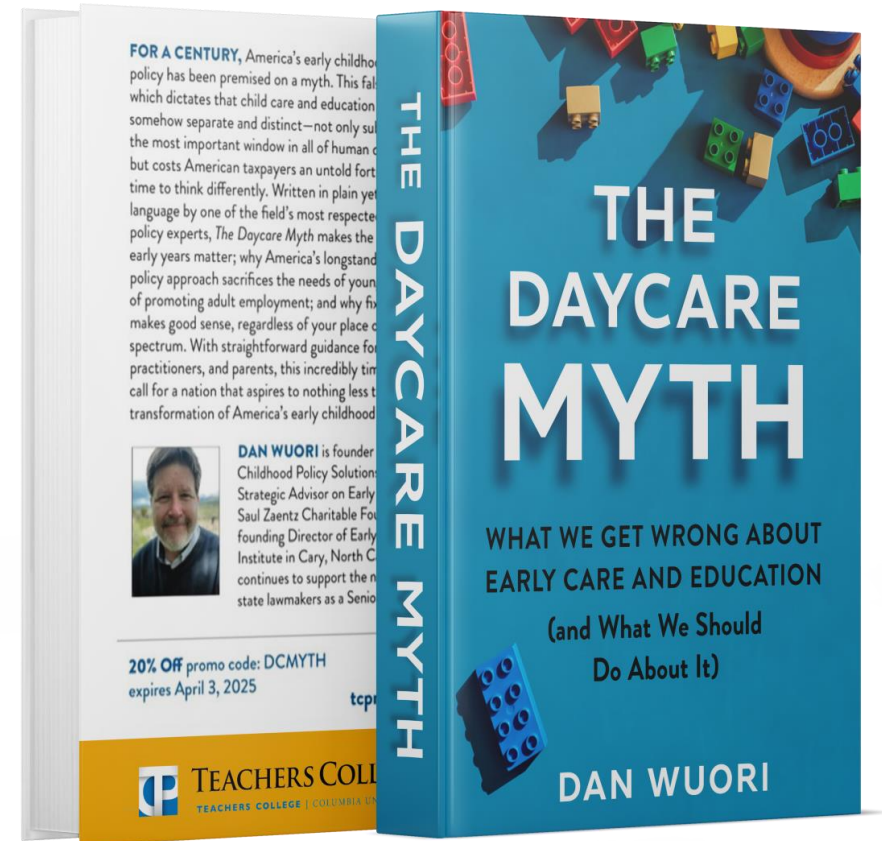


THE DAYCARE MYTH

Dan Wuori, Ph.D.

Founder and President,
Early Childhood Policy Solutions

Strategic Advisor on Early Childhood,
Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation

