

Executive Summary

The purpose of this review is to summarize research on the context and factors that facilitate parents' decision-making about child care. It is intended to provide a foundation of empirical knowledge for state administrators, early childhood program developers, and policymakers who can use information about child care decision-making processes and outcomes to improve their programs and services for families. The review reflects current and seminal work completed by researchers throughout the U.S. on the preferences, constraints and supports that influence parents' child care decision-making. Literature for this review comes from published journal articles as well as reports from studies funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation and other federal government agencies. The structure and content were selected to reflect topics of interest to early care and education administrators, policymakers, and stakeholders.

We use a child care decision-making model developed by Weber (2011) and policy-relevant issues identified in discussions with state administrators to frame the review. Additionally, we focus on literature related to the child care decisions of parents with young children (age 0-5). Findings from the literature are organized into four main sections reflecting empirical findings about: 1) parents' child care decision-making processes, 2) parents' preferences and priorities in selecting a care arrangement, 3) constraints to selecting preferred care arrangements, and 4) policies and programs that support parents in selecting their preferred care arrangement. Key findings from each of these sections are provided below. Further details and citations can be found in the full literature review.

Key Findings

Parents' Child Care Decision-Making Process

- Most low-income parents perceive having limited child care options and consider few options.¹
- No negative associations have been found between the amount of time spent searching for care or number of options considered and parental satisfaction with care.²
- Most low-income parents learn about their child's provider from friends, family members, and neighbors.³
- On average, low-income parents make child care decisions quickly;⁴ 41% of parents from one study made choices within one day.⁵

Parents' Preferences and Priorities in Selecting a Care Arrangement

- When asked for their child care preferences, the majority of low-income parents place a high value on the quality of arrangements. These preferences are not always reflected in parents' choices when selecting a child care arrangement.⁶
- Parents' definitions of quality vary across studies, but tend to include both structural and process-oriented features identified by early care and education professionals as being indicators of quality. Structural features included in parents' definitions of child care quality include provider education⁷, provider experience and training⁸, and a low child-adult ratio⁹. Process-oriented features included in parents' definitions of child care quality include provider warmth¹⁰, activities to support children's development (including cognitive/academic skills and social skills¹¹, and open communication within the family-provider relationship¹². In addition to these specific factors, parents placed a strong emphasis on their children's health and safety and their trust of the provider.¹³

- Child care preferences differ by a number of child, parent, family, and community characteristics. For example, whereas parents of infants and toddlers tend to prefer parental/relative care, parents of preschoolers tend to prefer center-based care.¹⁴ Studies have found that parents with less than a college degree place more emphasis on safety and practical features, such as cost and location, and parents with a college degree are more likely to focus on quality features.¹⁵ Studies have also found parents who are working, and particularly working full-time, are more likely to cite practical considerations than parents who are not working, or working part-time.¹⁶ Likewise, family income has been positively associated with parents' endorsement of quality as compared to practical features (e.g., cost, location) as top priorities.¹⁷
- Child care preferences and choices among immigrants vary by county of origin¹⁸ and reflect experiences from their country of origin and values of their culture.¹⁹
- In addition to having many of the same preferences and concerns of other parents, parents of children with special needs are also concerned about specific program features that are critical to the care of their child's special needs.²⁰ Availability of care that meets children's special needs is limited.²¹ Limits in availability of child care options that can meet children's special needs have resulted in a high use of care from family members, friends, and neighbors as well as employment disruptions for parents.²²

Constraints to Selecting Preferred Care Arrangements

- Contextual factors related to the child care market include the availability, accessibility, affordability, and parental awareness of supply.²³
- Child care options for infants and school-age children tend to be more limited than options for preschool-age children.²⁴
- Rural areas tend to have fewer regulated child care providers than metropolitan areas and more unmet child care needs have been documented in low-income communities than higher income communities.²⁵
- Employment factors (e.g., shifting and unpredictable work schedules, nonstandard hours, and inflexible work policies) limit families' child care options.²⁶
- Among families reliant on public transportation, accessibility to care options is limited by the schedule and routes of public transit.²⁷
- Families' child care choices reflect the options they perceive to be affordable.²⁸
- Parents, particularly immigrants or refugees, may have limited awareness of their eligibility for free/subsidized early care and education arrangements, such as Head Start.²⁹

