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

Iowa 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>$18,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$24,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Teachers</td>
<td>$29,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$58,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Teachers</td>
<td>$50,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teachers</td>
<td>$51,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Iowa Demographics

- **233,351** Children Under Age 6
- **90,723** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- **75.9%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- **45.7%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- **16.3%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Iowa Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: $20,510
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: $30,400
- Word Processors/Typists: $38,180
- Nurses: $53,910