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Interviews: 1,000 registered voters
Dates: September 14-17, 2021

FINAL

Study #14125
First Five Years Fund National Online Survey
September 2021

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

S1. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, in what year were you born?

18-24	6
25-29	11
30-34	9
35-39	7
40-44	7
45-49	8
50-54	8
55-59	10
60-64	10
65 -69	7
70-74	8
75 and older.....	9

S3. Are you currently registered to vote in (INSERT STATE FROM Q.S2)?

Yes, registered to vote	100	CONTINUE
No, not currently registered to vote ...	-	TERMINATE

S4a-c. Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS “DEMOCRAT” OR “REPUBLICAN”, ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS “INDEPENDENT”, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party, closer to the Republican Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat.....	27
Not very strong Democrat.....	13
Closer to the Democratic Party	7
Strictly independent	8
Closer to the Republican Party	5
Not very strong Republican	14
Strong Republican	26
Something else	-
Total Democrat	40
Total Independents	20
Total Republican	40

S5. For statistical purposes only, are you...?

Male.....	47
Female.....	52
Non-binary/other.....	1

S6ab. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS “NO, NOT HISPANIC/LATINO/SPANISH ORIGIN,” ASK:) Please indicate your race.**

White	72
Black/African American.....	12
Asian/Pacific Islander	4
Native American/American Indian.....	1
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin	10
Other.....	1

S7a. Did you vote in last November’s election for president?

Yes, voted	98	Skip to Q.S7c
No, did not vote	2	CONTINUE

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “NO, DID NOT VOTE” IN Q.S7a.)

S7b. Were you already registered to vote at the time of the November 2020 presidential election, or did you register to vote after the November 2020 election?

Registered to vote at the time of the November 2020 election	-	TERMINATE
Registered to vote after the November 2020 election.....	100	Skip to Q.S8

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “YES, VOTED” IN Q.S7a.)

S7c. Which candidate did you vote for in the election for president?

Joe Biden, the Democrat	51
Donald Trump, the Republican	47
Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian	1
Howie Hawkins, the Green Party candidate ¹	1

¹ Included only in states where Howie Hawkins was on the ballot.

S8. What is the last grade or highest level of education that you have completed?

Did not graduate high school.....	2
High school graduate	27
Attended technical or vocational school	3
Attended some college, but no degree.....	18
Graduated 2-year college with an associate’s degree.....	9
Graduated 4-year college with a bachelor’s degree	26
Obtained a master’s, PhD, or professional degree.....	15

S9a. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed full time	47	CONTINUE
Employed part time (less than 35 hours per week).....	16	
Unemployed but looking for work	7	Skip to Q.1
Full-time student.....	2	
Stay-at-home parent.....	5	
Retired.....	23	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "CURRENTLY EMPLOYED" IN Q.S9.)

S9b. And are you paid by annual salary, hourly wage, or through some other means?

Annual salary	36
Hourly wage.....	53
Some other means	11

1. This survey is about issues related to very young children and their families. For each of the following, would you favor or oppose doing more than is currently being done now?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT FAVOR DOING MORE

	Total Favor Doing More	Total Oppose Doing More	Strongly Favor Doing More	Somewhat Favor Doing More	Somewhat Oppose Doing More	Strongly Oppose Doing More
Ensuring that children begin Kindergarten with the knowledge and skills they need to do their best in school.....	91	9	57	34	7	2
Ensuring that parents can find affordable, high-quality child care for their children up to age five	89	11	61	28	7	4
Providing access to voluntary high-quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds.....	88	12	51	37	8	4

For the remainder of the survey, we will refer to kinds of programs mentioned in the last question as **child care and early learning programs**.

2. Do you think taking action to ensure that all working families have access to affordable, high-quality child care and early learning programs...?

Should be an important priority for the president and Congress THIS YEAR	69
Should not be an important priority for the president and Congress THIS YEAR	31

3. Do you think that federal funding for high-quality child care and early learning programs should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same as it is today?