Facilitators to Selecting Preferred Care Arrangements

- The majority of low-income parents knows about resources and referral services, but did not use this service to find their child's care.³⁰
- Most parents have reported that they would be interested in the type of information that Quality Rating and Improvement Systems provide, and would use this information in making child care choices.³¹
- Most parents are not aware of state/local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, though the percent of parents who are aware of these systems are growing.³²

- The use of child care subsidies have been associated with parents using their preferred type of care.³³
- Scholarships, designed to facilitate parents' access to high quality care, have been associated with changes from unlicensed to regulated (primarily center-based) care.³⁴

Implications for Policy and Practice

- Resources to support child care decision-making should acknowledge the multitude of inter-related factors that shape how decisions are made and the fact that preferences for different features of child care arrangements may vary by the characteristics of the families.
- Studies suggest that friends, families and, in some cases, trusted professionals (such as case workers and pediatricians) play a role in decision making. Creating a cadre of trusted child care advisors who can listen to families' unique circumstances and provide guidance that is culturally sensitive would be a potentially valuable service to families. Additionally, community or neighborhood-based initiatives, such as provider open houses and yard signs, could be used to increase community members' awareness of the child care options, and particularly options that have been rated as high quality through QRIS, available in a neighborhood.
- A focus on effective marketing and engagement strategies is needed to increase the awareness and utility of QRIS, especially for low-income families. States may choose to market QRIS as a system that rates providers on specific quality indicators that will likely resonate with parents. For example, states could highlight how their QRIS includes indicators of quality identified as important by parents in extant literature (e.g., provider background checks, small group sizes, and training on learning activities that can support children's growth). The timing of these efforts should consider the participation rates of programs so that parents responding to marketing efforts will encounter a sufficient supply of rated programs.
- Child care subsidies and other sources of financial supports (such as scholarships) can enable parents to access these preferred settings when they are available. Interactions with families to provide informational resources at the point of application for child care subsidies may be used to support families' search process and provide them with information about other free or low-cost programs, such as Head Start or pre-K.

