

# Invest in Early Childhood Care and Education

## The Early Childhood Care and Education Workforce Positively Impacts the Economy

The return on investment in early childhood development:



**6.77%**  
annual return

Compared to:  
**Dow Jones Industrial Average**  
over the last 40 years

**6.56%**  
annual return

**S & P 500 Index**  
over the last 40 years

Children who attended early childhood programs are more likely to be employed and earn a 33% higher average salary.<sup>1</sup>

**Early Childhood Care and Education Employment include those who work with young children and families in settings such as:**

- Child Care Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
- Early Head Start/Head Start Programs
- Infant Toddler Programs
- Preschool for All Programs

The ECE industry employs millions of people with billions of dollars impacting the economy.

Each dollar invested in high-quality early childhood programs produces a \$2 to \$3 increase in state earnings per capita.<sup>2</sup> Working parents play a vital role in the Illinois economy, earning a total of \$132 billion in 2008.<sup>3</sup>

“  
*An investment in Early Care and Education is much more than an investment in children. It is an investment that helps guarantee the long-term stability of Illinois' economy, its families and future workforce.*  
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**Illinois Action for Children**

<sup>1</sup> First Five Years Fund

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Bartik “Investing in Kids: Early Childhood Programs and Local Economic Development”

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau

Information compiled by the Professional Development Advisory Council.



## 4 Facts About Why Early Childhood Care and Education and the Economy is Important

1. Provides a **significant number of jobs** and **generates** considerable **revenue** in its own right.
2. Enables **parents to maintain employment** and/or obtain education and training.
3. Enables **employers** to attract and retain employees.
4. Supports a **strong future economy** by preparing children to enter K-12 education ready to learn the skills necessary to succeed in school and become productive workers.