ABOUT GEEARS

MISSION. To inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on early learning and healthy development for children ages birth to five.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT. Align and mobilize key stakeholders for collective impact.

PUBLIC AWARENESS. Create widespread public awareness and support for improved early learning and development.

ADVOCACY. Advocate for quality early learning and development for all of Georgia's children.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY. Build organizational capacity to support the movement.

VISION. By 2020, all Georgia students will enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to read to learn by third grade.

SUPPORT EARLY EDUCATION

LEARN MORE. Sign up for the GEEARS e-mail list to receive early education updates at **www.GEEARS.org.**

TAKE ACTION. Contact your local legislators or write a letter to the editor of your newspaper supporting early education.

SPREAD THE WORD. Encourage your colleagues to get involved and support early education. Invite GEEARS to speak at meetings of your professional association, faith community or civic organization.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE. Read to your child, enroll your child in quality early care and learning programs and encourage others to do the same.

CHAMPION GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICES. Encourage business organizations and networks to adopt positions in support of public investments for high quality early learning.

SUPPORT QUALITY RATED. Ask your child care provider to enroll in Georgia's quality rating and improvement system, Quality Rated.

CONTACT GEEARS

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GEEARS

GEORGIA EARLY EDUCATION ALLIANCE FOR READY STUDENTS

BY 2020, ALL GEORGIA STUDENTS WILL ENTER KINDERGARTEN PREPARED TO SUCCEED AND ON A PATH TO READ TO LEARN BY THIRD GRADE.

WWW.GEEARS.ORG

INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATION HAS HIGH RETURNS

Early education benefits children, their families and their communities. From improved academic outcomes to the economic savings to school systems and our state, the benefits of high-quality early education are irrefutable.

SCIENCE PROVES THAT EARLY EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATION SHAPE THE BRAIN. In the first few years of a child's life, 700 new neural connections are formed every second through the interaction of genes and a baby's environment and experiences. These connections build the brain's foundation upon which all learning, behavior and health depend.

CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR EARLY EDUCATION HAS BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR GEORGIA. The availability of child care in Georgia supports annual parent earnings of at least $13.1 billion. Research proves *every $1 invested in high-quality early education saves, on average, $7* down the road.

CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION ARE MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, ATTEND COLLEGE AND ARE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR THE WORKFORCE. The foundation of skills needed in school and the workforce is built during the first five years.

HIGH-QUALITY CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES HELP ENSURE THAT EVEN THE MOST AT-RISK CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN PREPARED TO SUCCEED.

Children who receive high-quality early education begin school ready to succeed.

Children who begin school ready to succeed are more likely to read at grade level by 3rd grade.

Children who read at grade level by 3rd grade are more likely to graduate from high school.

Children who graduate high school are more likely to go to college and enter the job market prepared.

Employable, tax-paying citizens are critical to our economy.

EARLY EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

Georgia was proud to be the first state to offer universal pre-K for 4 year-olds. Yet, there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to read to learn by 3rd grade.

QUALITY RATED. Georgia's new voluntary, community-powered early education rating system, Quality Rated, identifies and rewards early education programs exhibiting high merit. Quality Rated programs set children on solid educational footing by developing skills they need to succeed in K-12 and beyond. For more information, visit www.QualityRated.org.

FUNDING. We must increase funding for early care and education programs to sustain quality improvements, fulfill the promise of universal pre-K, and ensure that hard working, low-income families can access subsidized child care.

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT. The early years of a child's life lay the foundation for success. Children who are exposed to six or more risk factors, including poverty, poor nutrition, lack of preventative care, substance abuse, caregiver mental illness, or family violence, have a 90 to 100 percent chance of developmental delays.