
**70%**

of parents in shelters with children ages 0-5 discussed early childhood programs with shelter staff

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**SHELTER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

**8 KEY ACTIVITIES**

1. Child Care & Pre-K Discussions
2. Staff Meet and Greets
3. Child Care Enrollment Drives
4. Shelter Self Assessments
5. Stakeholder Convenings
6. Staff Trainings
7. Family Advocacy
8. Annual Summit

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**ENROLLED IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**

- 52% of children in shelter
- 49% ages 0-3
- 63% ages 3-5

**IN A HIGH QUALITY PROGRAM**

- 15% ages 0-3
- 28% ages 3-5

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**PRIMARY GOALS SUPPORTING EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTING RESILIENCE**

**IMPROVE**

how shelters support early development

**BUILD CONNECTIONS**

between shelters and early childhood programs

**HELP**

families in shelter to participate in early childhood programs

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **SHELTERS and Early Childhood Programs NEED CONTINUED SUPPORT** to serve young children who are homeless
- **DATA SYSTEMS** should include enrollment information for all children attending early childhood programs
- **Focus on infants and toddlers:** younger children are less likely to participate in a child care program and, when they do, it is less likely to be high quality
- **Policy decision makers need to ENCOURAGE** more high-quality early childhood programs and pathways for families in shelter to participate

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**AREAS TO EXPLORE**

1. Families entering Philadelphia shelters today may be MORE vulnerable than families in the past
2. Shelter staff work in contexts of high employee turnover, dwindling resources, leadership changes, and shifts in the population
3. Nobody knows how many families with young children live doubled-up without stable housing of their own in Philadelphia
4. 620 preschoolers (6%) are homeless and attending Head Start at the School District of Philadelphia, a higher rate than the national average