

Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

A partnership of the National Center for Children in Poverty, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the Child Care Bureau, and the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation

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Child Care Decision-Making A Key Topic Resource List April, 2009

Research Connections conducted a comprehensive search of its collection for resources focused on child care decision-making. This Key Topic Resource List includes an overview and listing of selected resources from the literature.

Resources of various types- including reports and papers, fact sheets and briefs, summaries, and reviews are included. Selection criteria included policy relevance and relatively recent publication (from the years 2000 to 2008). Resources prior to 2000 were selected if they were based on studies of national samples. Based on the search results, resources were grouped into the following categories (*Note: resources in this literature commonly explored multiple factors of child care choice and often included several of the topics below. Resources were therefore grouped into categories based on the main child care choice determinant of interest in the study*):

- Choice by parental characteristics: income, marital status, race/ethnicity, culture, language, immigrant status, mental health, & location
- Choice by child characteristics: age (infants/toddlers and school-age) & special needs
- Choice and parental employment: employment status, work schedule (i.e. full-time, part-time, & non-standard hours) & welfare-to-work participation
- Selection of child care type
- Parent values/perceptions of quality
- Child care market characteristics: price, supply, and regulation
- Financial assistance: subsidy receipt, pre-k, Head Start
- Consumer education
- Research Reviews, guides, and instruments on Parental Choice

Within each category, resources are organized according to publisher type and publication date. *Research Connections'* one-sentence descriptions are included for each resource.

Overview:

With the steady rise in the use of non-parental care over the last few decades and evidence that the type, quality, and reliability of care matters for both child outcomes and families' economic outcomes—researchers have explored how families make child care decisions; how child care preferences are shaped by household, social, and market characteristics; and what constraints families face in selecting care.

Some researchers have tried to assess multiple determinants of child care decisions, while others have focused on isolating single factors affecting decision making (e.g. subsidy use). Various research methods and analytic techniques have been used to understand families' child care choices including: descriptive, multivariate analysis, quasi-experimental, and some structural equation models and econometric models. Researchers have also mostly focused on child care use patterns, on factors associated with these patterns, or on parental preferences. Research on parents' actual decision-making process, meaning how they weigh their preferences and other factors to make a child care choice, is more recently emerging. Researchers are still grappling with the best research questions and approaches to understanding child care decision-making.

Research questions include:

- How is child care choice affected by child and family characteristics?
- How does child care cost and maternal employment influence child care choice?
- Do parent values and perceptions of child care quality affect choice?
- Do financial assistance programs influence child care decisions?
- Is there a disconnect between parents' child care preferences and child care options available to them? How do parents make a child care decision when considering their preferences and other factors?

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Choice by parental characteristics: income, marital status, race/ethnicity, culture, language, immigrant status, mental health, & location

Government

United States. Administration for Children and Families. (2007). [National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families: Patterns of child care use among low-income families: Final report](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families

A study of families' decisions regarding employment and child care arrangements, examining variations by child's age, mother's race, and other family characteristics, and assessing the impact of child care subsidies and other state and local policies on families' choices

United States. Administration for Children and Families. (2000). [National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families: State and Community Substudy: Interim report](#) Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates

A study of the responses of 17 states and 25 communities to the child care needs of low-income families.

Journals

Morrissey, Taryn (2008). [Familial factors associated with the use of multiple child-care arrangements](#) Journal of Marriage and Family, 70(2), 549-563

A study of the association between the use of multiple non-parental child care arrangements and factors such as family income, level of maternal labor force participation, child care quality, and parental satisfaction with care, based on a sample of 759 families with working mothers

Rose, Katherine Kensinger, & Elicker, James (2008). [Parental decision making about child care](#) Journal of Family Issues, 29(9), 1161-1184

A study of the relative influence of various features of child care arrangements on maternal choice of arrangements, and a study of the association between these features and the characteristics of mothers, based on the questionnaire responses of 355 mothers

Kimmel, Jean, Summer (2006). [Child care, female employment, and economic growth](#) Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society, 37(2), 71-85

An examination of the relations among child care choices, maternal employment, and regional economic growth, including the importance of community work/family support systems