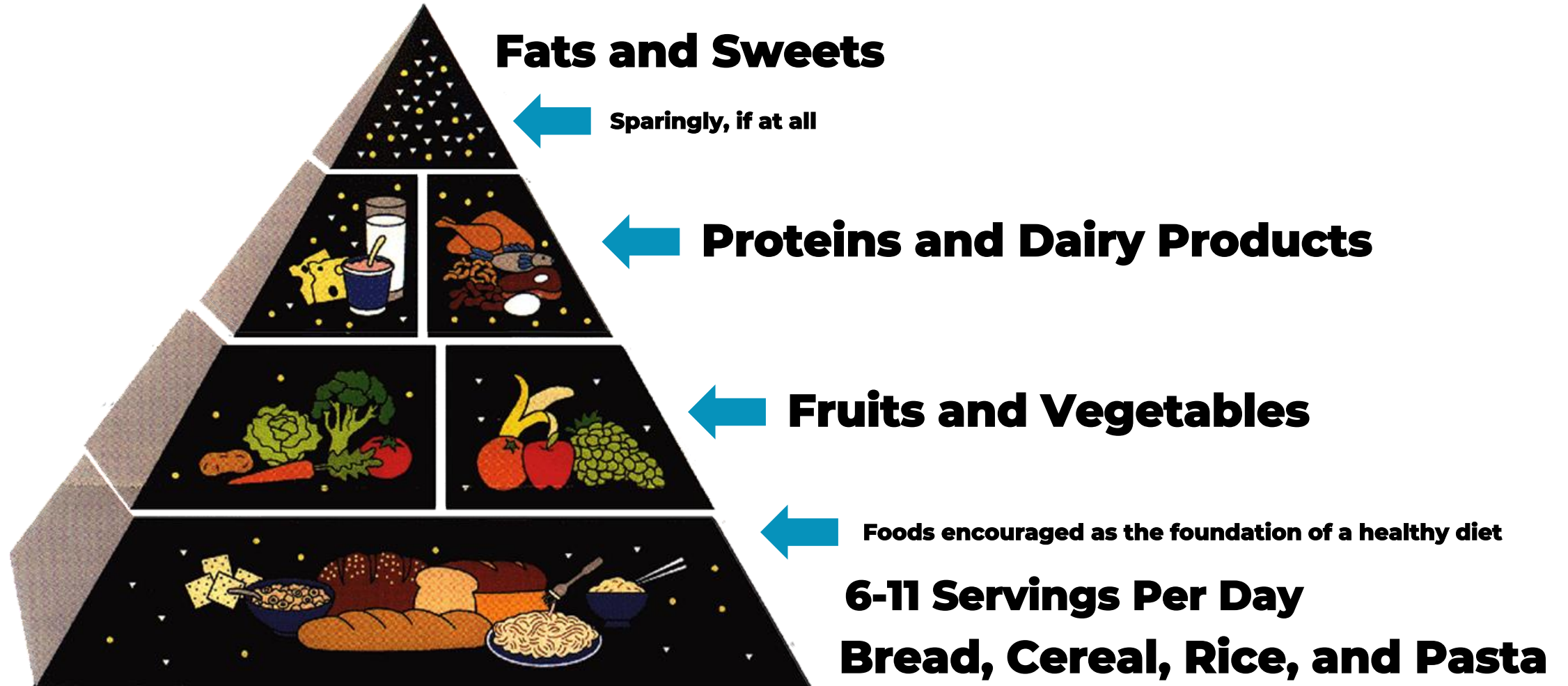


EARLY CHILDHOOD
POLICY SOLUTIONS



THE SAUL ZAENTZ
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION™

