Birth to Five Matters

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Birth to Five Sets the Stage for Future Success or Failure

Newborn brain size proportionate to 6 year old brain.

Newborn neural networks compared to networks of a 6 year old.

Early experiences from Birth to Five profoundly affect children’s future learning, behavior, and health.

Differences in Early Experiences Result in “Readiness Gaps” between children of poverty and their more affluent peers.

Language Experiences Matter Greatly

Differences in Vocabulary Size

Cumulative Vocabulary Words

### Differences in Access to Books

#### Books at Home and in Classroom Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Books at Home</th>
<th>Books at School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Income</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Income</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children learn what they hear most frequently – *Amount Matters*

Children learn words for things and events that interest them – *Experiences Matter*

Interactive and responsive environments build language – *Talking With, not at, Matters*

Vocabulary and language development are reciprocal processes - *Engaging in Frequent Conversations, Matters*

Birth to Five Matters

Children Who Start School Behind are UNLIKELY to Catch Up

Children who enter kindergarten with limited readiness skills are more likely to develop reading difficulties and require remedial education.
"Readiness Gaps" Often Turn Into "Achievement Gaps"

If 50 third graders are poor readers, then 37 of them are still poor readers in ninth grade.

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Conclusive Research Findings

- Long term studies tracking outcomes for children receiving high-quality Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Overwhelming evidence showing strong positive impact of quality ECE
  
Studies include:
  - Perry Preschool Project
  - Abecedarian Project
  - Barnett Study of Studies
  - Entwisle Socialization Study
  - Federal Reserve Economic Impact Analysis
Return on Investment is High

Dollars invested in quality ECE yield extraordinary public returns resulting in better working public schools, more educated workers, and less crime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Term</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fewer retentions</td>
<td>Higher rate of school completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer special education referrals</td>
<td>Preparedness for future labor force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in early education jobs</td>
<td>Higher income and tax payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees spend wages, pay taxes</td>
<td>Lower criminal justice &amp; prison costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers purchase goods and services</td>
<td>Fewer social welfare payments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank
Return on Investment is High

Schools can expect to save more than $11.00 per child for children who benefit from quality early learning experiences because these children are less likely to require special or remedial education.

*National Institute for Early Education Research, 2002.*
Return on Investment is High

The return to society for each dollar invested in quality early childhood programs range from $1.80 - $17.07.

Investing in Quality ECE is Less Expensive than the Alternatives

About 82% of all Americans in prison are high school dropouts. It costs about $20,000 a year to house a prisoner. In comparison, a year of high-quality preschool costs about $4,800 and has been shown to decrease the rate of arrests during the teenage years by 40%.

Investing in Quality Early Care and Education is a Wise Investment

High-quality early childhood programs serving children Birth to Five can lead to improved child, school, and community outcomes.