

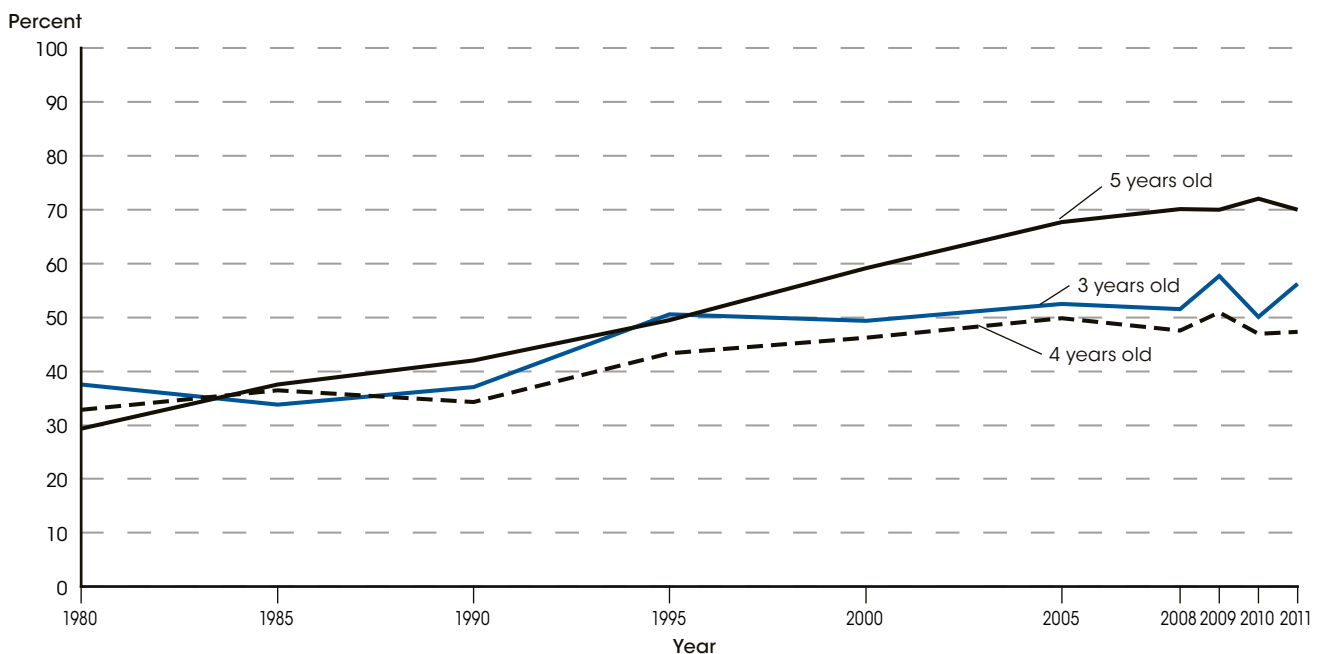
Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

From 1980 to 2011, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preprimary programs increased from 53 percent to 64 percent. The percentage of these children who attended full-day programs increased from 32 percent to 59 percent during this time period.

Preprimary programs are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten, preschool, and nursery school programs. From 1980 to 2011, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preprimary programs increased from 53 percent to 64 percent, with most of the growth occurring between 1980 and 2000. From 1980 to 2000, the percentage of children enrolled in

preprimary programs increased from 27 to 39 percent for 3-year-olds and from 46 to 65 percent for 4-year-olds. The enrollment rate for 5-year-olds was higher in 2000 than in 1980 (88 percent vs. 85 percent). However, the percentages enrolled in preprimary programs were not measurably different in 2000 compared to 2011 for any of the age groups.

Figure 1. Percentage of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children enrolled in full-day preprimary programs: Selected years, 1980 through 2011



NOTE: *Preprimary programs* are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten, preschool, and nursery school programs. Enrollment data for 5-year-olds include only those students in preprimary programs and do not include those enrolled in primary programs. Beginning in 1995, new procedures were used in the CPS to collect preprimary enrollment data. As a result, pre-1995 data may not be comparable to data from 1995 or later. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1980 through 2011. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 53.

The percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds in preprimary programs who attended full-day programs increased from 32 percent in 1980 to 59 percent in 2011. In addition to the overall increase, the full-day attendance percentage increased for each age group during this period. The enrollment rate for 3-year-olds was higher in 2000 than in 1980 (49 percent vs. 37 percent). From 1980 to

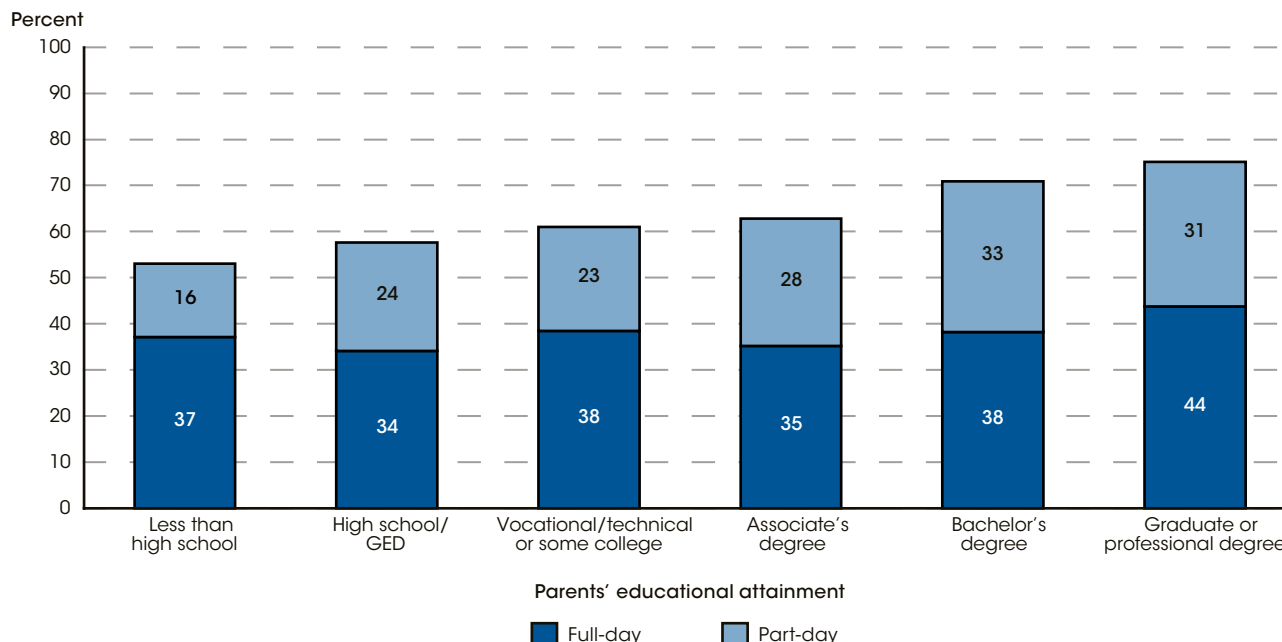
2000, the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in full-day preprimary programs increased from 33 to 46 percent, and the percentage of 5-year-olds increased from 29 to 59 percent. The full-day enrollment rates were also higher in 2011 than in 2000 for 3-year-olds (56 percent vs. 49 percent) and 5-year-olds (70 percent vs. 59 percent), but not measurably different for 4-year-olds.

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.

Differences by age in enrollment in full-day preprimary programs have shifted over the past few decades. For example, in 1980, the percentage of 5-year-olds enrolled in full-day preprimary programs was 8 points lower than the percentage of 3-year-olds (29 percent vs. 37 percent),

and not measurably different from the percentage of 4-year-olds (33 percent); but in 2011, the percentage of 5-year-olds was 14 points higher than the percentage of 3-year-olds (70 percent vs. 56 percent), and 23 points higher than the percentage of 4-year-olds (47 percent).

Figure 2. Percentage of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children enrolled in preprimary programs, by parents' educational attainment and attendance status: October 2011



NOTE: *Preprimary programs* are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten, preschool, and nursery school programs. Enrollment data for 5-year-olds include only those students in preprimary programs and do not include those enrolled in primary programs. Highest level of education is defined as the diploma attained by the most educated parent. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2011. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 53.5.

Enrollment in preprimary programs varied by parents' highest level of education, defined as the diploma attained by the most educated parent. In 2011, higher percentages of 3- to 5-year-olds whose parents had either a graduate or professional degree (75 percent) or a bachelor's degree (71 percent) were enrolled in preprimary programs than children of parents with any other level of educational attainment. For instance, 53 percent of children whose parents had less than a high school degree and 58 percent of children whose parents had a high school credential were enrolled in preprimary programs. Enrollment in full-day and part-day preprimary programs also differed by the highest educational attainment of parents or

guardians. Forty-four percent of 3- to 5-year-olds whose parents had a graduate or professional degree were enrolled in full-day preprimary programs, an enrollment rate that was generally higher than for children whose parents had any other level of educational attainment, except for those whose parents had attended a vocational/technical program or some college. Children whose parents had a graduate or professional degree (31 percent) or a bachelor's degree (33 percent) were also enrolled in part-day preprimary programs at higher percentages than those of children whose parents had less than a high school degree (16 percent) or a high school credential (24 percent).

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 56, 57

Glossary: Nursery school