

Vote for Alaska's Young Children



Make Early Childhood a Higher Priority

When you
vote for kids

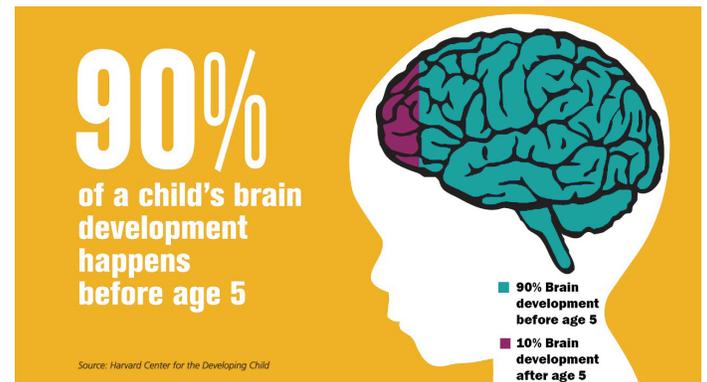
You set young children on a path to healthy development, which enables them to:

- Form stronger relationships and social skills
- Boost their brain power
- Learn and engage
- Play and be curious about their world
- Concentrate and learn self-control

When children have the best start possible, they are more likely to grow up to be happy, healthy adults who contribute to their community, making a more prosperous Alaska.

1 Early Experiences Shape the Brain

In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new brain connections are formed every second. This development is critical to the foundation of all future learning.



Brain architecture is constructed through an ongoing process that begins before birth and continues into adulthood. The quality of that architecture is influenced by early life experiences and creates either a sturdy or fragile foundation for all the capabilities and behavior that follow.

A fragile start impacts a child long term. Toxic stress and early trauma on the brain can greatly affect the healthy development needed for social and other skills like the ability to concentrate, impulse control, expressing emotions, relationship-building and the ability to positively participate in and contribute to group activities, and good decision-making.

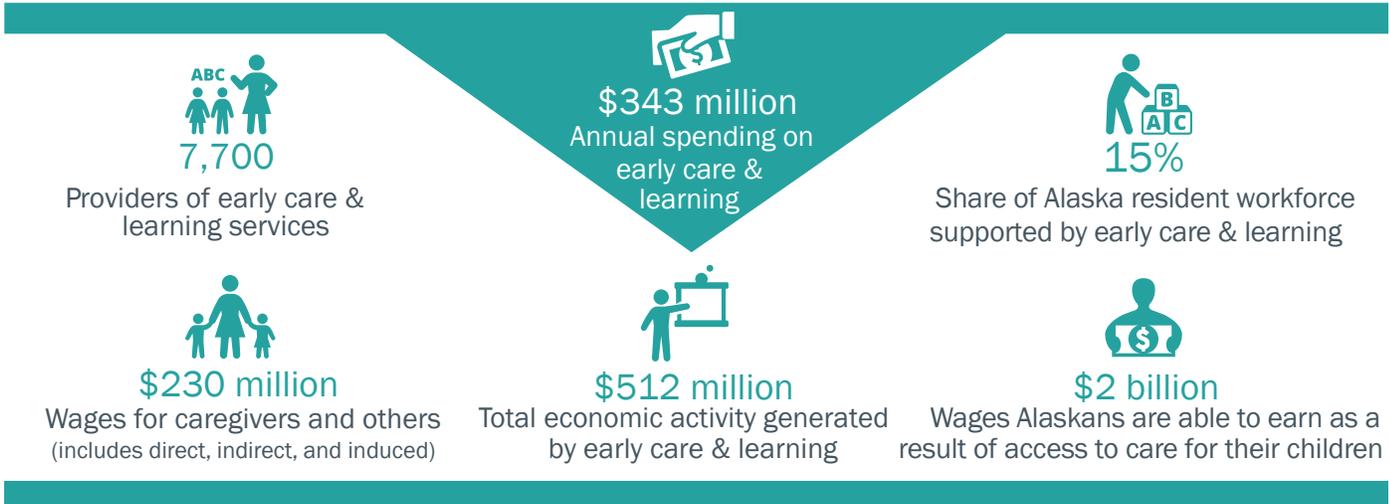
2 Prevent the Achievement Gap

Only 31% of incoming kindergarteners meet the identified school readiness goals (as defined by State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development).

Gaps in vocabulary, social emotional skills, knowledge and ability between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers often persists throughout school and life, and are difficult and costly to close.

Pre-K students are expelled more than 3 times the rate of children in grades K-12 (Yale University).

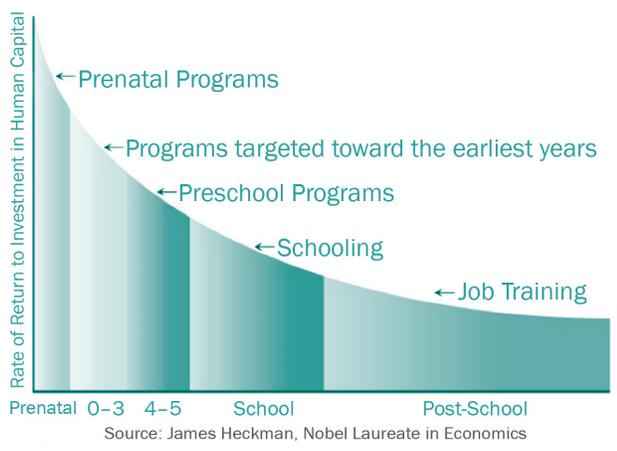
3 Generate Economic Activity & Growth



4 Smart Investment, Big Return

Research shows that high quality birth-to-5 programs for at-risk children can deliver a 13% per year return on investment.

The most economically efficient time to develop necessary skills and abilities is in the very early years. Start at birth, coordinate services into comprehensive early childhood programs, and achieve greater economic and social gains.



5 Strategy for Long-term Prosperity

According to a representative sample of 750 Alaskans surveyed in September 2015, an overwhelming majority of Alaskans believe state funding for early childhood programs is important for the state's long-term prosperity.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) said that in current tough economic times, they support investment of state funds in early childhood programs as a strategy for ensuring Alaska's long-term prosperity.



Join Alaskans and Vote for Kids
 Learn more at www.facebook.com/voteforkids
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The Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group is a coalition of early childhood experts and leading organizations with representation across Alaska working to increase the number of children ready to succeed in school and beyond.