



Preschool For All? Don't Let Them KID You . . .

***Even "high-quality" public preschools are not what's best for our youngest children.**

Virtually all early childhood experts (including moms!) agree that the ideal learning experiences happen naturally in safe, loving, language-rich homes -- not in school programs or institutions of any kind.

Even very bright preschoolers are too young to be pupils or scholars. Preschool-aged children in structured programs away from parents suffer stress hormone increases that lead to more upper respiratory and ear infections, flu, and other childhood diseases. Problem behaviors INCREASE, including poor work, lower test scores, poor relationships and emotional health, more aggression and disobedience.

***Preschool advocacy plays on our deepest human hopes and fears, but in fact preschool provides no academic benefits for most children, and may actually harm them.**

Preschool advocates want a blank check from voters, saying public preschool is worth any cost. So their movement is working hard to sell the lie that every child needs preschool, and to scare even great parents into fearing that any child who doesn't start school by age three or four falls hopelessly behind.

The same RAND research study used by preschool proponents to show preschool can help very poor kids, also affirms the conclusion of Ed Zigler (co-founder of Head Start) that there's NO evidence that children from middle class and advantaged homes get any benefit from preschool.

In fact, school environments interfere with the intellectual, social, emotional, psychological and physical development of young children, as researchers and educational psychologists such as Elkind, Hirsch-Pasek, Eberstadt, and Healy have shown. New research suggests premature schooling even contributes to obesity.

In short, preschool just spells, "school" and not "success." All voters should oppose any initiative likely to harm little kids, whatever their personal politics.

***Some Political Lessons They Hope Voters Won't Learn in Time . . .**

Did you know California already funds preschool and daycare programs for our neediest families? The real needs of disadvantaged children cannot honestly support standardizing public preschool-for-all.

Preschool-for-all is intended to disguise the intense focus on the four of every ten preschool children who don't speak English at home.

Private sector preschools already serve 60% of the preschool age children in California. Replacing all that with public preschool funding is bad for the state's economy and our existing K-12 public schools. Adding public preschool funding to struggling K-12 budgets is likely to guarantee POOR quality for all.

Preschool-For-All expands job security for teachers and lucrative contracts for providers of curriculum, transportation, and food service as well as construction companies that build schools, maintenance and custodial services, school psychologists, and even drug companies. Preschoolers will be tested and funding tied to test results. What happens when a small child doesn't test well, as most do not? Young children are being *expelled* from preschools at a shocking pace already.

Evidence such as California's Master Plan for Education infers a near future in which preschool is compulsory for all children ages 2-5. Private "*preschools*" come under a different set of health and safety codes that could effectively eliminate the home environment as an alternative to mandatory government preschools. In California, the Preschool-For-All Act in conjunction with Assembly Bill 1246 would require all preschool teachers to be state-certified, a regulation that could disqualify most parents from teaching their own little ones at home.

***How You Can Support What's Best for Our Youngest Children, Right Now, Today?**

Support stay-at-home moms in your community who struggle to resist the noise of our culture screaming at them to institutionalize their little ones. Encourage them; help them find resources for learning with their little ones at home, invite them to play groups. Tell them they can do it – and that they are they ONLY ones who can! For more information and ideas about what's best for young children visit:

www.UniversalPreschool.com