



Professor, May I Bring My Baby to Class?

Family Care Solutions, Inc.
*Empowering Students with Children to
Successfully Complete their Postsecondary Education*

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- Nearly half (about 49%) of teen mothers don't have a high school diploma
- 2/3 of families begun by a young unmarried mother are poor
- 52% of all mothers on welfare had their first child as a teenager
- Children of teen mothers do not perform as well as children of older mothers on measures of child development and school readiness
- Less than 2% of teen mothers will earn a college degree by age 30



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- Most college students are now “nontraditional”
- 3.7 million are parents, of whom 1.9 million are single parents
- Student parents are likely to attend community colleges and non-degree institutions
- Women make-up 71% of parents pursuing postsecondary education and 79% of single parents are enrolled at community colleges



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- One study of student parents attending community college found that over 80 percent reported that the availability of child care was very important in the decision to attend college
- Nearly 60 percent of respondents reported they could not have continued college without child care and;
- 95 percent reported that child care allowed them to increase their class load

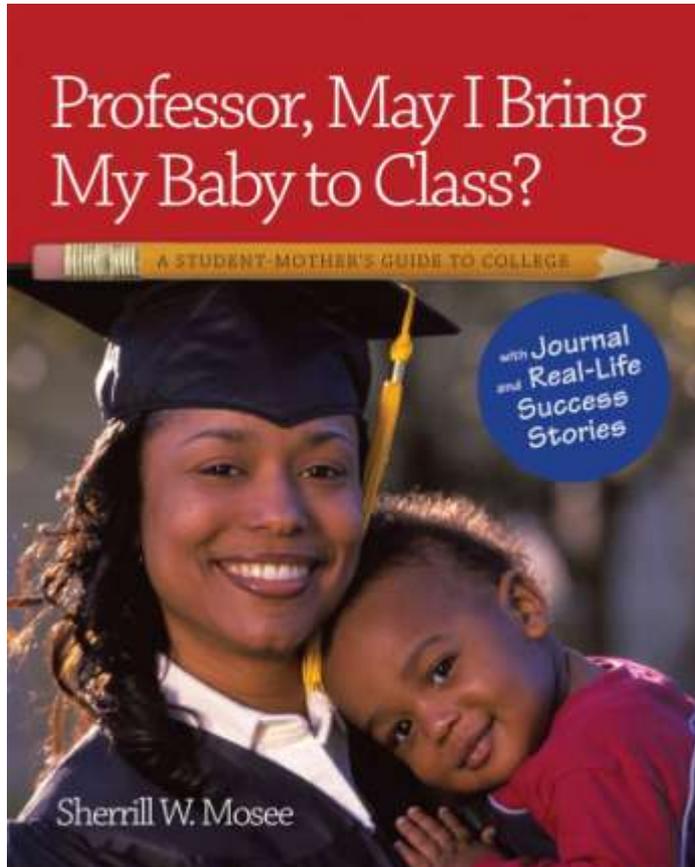
Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research



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- To **promote** higher education
- To **inform** young women about programs and services that support student parents
- To **empower** young women by connecting them to resources
- To **inspire** young women to pursue their dreams through higher education



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Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children (HEAASC.org)

A national organization established to support professionals serving student parents by promoting access, persistence, and success of all students with children in higher education.

- Network with other educational professionals to identify and disseminate best practices across organizations
- Track, disseminate, and impact policies affecting students with children
- Facilitate communication between student parent professionals through a Listserv
- Recognize exemplary performance of professionals serving students with children
- Host an annual conference



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Higher education allows us to earn higher incomes, thus reducing the cycle of poverty in our families;

- Those with an associate's degree earn 25% more than those with a high school diploma and;
- Those with a bachelor's degree earn 75% more than those with a high school diploma

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- Children of teen parents and women who complete their postsecondary education are more likely to receive;
 - Quality early child care, better preparing them for kindergarten and secondary school
 - They are more likely to go to college themselves, thus reducing;
 - crime in our neighbors
 - cycle of teen pregnancies
 - dependency on government assisted programs

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- College graduates are expected to earn at least \$1 million more in their lifetime than those with a high school diploma
- College graduates are more likely to become involved in their children's education, community service projects, and contribute to our economy through federal, state, and local taxes



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“When people ask me how I manage to go to school as a single mother, I look at them with confusion. They must not understand how a woman feels when she looks at her children: how much guilt she has that, like her, they are growing up in a single-parent home. How she wants so much to give them the life they deserve. This devotion is an immeasurable push from within that could make her jump across a whole ocean if she had to...”

“When I look at my kids, I know there is no choice for me. In my mind, my degree is already completed. They push me to match their bravery and accomplishments. We work together as we climb out of our struggles. Without them, I might not value my education like I do. And because of them I will never fail. They have already made me a success.”

~Talia Barrows, Contributor

Sources

1. Center for Law and Social Policy – www.clasp.org
2. Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children – www.heasc.org
3. Institute for Women's Policy Research – www.iwpr.org
4. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy – www.thenationalcampaign.org
5. Family Care Solutions, Inc. – www.familycaresolutions.org

Q & A?

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