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

**Maryland Median Annual Workforce Earnings**

- **Child Care Teachers**: $22,120
- **Preschool Teachers**: $27,980
- **Head Start Teachers**: $34,074
- **Special Education Preschool Teachers**: $64,850
- **Kindergarten Teachers**: $55,900
- **Elementary School Teachers**: $61,620

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

**Maryland Demographics**

- **440,846** Children Under Age 6
- **148,891** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- **72.3%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- **29.3%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- **13.5%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

**Maryland Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations**

- **Parking Lot Attendants**: $19,060
- **Manicurist & Pedicurist**: $21,960
- **Word Processors/Typists**: $37,220
- **Nurses**: $72,090