Full Day Kindergarten: Why Does It Matter?

Forty-two states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core Standards\(^1\), expecting kindergarten children to master skills like these:

- Write numbers 0 - 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral. (K.CC.1)
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10. (K.OA.1)
- For any number from 1 to 9, find the number that makes 10 when added to the given number. (K.OA.4)
- Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight. (K.MD.1)
- Analyze and compare two- and three-dimensional shapes, in different sizes and orientations, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, parts and other attributes. (K.G4)
- Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic. (RI.K.9)
- Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships. (L.K.2.d)
- Participate in shared research and writing projects. (W.K.7)
- Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds. (L.K.2.c.)
- Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (e.g., walk, march, strut, prance) by acting out the meanings. (L.K.5.d.)
- Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding. (RL.K.10)

In order to master these skills some children in the U.S. receive:

**1,080 hours of instruction**\(^2\).  
And some only  
**540 hours of instruction**\(^3\).

For more information and how you can help to bring about equal education opportunities for our children, contact Cathy Grace (cgrace@childrensdefense.org).

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\(^2\) Based on 6 hours instruction per day in a 180 day school year. Data comes from National Center for Education Statistics. (1993). *Public School Kindergarten Teachers’ Views of Children’s Readiness for School*.

\(^3\) Based on 3 hours instruction per day in a 180 day school year. Data comes from National Center for Education Statistics. (1993). *Public School Kindergarten Teachers’ Views of Children’s Readiness for School*. 