Meyers, Marcia K., & Jordan, Lucy P. Summer (2006). [Choice and accommodation in parental child care decisions](#) Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society, 37(2), 53-70

An overview of research on the determinants of child care use and choice, including socioeconomic status, demographic characteristics, price, parental employment status, and quality of care

Press, Julie E., Fagan, Jay, & Bernd, E. (2006). [Child care, work, and depressive symptoms among low-income mothers](#) Journal of Family Issues, 27(5), 609-632

A study using data from the Philadelphia Survey of Child Care and Work (PSCCW) to examine the relationship between depression in low income working mothers and welfare participation, employment, and child care quality

Hirshberg, Diane, Huang, Danny S., Fuller, Bruce (2005). [Which low-income parents select child-care? Family demand and neighborhood organizations](#) Children and Youth Services Review, 27, 1119-1148.

A study of factors affecting low-income parents' decisions about which type of child care to select, including race, education, local availability of programs, language, marital status, and number of working hours in a sample of 1,974 parents

Shlay, Anne B., Tran, H., Weinraub, Marsha, & Harmon, M. (2005). [Teasing apart the child care conundrum: A factorial survey analysis of perceptions of child care quality, fair market price and willingness to pay by low-income, African American parents](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 20(4), 393-416

A study of the ideal child care preferences of low income African-American parents asked to express interest in and assign prices to hypothetical and randomly-generated descriptions of child care settings, based on the responses of 141 parents from Philadelphia

Brandon, Peter. D., Hofferth, & Sandra L. (2003). [Determinants of out-of-school childcare arrangements among children in single-mother and two-parent families.](#) *Social Science Research*, 32, 129-147.

An examination of the influence of income, maternal employment hours, parental preference, and perceived risk to children on the out of school hours care choices of both single mothers and parents in two-working-parent families, based on data collected from a multistage-stratified sample of households from across the United States

Van Horn, M. Lee, Ramey, Sharon L., Mulvihill, Beverly A., Newell Washington, Wanda (2001). [Reasons for child care choice and appraisal among low-income mothers](#) *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 30(4), 231-249

An exploration of factors associated with child care choice and maternal perceptions of child care quality, such as maternal demographics, child characteristics, and available child care options, based on data collected from 1,001 low income mothers from each region of one state

Burchinal, Margaret, & Nelson, Lauren (2000). [Family selection and child care experiences: Implications for studies of child outcomes](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(3), 385-411

A study of child care selection, influenced by family characteristics and parenting practices and beliefs, as a mediating variable in the correlation between child care quality and child developmental outcomes, based on data collected from samples of families in five states

Buriel, J. Raymond, Hurtado-Ortiz, Maria T. (2000). [Child care practices and preferences of native- and foreign-born Latina mothers and Euro-American mothers](#) *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 22(3), 314-331

A comparison of the child care practices and preferences of native and foreign-born Latina mothers compared to European-American mothers in southern California

Liang, Xiaoyan, Fuller, Bruce, Singer, Judith D. (2000). [Ethnic differences in child care selection: The influence of family structure, parental practices, and home language](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(4), 357-384

A study of parental selection of center-based child care, focusing on the influences of ethnicity, family structure, parental beliefs, and home language

Fuller, Bruce, Holloway, Susan D., & Liang, Xiaoyan (1996). [Family selection of child care centers: The influence of household support, ethnicity, and parental practices](#) *Child Development*, 67(6), 3320-3337

A study of the relationship between the selection of center-based child care and household composition, race, and parenting beliefs, based on data collected from a sample of families from across the United States

Hofferth, Sandra L., Chaplin, Duncan, Wissoker, Douglas, Robins, Philip K. (1996). [Choice characteristics and parents' child care decisions](#) *Rationality and Society*, 8(4), 453-495
A review of data from the 1990 National Child Care Survey examining the relationship between parents' personal characteristics and child care arrangement choices

Johansen, Anne, Leibowitz, Arleen, Waite, Linda (1996). [The importance of child care characteristics to choice of care](#) *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58(3), 759-772
A study on the importance of child care characteristics in parental child care decisions, using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of the High School Class of 1972

