

What powers Washington's workforce, both today and in the future? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and years of research tell us it is high-quality child care. In fact, child care is "America's most important early education program."²

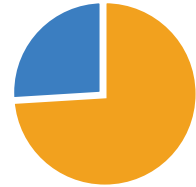
Child care allows parents to work, while also building the skills of our future workforce. High-quality child care provides a two-generation solution to lifting families and communities out of poverty and into the mainstream economy.



In WA, 60% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work.³



Over 75% of working moms & half of working dads said they passed up work opportunities, switched jobs or quit to take care of their young children.



74% of working parents said their jobs have been affected by problems with child care, including missing work.

Accessible quality child care can help solve the nation's labor problem.

Businesses today face a labor shortage. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation: "More than two-thirds of U.S. employers who are hiring full-time employees currently have open positions for which they cannot find qualified candidates..."²

Yet, millions of Americans are not working. "...American workforce participation has fallen to its lowest rate since the late 1970s, at 62.7% in May 2017. In other words, almost two out of five adults are currently neither employed nor trying to find employment."²

"America today is a nation of people without jobs and jobs without people."

~ Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

"Early childhood is thus the bedrock of human capital: a solid early foundation, constructed in the first years of life, is critical to everything that follows."²

Washington's workforce needs access to high-quality child care and early learning. Care must be high-quality to ensure that children's developing brains are nurtured. Science has proven that the early years are *the* most critical for brain development, and what happens to children in the years between 0 – 5 literally shapes their brains for a lifetime.

In the U.S. nearly 11 million children under age 5 spend 33 hours per week on average in nonparental care.⁴



"Today's workers need childcare. Tomorrow's workers are in childcare."²

The latest research demonstrates a 13% per year ROI on high-quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children.⁵

Notes:

1. This data relies heavily on the new U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Center for Education and Workforce report "Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow: The Business Case for High-Quality Childcare."
2. Katharine B. Stevens, Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow: The Business Case for High-Quality Childcare," U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, June 2017, https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Workforce%20of%20Today%20Workforce%20of%20Tomorrow%20Report_0.pdf
3. U.S. Census Bureau Community Survey, 2015
4. Child Care Aware of America "Parents and the High Cost of Child Care," 2015
5. Prof. James Heckman, Nobel Laureate, University of Chicago, 2016