

Early Care and Learning:

A Wise Investment for New York— Especially in Tough Economic Times

There's rising public support for investments in high-quality early care and learning — and with good reason. Investing in these services pays big dividends for children, families, schools, communities and taxpayers both in the short-term and over the long haul. These investments:

- **STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY** by creating jobs and supporting parents' ability to earn a living. Studies show that every \$1 invested generates \$1.86 in additional spending in local neighborhoods.¹
- **PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** by attracting new employers, improving productivity and reducing absenteeism at work.²
- **COMPRISE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT** the city can make, preparing children for success in school and beyond.³
- **SAVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONEY** by eliminating the need for remedial services, special education and grade retention. The savings are substantial, about \$2500 to \$9500 per child.⁴
- **PRODUCE HIGH RETURNS FOR TAXPAYERS.** Federal Reserve economists say there's no better public investment to be made, with taxpayers earning up to 12% on every \$1 invested.⁵
- **REDUCE CRIME.** Graduates of high-quality early childhood programs are less likely to be retained a grade in school, placed in special education classes, drop out of high school and commit crimes.⁶

Taken together, these studies show a return on investment of up to \$17 for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood services. They also reveal how these investments can help all of New York's children realize their full potential.

It's time to invest in high-quality services for all children, from the prenatal period through third grade, to prepare them for success in school and life.



About CCI

CCI champions the right of all children to start life with the best foundation of learning, care and health, and is nationally recognized as a leading voice for meeting the developmental needs of children from birth through school-age.

CCI accomplishes its mission by:

- **Supporting families**, guiding them through the complex maze of child care services to identify appropriate, affordable options of the highest quality.
- **Promoting excellence**, through professional development and technical assistance, mentoring and coaching for professionals across the full spectrum of services.
- **Driving effective policies** with recommendations informed by in CCI's experience and expertise in our work with families and early childhood professionals.

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¹ See "New Research: Early Education as Economic Investment" by Clothier and Poppe, published by National Council of State Legislatures, available at www.ncsl.org.

² See "New York State Survey on Economic Development and Child Care" at www.cornell.edu as well as "Investing in New York City: An Economic Analysis of the Early Care and Education Sector" available at www.centerforchildrensinitiatives.org.

³ See studies by Nobel laureate economist James Heckman at www.heckmanequation.org.

⁴ See "Early Childhood Education: How Important are the Cost Savings to the School System," a study by Clive Belfield of costs and benefits of offering early childhood education to New York's children. Available at www.winningbeginningny.org/coalitionPublications.php.

⁵ See research by Art Rolnick included in NCSL paper by Clothier and Poppe cited above.

⁶ www.highscope.org. See studies of Perry Preschool Project, which track graduates of high-quality early childhood program up to age 40.