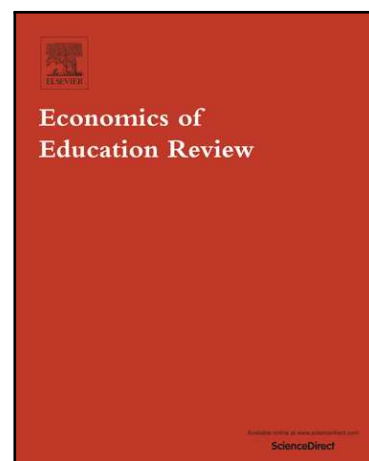


## Accepted Manuscript

Do Children Benefit from Universal Early Childhood Education and Care? A Meta-Analysis of Evidence from Natural Experiments

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**Highlights**

- We provide a meta-analysis of the effects of universal ECEC on children's outcomes
- We focus on studies exploiting natural experiments to identify the causal effects
- The results show that ECEC quality matters critically
- The evidence does not indicate that effects are fading out in the long run
- The gains of ECEC are concentrated within children from lower SES families

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