Endnotes

- ¹ Anderson, S., Ramsburg, D. M., & Scott, J. (2005). *Illinois study of license-exempt child care: Final report*. Layzer, J. I., Goodson, B. D., & Brown-Lyons, M. (2007). *National Study of Care for Low-Income Families: Care in the home: A description of family child care and the experiences of the families and children that use it: Final Report*.
- ² Forry, N. D., Isner, T. K., Daneri, P., & Tout, K. (2012a). Child care decision-making: Understanding priorities and processes used by subsidized low-income families in Minnesota. Manuscript submitted for publication. Layzer, J. I., Goodson, B. D., & Brown-Lyons, M. (2007). *National Study of Care for Low-Income Families: Care in the home: A description of family child care and the experiences of the families and children that use it: Final Report*.
- ³ Iruka, I. U., & Carver, P. R. (2006). *Initial Results from the 2005 NHES Early Childhood Program Participation Survey*. (NCES 2006-075). U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Layzer, J. I., Goodson, B. D., & Brown-Lyons, M. (2007). *National Study of Care for Low-Income Families: Care in the home: A description of family child care and the experiences of the families and children that use it: Final Report*. Pungello, E. P., & Kurtz-Costes, B. (1999). Why and how working women choose child care: A review with a focus on infancy. *Developmental Review*, 19, 31-96.
- ⁴ Forry, N. D., Isner, T. K., Daneri, P., & Tout, K. (2012a). Child care decision-making: Understanding priorities and processes used by subsidized low-income families in Minnesota. Manuscript submitted for publication. Layzer, J. I., Goodson, B. D., & Brown-Lyons, M. (2007). *National Study of Care for Low-Income Families: Care in the home: A description of family child care and the experiences of the families and children that use it: Final Report*.
- ⁵ Layzer, J. I., Goodson, B. D., & Brown-Lyons, M. (2007). *National Study of Care for Low-Income Families: Care in the home: A description of family child care and the experiences of the families and children that use it: Final Report*.
- ⁶ Sandstrom, H., & Chaudry, A. (2012). 'You have to choose your childcare to fit your work': Childcare decision-making among low-income working families. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 18, 89-119.
- ⁷ Rose, K. K., & Elicker, J. (2008). Parental decision making about child care. *Journal of Family Issues*, 29, 1161-1184.
- ⁸ Shlay, A. B., Tran, H., Weinraub, M., & 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, 393-416.
- ⁹ Shlay, A. B. (2010). African American, White and Hispanic child care preferences: A factorial survey analysis of welfare leavers by race and ethnicity. *Social Science Research*, 29, 125-141. Van Horn, M. L., Ramey, S. L., Mulvihill, B. A., & Newell, W. Y. (2001). Reasons for child care choice and appraisal among low-income mothers. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 30(4), 231-249.
- ¹⁰ Cryer, D., & Burchinal, M. (1997). Parents as child care consumers. *Early Child Development and Care*, 12, 35-58. Shlay, A. B. (2010). African American, White and Hispanic child care preferences: A factorial survey analysis of welfare leavers by race and ethnicity. *Social Science Research*, 29, 125-141. Shlay, A. B., Tran, H., Weinraub, M., & 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, 393-416.
- ¹¹ Barbarin, O. A., McCandies, T., Early, D., Clifford, R. M., Bryant, D., Burchinal, M., Howes, C., ...Pianta, R. (2006). Quality of prekindergarten: What families are looking for in public sponsored programs. *Early Education & Development*, 17, 619-642. Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Gamble, W. C., Ewing, A. R., & Wilhelm, M. S. (2009). Parental perceptions of characteristics of non-parental child care: Belief dimensions, family and child correlates. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 18, 70-82. Holloway, S. D., Rambaud, M. F., Fuller, B., & Eggers-Pierola, C. (1995). What is "appropriate practice" at home and in child care?: Low-income mothers' views on preparing their children for school *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 10, 451-473. Ispa, J. M., Thornburg, K. R., & Venter-Barkley, J. (1998). Parental child care selection criteria and program quality in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan communities. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 14, 3-14. Leach, P., Barnes, J., Nichols, M., Goldin, J., Stein, A., Sylva, K., ...Malmberg, L.-E. (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, 471-502. Mensing, J. F., French, D., Fuller, B., & Kagan, S. L. (2000). Child care selection under welfare reform: How mothers balance work requirements and parenting. *Early Education and Development*, 11(5), 573-595. Van Horn, M. L., Ramey, S. L., Mulvihill, B. A., & Newell, W. Y. (2001). Reasons for child care choice and appraisal among low-income mothers. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 30(4), 231-249.
- ¹² Barbarin, O. A., McCandies, T., Early, D., Clifford, R. M., Bryant, D., Burchinal, M., Howes, C., ...Pianta, R. (2006). Quality of prekindergarten: What families are looking for in public sponsored programs. *Early Education & Development*, 17, 619-642. Forry, N. D., Wheeler, E., & Simkin, S. (2012b). "You know how it makes you feel": Low-income parents' child care preferences and definitions of high quality child care. Manuscript submitted for publication. Leach, P., Barnes, J., Nichols, M., Goldin, J., Stein, A., Sylva, K., ...Malmberg, L.-E. (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, 471-502.

