



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

Key Facts on Early Childhood Education

- To qualify for subsidized care in New York City, a family of two must be under 275% of the federal poverty level, a family of three must be under 255% of poverty, and a family of four or more must be under 225% of poverty.¹
- Early care programs administered by New York City's Administration for Children's Services (including group child care, family child care, family, friend and neighbor care, and Head Start) have the capacity to serve 93,295 children, representing only 27% of potentially eligible children.²
- Of the 209,165 children ages 0-6 in New York City engaged in an early care program in 2006, 15.1% were in ACS contracted child care, 16.0% were using ACS vouchers, 12.2% were in Head Start, 9.9% were in a public school-based Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program, 13.1% were in a community-based UPK program, 1.2% were in CUNY child care, 0.3% were in a Living for the Young Children through Education (LYFE) program, and 32.1% were in private child care.³
- There is a shortage of subsidized care for infants and toddlers. Four-year-old children in New York City are nearly ten times more likely to receive subsidized early care and education services than one-year-olds.⁴
- As of 2006, 140 child care programs had achieved accreditation.⁵ Since 2002, Quality New York, a collaboration involving FPWA, Bank Street College of Education, and Child Care Inc., has helped 85 child care programs make the quality improvements necessary to successfully complete the accreditation process.⁶
- In New York City, research shows a significant salary gap between early care teachers in "community-based" settings and their "school-based" counterparts, with community-based teachers earning an average salary of \$36,000 compared to nearly \$63,000 for school-based teachers.⁷

¹ Local District Child Care Plan for New York City (Effective 2007-2009). Note: According to the 2009 federal poverty levels, 275% of poverty for a family of two is \$40,067; 255% of poverty for a family of three is \$46,690; and 225% of poverty for a family of four is \$49,612. For federal poverty levels applicable to families of five or more persons, see "The 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines," United States Department of Health and Human Services. Available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml>

² Melanie Hartzog, Sara Vecchiotti, and Kate Tarrant, "Charting the Course for Child Care and Head Start: Community Needs Analysis of Early Care and Education in New York City, Summary Report," New York City Administration for Children's Services, June 2, 2008. Available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/downloads/pdf/Needs_Assessment_Summary.pdf.

³ "Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2008," Citizens' Committee for Children of New York Inc., 2008. Available at <http://www.ccnewyork.org/Web%20Graphics/KT08/Early%20Care%20Out-of-School%20Time.pdf>.

⁴ "Rethinking Child Care: An Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development in New York City," New York City Administration for Children's Services, 2005. Available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/downloads/pdf/rethinking_new.pdf.

⁵ "Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2008," Citizens' Committee for Children of New York Inc., 2008. Available at <http://www.ccnewyork.org/Web%20Graphics/KT08/Early%20Care%20Out-of-School%20Time.pdf>

⁶ "Supporting Improvement in Early Childhood Programs: QNY's Approach," Quality New York, Summer 2008. Available at <http://www.qualitynewyork.org/PDF/QNY-Approach-6-08final.pdf>.

⁷ "Learning About the Workforce: A Profile of Early Childhood Educators in New York City's Community- and School-Based Centers," NYC Early Childhood Professional Development Institute and the Cornell University Early Childhood Program, 2007. Available at <http://www.earlychildhoodnyc.org/pdfs/eng/FinalReport.pdf>.