Early Child Care and Education in LAUSD

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Research Question

Our goal was to analyze current barriers involving access to ECE, including the achievement gap, staffing issues, and funding, as well as offering potential solutions to help move this issue forward.
ECE in LAUSD

An Introduction

Vivian Ren
Importance of Early Care and Education (ECE)

- Social emotional child development
- Benefits of high-quality ECE
  - Better performances on standardized tests (reading and math)
  - Less likely to be held back
  - Less likely to be put into special education
  - More likely to graduate college
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Program</th>
<th>What is It?</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Kindergarten &amp; Expanded</td>
<td>• Publicly funded program for 4 year olds turning 5 September 2nd-December 2nd</td>
<td>• Designed to be vague and implementation on a larger scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional Kindergarten</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>• Federally funded program, must be below poverty line</td>
<td>• More selective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First 5 LA</td>
<td>• Childhood welfare advocacy program that goes beyond education</td>
<td>• Decreasing funds as fewer smokers (long-term effect)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Partners with Los Angeles Universal Preschool</td>
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Problems with ECE

- Large demand and Lack of space
- Doesn’t accommodate Dual Language Learners
- Expensive and has Minimal state funding
MAP 1. LOS ANGELES: 51% OF BABIES AND TODDLERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

In Los Angeles County, there are 370,313 infants and toddlers (0-3). Approximately 192,548 infants and toddlers are eligible for State subsidized child care.

MAP 2. LOS ANGELES: ONLY 6% OF BABIES AND TODDLERS ARE SERVED BY STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

In Los Angeles County, there are 370,313 infants and toddlers. Of those children, 180,571 (94%) are eligible but lack access to subsidized infant and toddler programs.
The Achievement Gap in Los Angeles

Thomas Wall
Demographics of LA

- 56% of LA Metro Area students speak a language other than English (40% of LA residents speak Spanish primarily)
- 42% of Latino children test in the bottom 25% of their peers in reading readiness
- In grade 2, 46% of Latinos are proficient in English, compared with 68% of students overall
- Spanish speaking Latinos in LA are 36% less likely to graduate high school than the average Californian
Roots of the Problem

- The language spoken at home is not clearly linked to access to ECE or to later educational achievement (Espinosa, et al. 2017)

- Socioeconomic status is key factor in ECE utilization and future achievement (Espinosa, et al. 2017)

- Leads to low parent engagement

Source: Legislative Analyst’s Office
Low-Income Parent Involvement Solutions

- The Minnesota Model for ECE developed by economist Art Rolnick
  - Prenatal home-visit education mentors
  - Scholarships to low-income families for children 3-4 years old
    - Can only be used at highly rated ECE programs
  - Parents have their choice of programs (public/private)

Source: (Schweinhart, et al 2007)
Applying the Minnesota Model to LAUSD

- Children test significantly higher in language, literacy, and early math skills

- Return on public investment is calculated to be 18%, due to projected decreases in welfare, prison, and increases in high school and college achievement

- Cost per student is $7,000 - $25,000 at the top end of risk. Scholarships were capped at $13,500

- Apply to LA
  - Bilingual parent engagement mentors
  - Growth of high quality programs that fit the needs of a community (by 85%)
Staffing

Men in Early Childhood Education

Justin Lin
Staffing Statistics

- Average Salary For Childcare Workers and Preschool Teachers: $28,890/year
  Pre-K Teacher, $22,290/year for childcare workers.

- Total Amount of Workers in ECEC in United States: 1,695,100 ECE educators,
  3.2% are men, 7% Growth rate over the next 10 years, which is average. No

- Percentages Worldwide: Norway (9%), Denmark and Spain (8%), Benchmark set
  by in 1996 was 20% by the European Commission of Childcare Network on
  Education.
Gender Diversity In Teaching and Its Importance

- Why There Are So Few Men
  I. Social Gender Norms
  II. Low Pay and Limited Upward Mobility
  III. Potential Accusations of Child Abuse and Sexual Harassment

- Why We Should Care
  I. Teaching Gender Roles and Gender Equality
  II. Positive Male Role Model For Single Mother Households
  III. Diversity In Teaching Styles
Call Me MISTER®

1. Founded in 2000 by Dr. Roy Jones, Call Me MISTER’s goal is to increase the number of minority male educators in South Carolina’s public school system.

2. Originally less than 200 minority teachers in 600 public elementary schools. Call Me MISTER has placed 228 fully qualified teachers into elementary schools, with over 230 students currently enrolled in the program.

