Preschool: A Promising Platform to Expand Life Opportunities for Children and Parents

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Ready for School, Ready for Life
Institute for Policy Research Policy Briefing with The Honorable Bob Dold (R-10th) and The Honorable Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) of Illinois

Parents’ Education among Low-Income Children Under Age 6, 2010

54% of low income children have parents with a high school degree or less

- High school degree: 31%
- More than High school degree: 46%
- Less than high school degree: 23%

Two-Generation Human Capital Programs

Simultaneously implement
parent and child education programs

Child

Parent
Two-Generation Human Capital Theory

PARENT
Education & Employment Services

CHILD
Preschool/Head Start

PARENT social capital
- Trust and social connectedness
- Informational resources

PARENT HUMAN CAPITAL
- Certification, degrees, career training and skills
- Knowledge and skills to support children’s learning

HOME ENVIRONMENT
- Higher expectations for children
- Role modeling
- Cognitive stimulation
- Engagement in child’s school

CHILD OUTCOMES
School Readiness and Social Competence

- Preschool/Head Start
- Childcare
- Home-based programs
- Early intervention services
Two-Generation Lens on Head Start

- Does children’s participation in Head Start lead to an increase in parents’ own human capital?

Head Start Impact on Parents’ Education

![Graph showing effect sizes by education level and race.](graph.png)

**By Education**
- Full Sample: 0.09*
- Less than HS to HS: 0.01
- HS to Tech/BA: 0.04
- Some College to Tech/BA: 0.23*

**By Race**
- Black: 0.15*
- White: 0.01
- Latino: -0.03

* *p < .05
Opportunity for Promoting Both Parents’ and Children’s Education

- Head Start’s “business as usual” approach is a promising platform for promoting both parent and child education.

- Potential for even more explicit parent human capital development in Head Start.
CAP Tulsa’s CareerAdvance® Healthcare Training

Local Colleges

Employers

Co-located Elementary Schools

Head Start & Pre-K + CareerAdvance®

Career Coaches & Small Peer Cohorts

Tuition Assistance, Financial Incentives & Child Care

Adult Basic Ed, ELL, GED
Enrollment and Certification in CareerAdvance® at 16 Months

CareerAdvance® Participants  
\( n=92 \)

- Exited  
  \( n=39/92 (41\%) \)
- Enrolled  
  \( n=54/92 (59\%) \)

**Exited**

- Attained certificate  
  \( n=26/38 (68\%) \)
- Did not attain certificate  
  \( n=12/38 (32\%) \)

**Enrolled**

- Attained certificate  
  \( n=44/54 (81\%) \)
- Did not attain certificate  
  \( n=10/54 (19\%) \)
Role Modeling

My son knows at 4 years old that he’s not stopping his education after high school, he’s gonna keep going. And he knows that now, and he’s, you know...I think he’s gonna be much more prepared than I was when I was in high school.
This program has changed my life; it’s changed my future, my family’s future definitely. I mean, this has opened up so many opportunities for me and my family.