



# BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN EARLY LEARNING

Children begin learning as soon as they are born. Their hearts and minds are molded by the relationships and environments they experience. When we give them a warm and stimulating environment with plenty of opportunities to explore and discover, we lay a strong foundation for their future learning. Early education, such as quality child care, Head Start or preschool programs, can provide this strong foundation and give children the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. We all benefit when we give children the right start. *Investing in the early years is not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do.*



## Benefits to the Economy and to Society

Recent research indicates that ensuring families can afford quality early learning yields a total benefit-cost ratio of up to 17:1, with annual internal rates of return of 18% (1% participant gain and 17% public benefit). Public benefits include higher tax revenues and lower costs for special education, welfare support, and incarceration.

Child development is a foundation for community development and economic development, as capable children become the foundation of a prosperous and sustainable society.

Stable, affordable early learning programs for employees is now a critical business concern: when workers have it, employers realize lower absenteeism, tardiness, and turnover and increased morale, productivity and retention.

## Effect of Quality Early Learning on the Developing Child

Short-term child outcomes before entering public school:

- ✓ Improved language skills;
- ✓ Advanced learning skills; and
- ✓ More positive relationships with other children and adults.

Intermediate child outcomes in the primary grades:

- ✓ Reduced need for special education;
- ✓ Improved academic achievement;
- ✓ Lowered likelihood of grade retention; and
- ✓ Increased possibility of high school completion.

Long-term child outcomes in adulthood:

- ✓ Higher rates of post-secondary school attendance and completion;
- ✓ Higher employment rates and earnings;
- ✓ Lower rates of public assistance; and
- ✓ Lower rates of crime and incarceration.

“ INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS IS THE BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK. ”

Senator Warren Rudman  
USA Child Care Conference in Nashua, NH

“ ...I HAVE A NEW APPRECIATION FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE AS AN ECONOMIC NECESSITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES. ”

Tim Sink, President  
Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce

Referring to *Child Care Keeps NH Working: The Economic Impact of Child Care in the Central New Hampshire Region*

## Why the Early Years?

Brain circuits stabilize with age, making them increasingly more difficult to alter.

The window of opportunity for development remains open for many years, but the costs of remediation grow with increasing age.

It is more efficient, both biologically and economically, to get things right the first time than to try to fix them later.

(Sources: National Conference of State Legislatures; National Scientific Council; Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University; The Frameworks Institute; Early Learning NH)