

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 elementary school professionals

support 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.



*Ready
for
school
and life*

The foundation for learning

How to communicate

How to follow a routine

How to control behavior

How to get along with others

The things children learn before kindergarten.

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.

A child's brain is like a sponge, soaking it all up from day one

New research on brain development has taught us that a child's early experiences are critical in developing strong language, cognitive and social skills.

New school demands put emphasis on early education

Because of challenging academics, children are expected to function on a much higher level than ever before. A strong pre-school foundation can help children develop the basics they need to be successful in school.

A coalition of state, private and business organizations is working to increase community support and public investment in quality early care and education.



Endowing our children with the joy of learning



An investment we need to make

During the first five years of life, children learn a great deal. These early years help shape their future growth and development. High quality early care and education programs help our elementary teachers be more successful in the classroom and make our overall K-12 system stronger.

Quality early care and education programs help our children grow and develop, and do well as adults. Today in Ohio, 62% of children under the age of six live in homes where both parents or their single parent works. This means that more children than ever before are spending growing-up-time outside the home.

Quality early care and education can make a difference for all children and is critical for low-income children.

For every dollar we spend on high quality, early care and education for low-income children, our return on investment can be as high as 16 dollars with savings in special education, criminal justice and welfare costs. This is confirmed in research done by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Early care and education is a cost-effective investment over a person's life, paying big dividends for society in the long run.

What can you 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.

- Visit early childhood programs in your school's area and learn about their programs.
- Host a meeting with early childhood professionals to discuss skills that will help children be successful in kindergarten.
- Develop transition plans with Head Start, child care and preschool programs that make kindergarten entrance welcoming and trouble-free for children and families.

- Encourage your school district to invite early childhood professionals to participate in training opportunities.
- Advocate for school bus routes that pick-up and drop-off kindergarten children at child care centers.
- Serve on a non-profit board of an early childhood program.
- Participate in public private partnerships to create funding for affordable, quality early care and education for Ohio families.
- Educate policymakers, businesses and the public about the advantages of high quality early care and education and the important role it plays in lifelong learning.