3. Privately funded by universities and corporate sponsorships.
1. “Compensation Parity”—parity of salary and benefits for equivalent levels of education and experience, adjusted to reflect differences in hours of work and including payment for non-child contact hours.

2. Study found four states and two cities that implement “full compensation parity”. (San Antonio, NYC, Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, New Jersey)

3. New Jersey “Abbott Program” is the best fit for LAUSD
Social and Economic Barriers to Access for Low-Income Families

Shernae Hughes
Question of Access

- 71% of California's 516,595 4-year-olds still were not enrolled in publicly funded preschools

- 51% of Los Angeles babies and toddlers are eligible for state subsidized child care
  - Only 6% are served by state subsidized child care

- Higher income correlates to better educational opportunities

- About 60% of early childhood education costs are absorbed directly into family budgets.
  - Government funding provides 39% of the costs of early childhood development programs.
  - Businesses and foundations provide 1%.
Social Stigma

Underlying reasons families do not utilize early education programs:

- “It’s just babysitting”
- “They’re too young to benefit”
- “It’s not worth the money”
  - Every $1 invested in early childhood education saves $7 later on in costs for remedial education, welfare, and prisons

Overall, not largest barrier to access
Quality Rating and Improvement System

- A systematic approach to assessing quality, improve programming and communication for early education programs
- Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) is a $500 million dollar statewide initiative
- Through the RTT-ELC the state allocated:
  - $50 million for the California State Preschool Program QRIS Block Grant
    - $24.163 million for the Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant
    - $190 million on the First 5 IMPACT program.

Largest issue: Accessibility in Low-income communities
Child Care Centers

Budget & Funding

Stepan Petrosyan
### Commercial Zoning
- Business License
- Fire Department Clearance

### Child Care Homes (FCCH)
- Licensee residence
- Business License
- Fire department Clearance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Expenses</th>
<th>Child Care Center (CCC)</th>
<th>Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License Fees</td>
<td>$1,614.85</td>
<td>$187.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remodelling &amp; Renovations</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start up Costs</td>
<td>$96,825</td>
<td>$6,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$139,439.85</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,183.93</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: (History.com)
## Los Angeles, CA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>California Number</th>
<th>Los Angeles County Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>11,230</td>
<td>2,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Home</td>
<td>30,701</td>
<td>7,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for Both Facility Types</td>
<td>41,931</td>
<td>10,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grants & Solutions

Private Donors
- Not available in low income communities

Operational Grants
- 15% can be used towards start up costs

The New Head Start Grant
- 37 in last 3 years
- South LA & Compton
- $8,406,695

- Increase Federal/State funding
- Child Care Center Taxes, Fully Refundable
- Funding incentives for improvement program participation
- Effective ECE workforce Development
- Offer incentives for residence use
Policy Solutions

Milton Dimas
Policy Solutions

- Two potential solutions to generate funding for early childhood education and dual language programs
  - Reformation of Proposition 13
  - County-Wide Parcel Tax
Proposition 13: Split Roll

- According to the California Tax Foundation, 72% of Residential Type Properties make up property taxes.
- Of the Residential Type Property, 38% of Principal Residence (Homeowners) pay the property taxes.

Source: State Board of Equalization
County-Wide Parcel Tax

- Parcel Tax Measures require a 2/3rd supermajority
- Most common parcel taxes are found in the Bay Area
All Final Policy Solutions

- The importance of ECE:
  - Helps develop social and emotional skills useful later in life
  - Benefits tracked by multiple studies include being less likely to require special education and more likely to graduate

- The Achievement Gap:
  - 56% of LA Metro Area students speak a language other than English (40% of LA residents speak Spanish primarily) - 42% of Latino children test in the bottom 25% of their peers in reading readiness - In grade 2, 46% of Latinos are proficient in English, compared with 68% of students overall - Spanish Speaking Latinos in LA are 36% less likely to graduate high school than the average Californian
  - Bilingual parent engagement mentors - Growth of high quality programs that fit the needs of a community (by 85%)

- Social and Economic Barriers to Access for Low-Income Families:
  - Money should be allocated towards transforming day care centers into preschool programs in low-income communities to increase accessibility and encourage entrepreneurship

- Budgeting and Funding Barriers:
  - Increase Federal/State Funding
  - Funding incentives for improvement program participation
  - Effective ECE workforce Development
  - Offer incentives for residence use

- Staffing Issues:
  - Pre-K teachers are guaranteed equal salary and benefits with their K-3 teaching counterparts, provided that they have the same credentials, certifications, and work hours.
Thank you