



**The Child Care Planning Council compiled these resources from a variety of electronic newsletters. We have now compiled them by subject. We hope it is helpful!**

### **Cost of Child Care Reports and Resources**

- **Breaking the Piggy Bank: Parents and the High Price of Child Care:** The nationwide survey of child care prices finds that parents across the United States are struggling to meet the high cost of child care. Many families face a Catch-22. They need to work to support their families. They rely on child care to go to work. But, the high price of child care - a staggering \$3,016 to \$13,480 a year for one child - strains family budgets and forces parents to make sacrifices in the quality of care their children receive. "The public hears a lot about rising health care costs. But, families are likely to spend more on child care than they do for health care and food combined," explained Linda Smith, Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, who published the report.  
[http://www.naccrra.org/docs/policy/breaking\\_the\\_piggy\\_bank.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/docs/policy/breaking_the_piggy_bank.pdf).
- **Delaying Kindergarten: Effects on Test Scores and Childcare Costs:** Is it beneficial to delay the age at which children begin kindergarten? New research finds that kids who enter at age 6 instead of age 5, especially kids from disadvantaged families, do significantly better on standardized tests and learn more from schooling. But delaying entry also leads to substantial additional childcare costs, especially for poor families. These findings argue that policymakers may need to view entrance age policies as a package--one that considers both cognitive and noncognitive consequences. A RAND research summary is available at  
<http://www.rand.org/publications/RB/RB9082/>.
- **The Cost and Quality of Full-Day Year-Round Early Care and Education in Massachusetts: Infant and Toddler Classrooms:** The Massachusetts Cost and Quality Study, jointly funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Child Care Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, examined full-day, year-round, community-based center care for preschool-age children and for infants and toddlers to determine:
  - What is the quality of early child care and education services in Massachusetts?
  - What are the costs of early child care and education services?
  - What is the relationship between quality and costs? Does it cost more to provide higher quality care?
  - What is the relationship between the family income of children served and the quality of care provided by early child care and education programs?

[www.acgov.org/childcare](http://www.acgov.org/childcare)



- The report on infant and toddler classrooms is now available at:  
<http://www.wcwoonline.org/earlycare/infant-toddlerfinal.pdf>
  
- **Child Care Center Operating Budget Basics:** Defining Expenses and Revenues to Estimate the Cost of Child Care: CT Voices for Children is engaged in a project to help meet the need for sound child care center budgeting practices and reliable data on the cost of center based child care in Connecticut. Please review a new report, Child Care Center Operating Budget Basics: Defining Expenses and Revenues to Estimate the Cost of Child Care ([http://www.ctkidslink.org/pub\\_detail\\_284.html](http://www.ctkidslink.org/pub_detail_284.html)), describing this current project, and providing a user-friendly excel budget spreadsheet for any child care center looking for budgeting guidance or for an annual budgeting tool more useful than the one they currently use.
  
- **PREDICTORS OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY USE:** This December 2005 paper from the National Center for Children in Poverty by Sharmila Lawrence and J. Lee Kreader, states that what we know is: 1) Families with children ages birth through 5 are more likely to use subsidies than families with children ages 6 and over; 2) Families who currently receive or are transitioning from cash assistance are more likely to use child care subsidies than those with no recent history of cash assistance; 3) Single-parent families are more likely than two-parent families to use subsidies; 4) African-American mothers appear more likely to apply for and use child care subsidies than mothers from other racial/ethnic backgrounds; 5) Families using center-based care appear more likely to use child care subsidies than families using other forms of care; 6) Parents with higher tolerance for the hassles that families may encounter in applying for and maintaining child care subsidies appear more likely to use subsidies.  
<http://nccp.org/media/CCSresbrief.pdf>
  
- **When Should a Kid Start Kindergarten?**  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/03/magazine/03kindergarten-t.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/03/magazine/03kindergarten-t.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)  

From the article: “I’ve had parents tell me that the preschool did not recommend sending their children on to kindergarten yet, but they had no choice,” as they couldn’t afford not to. In 49 out of 50 states, the average annual cost of day care for a 4-year-old in an urban area is more than the average annual public college tuition. A RAND Corporation position paper suggests policy makers may need to view “entrance-age policies and child-care polices as a package.”
  
- **Do the Math: Why the Child Care Equation Does Not Add Up:** This fact sheet provides recent data on the cost and availability of child care in Connecticut. The information presented highlights why, despite a decade of discussion about the importance of high quality early care, it is so difficult to provide affordable quality child care that is accessible to all Connecticut families. (January 2007)  
[http://ctkidslink.org/pub\\_detail\\_324.html](http://ctkidslink.org/pub_detail_324.html).

[www.acgov.org/childcare](http://www.acgov.org/childcare)