



Day 10: Behind the Starting Line - Racialized Outcomes in Early Childhood

"We must acknowledge the broader diversity in and of the African American experience and celebrate that all Black children are born geniuses. Black students continue to pursue educational excellence despite the many unnecessary obstacles they face due to constructions and perceptions of race, class, gender, and sexual orientations in America." - [David J. Johns](#)

From infancy through high school, children's educational outcomes are dependent on the quality of their learning experience. Quality [early childhood education \(ECE\)](#), in particular, has been shown to have a significant positive effect on future success because brain circuits are developing actively then. In fact, 85% of the brain's development happens before a child enters kindergarten. We know how important ECE is; however, segregation in ECE can [affect students' success in school and beyond](#), and research has found that it is [often more segregated than any other school level](#).

Social and emotional health is also key to children's development. Still, we know that poverty, trauma, and other [adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\)](#) can have sustained, negative impacts on children's ability to succeed. Dr. Roy Wade notes that "[we see higher levels of childhood adversity among minority populations](#), but we need to acknowledge the role that historical inequities and disenfranchisement play in creating the environment in which such traumatic experiences are more likely to occur."

Did you know? In New York, [infant care for one child takes up roughly 22% of a median family's income](#). Childcare for two children costs nearly 40% of a median family's income. Childcare is out of reach for many low-wage workers.

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Option 1: Read this [U.S. News article](#) on how 'Education Inequality Starts Early' for children in households with low incomes.

Option 2: Watch this [2-minute CBS News report](#) on how systemic racism persists in early childhood education, where Black preschool students are disproportionately facing harsh punishments, like suspension.

Option 3: Have children? Check out some of the [resources for talking about race and racism with your children](#).



Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- What does the school district in your neighborhood do to mitigate the effect of early childhood education inequities?
- What do you think about Option 1's mention of racism in the response of more affluent, white families to attempts at building equity and the "zero-sum game"?

Share your favorite resource from today's topic. Use the hashtags [#unitedforequity](#), [#equitychampions](#), and [#CREquitychallenge](#) when sharing on social media!