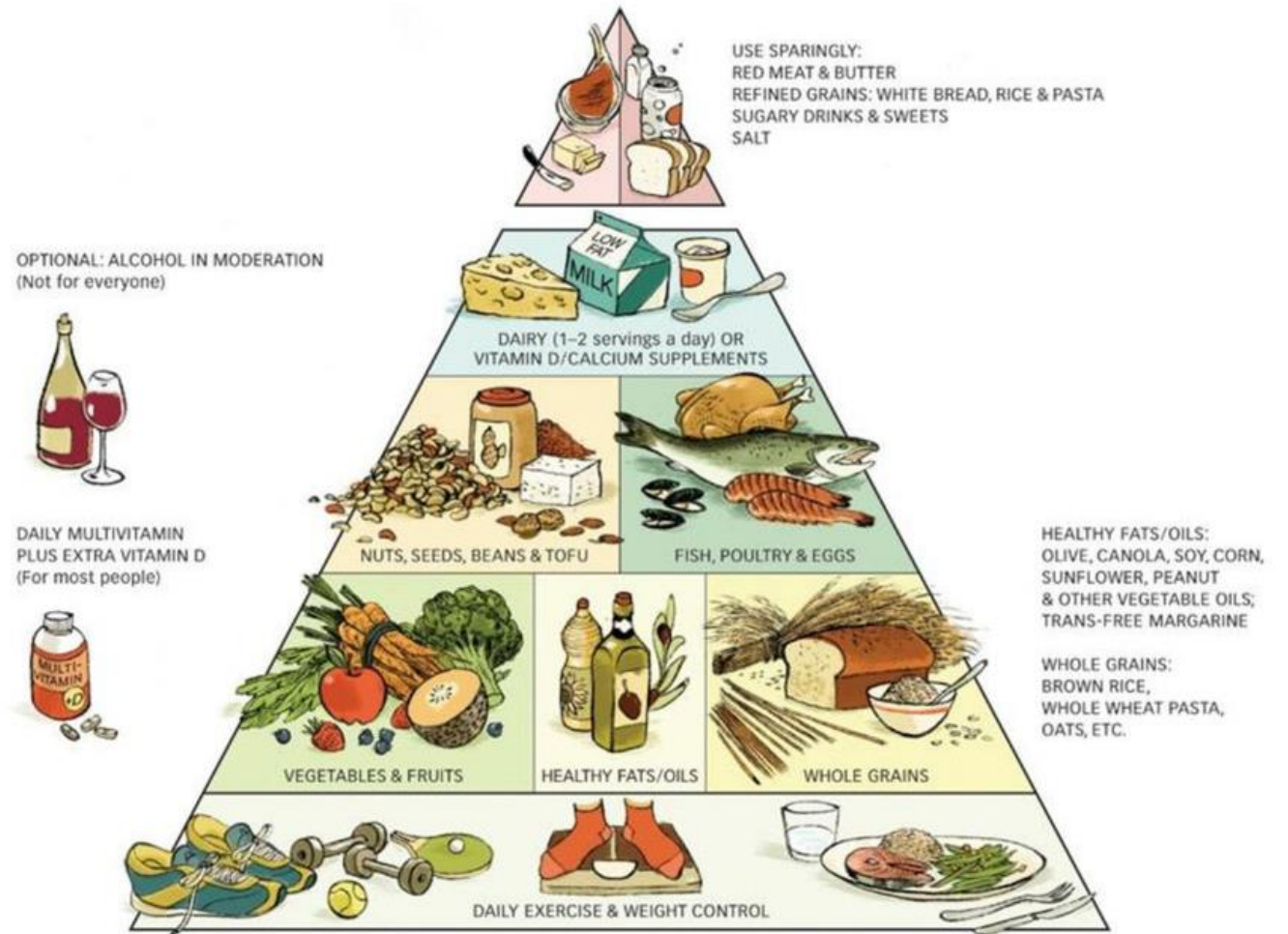
▶ 1992 USDA Food Pyramid



▶ 2008 Harvard Healthy Eating Pyramid

THE HEALTHY EATING PYRAMID

Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health

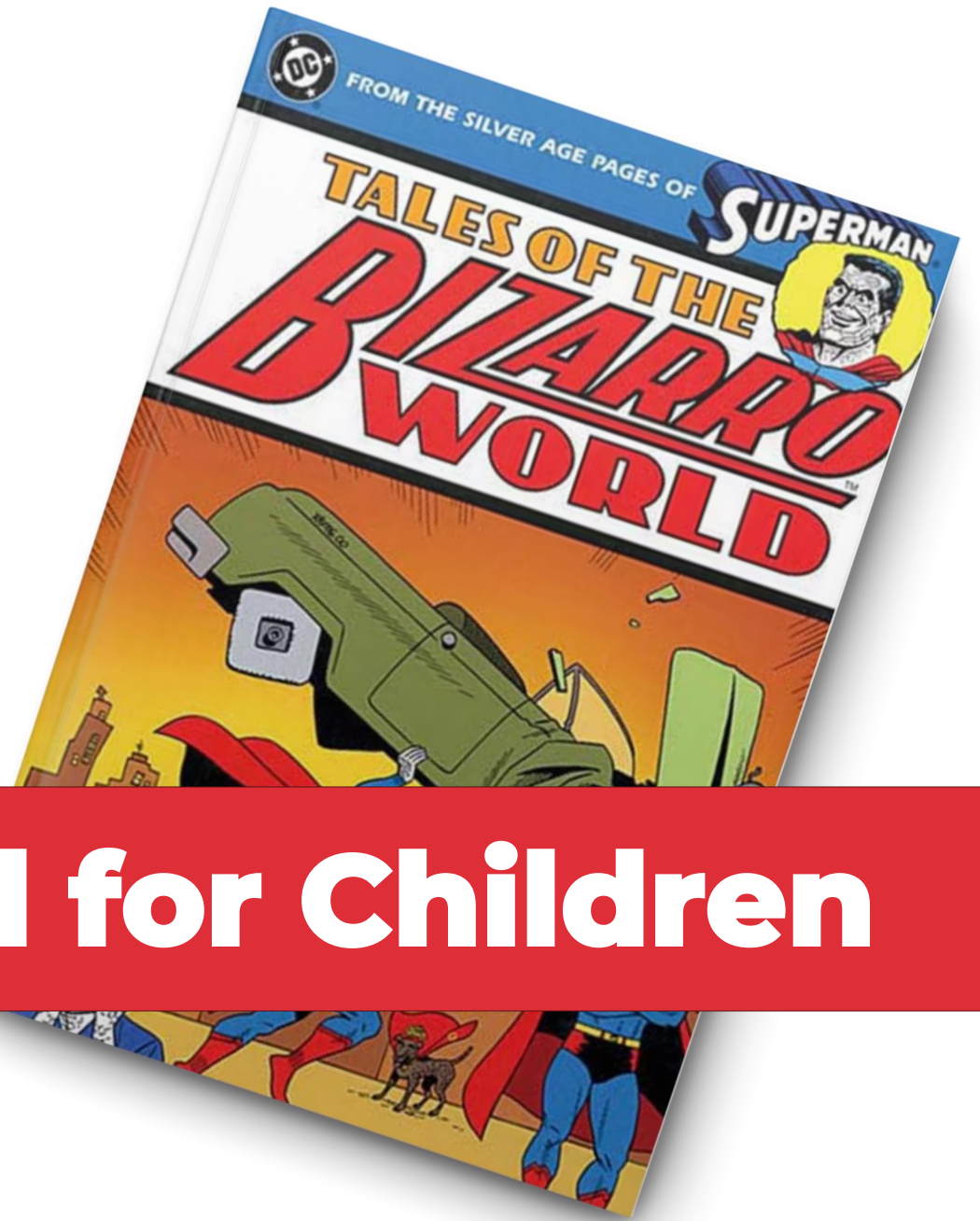
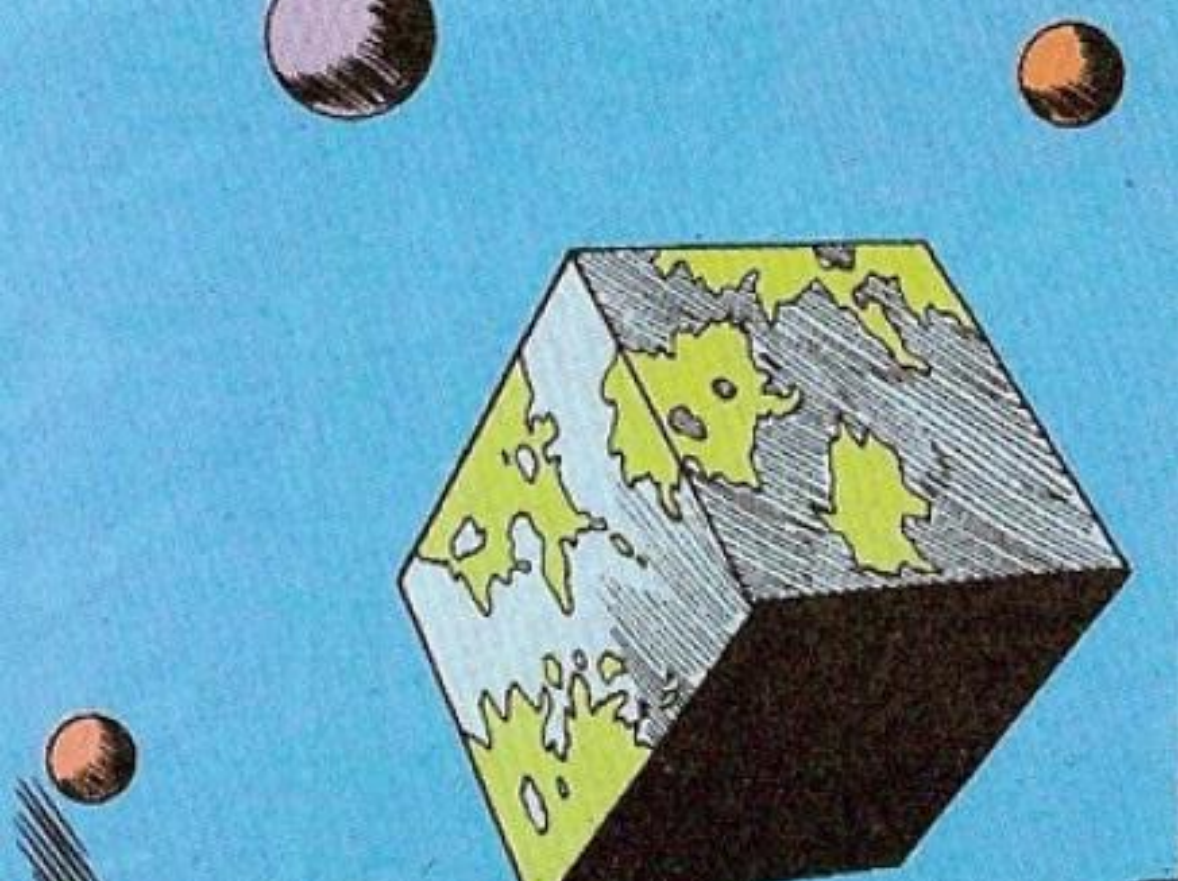


