



Early Learning Plays a Significant Role in Florida's Current and Future Economy

Quality early learning plays a significant role in Florida's current and future economy by:

- Allowing parents to work;
 - Become financially self-sufficient; and
 - While giving them peace of mind that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment.
- Supporting the workforce **directly** in
 - Employing workers;
 - Paying wages and taxes; and
 - Purchasing goods and services from other Florida industries.
- Supporting the workforce **indirectly** in enabling parents to
 - Participate in educational programs; and
 - Enter and remain in the workforce.
- Enhancing Florida's economy;
 - The child care industry directly employed 70,784 people in 2006; and
 - The child care industry generates approximately \$1.1 billion in wages for Floridians; an additional \$1.8 billion is generated for industries that support the child care settings and their workers, for a total value of \$2.9 billion to the state of Florida.
- Being an investment in the future economy because children who attend high quality child care have been found to be successful in school and in their adult lives as they typically
 - Earn higher wages;
 - Rely less on government assistance;
 - Produce more in economic activity and taxes than their counterparts not experiencing quality care;
 - Are more likely to become home-owners;
 - Are more likely to have a savings account;
 - Had significantly fewer life time arrests; and
 - Had significantly fewer months in prison or jail.

(Results from High/Scope Perry Project where children were followed to age 40; comparisons are against children who did not have high quality child care.)
- Saving money on
 - Incarceration; and
 - Children needing special education intervention.

Overall investing in early learning makes sound fiscal sense.