- ¹³ Anderson, S., Ramsburg, D. M., & Scott, J. (2005). *Illinois study of license-exempt child care: Final report*. Cryer, D., & Burchinal, M. (1997). Parents as child care consumers. *Early Child Development and Care*, 12, 35-58. Henly, J. R., & Lyons, S. (2000). The negotiation of child care and employment demands along low-income parents. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56, 683-706. Ispa, J. M., Thornburg, K. R., & Venter-Barkley, J. (1998). Parental child care selection criteria and program quality in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan communities. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 14, 3-14. Leach, P., Barnes, J., Nichols, M., Goldin, J., Stein, A., Sylva, K., ...Malmberg, L.-E. (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, 471-502. Mensing, J. F., French, D., Fuller, B., & Kagan, S. L. (2000). Child care selection under welfare reform: How mothers balance work requirements and parenting. *Early Education and Development*, 11(5), 573-595. Shlay, A. B. (2010). African American, White and Hispanic child care preferences: A factorial survey analysis of welfare leavers by race and ethnicity. *Social Science Research*, 29, 125-141. Weber, R. B., & Grobe, D. (2011). *Oregon subsidy policy impact research project: Parent survey*. Corvallis: Oregon Child Care Research Partnership.
- ¹⁴ Rose, K. K., & Elicker, J. (2008). Parental decision making about child care. *Journal of Family Issues*, 29, 1161-1184. Rose, K. K., & Elicker, J. (2010). Maternal child care preferences for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers: The disconnect between policy and preferences in the USA. *Community, Work, & Family*, 13, 205-229.
- ¹⁵ Johansen, A. S., Leibowitz, A., & Waite, L. J. (1996). The importance of child-care characteristics to choice of care. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 58, 759-772. Leslie, L., Ettenson, R., & Cumsille, P. (2000). Selecting a child care center: What really matters to parents? *Child and Youth Care Forum*, 29, 299-322. Rose, K. K., & Elicker, J. (2008). Parental decision making about child care. *Journal of Family Issues*, 29, 1161-1184. Van Horn, M. L., Ramey, S. L., Mulvihill, B. A., & Newell, W. Y. (2001). Reasons for child care choice and appraisal among low-income mothers. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 30(4), 231-249.
- ¹⁶ Kim, J., & Fram, M. S. (2009). Profiles of choice: Parents' patterns of priority in child care decision-making. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 24, 77-91. Peyton, V., Jacobs, A. C., O'Brien, M., & Roy, C. (2001). Reasons for choosing child care: Associations with family factors, quality and satisfaction. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 16, 191-208.
- ¹⁷ Gamble, W. C., Ewing, A. R., & Wilhelm, M. S. (2009). Parental perceptions of characteristics of non-parental child care: Belief dimensions, family and child correlates. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 18, 70-82. Gordon, R. A., & Hognas, R. S. (2006). The best laid plans: Expectations, preferences, and stability of child-care arrangements. *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, 68, 373-393. Leslie, L., Ettenson, R., & Cumsille, P. (2000). Selecting a child care center: What really matters to parents? *Child and Youth Care Forum*, 29, 299-322. Peyton, V., Jacobs, A. C., O'Brien, M., & Roy, C. (2001). Reasons for choosing child care: Associations with family factors, quality and satisfaction. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 16, 191-208. Rose, K. K., & Elicker, J. (2008). Parental decision making about child care. *Journal of Family Issues*, 29, 1161-1184.
- ¹⁸ Becerra, R. M., & Chi, I. (1992). Child care preferences among low-income minority families. *International Social Work*, 35, 35-47. Buriel, R., & Hurtado-Ortiz, M. T. (2000). Child care practices and preferences of native- and foreign-born Latina mothers and Euro American mothers. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 22, 314-331. Fuller, B., Holloway, S. D., & Liang, X. (1996). Family selection of child-care centers: The influence of household support, ethnicity, and parental practices. *Child Development*, 67, 3320-3337.
- ¹⁹ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Matthews, H., & Jang, D. (2007). *The Challenges of Change: Learning from the Child Care and Early Education Experiences of Immigrant Families*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Obeng, C. S. (2007). Immigrants families and childcare preferences: Do immigrants' culture influence their childcare decisions? *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 34, 259-264. Vesely, C. K. (2013). Low-income African and Latina immigrant mothers' selection of early childhood care and education (ECCE): Considering the complexity of cultural and structural influences. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 28, 470-486.
- ²⁰ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. DeVore, S., & Bowers, B. (2006). Childcare for children with disabilities: Families search for specialized care and cooperative childcare partnerships. *Infants and Young Children*, 19(3), 203-212. Haussler, A., & Kurtz-Costes, B. (1998). Child care for preschoolers with autism: An exploration of mothers' beliefs, decision-making, and knowledge. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 13(3), 485-499. Ward, H., Morris, L., Atkins, J., Herrick, A., Morris, P., & Oldham, E. (2006). *Child care and children with special needs: Challenges for low income families*. Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy, University of Southern Maine.
- ²¹ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Haussler, A., & Kurtz-Costes, B. (1998). Child care for preschoolers with autism: An exploration of mothers' beliefs, decision-making, and knowledge. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 13(3), 485-499. Ward, H., Morris, L., Atkins, J., Herrick, A., Morris, P., & Oldham, E. (2006). *Child care and children with special needs: Challenges for low income families*. Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy, University of Southern Maine.

