

Early Care and Education

Early Care and Education can be defined as the full range of services used by families to educate and nurture children, particularly those from birth through 5, and those that allow parents to work and/or attend school. The impact of EC&E upon children and their families has far-reaching implications for issues of gender equality, economic outlook, local and national politics, and ultimately, our global community. A growing number of Americans are concluding that our services to its youngest children and their families constitute a national crisis, perhaps one of the greatest domestic problems our nation has ever faced.

The Benefits of High Quality Early Care and Education

For Children

Research shows that high quality early care and education environments can dramatically impact a child's success in school and in life. Early experiences directly affect the way a child's brain circuitry is "wired" which provides the foundation for future cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development.

For Families

Parents need high quality, consistent, affordable child care in order to be productive workers. According to recent research, it is estimated that over 85% of the workforce has responsibility for family members (including children). (Source: 1997 National Study of the Changing Workforce by the Families and Work Institute)

For Economy

Investing in high quality early care and education pays off economically. For every dollar invested in high quality early care and education services, a return of \$7 or more dollars can be gained through reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancies, welfare, and other social services. According to recent research, businesses that address workforce child care needs report improved employee recruitment, retention and productivity as well as decreased employee turnover and absenteeism.