

The Case for Early Childhood

Investing in early childhood provides a foundation that supports wellbeing and success for the rest of a child's life, cultivating productive, healthy citizens and better future communities. Moreover, parents who have quality, affordable care for their

children form a better workforce for today's society.

Despite these facts, more support is needed for families in Colorado. Currently, licensed care centers have the capacity for only 43 percent of Colorado's young children, and 1 in 4 parents experience financial hardships trying to get their kids high-quality early education. That's why Grand Beginnings works to bring 12 federal, state, and private funding streams to Grand County. We collaborate with families, early childhood professionals, and community agencies to bring evidence-based practices, coaching, training, tuition assistance, and advocacy to the county, building a more sustainable early childhood system for the community now and into the future.



Number of years of high-quality early education needed to ELIMINATE the achievement gap currently found among children at older ages.

2



Number of new neural connections forming every second in the early years of life.

700

Young children who receive a high-quality education are less likely to:



Repeat a grade by 50%



Be placed in special education by 49%



Become a teenage parent by 40%

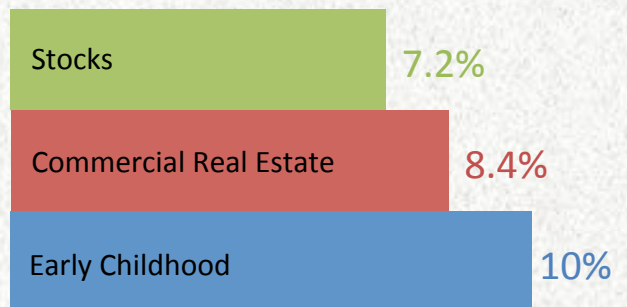


Be convicted of a violent crime by 70%



Drop out of school by 25%

Average Return on Investment



Sources: Harvard University Center on the Developing Child; Colorado Children's Campaign; ZERO to THREE National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families; Human Capital Research Collaborative; Center for American Progress Action Fund; ReadyNation.