

# Starting Smart

*The foundation for future learning*

The equation for a child's success is built on scientific research showing that a loving, nurturing family environment and everyday learning opportunities build the foundation for future learning and school success. You see it in your own children and grandchildren. Children need strong families, good early learning experiences -- especially in the early years -- and good health and supportive communities to succeed. [www.earlychildhoodswi.org](http://www.earlychildhoodswi.org)

- **Early experiences determine whether a child's brain architecture will provide a strong or weak foundation** for all future learning, behavior, and health. <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- **Study after study shows that a child who comes to school with the social, emotional and cognitive skills needed for success is more likely to do well in school**, graduate and go on to college – and is more likely to become the kind of worker that helps our community compete for the world-class jobs of tomorrow. [www.earlychildhoodswi.org](http://www.earlychildhoodswi.org)
- **Nationally on average children from low-wage families are 1-2 years behind in language development.** Preschoolers in high income brackets score 60% higher in cognitive scores than those in the lowest brackets. This means the achievement gap starts before school does. [www.earlychildhoodswi.org](http://www.earlychildhoodswi.org)
- **Ensuring that children have positive experiences prior to entering school is likely to lead to better outcomes than remediation programs at a later age, and significant up-front costs can generate a strong return on investment.** Cost-benefit studies have demonstrated positive returns on high-quality programs for vulnerable children beginning as early as prenatally and as late as age 4. <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- **If a child is not motivated and stimulated to learn and engage early on in life, the more likely it is that when the child becomes an adult he or she will fail** in social and economic life. The longer we wait to intervene in the life cycle of the child the more costly it is to remediate and oftentimes it is too late to restore the child to his or her full potential. [www.earlychildhoodswi.org](http://www.earlychildhoodswi.org)
- **Investing in early childhood education offers the best rates of economic and social returns** – for children and for society. 90% of brain development occurs before age five; however, 95% of public investment in education traditionally occurs after age five. [www.earlychildhoodswi.org](http://www.earlychildhoodswi.org)
- **Young children need positive relationships, rich learning opportunities, and safe environments, not quick fixes or magic bullets.** There are many ways to increase the availability of growth-promoting experiences for young children, in their homes and in a variety of child care or preschool settings, as long as programs are well implemented and match the needs of the children and families they serve. <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>



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