

## Early Childhood Options in Missouri: A Short Glossary and Sources

Early childhood programs are a complex patchwork of funding, private-public control, and curricular options.

- **“Child Care” may not mean “early childhood education.”** Child care centers or preschools vary widely in terms of *educational* programming that might prepare children for school.
- **“Child care” in Missouri can be state-licensed, “license-exempt,” or “exempt.”** Licensed child care centers with more than 20 children are just one of many options available to parents. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Site Describing Types of “Child Care” Facilities and Licensing: <http://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/parentinfo.php#facilities>
- **Funding for early childhood education** varies, from private tuition, to partial government funding (usually for low income parents), to full government or public funding.
- **“High Quality”:** A policy term that entails criteria for expanded public funding for early childhood education. According to NAEYC (see link below), high quality programs have 1) standards that set the conditions for learning; 2) professional preparation/development linked to better compensation; 3) assistance to programs/providers on how to use developmentally appropriate practices; 4) screening and referrals to additional services for children who need them; 5) family outreach and engagement; and 6) coordination with other funding streams and system planning efforts.

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### Links:

League of Women Voters U.S. positions on early education: <http://www.lwv.org/content/early-intervention-children-risk>, <http://www.lwv.org/content/federal-role-public-education-position>

Researcher Open Letter on Early Education:

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early\\_years/2014/11/researchers\\_publish\\_open\\_letter\\_favoring\\_public\\_investment\\_in\\_early\\_childhood\\_education.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2014/11/researchers_publish_open_letter_favoring_public_investment_in_early_childhood_education.html)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) policy statement:

<http://www.naeyc.org/policy/excellence>

Center for Family Policy & Research policy briefs on Early Childhood Education:

<http://hdfs.missouri.edu/cfpr/briefs.html>

House Bill 1689: <http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills141/billpdf/intro/HB1689I.PDF>

Press Release on federal Early Childhood Education Grant: <http://dese.mo.gov/communications/news-releases/missouri-applies-early-childhood-education-grant>

**League of Women Voters Website:** Powerpoints from the panel, as well as the video, will be posted.

<http://lwvcbc.org/>