THE QUESTION:

**Where else are we
getting things boldly and
catastrophically wrong?**

Public Policy's Greatest Mismatch





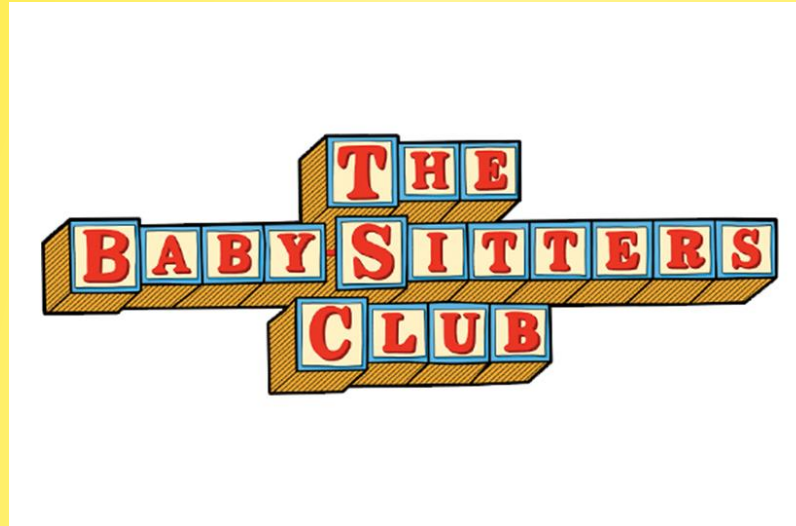
A Bizarro World for Children



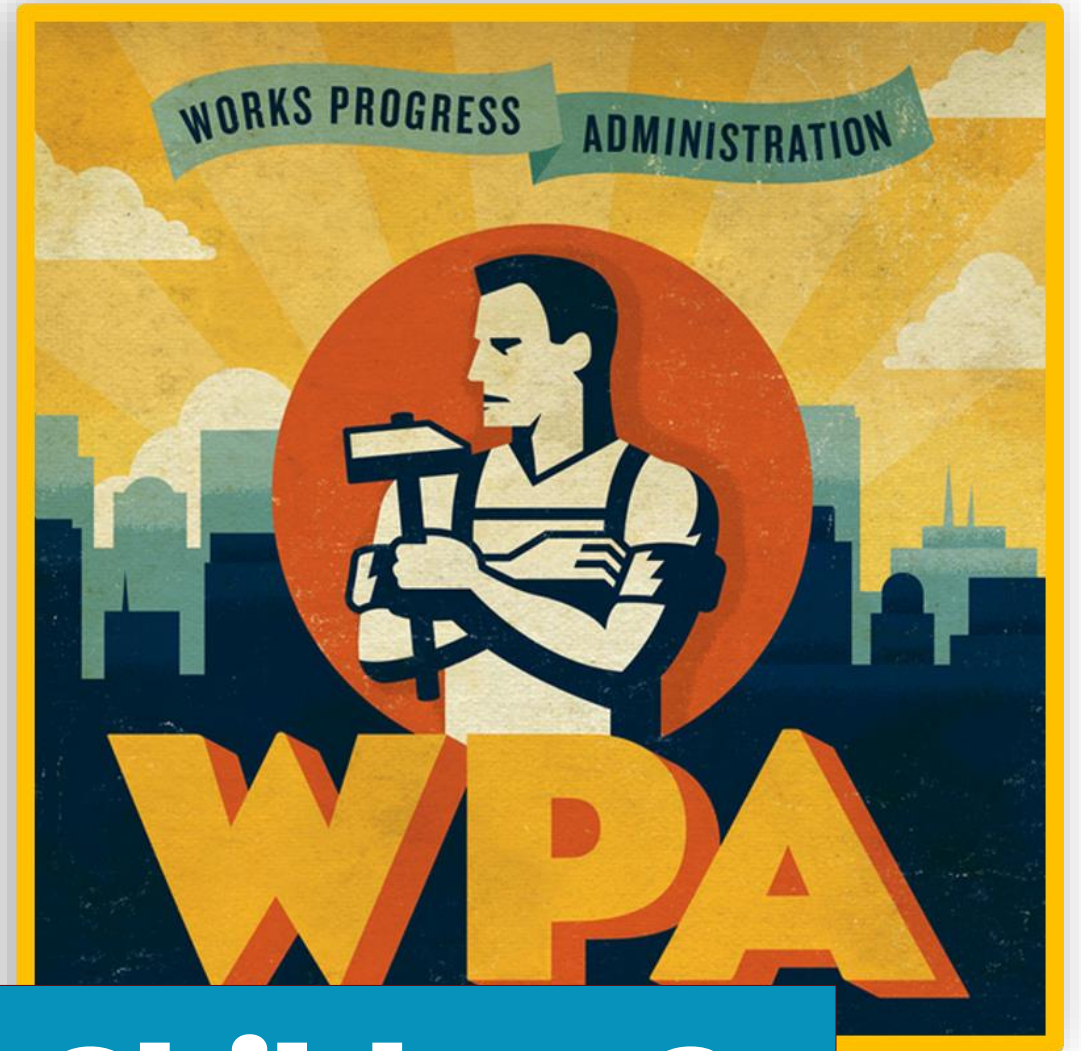
Ours is a Bizarro World in Which:

- 1 in 4 American women must return to work within two weeks after giving birth, interrupting the development of secure attachment.
- Those charged with the co-construction of children's brains are paid less – and in some cases substantially less – than those handing French fries through a window.
- Parents pay more for infant care than for in-state college tuition.
- Our public policy routinely serves to undermine, rather than promote, the stability of families and providers.
- Taxpayers are doomed to underwrite the long-term costs of inaction, rather than the lower costs of proactive investment.

