Journal of Early Years Education, 18(3), 227-241, doi:10.1080/09669760.2010.521298, Robson, S. (2010).
- *The relation between school entrance age and school achievement during primary schooling: Evidence from Croatian primary schools*. British Journal of Educational Psychology, 83, 651-663, Sakic, M., Burusic, J. & Babarovic, T. (2013)
- *Making the case for Play Policy: Research-Based Reasons to Support Play Based Environments*. Young Children 60(2) 76-85, Stegelin, D.A. (2005)
- *Preschool children's social pretend play: supporting the development of meta-communication, metacognition and self-regulation*. International Journal of Play 1(2), 197-21, Whitebread, D. (2012)
- *The Benefits and Costs of Investing in Early Childhood Education* (2015), Linch, R & Vaghul, K – <https://equitablegrowth.org/research-paper/the-benefits-and-costs-of-investing-in-early-childhood-education/>
- *Early Learning Study at Harvard (ELS@H)* will enable the researchers to address key questions that influence policy makers and practitioners. The full report can be accessed here – [https://zaentz.gse.harvard.edu/files/els40h\\_report\\_nov.2018\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://zaentz.gse.harvard.edu/files/els40h_report_nov.2018_final_1.pdf)

## Media articles

- *Pre-school education is much more than babysitting: academics* by Dr Estelle Irving and Dr Carol Carter - <https://au.educationhq.com/news/52518/kinder-is-much-more-than-babysitting-academics/>
- *Research shows there are benefits from getting more three-year-olds into preschool*, The Conversation - <https://the-framework.org/2018/10/05/research-shows-there-are-benefits-from-getting-more-three-year-olds-into-preschool/>
- [Sydney Morning Herald: 'Preschool nerves put health at risk'](#)
- [Sydney Morning Herald: Experts warn starting school too young harms learning, wellbeing](#)
- [New Scientist: 'Too much, too young: Should schooling start at age 7?'](#)
- [Sydney Morning Herald: 'What is the right age to start school?'](#)
- [The Mercury: 'Talking Point: Too much too young is dangerous' by Steve Biddulph](#)
- [New York Times: 'Let the kids learn through play'](#)
- <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/childcare-fees-outpace-cost-of-living>