Universities & Research Organizations

Chaudry, Ajay (2002). [Child care arrangements among low-income families: A qualitative approach](#) Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
An examination of child care arrangements among families in low-income urban neighborhoods, using longitudinal data from interviews with 42 mothers of preschool children in New York City

Other

Chaudry, Ajay (2004). [Putting children first: How low-wage working mothers manage child care](#) New York: Russell Sage Foundation
A qualitative study of the child care arrangements of 42 low income single working mothers in New York City, based on interviews and observations collected over three years in the period following passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) OF 1996

Rindfuss, Ronald, Raley, R. Kelly, Harris, Kathleen (2000). [Child care choices of working women in the U.S.: Implications for public policy](#) Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California
An overview of factors influencing child care decisions of working mothers and the implications on public policy, in the late-1980s

Choice by child characteristics: age (infants/toddlers & school-age) & special needs

Infants

Journals

Leach, Penelope, Barnes, Jacqueline, Nichols, Michelle, Goldin, Jon, Stein, Alan, Sylva, Kathy, Malmberg, Lars-Erik (2006). [Child care before 6 months of age: A qualitative study of mothers' decisions and feelings about employment and non-maternal care](#) *Infant and Child Development*, 15(5), 471-502
A qualitative study of British mothers' beliefs in terms of infant child care and employment, examining reasons for returning to work, process of selecting child care, range and type of advice received, and involvement of fathers

Riley, Lisa & Glass, J. L. (2002). [You can't always get what you want: Infant care preferences and use among employed mothers](#) *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 64(1), 2-15

An exploration of mothers' preferences for child care, the care they use, and reasons for their choices, based on a regional Midwest sample of 247 pregnant women who returned to paid employment within the first year postpartum and used non-maternal child care

Koren-Karie, Nina (2001). [Mothers' attachment representations and choice of infant care: Center care vs. home](#) *Infant and Child Development*, 10(3), 117-127

An examination of the quality of attachment representations of mothers who enrolled their child in a child care center as opposed to mothers who remained at home with their child

Universities & Research Organizations

Ehrle, Jennifer, Adams, Gina, Tout, Kathryn (2001). [Who's caring for our youngest children? Child care patterns of infants and toddlers](#) Washington, DC: Urban Institute

A study of the types of child care used, the hours spent in child care, and number of child care arrangements experienced by infants and toddlers with working mothers, and a study of variations in child care use in this population by maternal education, family structure, income, and parental availability, based on a 1997 nationwide data set

School-age

Universities & Research Organizations

Capizzano, Jeffrey, Main, Regan, Nelson, Sandi (2004). [Adolescents assuming adult roles: Factors associated with teens providing child care for younger siblings](#) (JCPR Working Paper No. 353).

Chicago: Joint Center for Poverty Research

A study examining patterns of adolescent sibling child care usage by single- and two-parent families, using data from the 1996 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Capizzano, Jeffrey, Tout, Kathryn, Adams, Gina (2000). [Child care patterns of school-age children with employed mothers](#) Washington, DC: Urban Institute

A report on the before- and after- school child care arrangements of working mothers in the United States and 12 states

Special Needs

Journals

Murray, Mary M., Christensen, Kimberly A., Umbarger, Gardner T., Rade, Karen C., Aldridge, Kathryn, Niemeyer, Judith A. (2007). [Supporting family choice](#) *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 35(2), 111-117

Four vignettes, from the parental perspective, about the involvement of families and professionals in care decisions for children with disabilities

Ward, Helen D., Morris, Lisa M., Atkins, Julie, Herrick, Angela, Morris, Patricia, Oldham, Erin (2006). [Child care and children with special needs: Challenges for low income families: Final report](#) Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Institute for Child and Family Policy

A multi-method study, focusing predominantly on Maine, of the challenges and barriers facing low-income working families with special needs children in finding and retaining child care services and in balancing work and family, based on parent interviews and focus groups, a field study, a child care provider survey, a parent survey, and an analysis of data from the 1997, 1999, and 2002 rounds of the National Survey of America's Families

**Choice and parental employment: employment status, work schedule,
& welfare-to-work participation**

Employment Status

Journals

Michalopoulos, Charles, Robins, Philip K. (2002). [Employment and child-care choices of single-parent families in Canada and the United States](#) *Journal of Population Economics*, 15(3), 465-493
Estimates of the effects of child-care subsidies, child care prices, income taxes, welfare payments, and wage rates on the employment and child care choices of single parents using Canadian and United States data

Hofferth, Sandra, Collins, Nancy (2000). [Child care and employment turnover](#) *Population Research and Policy Review*, 19, 357-395.