A Crisis of Understanding



**Emergency Nursery
School Program, 1935**



An Investment in Children?

Welfare to Work, 1996



An Investment in Children?

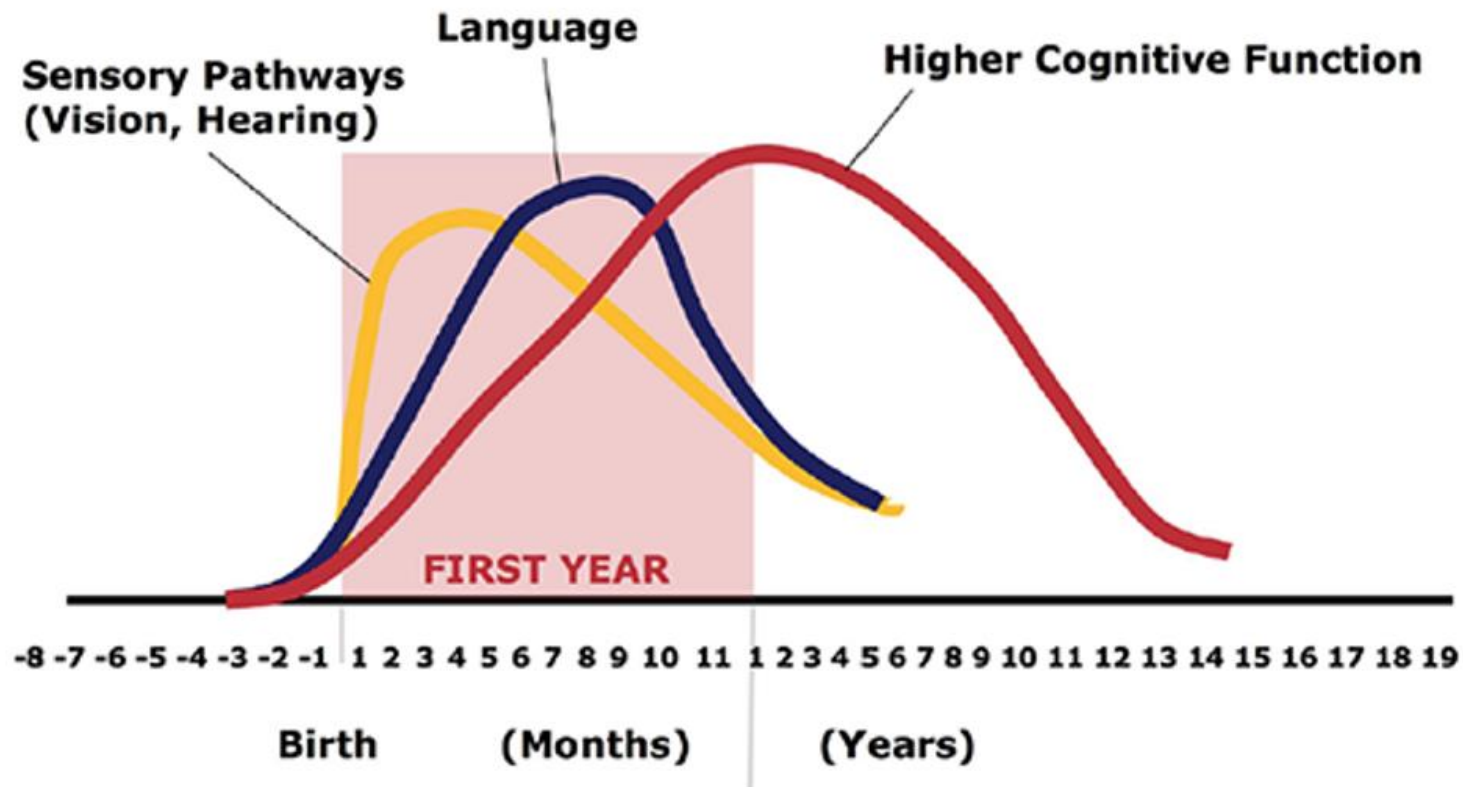
Welfare to Work

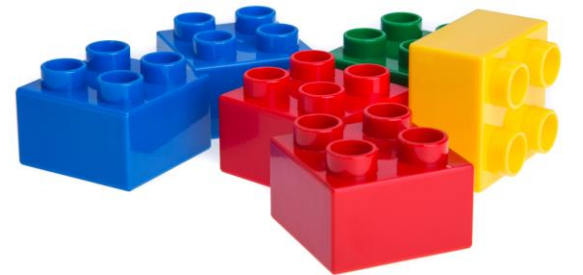


▶ A Crisis of Understanding

Human Brain Development

Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially





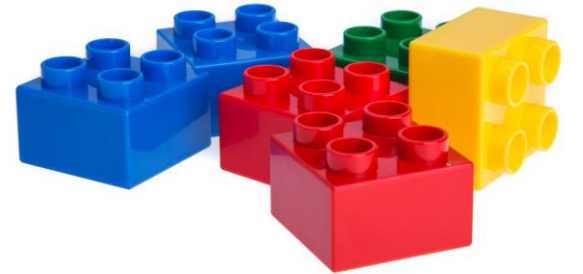
**Ready to
Learn?**

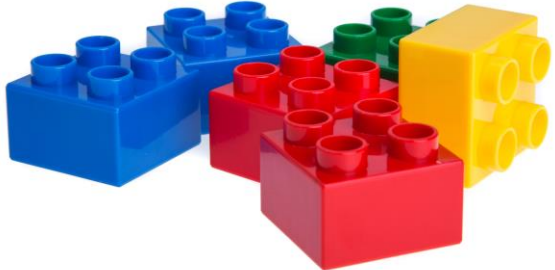


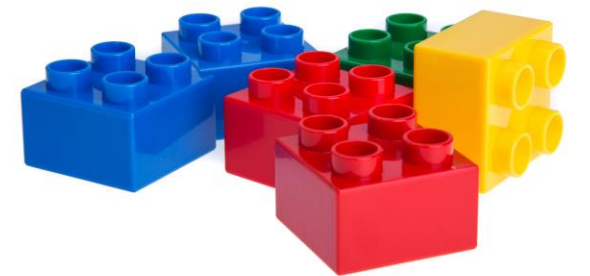
▶ A Crisis of Understanding



Just when
does learning
begin?

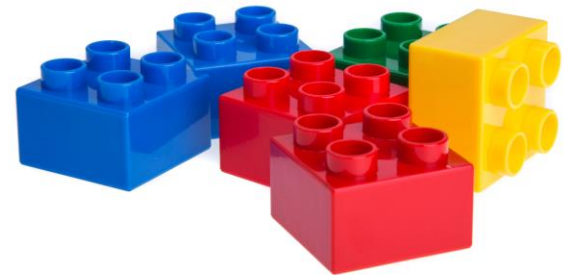




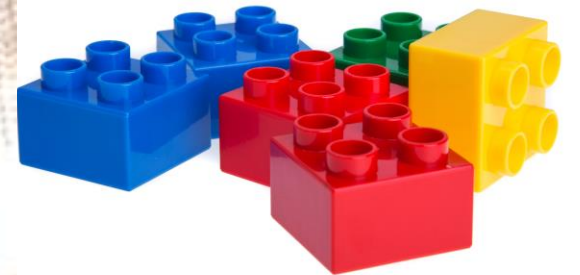


▶ A Crisis of Understanding





Instagram:
glamacrylics_



Instagram:
MelissaK1996
Get Low by Lil' Jon

The 3 Simple Truths

1

Learning begins in utero and never stops.

2

The period from prenatal to three is a uniquely consequential window of human development during which the fundamental architecture of the brain is “wired.”

3

Optimal brain development is dependent on stable, nurturing relationships with highly engaged adults.

The Implications:

- All environments are learning environments.
- Early childhood classrooms are learning laboratories second only to the home in terms of their potential to shape our lifelong trajectories.



▶ What are we in the business of providing?

How we conceptualize early care and education has a direct bearing on its impact.

ARE WE:

PROVIDING CARE?

OR

OPTIMIZING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT?

▶ A Crisis of Understanding

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Home » Opinion » Editorials

EDITORIAL: Regulations caused Nevada's childcare desert



Ellen Schmidt/Las Vegas Review-Journal @ellenkschmidttt

“There’s more. Child care for younger children is more expensive because Nevada requires one caregiver per four children under 9 months. Between 18 months and 3 years, the ratio increases to one caregiver per eight children. The limits on in-home day care are even stricter...

State and local officials hoping to expand the child care market should pay heed. A promising first step toward helping parents would be to re-examine the regulatory thicket to ensure it includes only rules that are truly necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the kids involved.”

