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 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

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

Tennessee Median Annual Workforce Earnings

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: $26,124

Tennessee Demographics

- **482,065** Children Under Age 6
- **270,048** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- **64.1%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- **56.3%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- **29.3%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Tennessee Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: $19,510
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: $22,780
- Word Processors/Typists: $34,030
- Nurses: $56,840