An analysis of the relationship between non-maternal child care costs, quality, and availability and maternal employment, focusing on the probability that a mother of a young child will leave her current job

Universities & Research Organizations

Ananat, Elizabeth O., Phinney, Robin (2004). [Child care as a barrier to employment](#)
Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Program on Poverty and Social Welfare Policy. *WES Child Care Barrier*.

An analysis of the relationship between labor market, health, family, and child care problems and work outcomes for a random sample of mothers receiving cash assistance in an urban Michigan county in February 1997.

Work schedule (i.e. full-time, part-time, & non-standard hours)

Journals

Han, Wen-Jui (2004). [Nonstandard work schedules and child care decisions: Evidence from the NICHD Study of Early Child Care](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 19(2), 231-256
A study of the relationship between parents' work schedules and child care arrangements, using longitudinal data collected by the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Early Child Care Research Network

Connelly, Rachel, Kimmel, Jean (2003). [Marital status and full-time/part-time work status in child care choices](#) *Applied Economics*, 35(7), 761-77
A study on the relationship between child care price and the employment decisions of married and unmarried mothers.

Universities & Research Organizations

Press, Julie E., Farrie, Danielle, Sisser, Sasha (2003). [Child care problems and work outcomes for low-skilled mothers](#) Philadelphia: Temple University, Center for Public Policy.
A quantitative study conducted with mothers on the relationship between child care and their employment outcomes

Kimmel, Jean, Powell, Lisa M. (2001). [Nonstandard work and child care choices of married mothers](#) (Upjohn Institute Staff Working Paper No. 01-74). Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
A presentation of two econometric models describing decision making processes of married working mothers: the type of care chosen by mothers working nonstandard work hours, and the choice to work non-standard hours when making employment and child care decisions simultaneously

Connelly, Rachel, Kimmel, Jean (2000). [Marital status and full-time/part-time work status in child care choices: Changing the rules of the game](#) Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
Econometric models of marital status and full-time and part-time work status on child care choices utilizing the Survey of Income and Program Participation

Welfare-to-work participation

Journals

DeMarco, Allison, September (2008). [A qualitative look at child care selection among rural welfare-to-work participants](#) *Journal of Children & Poverty*, 14(2), 119-138
A study of the child care search and selection process of a convenience sample of 33 CalWORKS welfare-to-work participants in rural areas of Northern California

Yoshikawa, Hirokazu, Rosman, Elisa A., Hsueh, Joanne (2001). [Variation in teenage mothers' experiences of child care and other components of welfare reform: Selection processes and developmental consequences](#) *Child Development*, 72(1), 299-317

A study of cognitive and mental health outcomes of the children of several groups of teen mothers choosing different types of child care and different forms of education and training as part of the New Chance welfare-to-work program

Mensing, James, French, Desiree, Fuller, Bruce, Kagan, Sharon Lynn (2000). [Child care selection under welfare reform: How mothers balance work requirements and parenting](#) *Early Education and Development*, 11(5), 573-595

An examination of factors affecting the child care decisions of mothers participating in welfare to work programs

Universities and Research Organizations

Scott, Ellen K., Hurst, A., & London, A. S. (2003). [Out of their hands: Patching together care for children when parents move from welfare to work](#) (Next Generation Working Paper Series No. 16). New York: MDRC

A study examining the behavior of single women moving from welfare to work as a result of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) and their ability to find and provide child care during employment hours in Cleveland, Ohio

Hirshberg, Diane, Huang, Danny S-C., Fuller, Bruce (2002). [Welfare to work and child care selection: Which families use subsidies and home-based or center care?](#) CA: Policy Analysis for California Education.

A study of child care subsidy use and use of home-based or center-based child care for 1,974 parents in California.