One of Parenting's Most Important Choices



**And who
pays the
cost?**

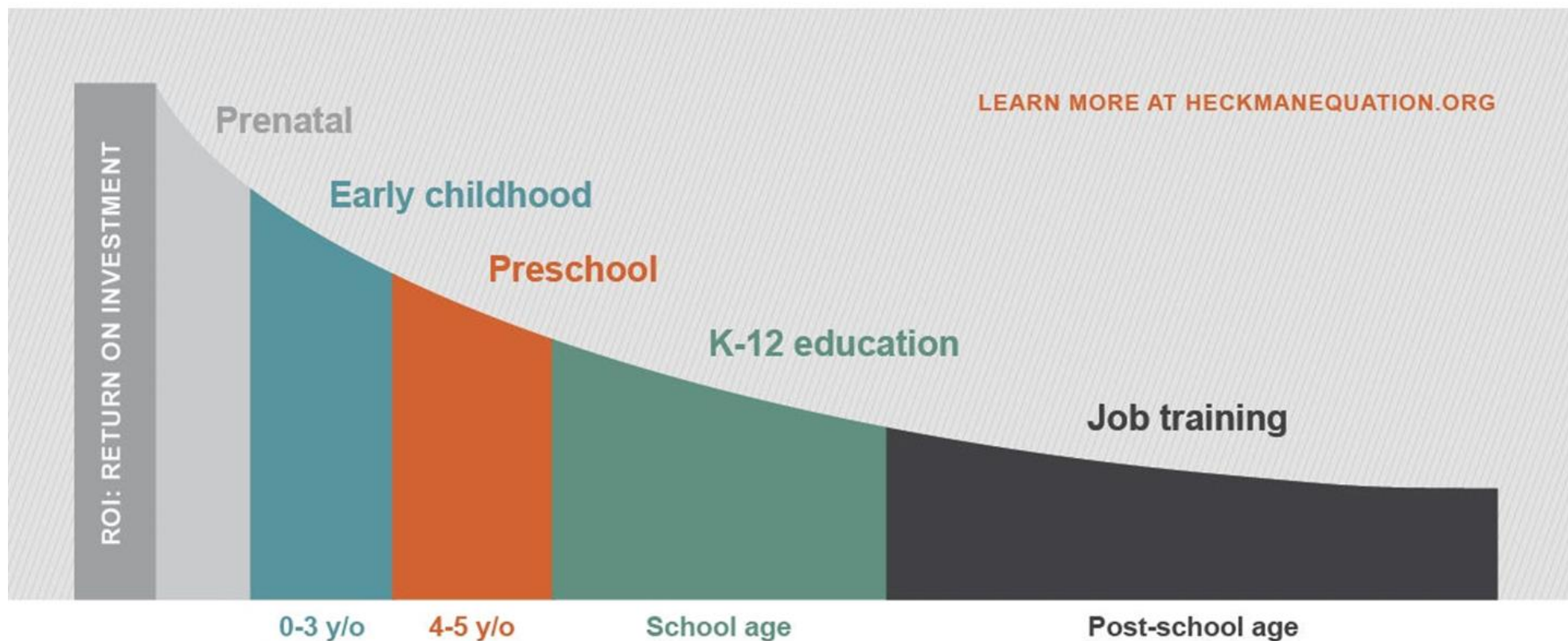


▶ A Crisis of Understanding

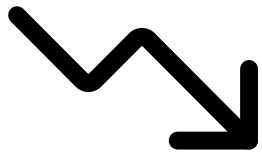


Return on Investment

Economic impact of investing in early childhood learning.



▶ A Crisis of Understanding



Early Childhood Investments Decrease:

- Remediation, grade level retention, special education
- Social service utilization
- Interactions with the criminal justice system



They Improve:

- Long-term academic achievement and high school graduation rates.
- Health outcomes
- Stable marriages
- Taxpaying ability

▶ A Crisis of Understanding

Rate of Return: Standard & Poor's 500

PERIOD	AVG. ANNUAL S&P 500 RETURN
5 years (2018-2022)	7.51%
10 years (2013-2022)	10.41%
20 years (2003-2022)	7.64%
30 years (1993-2022)	7.52%

Average Annual Rate of Return on High
Quality Early Childhood Programs
as calculated by Nobel Prize Winning
Economist James Heckman:

13.1%

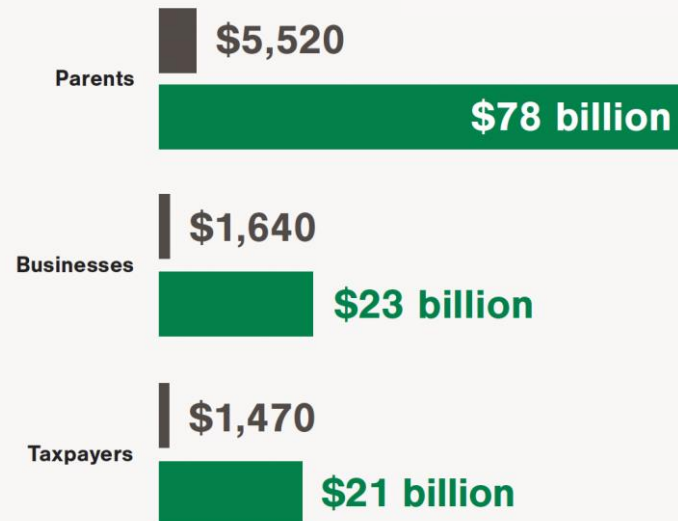
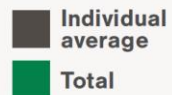
The Real Time Cost of Insufficient Infant-Toddler Care:

\$122 BILLION

The economic impacts of insufficient child care on parents, employers, and taxpayers

Insufficient care for children under the age of 3 costs individuals, businesses, and the country billions of dollars each year.

Annual aggregate economic burden each year a child is under age 3:



In Short:



▶ An Economic Crisis

CHILD CARE vs. COLLEGE TUITION

In 2017, the cost of **center-based care infant exceeded one-year's tuition and fees** at a four-year public college in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

A red background graphic illustrating an economic crisis. It features a black line graph with a downward-pointing arrow, a black money bag with a white dollar sign, a calculator, and several stacks of gold coins.

