

Help our children reach their promise through quality early education Support Pennsylvania's early childhood initiatives

Pennsylvania is rich in natural resources, but it is our greatest resource, our young children, that will lead us into the future.

Quality early learning opens the doors of opportunity for every child to do well in school, in the workforce, and in life.



Quality early education benefits our children, families and communities today and tomorrow

- **The quality of a child's early education affects their learning for life.** Quality early learning opportunities help our children enter school ready to learn and prepared to achieve. But this window of opportunity is brief— by age five, 90% of our brains are developed. If a child enters kindergarten behind, they will most likely stay behind.
- **Children who receive quality early education achieve in school and in life.** Children who receive quality early education are less likely to require special education services or be retained a grade, and more likely to do well in school, attend college, get better jobs and have higher earnings.
- **Quality early education is workforce development.** The skills employers look for in quality employees, such as being team-oriented, literate and numerate, are capacities that are essentially shaped by age five.
- **Quality early education provides public benefits.** Success of every child in Pennsylvania translates into a more competitive workforce and greater tax base, while reducing public expense in special education costs, public assistance, crime control and lost taxes.

Pennsylvania invests in a number of programs that serve more than 300,000 children and families:

- Child Care Certification
- Child Care Works
- Children's Trust Fund
- Early Intervention, birth- five
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Head Start Supplemental
- Keystone STARS/PA Early Learning Keys to Quality
- Parent-Child Home Program
- Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts
- Public-private partnerships
- Nurse-Family Partnership

Pennsylvania's early childhood initiatives help our children, families and communities reach their promise by

- giving working parents access to reliable, quality early learning programs so that they can retain employment and be more productive at work;
- providing children, especially those at risk of school failure, with the skills they will need to enter kindergarten ready to learn and ready to succeed;
- providing early learning opportunities in the home and in early learning programs for all children regardless of income or special needs;
- helping early learning programs continue to improve their quality and provide higher quality early learning experiences for our young children;
- supporting early childhood teachers as they gain higher education and specialized training; and
- building a quality early education continuum that prepares children for success, works for families, and can attract families and businesses to a community when they are looking for a new home.

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children

Because every child is Pennsylvania's future

www.papromiseforchildren.com