Increased	58
Decreased	9
Kept about the same.....	32

4. Congress is considering a major legislative package. Here is a list of some of the things this legislation could do. Please read this carefully. **(RANOMIZE BULLETS.)**

- Make dental care and vision care more affordable for seniors by covering them under Medicare
- Reduce the cost of prescription drugs by giving Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices
- Expand the use of clean energy sources by setting clean energy standards that electric companies must meet
- Expand access to quality, affordable home care for the elderly and people with disabilities
- Expand access to quality child care that working parents can afford
- Continue the new child tax credit of \$3,000 to \$3,600 per child per year
- Lower the cost of college by providing two years of tuition-free community college
- Improve children’s education by providing free access to voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds

This legislation would cost \$3.5 trillion and would be paid for by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy. It would not raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000 a year.

Do you support or oppose this legislation?

Strongly support.....	48
Somewhat support.....	25
Somewhat oppose.....	12
Strongly oppose.....	15
<hr/>	
Total Support	73
Total Oppose	27

5. Congress is also working on another \$1.2 trillion package that would modernize and improve the country’s infrastructure. Some of the things it includes are: **(RANOMIZE BULLETS.)**

- Repairing and modernizing roads, highways, and bridges
- Updating drinking water systems and replacing every lead pipe in the country
- Building and installing new charging stations for electric vehicles
- Updating the electricity system so that it can use more clean energy sources, like wind and solar
- Repairing and expanding public transportation systems
- Expanding high-speed Internet to rural and other areas that don’t have it now

Do you support or oppose this legislation?

Strongly support.....	48
Somewhat support.....	32
Somewhat oppose.....	11
Strongly oppose.....	9
<hr/>	
Total Support	80
Total Oppose	20

Q.6a AND Q.6b ARE ROTATED.

6a. Now, thinking more about the legislation that includes child care and early learning programs...

This legislation allows parents to choose any child care or early learning program they want, based on what they think will be best for their child--including programs based in child care centers, people's homes, and faith-based organizations.

Does this make you more likely or less likely to support this legislation?

Much more likely to support it	31
Somewhat more likely to support it...	31
Somewhat less likely to support it.....	10
Much less likely to support it.....	9
No difference either way	19
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
Total More Likely To Support It	62
Total Less Likely To Support It	19

6b. Right now the average cost of child care for families is more than \$10,000 per year, and is often higher for infants and toddlers. This legislation would cover all child care costs for low-income families, and other families would have to pay no more than 7% of their income for child care.

Does this make you more likely or less likely to support this legislation?

Much more likely to support it	35
Somewhat more likely to support it...	29
Somewhat less likely to support it.....	10
Much less likely to support it.....	11
No difference either way	14
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
Total More Likely To Support It	64
Total Less Likely To Support It	21

7a. Do you think that improving the quality of child care and early learning programs and making them more affordable for families are a good investment or bad investment of taxpayers' money?

Very good investment	48	
Somewhat good investment.....	33	CONTINUE
Somewhat bad investment.....	13	Skip to Q.7c
Very bad investment	7	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Total Good Investment	81	
Total Bad Investment	19	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “VERY GOOD” OR “SOMEWHAT GOOD” IN Q.7a.)

7b. In your own words, please explain why you think improving the quality of child care and early learning programs and making them more affordable for families are a good investment of taxpayers’ money. Please be specific.

<i>Results shown among the 81% who say “good investment” in Q.7a</i>	
Children are our future, an investment in our future	20
Provide foundation for learning, other cognitive resources	19
Early education would start children in the right direction	17
Child care should be affordable	15
Will help children/families, give peace of mind to working families	12
Would bring more people into the workforce	11
Results in better quality child care	8
It would prevent America from lagging behind other countries, result in stronger country	8
Don't know; no response	1%

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “VERY BAD” OR “SOMEWHAT BAD” IN Q.7a.)

7c. In your own words, please explain why you think improving the quality of child care and early learning programs and making them more affordable for families are a bad investment of taxpayers’ money. Please be specific.

