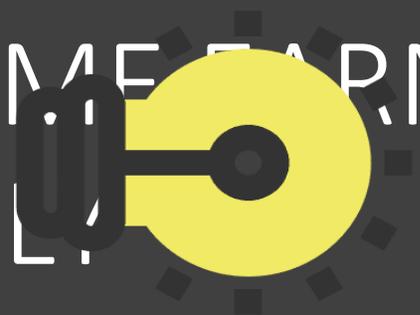


# Day Care vs Home Care: A CASE OF THE EFFECTS OF CHILD MINDING DUE TO THE LOW- INCOME EARNINGS OF THE FAMILY



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## Abstract

Recent empirical evidence has noted with not so conclusive results the need for more research to be carried out or undertaken under the banner of child care on the home front vis-à-vis the controlled environment of day care. Of interest has largely been the yardsticks upon which most of the research has been conducted. In their article on, "A Critical Analysis Of The Impact Of Day Care On The Pre-School Child And The Family," Pardeck, Pardeck and Murphy (1986: 897), conducted research based on four critical subject areas of possible effect on the outcomes of the behaviours of children under the two different categories of study. Their main focal point was on the effects of intellectual, social, emotional and family development of the different child rearing categories on the child. Citing various sources, they contended that research in this field of child care was quite limited, with their concern being that it lacked study on a certain demographic of children; those from low-income or disadvantaged communities.

This seeming anomaly was further cemented by a study on 4 month old infants in a university study type of environment which dealt with the varying effects on infants in the absence of their maternal parents. Although conducted over brief intervals ranging from 1 minute to 1.5 minutes for the different focus areas of study for research purposes, the correlated results revealed that due to different factors coming into play, such as greater interaction as primary care-givers by home care mothers, their infants showed much greater activity and susceptibility to react on a much more greater scale in comparison to day care minded infants (Field, Stoller, Vega-Lahr, Scafidi and Goldstein, 1986). By their own submissions however, the authors of the research confided in the shortcomings of their study also based on factors such as research subjects not being randomly picked (at 297), and they submit that their data could be confounded by "the self-selection" factor which makes the research very limited by implication.

Both the above research undertakings underscore the possibility of a research area that still has quite a wide category of factors to study and because the above research efforts have largely left out low-income households, this research will explore the effects of a 1994 study on the lack of the ability to read going into kindergarten of day-care children from low-income households in comparison to middle-income households (Whitehurst, Arnold, Epstein, Angell, Smith and Fischel, 1994). In their study, the authors came to varying findings with regards to the correlation of the lack of resources mostly encountered in low income households and how this has an effect in the children from these households not possessing cognitive reading skills. The research found that 47% of public-aid parents of pre-schoolers reported no alphabet books in the home, compared with 3% of professional parents (679). This amongst other findings, such as that most parents of low-income households did not read to their children and that a large percentage (60%) of children in areas that are considered low income lacked reading resources and performed poorly in day care in comparison to 40% of children who performed well and were resourced well, shows some negative effects that resource-lack can have on child development as compared to households that earn more.

Parts of the changes in policy implications on child minding, suggested back in 1986 by Pardeck, Pardeck and Murphy (1986: 905), have since come to the fore as was recently shown in a research on the direct and

moderated effects on child care and child care development in low income households (Votruba-Drzal, Coley and Chase-Lansdale, 2004). The authors note the influx that was experienced into the labour force by women from low income households when the “Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996”, (an American Act of legislation), was promulgated into law, as it presented a much greater opportunity for low income household earners to work for their families, while they will be able to provide for better child care for their children.

These and more findings are by no means exhaustive and neither are they conclusive, but they do provide a significant view into inroads that have been made with regards to child care whether it is home care or day care and the improvements that policy changes now favour women as they participate more in the workforce space.



