

Early experiences last a lifetime

Build Ohio is a collaborative of private and public partners. Together, members work to develop a comprehensive well-integrated early care and education system that:

- 1) Provides high quality services and supports in a variety of settings
- 2) Utilizes a well-trained and educated professional workforce
- 3) Is available and affordable to all families who want and need it
- 4) Prepares children for success in school and life.

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Build
Strong Foundations For
Ohio's Youngest Children



Why business supports

early care and education

To be successful in school and in life, Ohio's young children (birth through five) must grow-up in an environment that develops self-confidence, positive social emotional skills and a love for learning.



*Endowing
our children
with the
joy of
learning*

Adult behavior finds its roots in the young child

Socialization, good behavior, the ability to work well with others and respect for people, places and things are what children learn before they start kindergarten. Quality early care and education supports working families and helps reinforce these basics with children.

Did you know?

- 90% of brain growth occurs from birth to six years old.
- A child develops the ability to reason by the age of five.
- By the age of three, many children know 1100 words.

An economy in change— Ohio families grapple with new demands.

Today in Ohio, 62% of children under the age of six live in homes where both parents or their single parent works. The need for flexible, early care and education opportunities is growing as business needs change.

When young children are receiving quality care and education, their working parents are more productive, have less absenteeism, show a greater work focus and have a better overall job performance.

A coalition of state, private and business organizations is advocating for higher standards and more support for our youngest children and their families.



Stand Up for Ohio's Children



Why should Ohio business get involved?

As more parents join the workforce and society places new demands on our children, we need to make sure all Ohio families have the support they need. This means re-examining the quality and availability of early care and education for working families.

Children are shaped by their earliest experiences. With excellent early care and education, our children will develop the foundation they need to be successful in school and life. This is important to Ohio business because employers need a well-educated, future workforce with a good work ethic.

Strengthening early care and education programs will make Ohio a more competitive business state by helping to attract and retain a well-trained workforce. Quality early care and education is important to parents in choosing a place to live and work.

The Business Roundtable, Corporate Voices for Working Families and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland are just a few of the business organizations that have spoken out publicly about the importance of high-quality, early care and education for children.

What can business do?

Make your voice heard. Participate in public discussions that elevate the role of early care and education. Support increased public investment and look for ways to form public private partnerships with organizations that share your concern about children.

- Offer early care and education benefits such as pre-tax flexible spending accounts or reimbursement for on-site or nearby quality care.
- Earmark corporate charitable funds for early care and education projects.
- Serve on early care and education non-profit boards and planning councils.
- Advocate for increased public investment in early care and education.
- Make early care and education a component of workforce and economic development initiatives in your community.
- Educate policy makers, fellow business leaders and the public about the advantages of high quality programs.
- Talk to public officials about the vital role quality early care and education plays in current and future workforce development.

