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

Louisiana Median Annual Workforce Earnings

- Child Care Teachers: $18,340
- Preschool Teachers: $48,230
- Head Start Teachers: $26,739
- Special Education Preschool Teacher: $48,230
- Kindergarten Teachers: $47,340
- Elementary School Teachers: $47,460

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

Louisiana Demographics

- 371,352 Children Under Age 6
- 203,052 Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 6.6% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 4.9% Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 3.2% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Louisiana Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: $18,870
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: $20,170
- Word Processors/Typists: $31,940
- Nurses: $59,780