Selection of child care type

Government

Illinois. Department of Human Services. (2005). [Illinois study of license-exempt child care: Final report](#) Springfield: Illinois Department of Human Services

A study of subsidized license-exempt child care providers through the Illinois Child Care Assistance program (CCAP) in home care settings for 3 or fewer children, with a focus on the perspectives of subsidized caregivers and parents

Journals

Wolfe, Barbara & Scrivner, S. (2004). [Child care use and parental desire to switch care type among a low-income population](#) *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 25(2), 139-62

An investigation of child care choice, use, quality, and satisfaction among low income mothers participating in Wisconsin's welfare-to-work program

Van Horn, M. Lee, Ramey, Sharon L., Mulvihill, Beverly A., Newell, Wanda Y. (2001). [Reasons for child care choice and appraisal among low-income mothers](#) *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 30(4), 231-249.

An examination of the variables low-income mothers use when selecting child care.

Henly, Julia R., Lyons, Sandra (2000). [The negotiation of child care and employment demands among low-income parents.](#) *Journal of Social Issues*, 56(4), 683-706.

An examination of urban, low-income mothers' disproportionate use of informal child care arrangements

Universities & Research Organizations

Lowe, E. D., Weisner, T. S., & Geis, S. (2003). [Instability in child care: Ethnographic evidence from working poor families in the New Hope intervention](#) CA: MDRC.

A study of the influence of financial and material resources, social network supports, interpersonal balance in the family, family goals and values, and the stability of the daily routine in changes or stability in child care choices, using data from the New Hope intervention

Huston, Aletha C., Chang, Young Eun, Gennetian, Lisa A. (2002). [Family and individual predictors of child care use by low-income families in different policy contexts](#) (The Next Generation Working Paper Series No. 9). New York: MDRC.

A study of the impact of family and child characteristics on low income parents' use of child care, child care quality and receipt of child care subsidies.

Brandon, Peter D. (1995). [An economic analysis of kin-provided child care](#) (Discussion Paper No. 1076-95). University of Wisconsin--Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty

A paper examining maternal choices in residential proximity to kin and the likelihood of use of kin provided child care.

Hofferth, Sandra L., Brayfield, April, Deich, Sharon G., Holcomb, Pamela A. (1991). [National Child Care Survey, 1990](#) (Urban Institute Report 91-5). Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press

A telephone interview survey of United States households with children under age 13 on use of child care and early childhood education

Parent values/perceptions of quality

Government

Minnesota. Department of Human Services. (2006). [Parental choice: Fundamental facts from the 2004 Minnesota child care survey](#) (DHS-4820). St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Human Services

An overview of factors considered by parents when deciding on child care arrangements.

Journals

Barbarin, Oscar, A., McCandies, Terry T., Early, Diane M., Clifford, Richard M., Bryant, Donna M., Burchinal, Margaret, Howes, Carollee, Pianta, Robert C. (2006). [Quality of prekindergarten: What families are looking for in public sponsored programs.](#) *Early Education and Development*, 17(4), 619-642.

A description of the meaning of program quality for a representative group of parents of children enrolled in public pre-kindergarten programs, with a comparison of educators' and families' conceptions of quality

Garavuso, Vicki (2006). [Early care and education choices of women in a parent support group in a working class neighborhood: Three women coconstruct notions of appropriate settings](#) *Early Education and Development*, 17(4), 511-533

A qualitative study of three mothers living in New York City who served as a source of information on child care and early education for each other, and an analysis of the knowledge and support they gained and the processes they used to acquire and share information

Burchinal, Margaret R., Nelson, Lauren (2000). [Family selection and child care experiences: Implications for studies of child outcomes.](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(3), 385-411.

A study of child care selection, influenced by family characteristics and parenting practices and beliefs, as a mediating variable in the correlation between child care quality and child developmental outcomes, based on data collected from samples of families in five states

Leslie, Leigh A., Ettenson, Richard, Cumsille, Patricio (2000). [Selecting a child care center: What really matters to parents?](#) *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 29(5), 299-322.