- ²² Booth-LaForce, C., & Kelly, J. F. (2004). Childcare patterns and issues for families of preschool children with disabilities. *Infants & Young Children*, 17(1), 5-16. Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN) 2009/10. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from www.childhealthdata.org. Ward, H., Morris, L., Atkins, J., Herrick, A., Morris, P., & Oldham, E. (2006). *Child care and children with special needs: Challenges for low income families*. Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy, University of Southern Maine.
- ²³ Davis, E. E., & Connelly, R. (2005). The influence of local price and availability on parents' choice of child care. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 24, 301-334. Sandstrom, H., Giesen, L., & Chaudry, A. (2012). *How contextual constraints affect low-income working parents' child care choices*. Perspectives on Low-Income Families Brief 22. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- ²⁴ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Davis, E. E., & Connelly, R. (2005). The influence of local price and availability on parents' choice of child care. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 24, 301-334. Paulsell, D., Cohen, J., Stieglitz, A., Lurie-Hurvitz, E., Fenichel, E., & Kisker, E. (2002). *Partnerships for quality: Improving infant-toddler child care for low-income families*. Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research.
- ²⁵ De Marco, A. (2008). A qualitative look at child care selection among rural welfare-to-work participants. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 14(2), 119-138. National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. (2006). *Child Care In Thirteen Economically Disadvantaged Communities*. Retrieved from: http://www.naccra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2011/13_communities_rept2006.pdf
- ²⁶ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Henly, J. R., & Lambert, S. (2005). Nonstandard Work and Child-Care Needs of Low-Income Parents. In L. M. C. Suzanne M. Bianchi, and Rosalind B. King (Ed.), *Work, Family, Health, and Well-Being* (pp. 473-492). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. Henly, J. R., & Lyons, S. (2000). The negotiation of child care and employment demands along low-income parents. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56, 683-706. Henly, J. R., Shaefer, H. L., & Waxman, R. E. (2006). Nonstandard work schedules: Employer and employee-driven flexibility in retail jobs. *Social Science Review*, 80, 609-634. Scott, E. K., Leymon, A. S., & Abelson, M. (2011). *Assessing the impacts of Oregon's 2007 changes to child-care subsidy policy*.
- ²⁷ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Henly, J. R., & Lyons, S. (2000). The negotiation of child care and employment demands along low-income parents. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56, 683-706.
- ²⁸ Powell, L. M. (2002). Joint labor supply and childcare choice decisions of married mothers. *The Journal of Human Resources*, 37, 106-128.
- ²⁹ Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., ...Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Retrieved from The Urban Institute website: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412343.html>. Ward, H. D., Oldham LaChance, E., & Atkins, J. A. (2011). *New Americans: Child care decision-making of refugee and immigrant parents of English language learners*. Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service.
- ³⁰ Chase, R., & Valerose, J. (2010). *Child care use in Minnesota: Report of the 2009 Statewide Household Child Care Survey*. St. Paul, MN: Wilder Research.
- ³¹ Chase, R., Arnold, J., Schauben, L., & Shardlow, B. (2005). *Child care use in Minnesota: 2004 Statewide Household Child Care Survey*. St. Paul, MN: Wilder Research. Starr, R., Tout, K., Albertson-Junkans, L., Moodie, S., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). *Findings from the Kentucky Early Care and Education and School-Age Care Household Survey*, Evaluation Brief #8. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends. Retrieved from: www.kentuckypartnership.org/starsevaluation. Thornburg, K. R., Mauzy, D., Mayfield, W. A., Hawks, J. S., Sparks, A., Mumford, J. A., Foulkes, T., ...Fuger, K. L. (2010). Data-driven decision making in preparation for large-scale Quality Rating System implementation. In M. Zaslow, I. Martinez-Beck, K. Tout & T. Halle (Eds.), *Quality Measurement in Early Childhood Settings*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. Inc.
- ³² Elicker, J. G., Langill, C. C., Ruprecht, K. M., Lewsader, J., & Anderson, T. (2011). *Evaluation of "Paths to QUALITY," Indiana's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System: Final Report (Technical Report #3)*. West Lafayette, IN: Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Center for Families, Purdue University. Starr, R., Tout, K., Albertson-Junkans, L., Moodie, S., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). *Findings from the Kentucky Early Care and Education and School-Age Care Household Survey*, Evaluation Brief #8. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends. Retrieved from: www.kentuckypartnership.org/starsevaluation. Tout, K., Starr, R., Isner, T., Cleveland, J., Albertson-Junkans, L., Soli, M., ...Quinn, K. (2011). *Evaluation of Parent Aware: Minnesota's Quality Rating System pilot: Final evaluation report*.
- ³³ Forry, N. (2009). The impact of child care subsidies on low-income single parents: An examination of child care expenditures and family finances. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 30, 43-54. Michalopolous, C., Lundquist, E., & Castells, N. (2010). *The effects of child care subsidies for moderate-income families in Cook County, Illinois*.
- ³⁴ Gaylor, E., Spiker, D., Williamson, C., & Ferguson, K. (2011). *Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship evaluation: Final evaluation report-2008-2011*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI International. Retrieved from https://s3.amazonaws.com/Omnera/VerV/s3finder/38/pdf/Scholarships_2008-2011Final_FulReport.pdf.