



Iowa has approximately 226,000 children, age zero to five years.

It is time for Iowans to make a major commitment to invest in early childhood.

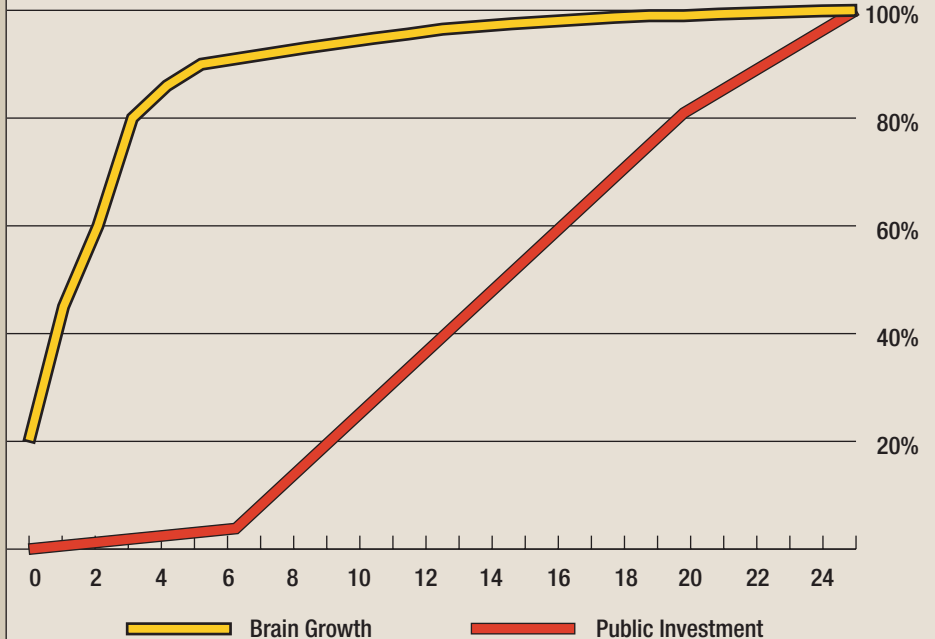
- ❖ Iowa ranks fourth in the nation (69.8%) in percent of children under 6 years old with all parents in the labor force.
- ❖ Fewer than 18% of Iowa's children attend a quality, accredited preschool.
- ❖ 85% of intellect, social skills, and personality is developed by age 5.
- ❖ Every \$1 invested in high quality preschool programs yields over \$7 return on investment (Perry Preschool Project)

Let's invest when it makes the most difference!

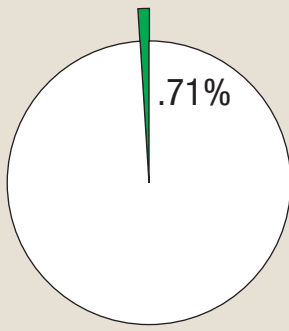


More brain development happens during the first five years of life than the next twenty years.

Brain Growth and Public Investments by Child Age



Source: Early Learning Left Out, Child and Family Policy Center, February 2004



State spending on early learning is less than 1% of State General Fund Expenditures

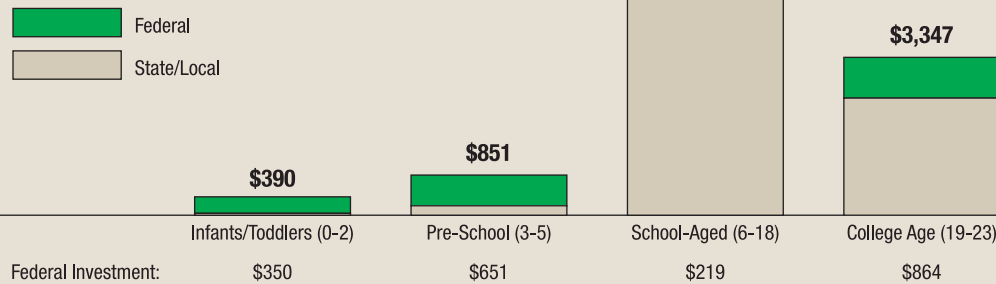
Investing Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

Children who participate in high quality early childhood development programs are:

- ❖ Less likely to need special education services or to be held back in school.
- ❖ More likely to graduate from high school, go to college, and be employed.
- ❖ More likely to be healthier and need less medical services.
- ❖ Able to contribute to a stronger economy through higher employment earnings.
- ❖ Less likely to come in contact with the criminal justice system or use its services.

Current Public Investment per Child in Iowa

Source: Child and Family Policy Center, 2004



NOW Is the Time!!

We must invest now in a comprehensive approach that builds upon existing strengths and community energy, ensuring that health, early intervention, child care, family strengthening, and pre-school needs are all addressed:

- ❖ **Community Empowerment** investments build local ownership and investment.
- ❖ **Child Care** investments build upon existing subsidy and quality enhancement efforts, including professional development and quality rating system.
- ❖ **Pre-school** investments build upon research based programs like Shared Visions and Head Start.
- ❖ Investments in **comprehensive health services and early intervention** ensure early identification of developmental issues and access to services.



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