A study of the features of child care arrangements valued by parents with different demographic and family characteristics, based on the questionnaire responses of 235 parents in the market for child care from a metropolitan area in the Eastern United States

Universities & Research Organizations

Raikes, Helen, Wilcox, Brian, Peterson, Carla A., Hegland, Susan M., Atwater, Jane, Summers, Jean Ann, Thornburg, Kathy R., Scott, Jacqueline L., Torquati, Julia C., Edwards, Carolyn P. (2005). [Parent perceptions of child care choice and quality in four states](#) Lincoln: University of Nebraska--Lincoln, Center on Children, Families, and the Law

A study of parents' child care perceptions, decision-making factors, and processes in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

Kuo, Alice A. (2004). [Parent factors influencing child care selection](#) Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles

An examination of the relationship between parents' views and beliefs on early childhood development or childcare and the subsequent child care arrangement selected

Child Care market characteristics: price, supply, and regulation

Journals

Davis, Elizabeth E., Connelly, Rachel (2005). [The influence of local price and availability on parents' choice of child care](#) *Population Research and Policy Review*, 24(4), 301-334
An analysis of results from a 1999 Minnesota survey conducted by Wilder Research Center of 2450 families with children under 15, focusing on family, child, and market characteristics that predict type of child care used for the youngest child

Kreader, J. Lee, Piecyk, Jessica. B, Collins, Anne (2000). [Scant increases after welfare reform: Regulated child care supply in Illinois and Maryland](#) *Child Care Research Partnership Report No. 3*.
An examination of the changes in the supply of regulated child care post-1996 welfare reform in Illinois and Maryland.

Hofferth, Sandra L. & Chaplin, Duncan (1998). [State regulations and child care choice](#) *Population Research and Policy Review*, 17(2), 111-140
An investigation of the effects of regulation on parental choice of child care and the indirect effects of regulation through the price, quality, and availability of care from the National Child Care Survey of 1990

Universities & Research Organizations

Blau, David M. & Currie, Janet (2004). [Preschool, day care, and afterschool care: Who's minding the kids?](#) (NBER Working Paper Series No. 10670). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research
An overview of the child care market and policies affecting various preschool and after-school programs

Heeb, Randal, Kilburn, M. Rebecca (2004). [The effects of state regulations on childcare prices and choices](#) (WR-137-NICHD). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation
An analysis of the effects of child care regulations on the price of child care, the type of care chosen, and the mothers' decisions to work

Schumacher, Rachel, Irish, Kate, Greenberg, Mark H. (2003). [Untapped potential?: How states contract directly with providers to shore up child care choices for low-income families](#) Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy
A study of the use of contracts between states and providers to increase the supply and quality of available child care and provide additional child care options for special needs populations and low income families

Financial Assistance: subsidy receipt, pre-k, & Head Start

Subsidy receipt

Journals

Crosby, Danielle A., Gennetian, Lisa A., Huston, Aletha C. (2005). [Child care assistance policies can affect the use of center-based child care for children in low-income families](#)

Applied Developmental Science, 9(2), 86-107

A study of the effect of expanded child care options in 13 experimental welfare and employment programs on single parents' use of different types of child care for toddlers, preschoolers, and 5-8 year old children

Weinraub, Marsha, Shlay, Anne B., Harmon, M., & Tran, H. (2005). [Subsidizing child care: How child care subsidies affect the child care used by low-income African American families](#)

Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 20(4), 373-392

An examination of the type and quality of child care arrangements made by parents in low-income families receiving child care subsidies, based on a sample of 111 African-American families in Philadelphia

Danziger, Sandra K., Ananat, Elizabeth O., & Browning, Kimberly G. (2004). [Childcare subsidies and the transition from welfare to work](#)

Family Relations, 53, 219-228.
A study of the relationship between child care subsidy receipt and mothers' work experiences of welfare recipients in an urban Michigan county.

Lowe, Edward D., Weisner, Thomas S. (2004). ['You have to push it-who's gonna raise your kids?': Situating child care and child care subsidy use in the daily routines of lower income families](#)

Children and Youth Service Review, 26 (2), 143-171.

A four-year, longitudinal study measuring the influence of cultural and ecological factors on low income families' use of child care subsidies.

