



ACCESS TO



LEARNING GOALS PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

- To think critically about the importance of affordable and accessible preschool education.
- To practice drawing connections between local challenges and global contexts and best practices.

ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~17 min

- Read: "[Starting Well: Benchmarking Early Education Across the World](#)," pages 5-7 and 11-14 (~ 8 min.)
- Watch: "[Sesame Street: The Importance of Early Childhood Education](#)" (~ 3 min.)
- Read: "[Preschool in Hawaii Ridiculously Expensive and Hard to Find](#)" (~ 6 min.)

TERMINOLOGY

- **Child Development** - the physical, linguistic, and emotional changes that occur from birth to adolescence. People experience the greatest intellectual growth between their births to age five.
- **Universal Preschool Program** - preschool programs which are funded by the government and are free to all who wish to attend.
- **Sesame Street Effect** - children who watch Sesame Street tend to have higher levels of academic achievement than those who have not watched the show.

KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to Kahoot.it or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 04727444
- Or, use [this link](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What aspects of preschool do you think are most important for developing children?
- What are some common elements that high-ranking Nordic and European countries share in their preschool systems? Why do you think these elements are so important in creating quality preschool programs, and which of these elements might the United States or Hawaii adopt in our preschool systems?
- As outlined in the Starting Well report, what challenges does globalization pose in creating quality universal preschool programs? Do you believe that globalization poses a challenge for ensuring universal preschool education in the United States or Hawaii?
- Why might high-income countries, such as Japan and the United States, rank poorly in providing quality preschool education despite their levels of wealth? What could the United States do to increase its preschool availability and affordability across the nation?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (continued)

- What are the economic and logistical challenges for Hawaii parents who want to enroll their children in preschool?
- Do you have young siblings in your family? What challenges does your family face in raising your younger siblings? If applicable, please share your experiences.
- Why is accessible childcare especially important to working mothers?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Is universal preschool the answer? Britain says 'yes!'](#)
An article looking at UK's approach to preschool.
- [A Running Start: Ensuring Quality in the Executive Office on Early Learning Pre-Kindergarten Program](#)
Recommendations on how to establish a state-supported preK program. From the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Center on the Family.
- [UH Center on the Family Early Childhood Resources](#)
A collection of resources on childcare and early childhood learning from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Center on the Family.

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Easier

- Discuss the following questions with your teachers, or other adults with young children:
 - ◊ What challenges are there to secure early childhood education for your children?
 - ◊ As a parent and/or educator, what aspects of preschool education do you think are most important for children?
- Watch an episode of Sesame Street and discuss it with others. What is the episode teaching, and why is it valuable?

Medium

- If possible, find volunteer opportunities at a local preschool or childcare center. Observe how students are able to benefit from their experiences in the classroom, and learn more about the challenges of providing preschool education to as many students as possible.
- If possible, talk to experts and ask them how they think Hawaii could best expand its public preschool program, or independently research specific policy proposals on Hawaii's preschool program. The University of Hawaii's Center on the Family has a number of research projects in the areas of childhood development and preschool education (see the Additional Resources section for more information).

Hard

- Policy advocacy: research bills in the city council and state legislature related to preschool education, and write testimony in support of the bills you think are most effective.



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HAWAII DOE SUBJECT STANDARDS LINKS

Hawaii Core Standards for Social Studies (HCSSS)

- Content Standard [SS.WH.8.12.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.8.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.MHH.4.9.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.PID.4.10.2](#)
- Action Projects link to [SS.PID.5.7.1](#)

[National Health Education Standards](#)

- NHES.1.12.2
- NHES.1.12.3
- NHES.2.12.4
- NHES.2.12.5
- NHES.2.12.6
- Action Projects could link to NHES.8.12.3

This lesson was created by Megan Tagami.