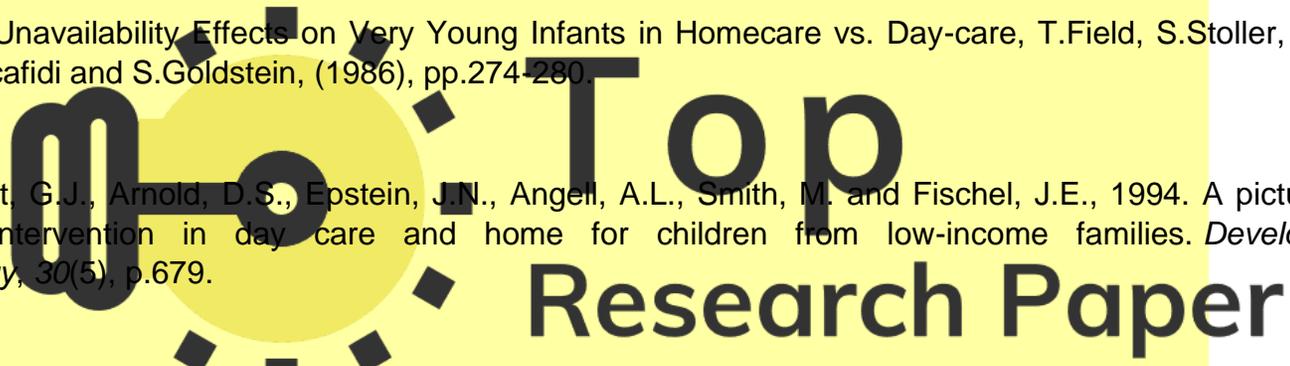
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## An insight into daycare services from different perspectives

### Story

Marina and Alan had to leave their 19-month-old son in a daycare for their first time. Their son was crying and was holding into his mom's leg. The teacher helped the parents by peeling the child from his mother's leg. The parents went to another room to watch their kid on the cameras and as they walked in they saw their kid wearing Cat in the Hat's hat and he was dancing. The mother then turned to her husband Alan and said "That kid just completely played us".

### Instructions/description

A guide to teaching and working in daycare.

Every teacher in Daycare should learn seven tips:

1. Understanding the minds of babies and toddlers.
2. Setting up classrooms to motivate children.
3. Specify activities that will teach them sharing.
4. Give them manners lessons including how to eat.
5. Set activities that will help them make friends.
6. Teach them Alphabets, Numbers, and their Names.
7. Teach them to be active and have a healthy body.

### News article

Merchen, is a single mother with a full time job that relays on Kid "R" Us Daycare to take care of her baby. Merchen stated that her 6 months old baby was left alone in the Daycare center after they closed for the weekend. When she went to pick up her baby as she always do after work, the door was lock "It was an instant panic" Merchant said "I just knew I couldn't get in there, and I knew nobody else picked my baby up". The director claimed it was a miscommunication between the teachers and was apologetic.

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### Scientific article for public

According to a study that took place in 1986, researchers conducted a social experiment on 4 months old babies, the focus of the study was to compare babies who were taken to daycare and babies who were taken care of at home by their own mothers. The study showed that babies who were taken care of by their mothers showed more active traits and had better reaction and observation skills.

### An academic journal

Pardeck and Murphy (1986:897) stated that while conducting a research focusing on social, Intellectual, family, and emotional development, realized that the study had many limitations. As there are not enough studies nor attention upon the babies with low income parents and disadvantaged communities, which makes all the studies lack a certain demographic of children.

### Advertisement

This advertisement shows that some parents prefer to have a baby sitter than putting their children in Daycare. The advertisement consist of listing the experience of the baby sitter, license classification and contact.

### Poster



Poster by Little Red's schoolhouse to raise awareness about the importance of conserving water. This poster was made for Earth Day celebration for the children and their parents.

### An Arabic News Article

ميرشن هي أم عازبة و عاملة، و تعتمد على مركز "كز أر أص" ليعتنون بطفلها الرضيع. ذكرت ميرشن أن طفلها البالغ من العمر سنة أشهر قد ترك بمفرده في مركز الرعاية النهارية بعد إغلاقه في عطلة نهاية الأسبوع. عندما ذهبت لالتقاط طفلها كما تفعل دائماً بعد العمل، كان الباب مغلقاً "لقد شعرت بالفزع فوراً" و قالت ميرشن "عندها أدركت أنني لا أستطيع الوصول إلى طفلي لأن الباب مقفول و كنت أعلم أن لم يأتني أحد لالتقاط طفلي غيري". ادعى المدير أنه كخطأ في التواصل بين المعلمين وقدم اعتذاره.

### Internet

According to Robin McClure (2018), Daycare has both negative and positive impacts on children, as a study by NICHID in the beginning of 1991 suggested children who are going to "high quality" daycare centers is seen to have better vocabulary by the age of 5 than those who had daycare at home. However, the study also showed that daycare is able to lead children to have behavior problems and daycares usually are very expensive.

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