The **10**
The **10**
Business Types
With The Lowest
Profit Margin



▶ A Compensation Crisis



☰  **CNBC**

● WATCH LIVE

RESTAURANTS

McDonald's raises hourly wages for company-owned restaurants

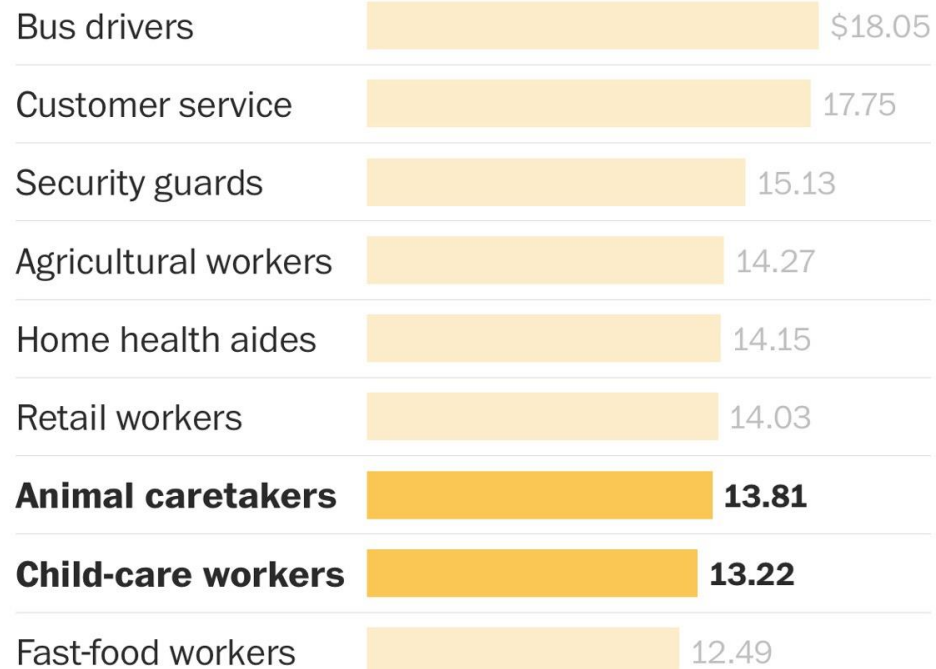
PUBLISHED THU, MAY 13 2021 8:05 AM EDT

UPDATED THU, MAY 13 2021 5:09 PM EDT

▶ A Compensation Crisis

Child-care workers make less than animal caretakers

Median hourly pay in 2021



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
THE WASHINGTON POST



\$13.81
+ 59¢

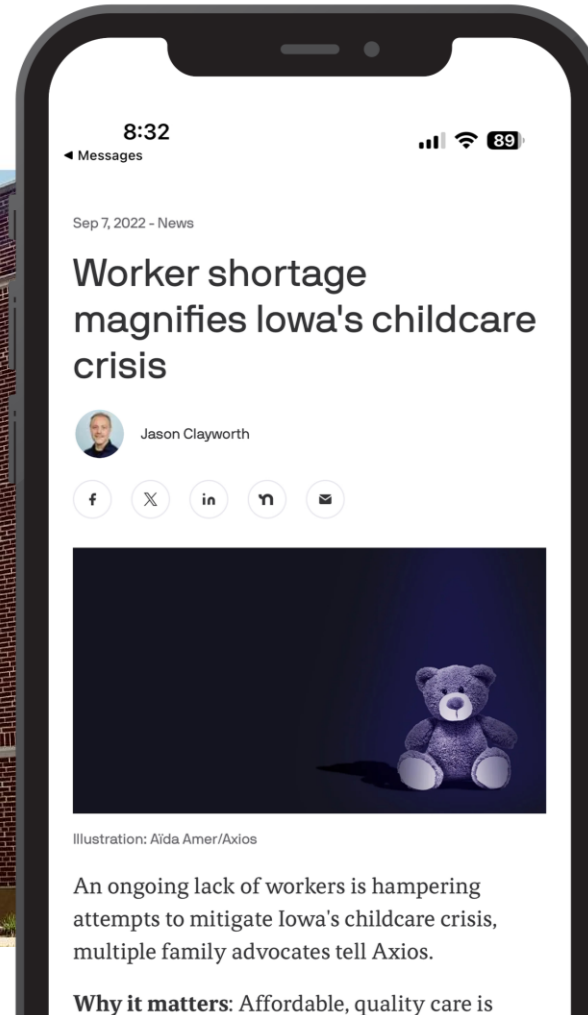


\$13.22

**Is there
Time to Get
to the Bank?**

▶ A Compensation Crisis

Child Care Center Closes After 60 Years



88,300

**child care jobs lost
since February 2020**

91.6%

**of child care jobs today
compared to February 2020**

The Current Early Childhood Policy Pyramid

Quality Programs

Limited to the wealthy
and/or subsidized

Public Policy

- Premised on workforce participation of adults
- Focused primarily on the needs of low-income families
- Unwittingly exacerbates child care's precarious financial model
- Saddles taxpayers with incalculable long-term costs.

Early Childhood Education is:

- In accessible, unaffordable, unprofitable
- Premised on the low wages of women
- Seen as an individual responsibility in a badly broken marketplace

The Daycare Myth:

Care and education are widely understood as separate and distinct,
contradicting decades of brain science

A Two-Pronged Solution

1. Transformative Public Investment

2. Immediate Action

Transformative Public Investment

Creating an actual “nanny state.”

Immediate Action

- 1. Eliminating areas of malpractice.**
- 2. Enacting proactive, common-sense reforms**

The Daycare Myth Leads to Malpractice in Our Public Policy

- **Overreliance on school districts to the detriment of the early childhood ecosystem.**
 - **Mixed in name only (MINO)**
 - **In Texas, 1% of school districts engaging in public-private partnerships, service 1% of children**

The Daycare Myth Leads to Malpractice in Our Public Policy

- **Market Rate Surveys to Set Subsidy Rates**
 - **State and federal governments are actively undermining the stability of the early education marketplace.**
 - **12 states under the 50th percentile. Delaware is lowest at 17th (infant) and 18th (preschool).**
- **Basing reimbursement on attendance (vs. enrollment)**

The Daycare Myth Leads to Malpractice in Our Public Policy

- **Adjustment of ratios and acceptable age of teachers.**
- **Incentivizing on-site child care.**
- **Creation of increased demand, while disregarding inadequate supply**

Proactive, Common-Sense Reforms

- **SC's mixed-delivery Pre-K**
- **Power to the Profession**
- **DC's ECE Pay Equity Fund**
- **MN's Parent Subsidies**
- **Subsidies for All (NM, VT)**
- **CT Family Child Care Incubators**

The *NEW* Early Childhood Policy Pyramid

**Confused with
custodial care**

Early childhood supports are:

- A public good available to all children and families
 - High-quality, readily accessible, driven by parental choice and accommodating the needs of individual families
 - Funded comprehensively and proactively, yielding long-term savings to taxpayers, shrinking the size of government, and lessening adult dependence on social safety net programs
 - Delivered by a respected, well-trained, and professionally compensated workforce
-

Widespread Public Recognition of the early years as humankind's most important window of development; early childhood classrooms understood as learning laboratories, second only to the home in their potential to shape academic and lifelong success.

Public Policy's Greatest Mismatch

“To know and not to act, is not to know.”

- Lao Tzu

THE DAYCARE MYTH

Dan Wuori, Ph.D.



Available Now | www.DanWuori.com