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All Day Kindergarten? No.

404 words

Daycare lobbyists in top advisory positions [1] morphed into ADK promoters [2] recycling the same Utopian promises. They say less time with parents and more time in classrooms makes kids smarter, healthier, better behaved, less criminal [3]. They assure us that, due to this improved "human capital formation", the more you spend, the more you save! \$1 spent "may" save \$2 to \$17 [4].

But peer-reviewed evidence contradicts their non-peer reviewed junk science: more time in group care worsens behaviour [5], illness [6], fatigue [7]. Some studies find slight academic gains which soon evaporate [8]. Promoters claim Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman supports their agenda [9] - a "jaw dropping" gross misrepresentation according to UBC economist Kevin Milligan [10]. Heckman actually says *none* of this evidence supports such programs [11]. He recommends vouchers for underprivileged families and cautions against "government bureaucracy" [12]. And in Sweden, the policy's model, teens' academic outcomes have fallen below Canada's [13]. The government reports rising domestic violence [14], youth crime and suicide [15].

ADK undermines parent-child attachment. Attachment instincts make children want to please, imitate, and be near those they are attached to [16]. Adult-child attachment is the foundation of maturation and learning. It's not a good thing when children prefer long hours away from parents socializing with peers. According to renowned psychologist Dr Gordon Neufeld, situations where children are not attached to adults produce *peer attachment*. Children look to peers for direction and acceptance, not to adults. Learning declines, bullying erupts [17].

ADK isn't about helping "working" parents or women's equality. Hello: raising children *is* work. Sexist policy makers should stop beating mothers with carrots and sticks into choosing their choice. Most parents' jobs don't match kindergarten schedules anyway. Let's help everyone and get more bang for the buck by ending discriminatory spending on 'spaces'. Fund families instead. ADK costs about \$10,000 per child [18]. What could your family do with that?

ADK and opposition to funding families are not driven by parents but by unelected elites tied to the World Bank and the OECD [19]. Their unpublicized papers reveal a "post-maternalist" [20] policy "blueprint" [21] aimed at eliminating the "ideology of the family" [22]. They are implementing "shared responsibility between the state and family" for child-rearing [23]. They hope for a "new child" - "the public child" [24]. The World Bank sees parents as "employees and consumers" [25]. These corporate interests support

ADK because it acts as a wage subsidy for parental labour [26], a form of corporate welfare. The spin-doctorates know we reject their proposed “new order” [27], so they use disinformation to sell us ADK.

NOTES

[1] daycare promoters advising governments and advocating for all day Kindergarten include:
- the late Dr Fraser Mustard - called ‘godfather’ by Pascal - founded Council on Early Child Development & Can Inst for Advanced Research, also worked for the World Bank, co-authored Ontario’s Early Years Study I & II
- from UBC’s Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP): Dr Clyde Hertzman (also with the World Bank, Mustard’s Council on Early Child Development, Mustard’s Can Inst for Advanced Research, & Can Inst.s for Health Research), Dr Hillel Goelman, Dr Paul Kershaw, Lynell Anderson (former staff with the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada)
- Dr Charles Pascal - Early Learning Advisor to Ontario Premier McGuinty
- Margaret McCain - co-author of the Early Years Study I & II, with the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation
- Martha Friendly, Coordinator of the Childcare Research and Resource Unit funded by the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation – which publishes many non-peer reviewed advocacy papers, also works with the OECD.

[2] The OECD recommended using all day kindergarten as a “bridge” to universal daycare in “Early Childhood Education and Care Policy – Canada - Country Note” pp. 71, 76, published by OECD Directorate of Education 2004
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/42/34/33850725.pdf>

[3] see for example:
- Chapter 2 of Dr Charles Pascal’s 2009 report for the Premier of Ontario, With Our Best Future in Mind
http://www.ontario.ca/en/initiatives/early_learning/ONT06_018869.html
- 15 by 15: A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC—2009 - written for the BC Business Council by UBC’s HELP’s Hertzman, P. Kershaw, L. Anderson, and B. Warburton

[4] \$1=\$2 “The benefits and costs of good child care: The economic rationale for public investment in young children” Gordon Cleveland, Michael Krashinsky, published by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit, 1998

\$1=\$17 “Ed. ministry eyes full-day kindergarten: The Ministry of Education has found an investment that yields a 17-fold return” Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Times May 9, 2008
http://www.canada.com/story_print.html?id=336eebe7-e7a7-4658-b755-c5b0377bba92&sponsor=

[5] behaviour
For example:
“Do Effects of Early Child Care Extend to Age 15 Years? Results From the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development”, National Institute for Health and Human Development,
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8624.2010.01431.x/full>
- “more hours in nonrelative care... predicted poorer social adjustment in adolescence”
- “Hours of care predicted more impulsivity”
- “More hours predicted more risk taking”

“Effects of a Full-Day Preschool Program on 4-Year-Old Children”
Early Childhood Research and Practice Volume 9 Number 2 2007
<http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v9n2/herry.html>
- “weaker overall social development”

From: “Universal Childcare, Maternal Labor Supply and Family Well-Being” Journal of Political Economy Vol. 116, No. 4 August. 2008), pp. 709-745. Winner of 2008 Purvis Prize for economics. By Drs. Baker, Gruber, Milligan. Study on effects of introducing \$5/day daycare in Quebec
<http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/kmilligan/research/baker-gruber-milligan-april2008.pdf>
- “children are worse off in a variety of behavioral and health dimensions, ranging from aggression to motor-social skills to illness. Our analysis also suggests that the new childcare program led to more hostile, less consistent parenting, worse parental health, and lower-quality parental relationships.”

