



**First Five Years Fund**

# **The Short- And Long-Term Benefits Of Investing In Early Childhood Education**

**February 2017**

# Investment In High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs Leads To Short- And Long-Term Benefits

## Myth

## Fact

The skills kids learn in early childhood programs are the same they typically learn in kindergarten or first grade.

The brain is built over time, and its capacity for change decreases with age, making the first few years of life critical to future success.

Investments in early childhood programs are based on an inflated sense of promise.

Research continues to show that investing in high-quality early childhood programs generates a 13 percent annual return on investment.

We don't know why participants in early childhood programs have better future outcomes.

Research shows a strong correlation between early childhood intervention programs and higher graduation rates, increased earnings and employment, and reduced incarceration rates.

Good intentions are not enough; we need to design interventions that generate persistent advantages for our children.

Research shows that investment in high-quality early childhood programs creates real positive impact for participants, families, and communities.

It's a mistake to expect that initial gains from early childhood education programs will sustain themselves.

High-quality early childhood education in coordination with other programs like home visiting helps to create a continuum of child care that supports children's continued healthy development.

# High-Quality Early Education Supports Children's School Readiness And Leads To Lifelong Gains

## School Readiness

Various studies across the country conclude that children with access to high-quality early learning and care are better prepared to succeed in school.

Participants in high-quality early learning and care programs:

- Have 10 point higher IQ scores
- Are 40 percent less likely to repeat a grade
- Are eight percent more likely to graduate high school
- Have higher language scores after only one year

## Future Success

Support for early learning is a strategic investment that builds on long-term academic gains and generates societal payoffs.

Participants in high-quality early learning and care programs:

- Are 2.5 times more likely to go to college
- Have employment rates seven to 13 percent higher by age 30
- Earn 42 percent higher median monthly income by age 40
- Are more likely to own a home and less likely to receive government assistance in adulthood
- Have lower rates of felony arrests, convictions, and incarceration

Note: The above data is from studies evaluating various high-quality early childhood learning and care programs across the country

[Journal Of Economic Perspectives](#), [New Jersey Policy Perspective](#), [Coalition For Evidenced-Based Policy](#), [Dr. James Heckman](#), [Science](#), [Archives Of Pediatrics And Adolescent Medicine](#), [Journal Of Child Development](#)

# Participants In The High-Quality Perry Preschool Program Saw Sustained Long-Term Benefits

Effects Of Participation In Perry Preschool

Control Perry Preschool Participant

