

TeachME Professional Development

Evaluating Disadvantaged Families' Access to Early Education

1. In a study examining how low-income children's access to early care and education (ECE) might differ from that of their higher-income peers, and how child care subsidy policies could be helping to close the gap, four dimensions of access were evaluated, including each of the following EXCEPT:

- A. Are reasonable efforts made to give parents multiple options for care and do they feel like they have a choice in their search for care?
 - B. What is the role of child care subsidy policies for low-income families' access to ECE, and does the parent perceive the child's primary care type to be affordable?
 - C. Do the care centers have staff with higher education, adequate on-going training, and low teacher turnover?
 - D. Is the child using a care type that meets the parents' preferences in terms of nurturance, helping children be ready for school, teaching children how to get along with other children, safety, affordability, and flexibility?
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Key Findings-Table 1

2. For all groups, including infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, low-income parents were less likely than higher-income parents to use a care type that met their preferences for nurturing care as the primary care type.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Background and Purpose

3. Parents' child care decisions are influenced by their preferences, opportunities, and:

- A. Experiences
 - B. Values
 - C. Priorities
 - D. Constraints
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Results

4. Overall, all households studied tended to use a type of ECE care that met their preferences in safety, affordability, flexibility, nurturance, helping children get ready for school, and in teaching children how to get along with others.

- A. True
 - B. False
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ECE Center Analysis

5. Research findings indicate that among centers without public funding, centers serving subsidized children had a statistically significant lower average quality score than centers without subsidized children.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Implications for Policy and Research

6. Which of the following is NOT a true statement about study results pertaining to income-based disparities in access to ACE?

- A. Low-income families were less likely to feel that they have a choice when they make a child care decision, and considered fewer options during their searches
 - B. Low-income families using nonparental care were less likely than higher-income families to use center-based care as their child's primary care type, especially for their infants and toddlers
 - C. While free center-based ECE options have increased in recent years--with options such as state pre-K, Head Start, and Early Head Start--these do not reach all low-income families who might benefit from them
 - D. The lack of choice and options suggests that low-income families could benefit from subsidies, if they allow the family to consider multiple options to find care that meets their needs, such as flexible scheduling
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