## Washington

### **Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!**

#### Research shows that during the earliest years of a child's life:

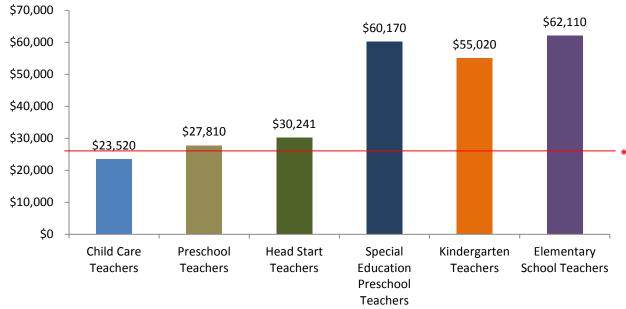
700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second

Genetics plus experiences shape the developing brain The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities

Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Achievement

# High Quality Programs Depend on a Quality Workforce Low Wages Undermine Quality

## **Washington Median Annual Workforce Earnings**



<sup>\*</sup>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: \$26,124

## **Washington Demographics**

#### **535,473** Children Under Age 6

**224,768** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty

**59.4%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working

**40.2%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

**19.3%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

#### **Washington Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations**







Manicurist & Pedicurist \$26,670



Word Processors/ Typists \$47,480



Nurses \$77,020





Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year data (2014); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2015); Head Start Program Information Report (2015).