<i>Results shown among the 19% who say “bad investment” in Q.7a</i>	
This is the parent’s responsibility, not the taxpayers’	39
Already paying too much in taxes, will increase taxes	15
The federal government should not subsidize child care, not the role of government, believe in limited government	14
There are more critical issues than child care, child care is not a priority	13
People are too dependent on the government/on handouts, people are becoming lazy	11
Government-run programs are inefficient, poorly run, waste money	11
Spending is out of control, too much debt, will result in inflation	9
Do not have young children, not fair to people who aren’t parents	9
Don't know; no response	2%

8. Please carefully read the following description of a specific policy that is being considered related to child care and early learning programs for children who are too young for Kindergarten.

The federal government would provide funding to states to expand their child care systems so that every working parent who wants to do so could send their child, from birth through age five, to the eligible high-quality child care or early learning program of their choice. The amount that parents would pay out of pocket would be determined by their household income, with the lowest-income families receiving care at low or no cost. Each state would be responsible for overseeing these systems, which would be required to meet established quality and safety standards. The average working family would save around \$10,000 per year in child care and preschool expenses.

Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Strongly support.....	43
Somewhat support.....	33
Somewhat oppose.....	14
Strongly oppose.....	10
Total Support	76
Total Oppose	24

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

My community would benefit from this proposal.

Strongly agree	46
Somewhat agree.....	31
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree.....	8
<hr/>	
Total Agree	78
Total Disagree	22

10ab. Do you think that your member of Congress...? Do you feel strongly or not strongly that your member of Congress (should/should not) work with Joe Biden to enact these kinds of child care and early learning policies?

SHOULD work with Joe Biden to enact these kinds of child care and early learning policies--feel strongly	59
SHOULD work with Joe Biden to enact these kinds of child care and early learning policies--do not feel strongly.....	12
SHOULD NOT work with Joe Biden to enact these kinds of child care and early learning policies--do not feel strongly.....	7
SHOULD NOT work with Joe Biden to enact these kinds of child care and early learning policies--feel strongly	22
<hr/>	
Total SHOULD Work With Joe Biden	71
Total SHOULD NOT Work With Joe Biden	29

11. A main reason that there is a shortage of child care in America is that child care workers earn \$11 per hour, on average, and many are leaving to pursue jobs with better wages and benefits in other professions. Which of the following do you think is the best solution to this problem?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Use public funding to ensure that child care is affordable for families and child care workers receive higher wages and benefits	69
Parents should pay more for child care.....	21
Reduce or eliminate quality and safety standards to increase the number of infants and toddlers an individual child care worker can care for.....	9

12. On the next few screens you will see several specific federal proposals related to child care and early learning programs. Please indicate whether you would support or oppose each one of these proposals.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT SUPPORT

	<u>Total Support</u>	<u>Total Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Some-what Support</u>	<u>Some-what Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>
[ECE EDUCATORS] Attract, retain, and support quality early childhood educators and caregivers by paying them better salaries and providing them with opportunities to increase their skills through ongoing training, education, and certification, which would improve the instruction and care that children receive	86	14	50	36	9	5
[INFRASTRUCTURE/IMPROVEMENT] Improve existing child care facilities by increasing federal funding to make them safer and more appropriate for young children’s development, and meet the needs of children with disabilities.....	82	18	49	33	11	8
[HOME VISITING] Provide support to more at-risk families by expanding funding for voluntary home visiting programs. These programs pair new parents who feel they need help with nurses and other early childhood professionals who can answer parents’ questions, provide health and development screenings for babies and toddlers, and connect parents to resources in their communities such as nutrition support, child care, and healthcare	79	21	45	34	13	8
[TAX CREDIT] Make child care more affordable by providing parents with a tax credit to help pay for child care. The credit would be available to all working parents, regardless of how much they pay in federal income taxes	78	22	44	34	14	8
[PRESCHOOL] Make preschool more available by providing preschool to all three- and four-year-olds whose parents want to send them. The programs would have no cost to parents. Programs would have to meet rigorous standards for quality, including small class sizes and teaching children emotional and social skills	76	24	47	29	14	10

13. Many of those specific proposals related to child care and early learning programs are included in a legislative package called the Build Back Better Act. Looking at these proposals again, please choose the TWO that you feel are most important to include.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF COMBINED TOP 2 MOST IMPORTANT

