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Early Child Care

According to the Child Care Services Association (CCSA), childcare is the fee-based education and care services a child receives in a center or home-based setting when not in the direct care of a parent. Davy Crockett states that child care or daycare started in France around 1840 as a charitable means of caring for children of working class women. Day care centers first appeared in the United States by private charities in the 1850s, the first one being in New York in 1854. Days care centers allow parents to be free for other activities, usually work. With the growing number of parents, mothers to be exact, being in the workforce, day care is needed. It is very important that children are exposed to education, other children, and learn to be without the present of parents. Early childhood care assist in children’s development and provides valuable support to families with young children. It needs to be understood the impact of child care services and the first five years of a child’s brain development. All childen should start out in a day care center or home-based care to effectively develop socially, educationally, and emotionally.

When it comes to the development of children, studies have shown that they learn more in the first five years of life. These first five years “creates the foundation for children to accomplish critical developmental growth that sets the stage for later school success” (“The First Five Years”). Starting from the first day of life to when the child enters kindergarten, children learn, change and grow at an alarming pace. This is when the brain undergoes it most dramatic growth That is why day care is important because that’s when language blossoms, motor abilities are set, thinking becomes complex, and social and emotional development affects how the child learns and relate to others (“The First Five Years”).

Placing a child in child care at an early age enables trained professionals to monitor the child’s progress. Elizabeth Carney stated that “by observing children’s progress, many developmental disabilities can be diagnosed” (par. 2). Elizabeth Carney went on to say that early intervention can help in the reduction of the severity of many disabilities such as hearing and sight impairments, speech problems, or delays in learning. If a child is being cared for by an untrained professional, then these disabilities can go unnoticed until the child gets to kindergarten. That is why it is important that all children go to child care so that they can develop socially, educationally, and emotionally.

There are many benefits to children being able to play and interact with other children. Social skills develop over time, so it is best to start while young. The social skills that are

developed during childhood prepares one for adulthood. Smith stated that there are many socialization techniques that are learned during early play and daycare experiences such as sharing, taking turns, forming friendships, playing well with others, problem solving, etc. These socialization techniques assist in the forming the foundation for later relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. Communication is another social skill that is developed when children are placed in a structured learning environment with children their age. They learn how to express themselves verbally or nonverbally. Any behavior that is learned can be improved. The early development of socialization skills can be fine-tuned, expanded and honed over a lifetime. However, the basic building blocks socialization begin to take shape while they are young. It is important that children interact with other children in a safe, structured and well supervised daycare setting. This encourages the children to develop critical social skills at a faster rate. The advantage that social skills play in learning benefits the children even the more.

There has been a lot of academic research conducted on the long-term benefits of early childhood education. Justin Feldman stated that one of the most important studies on the long-term effects of preschool was the Abecedarian Project. The project randomly assigned students to an early childhood education program or a control group. The study has tracked the participants since the 1970s and found that attending preschool had long-lasting benefits on academic performance, career development, and health outcomes (Feldman). Placement in child care at an early age give children major advantage over children that are not placed in day care.

“High quality child care appears to provide a small boost to academic performance, perhaps fostering the early acquisition of school readiness skills,” said James Griffin of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the NIH institute that paid for the study (Reuters). Reuters stated that these findings suggest that the association between early childcare and subsequent academic achievement and behavior seen in earlier study findings persists through childhood and into the teen years. They enter into kindergarten with the skills needed to be socially and emotionally prepared to handle situations.

Children deal with a lot when it comes to being in unfamiliar environments. Child care has emotional benefits that help children cope. According to Reuters in a 2010 study conducted by the U.S. Institutes of Health showed that “children who attends high quality daycare are less likely to act out because of the support, interaction, and cognitive stimulation received there”. These children also tend to be more socially aware than children that do not spend no time in day care.

In conclusion, children can greatly benefit from being in day care. There are many social, educational, and emotional benefits that set the foundation for future interactions. Day care centers give children the head start they need to establish a strong foundation. Child Care centers places children ahead of those that did not attend a child care center or develop the social skills they need to progress in school. As stated, there are many benefits to early childcare that needs to be taken advantage despite the cost. The children will benefit. The benefits of children attending child care centers while young lay the foundation they will need to be socially, educationally, and emotionally sound.

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