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

Arizona Median Annual Workforce Earnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Annual Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers</td>
<td>$20,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$23,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Teachers</td>
<td>$32,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$44,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Teachers</td>
<td>$40,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teachers</td>
<td>$39,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Arizona Demographics

- 526,134 Children Under Age 6
- 290,137 Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 58.7% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 36.2% Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 28.3% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Arizona Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: $21,800
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: $22,220
- Word Processors/Typists: $30,500
- Nurses: $71,510