	<u>Most Important</u>	<u>Combined Top 2 Most Important</u>	
[CHILD CARE] Make high-quality child care affordable for all families, with working- and middle-class families paying no more than 7% of their income on child care	29	55	>
[EDUCATORS] Increase wages for early childhood educators and caregivers and provide them with opportunities for career advancement with ongoing training and education.	26	54	
[PRESCHOOL] Guarantee free access to high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.....	18	32	
[FACILITIES] Use federal funding to build new child care facilities in communities where there are none or improve existing facilities to meet health and quality standards.	13	32	
[TAX CREDIT] Increase the existing child care tax credit families receive to offset child care expenses each year	14	27	

14. Which of the following statements do you think is more convincing when it comes to federal funding of child care and early learning programs in general?

STATEMENT A: It is not needed, because it encourages parents to avoid their responsibility to care for their own children and instead makes it taxpayers' responsibility.

STATEMENT B: It is needed, because it ensures that parents have safe, reliable care for their children while they work while also improving children's learning and healthy development.

Statement A--much more convincing.....	18
Statement A--somewhat more convincing.....	12
Statement B--somewhat more convincing.....	25
Statement B--much more convincing.....	45
Total Statement A	30
Total Statement B	70

15. Below are two statements specifically about the legislation we have been discussing. Please indicate which statement you think is more convincing.

STATEMENT A: This legislation is the wrong approach. It will lead to the federal government taking over child care and making one-size-fits-all decisions for families on the type of child care they can put their children into.

STATEMENT B: This legislation is the right approach. It will ensure that parents can afford to use the program or provider of their choice, whether a child care center, home-based provider, faith-based provider, or otherwise.

Statement A--much more convincing.....	21
Statement A--somewhat more convincing.....	14
Statement B--somewhat more convincing.....	31
Statement B--much more convincing.....	35
Total Statement A	35
Total Statement B	65

16ab. Below are two more statements specifically about the legislation we have been discussing. Please indicate which statement you think is more convincing.

STATEMENT A: This plan only provides benefits to families who put their children in child care. It is discriminatory against families who make the decision for one parent to stay home to care for their children themselves.

(FORM A) STATEMENT B: Parents who want to and are able to stay home to care for children can do so, but working parents who want to work or don't have the financial ability to stay home need help to afford high-quality, safe, reliable child care for their children. *

(FORM B) STATEMENT B: Right now child care costs an average of \$10,000 per child per year. Parents who want to and are able to stay home to care for children can do so, but working parents who don't have the financial ability to stay home need help to afford high-quality, safe, reliable child care for their children. **

	FORM A Response*	FORM B Response**
Statement A--much more convincing	20	18
Statement A--somewhat more convincing.....	15	16
Statement B--somewhat more convincing.....	32	30
Statement B--much more convincing	34	36
Total Statement A	35	34
Total Statement B	65	66

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

FACTUALS: The remaining few questions are for statistical purposes only.

F1. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be ...?

Very conservative	19
Somewhat conservative.....	22
Middle of the road	29
Somewhat liberal	15
Very liberal.....	14
Total Conservative	42
Total Liberal	30

F2. Would you describe the area you live in as urban, suburban, small town, or rural?

Urban.....	25
Suburban	47
Small town	9
Rural	19

F3a. Are you the parent or primary guardian of children in any of the following age ranges?

5 or younger.....	11	
6 to 9.....	9	>
10 to 12.....	7	
13 to 15.....	7	
16 to 17.....	6	
18 or older.....	25	
Do not have children in these age ranges	51	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS AGE 50 AND OLDER.)

F3b. Do you have grandchildren in any of the following age ranges?

5 or younger.....	20	
6 to 9.....	22	>
10 to 12.....	19	
13 to 15.....	16	
16 to 17.....	13	
18 or older.....	20	
Do not have grandchildren in these age ranges.....	51	

F4. If you added up the incomes of everyone in your household, would the total be...?

Less than \$10,000	5
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	9
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	12
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	13
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	12
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	20
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	12
Between \$100,000 and \$200,000	14
More than \$200,000.....	3