



Early Learning: A crucial component of Economic Development Initiatives

- **Early childhood education is increasingly recognized by social scientists as critical to economic self-sufficiency:**
 - ⇒ Quality child care is vital for parents to be able to work. It helps parents maintain employment and increases overall family stability.
 - ⇒ Quality early care and education is critical to success in school and in life, which also creates a more qualified workforce.
 - ⇒ Helping the next generation break the cycle of poverty starts by giving young children a better start in life.

- **Research shows: (*Source: Promoting Universal Access to High Quality Early Education for Three and Four Year Olds, Urahn, 2001*)**
 - ⇒ Some 46% of America's kindergarteners are coming to school at risk for failure, according to the U.S. Department of Education.
 - ⇒ The poorest children start school 1-2 years behind and many never catch up to their classmates.
 - ⇒ Pre-kindergarten is the gateway to academic success. This is particularly true as today's kindergarten classrooms look more like yesterday's first grade. Pre-kindergarten of high quality prepares children to walk through the doors of kindergarten ready to learn.

- 40-year High/Scope Perry Preschool research shows **investing \$1 in a child's success early on saves \$17 down the road** from savings on crime, welfare, education and taxes on higher earnings.

- Because the risk for school failure is significantly reduced, quality early learning also **REDUCES:** (*Source: Many Happy Returns: Three Economic Models that Make the Case for School Readiness Resource Brief; L. Schweinhart. The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40, Dec. 2004*)
 - ⇒ **Crime Rates**
 - ⇒ **Teenage Pregnancy**
 - ⇒ **Welfare Dependency**
 - ⇒ **Job Training Costs**
 - ⇒ **Special Education Cost**
 - ⇒ **Grade Repetition**

- Quality Early Learning **INCREASES:** (*Source: Many Happy Returns: Three Economic Models that Make the Case for School Readiness Resource Brief; L. Schweinhart. The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40, Dec. 2004*)
 - ⇒ **Success in School**
 - ⇒ **Graduation Rates**
 - ⇒ **Workforce Readiness**
 - ⇒ **Job Productivity**
 - ⇒ **Community Engagement**

Bottom Line:

Ensuring universal access to quality early care and education in Broward County is crucial to its economic viability!!