

The Importance of High-Quality Child Care in Minnesota



High-quality child care benefits the state in multiple ways:

- It allows **parents to go to work**
- It supports **child care providers as business owners**
- It helps **prepare children** for school and life



High-quality early education is the best investment we can make.

Economists have shown that **investing \$1 in high-quality learning for low-income children leads to a return on investment of up to \$16.**¹ It pays dividends in long-term productivity and savings to our education, health, social service and justice systems.



Parent Aware promotes research-based best practices among participating programs through training and coaching and rates them on a scale of one to four stars.

Parents can access the ratings information to choose the best early childhood program for their child and family. It **pays dividends in long-term productivity and savings to our education, health, social service and justice systems.**



In Minnesota, there are 419,084 children age birth through five years; 74% of these children live in households where all available parents are currently working.²

Parents need a **safe, nurturing, educational environment** for their children while they're at work.



Early Learning Scholarships are a crucial tool for closing the opportunity gaps facing Minnesota.

Research shows **gaps forming between children from low-income families and their more well off peers as young as 18 months old.** Supporting low-income families to access affordable quality early learning programs is the best way to prevent these persistent gaps.



Teaching kids is actually a lot more like rocket science than babysitting. Quality teachers need to understand **brain development, social and emotional growth, language development, cultural relevance** and more. They also need **adequate compensation** for their work.



Minnesota has lost close to 30% of our licensed family providers since 2005. We must **address this shortage to ensure strong families and a strong economy** in the future.

¹Grunewald, Rob and Rolnick, Arthur. Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return. 2003. <http://bit.ly/fedearlyed>

²Tout, K., Cleveland, J., Li, W., Starr, R., Soli, M. & Bultinck, E. The Parent Aware Evaluation: Initial Validation. 2016. <http://bit.ly/PAeval16>