Shlay, Anne B., Weinraub, Marsha., Harmon, M., & Tran, H. (2004). [Barriers to subsidies: Why low-income families do not use child care subsidies](#)

Social Science Research, 33(1), 134-157
An analysis of why child care subsidies are underutilized among African-American families in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Universities & Research Organizations

Tekin, Erdal (2004). [Child care subsidy receipt, employment, and child care choices of single mothers](#) (NBER Working Paper Series No. 10459). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research

A study of the influence of subsidy receipt on the employment rates and child care choices of single mothers, based on questionnaire responses, collected in 1999, from 2,226 single mothers in a nationally representative sample of American families

Witte, Ann D., Queralt, Magaly, Long, Heather (2004). [An examination of the child care choices of low-income families receiving child care subsidies](#) Wellesley, MA: Wellesley College, Department of Economics

A study of the household and community characteristics associated with the child care choices of families receiving child care subsidies, a presentation of econometric models of child care decision making for subsidy-receiving families, and a study of resulting changes in child care choices following a 2001 reform of subsidy policy, based on data collected from all Rhode Island families receiving child care subsidies between May 1996 and June 2002

Meyers, Marcia K., Peck, Laura, Davis, Elizabeth E., Collins, Ann, Kreader, J. Lee, Georges, Annie, Weber, Roberta B., Schexnayder, Deanna, Schroeder, Daniel G., Olson, Jerry A. (2002). [The dynamics of child care subsidy use: A collaborative study of five states](#) New York: Columbia University, National Center for Children in Poverty

A study of the characteristics and services used by children and families receiving child care subsidies, a study of the stability of children's care arrangements while in a subsidy system, and a study of continuity and duration of family subsidy receipt, based on administrative data of the subsidy systems of Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Texas between July 1997 and June 1999

Jacobson, Linda (2000). [Are child-care options expanding?](#) Berkeley: Policy Analysis for California Education

An overview of the effectiveness of child care subsidies in California on child care use

Pre-k

Journals

Levin, Henry M., Schwartz, Heather L. (2007). [Educational vouchers for universal pre-schools](#) *Economics of Education Review*, 26(1), 3-16

A description of Georgia's universal child care system in which vouchers are issued within a regulated market, and a comparison of this approach with the national Head Start system

Universities & Research Organizations

Kennedy-Salchow, Shana (2005). [An analysis of Florida's Voluntary Pre-K program](#) (Occasional Paper 103). New York: Columbia University, National Center for the Study of Privatization in Education

An analysis of regulation, finance and support services of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program in Florida

Consumer education

Levasseur, Dawn C. (2004). [Making an informed decision on employment and child care](#)
Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

An account of the development and evaluation of a guide to employment and child care decisions for parents of young children, using data from an educational research and development project in the Tolland, CT school district, and addressing issues of brain development, attachment theory, quality care studies, family and medical leave legislation, financial considerations, and alternative work options

Research reviews, guides, and instruments on parental choice

Emlen, Arthur, & Weber, Roberta B. (2007). [Parental use of child care: A guide for constructing parent surveys](#) Corvallis: Oregon Child Care Research Partnership

A guide for constructing surveys on factors driving parental use of supplemental child care, including discussions of constructs and variables related to household, parent, work, and child characteristics, child care arrangements, and parent choice

Child Trends (2006). [Review and synthesis of selected research reports submitted to the Child Care Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) Washington, DC: Child Trends

An overview of key findings, methodological developments, and policy implications from selected research projects funded by the Child Care Bureau, focusing on projects that study the use and effects of child care subsidies, parental choice of child care, improving and documenting child care quality, child care and early education partnerships, and characteristics of the child care workforce

Emlen, Arthur, Koren, Paul E., Schultze, Kathryn H. (2000). [A packet of scales for measuring quality of child care from a parent's point of view: With summary of method and findings](#)
Portland, OR: Portland State University, Regional Research Institute for Human Services

A four-year study which developed multiple scales to measure child care quality from parents' perspectives

To suggest additions to this Key Topic Resource List, please email us at contact@researchconnections.org.

The full results came from a search on— choice- *exact phrase*, and child care selection- *all of the words*, and child care decision- *all of the words*.