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 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

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

U.S. Median Annual Workforce Earnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Annual Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers</td>
<td>$20,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$28,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Teachers</td>
<td>$28,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$53,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Teachers</td>
<td>$51,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teachers</td>
<td>$54,890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

U.S. Demographics

- 23.7 million Children Under Age 6
- 11.3 million Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 64.6% Children under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 45.4% Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 23.9% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

U.S. Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: $20,630
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: $20,820
- Word Processors/Typists: $37,610
- Nurses: $67,490