[6] illness
See [5] above Baker, Gruber, Milligan

Children in centre care are 6.78 times more likely to be sick than children in parental care. "Smitta I förskolan" (Engl: "Contagion in preschool" – "preschool" is for age 1-5) p 18, Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare
<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Publicerat/2008/10130/2008-126-1.htm>

[7] fatigue

"Effects of a Full-Day Preschool Program on 4-Year-Old Children", Early Childhood Research and Practice Volume 9 Number 2 2007
<http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v9n2/herry.html>

[8] "Effects of Full-Day Kindergarten on Academic Achievement and Social Development" Review of Educational Research, Duke University, March 2010
<http://rer.sagepub.com/content/80/1/34.full.pdf>

- "...children may not have as positive an attitude toward school in full-day versus half-day kindergarten and may experience more behavior problems."

- "A meta-analysis found that attending full-day (or all-day) kindergarten had a positive association with academic achievement (compared to half-day kindergarten) equal to about one quarter standard deviation at the end of the kindergarten year. But the association disappeared by third grade."

"Protect Our Kids from Preschool", Wall Street Journal August 22, 2008

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121936615766562189.html>

- academic scores fell in states that implemented 'universal preschool' for 4 year olds

[9] see for example:

- Chapter 2 of Dr Charles Pascal's report http://www.ontario.ca/en/initiatives/early_learning/ONT06_018869.html

- 15 by 15: A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC—2009 by UBC's HELP - Hertzman, P. Kershaw, L. Anderson, B. Warburton

- Dr Clyde Hertzman claims Heckman's support in letter to Vancouver Sun Sept 8, 2009 [Letter to Vancouver Sun](#)

[10] personal correspondence and also "Talking to economist Kevin Milligan - On all-day kindergarten, Nobel laureate James Heckman and the purported economic benefits of universal plans"

http://www.imfcanada.org/article_files/ereview_september_22_10.pdf

[11] Heckman, "The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children" p.35

http://jenni.uchicago.edu/human-inequality/papers/Heckman_final_all_wp_2007-03-22c_jsb.pdf

[12] "An Interview with James Heckman" Bernard vanLeer Foundation, pp. 24-29: "vouchers" pp 24,27,29 and "bureaucracy" p26

http://www.bernardvanleer.org/Family_stress_Safeguarding_young_childrens_care_environment

[13] Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study: The Performance of Canada's Youth in Science, Reading and Mathematics 2006 First Results for Canadians Aged 15 , pp. 60-64

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-590-x/81-590-x2007001-eng.pdf>

[14] Sweden rising domestic violence - CBC interview "The Current" May 27, 2005

[15] Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, reported in "Young Swedes' mental health deteriorating: report", 25 Mar 09, The Local- Swedens' News in English <http://www.thelocal.se/18444/20090325/>

[16] Hold on to your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More than Peers by Dr Gordon Neufeld and Dr Gabor Maté

[17] "There is a cure for bullying" Gabor Maté, Globe and Mail Mar 21, 2002. p. A.19

[18] "The Costs of a Free Lunch: the real costs of the Pascal Early Learning Plan for Ontario" Nov 2009 Institute for Marriage and Family Canada http://www.imfcanada.org/article_files/IMFC-cost-of-a-free-lunch.pdf

[19] - Mustard with World Bank – Mustard to Senate February 14, 2008

- Hertzman staff with World Bank (this is not mentioned in his on-line biographies) "Project Appraisal Document" 2009, World Bank Report 19868, p. 58

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/1999/12/10/000094946_9911240531002/Rendered/INDEX/multi_page.txt

He continues to be a consultant presenting to World Bank:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTCY/EXTECD/0,,contentMDK:20251977~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:344939,00.html>

- Friendly with OECD – for example co-authored “OECD Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Canadian Background Report” 2004 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/41/36/33852192.pdf>

[20] “post materialism” in “The OECD and the reconciliation agenda: Competing blueprints” Childcare Resource and Research Unit Toronto 2005, Rianne Mahon, p 19

[21] “blueprint”: UNESCO 2002 “An Integrated Approach to Early Childhood Education and Care” p 4 by Lenira Haddad. <http://www.ctc-health.org.cn/file/20080527005.pdf>

[22] “Ideology of the family” and “new order”

“An integrated approach to early childhood education and care: a preliminary study” Childcare Resource and Research Unit, Toronto, Jan 2002

<http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/op16/index.htm>

[23] “shared responsibility” 2 previous above

“Integrated policies for early childhood education and care: challenges, pitfalls and possibilities” p. 20

http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?pid=S0100-15742006000300002&script=sci_arttext&tlng=en

[24] new child, public child

“The OECD and the reconciliation agenda: Competing blueprints” Childcare Resource and Research Unit Toronto 2005, Rianne Mahon p 24 <http://www.childcarecanada.org/sites/default/files/op20.pdf>

[25] Speech to World Bank by RBC VP Charles Coffey 2005

<http://www.rbc.com/newsroom/20050928coffey.html>

[26] wage subsidy: “The OECD and the reconciliation agenda: Competing blueprints” Childcare Resource and Research Unit Toronto 2005, Rianne Mahon p 11 <http://www.childcarecanada.org/sites/default/files/op20.pdf>

[27] see [22]