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Based on:

Michael Baker, “Universal Early Childhood Interventions: What is the Evidence Base?”, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 44(4) 2011, 1069-1105



## Studies investigating the impact of public universal childcare programs

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<i>Canada-</i> Baker et al. (2008)	Behaviour	2-4 years	Negative effect
<i>Canada-</i> Lefebvre et al. (2008)	Cognitive-		

Evidence for maternity leave programs and universal preschool programs presents similar issues.

In many cases there are additional questions of whether any impacts persist.

*The populations of targeted programs can bear little resemblance to the populations of universal programs.*

# **Outcomes of the Perry Preschool Program control group**

*Targeted programs provide relatively expensive and potentially quite differentiated education/care.*

### *Perry Preschool*

- Program cost per child of \$17,759 (2006 USD) Heckman et al. (2010).
- Children aged 3 and 4 received a 2.5 hours per day pre school program delivered 8 months per year for up to two years.
- There were 4 teachers for every 20-25 students.
- Parents received weekly home visits of 1.5 hours and participated in monthly group meeting facilitated by program staff

### *Abecedarian project*

- Program cost per child of \$13,900 (2002 USD).
- Teacher/child ratio's of 1:3 for infants and toddlers and 1:6 for older children (up to age 5)
- Medical and nutritional services also provided

### *Ontario Full Day JK/SK*

- Instructional component of JK-GR3 funded at \$5523.59 per child (2011)
- Funding across system for all purposes is \$10,730 per child
- Classrooms of 26 students on average with one teacher and one ECE

### *BC Full Day SK*

- Funding across system for all purposes is \$8357 per child (2010/11)
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# The distribution of cognitive scores for children aged 0-5 from the top and bottom quintiles of family SES









