

Why Every Child Should Have Free Preschool

By Crosby Jassem

At 24 years old Michelle Kennedy had a shocking plunge into homelessness. She and her three children lived out of her car. She had to take care of them all day and at night she worked at a local bar. Kennedy could not afford a babysitter or daycare, and if she could no daycare would be open that late. She had to leave her three children, all under the age of six, unsupervised in her car at night while she worked. Free daycare or free preschool would have solved this problem

The lack of affordable childcare is an issue that many people in the U.S. have to face. Many parents in low-income families have to quit their jobs to take care of their children. In most states in the U.S., daycare isn't free, so parents have to take care of their children all by themselves. The NYT article, "**New York City Will Offer Free Preschool for All 3-Year-Olds**" states, "In the often-divided world of education, the long-term benefit of early childhood education, particularly for low-income children, is one of the few things that most experts agree on. Politicians on both the left and the right embrace the idea of expanding access to preschool, a rarity among educational initiatives. A number of states, including Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma and West Virginia, offer universal prekindergarten for 4-year-olds." If it's agreed upon by both parties, why hasn't free preschool been implemented?

The children in low-income families need an equal shot in life as children born into a rich family. Free preschools are the perfect answer to this issue. Not only does it give the children somewhere to be during the day when their parents are at work, but it gives the children an education just as good as the private preschools. In 2017, Mayor de Blasio announced that New York City would provide free preschool to all three and four-year-olds. The New York Times article states that both sides right and left believe that early education could help a child in the long term. Other states should follow in New York's lead.

I think that children in low-income families education isn't a topic that is talked about enough. People talk about gender and race equality in education a lot, but never education equality in social class. Children in poverty do not have the same privileges as children who come from the upper and middle class and it starts from birth. High quality, free preschool makes sense and is a way to close the gap.

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