



May 7, 2008

Letter to the Editor: Claims Overstated

By Sarah McIntosh

I must take issue with the letter encouraging state funding of early learning ("State must invest in early learning," May 3 Reader Views). The writer referred to studies that report on benefits that accrue to children who have participated in early learning. But those studies have been challenged by many of the top scholars in the field.

It is no surprise that advocates of pre-school claim that science is on their side. But it is simply not clear that it is. In two recent policy reports, the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy reviewed the literature on both sides of the argument and found the claims of the proponents to be overstated. We published our studies so that the Kansas Legislature and the Kansas public can consider whether the proposed funding of early learning would accomplish the objectives that are being promised.

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