

Early Experiences Last a Lifetime

Overarching Message

To be successful in school and in life, Ohio's young children (birth to five) must grow up in an environment that develops their self-confidence, their social and emotional skills, as well as a love for learning.

Why?

New research on brain development has taught us that a child's early experiences are critical in developing strong language, cognitive, and social skills.

As more parents join the workforce and society places new demands on them, we need to make sure all Ohio families have the support they need to provide their young children with rich developmental experiences.

Because of challenging academic standards and a fast-paced, high-tech world, children are expected to function on a much higher level than ever before.

How?

We can do this by increasing community support and public investment in young children, particularly in quality early care and education programs.

We can elevate public discussion through public/private partnerships, personal involvement, community mobilization and legislative action.

Target Audiences

Business

Elementary Education Professionals

Early Care and Learning Professionals

(see flip side)

Business

Adult behavior finds its roots in the young child. Early experiences have a lifetime impact. Socialization, good behavior, the ability to work well with others and respect for people, places and things are part of what children learn in the early years. Without this important foundation, children will not do well in school and will find it difficult to be successful as adults.

When young children are receiving quality care and education, their working parents are more productive, have less absenteeism, show a greater work focus and a better overall work performance.

The changing job market and economy in Ohio have generated more need for early childhood education. 62% of Ohio's children under age six have parents who are in the workforce. We need to help these families by providing quality early childhood education programs so that parents can work, and children can develop.

Many states are investing in their youngest children by providing high quality early care and education programs. Not only does this help our children prepare for future success in school, it also is critical to closing the achievement gap between low and high-income students.

Strong early care and education programs will make Ohio more economically competitive by helping to attract a well-trained workforce and to retain employees.

Elementary Education Professionals

For every dollar we spend on quality early learning programs for low-income children, we save four to seven dollars in future societal costs such as special education, incarceration, welfare and government subsidies. Early care and education is a cost-effective investment over a person's life, paying big dividends for society in the long run.

By the time children enter kindergarten, there already is a wide gap in social and intellectual knowledge between high and low income children. A strong early education program can close that gap and help assure that all children have equal opportunity from day one. This will also make our K-12 system stronger and help our teachers be more successful in the classroom.

- Even as three year olds, the differences between language skills among children is startling with high-income children knowing 1100 words on average, compared to only 480 words by children at risk.***

Children's brains are like sponges – what they learn in their early years carries a lifetime impact – because nearly 90% of brain development occurs before the age of five. Early care and education programs give us the opportunity to help our children grow and develop, and do well as adults.

Since 62% of children under the age of six are in homes where all their parents are in the workforce, many children spend their early years in settings outside the home. This gives us an opportunity to support early learning where children acquire the basic educational and social skills they need to be successful in school.

Early Care and Learning Professionals

Children's brains are like sponges – what they learn in their early years carries a lifetime impact – because nearly 90% of brain development occurs before the age of five. Early care and education programs give us the opportunity to help our children grow and develop, and become independent, successful adults.

Children enrolled in high quality, early learning programs, particularly low-income children, are more likely to stay in school, attend college, earn more money and be in high-skilled jobs than their peers who do not participate in early learning programs. This is just one of the contributions, childhood education teachers make to society.

Today only 14% of children spend their first three years in the full-time care of a parent. Yet during these years, a child learns a great deal that shapes his/her future for years to come. He develops respect for people, places and things, the ability to work well with others, and trust and self-confidence in decision-making. By investing in quality programs, we are giving our children the opportunities they need in the early years to succeed later in life.

Quality early care and education programs are extremely important to children giving them the social and knowledge base they need to succeed in school and in life.

With wages for unskilled jobs dropping daily, education is the key to a decent job with an income that allows families to support themselves. Early care and education teachers play an important role in future school success because they give children the foundation they need to become good students.

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