

EARLY LEARNING INVESTMENTS

Are Essential to North Carolina's Future

Military, business and law enforcement leaders are calling for greater investments in young children to ensure our national security, build our economic well-being and reduce crime.



Essential to National Security

71% of Americans aged 17 to 24 cannot meet the military's eligibility requirements. In North Carolina it's 72%.

OVER 700,000 YOUNG NORTH CAROLINIANS ARE UNABLE TO JOIN THE MILITARY.



Essential to Economic Health

Nearly HALF the US workforce does not have the basic education and communication skills required to acquire and advance in jobs.

60% OF NC EMPLOYERS REPORTED COMMUNICATIONS SKILL GAPS AMONG JOB APPLICANTS.



Essential to Crime Reduction

At-risk children who didn't receive a high-quality early childhood education were 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.

IN FY 2018/2019 NORTH CAROLINA SPENT \$2 BILLION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND ONLY \$278 MILLION ON THE DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

WHY DOES EARLY LEARNING MATTER?

There are only **2,000 days** between birth and the beginning of Kindergarten. **Brain architecture is built** during this time.

Every experience a baby has forms a **neural connection** (synapse) in the brain. In their early years, **babies form one million synapses per second.**

Not all will last. **Connections that are used more are strengthened** and those that are not are pruned—forming either a strong or a weak **foundation for all future health and learning.**

