

Early learning investments are essential to Georgia's future. Military, business and law enforcement leaders are calling for greater investments in young children to ensure our national security, build our economic well-being and reduce crime.



WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD?

There are only **2,000 days** between the time a baby is born and when he or she will begin kindergarten.

During that time, **brain architecture** is forming.



The **FOUNDATION** for future learning, health, and behavior is built birth to age 5.

The **most rapid period of development** in human life happens from **birth to 8**.



WHY NATIONAL SECURITY?



70% of Americans aged 17 to 24 do not meet the military's eligibility requirements.

Of Georgia high school graduates who try to join the military, **1 in 4 score too low** on the Armed Forces Qualification Test to join the Army.



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During that time, **brain architecture** is forming.



The brain is **not** fully developed at birth. The basic architecture of the brain forms during a **child's early years**.



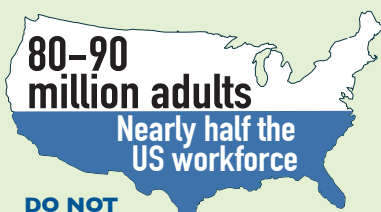
We aren't born with the skills that enable us to control impulses, make plans, and stay focused.

We are born with the **potential** to develop these capacities.

www.first2000days.org

Georgia's Campaign:
geears.org/initiatives/first-2000-days/

WHY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING?



DO NOT have the basic education and communication skills required to acquire and advance in jobs.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The results of Nobel Laureate Professor James Heckman's most recent study show that every \$1 invested in early education produces a yearly return of 13%.



VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION

Low-income children who attend high quality early education programs are **70% less likely** to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.



WHY CRIME REDUCTION?

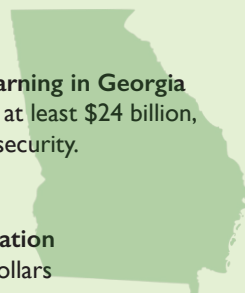


\$24 BILLION

The availability of early care and learning in Georgia supports annual parent earnings of at least \$24 billion, which strengthens family economic security.

\$4.7 BILLION

In 2013, the early care and education industry generated \$4.7 billion dollars of economic activity in Georgia.



The Importance of Early Childhood

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Every experience a baby has forms a neural connection (synapse) in the brain.

During the early years, up to **ONE MILLION** synapses are formed each second, building the foundation for future learning.



The early years are so **defining** that by the time children **turn eight**, their **third grade outcomes** can predict future academic achievement and career **success**.



Early Childhood Investments Produce Results!

Decades of research has identified programs proven to work for young children.



Higher graduation rates.

High quality early childhood programs increase graduation rates by as much as 44%.



Better health.

A study of children who participated in the Carolina Abecedarian early learning project found participants experienced fewer illnesses as adults, made healthier lifestyle choices, had lower rates of high blood pressure and had significantly lower risk of heart disease than the control group that did not participate.



Greater self-sufficiency.

Voluntary home visiting programs reduce health care costs, improve school readiness and success, reduce need for remedial education and increase family self-sufficiency. Participants in high quality early childhood programs contribute more taxes and are less likely to rely on government assistance.



Higher salaries.

At-risk children who participated in a high quality early childhood program were more likely to be employed and earned 33% higher average salaries.



Less crime.

At-risk children who participated in a high quality early childhood program were significantly less likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.

References for all statistics are available online at www.first2000days.org/infographic.