

Partners for the Future of Washtenaw County: Early Childhood and Workforce Development

“In today’s world, where education and skills determine future earning, the economic and social costs to individuals, communities, and the nation of not taking action on early childhood are far too great to ignore, especially when the benefits far outweigh the costs.”

*- The Business Roundtable and Corporate Voices
for Working Families*



Early Childhood is Workforce Development

“The conventional view of economic development typically includes company headquarters, office towers, entertainment centers and professional sports stadiums and arenas. We argue that any proposed economic development list should have early childhood at the top. The return on investment from early childhood development is extraordinary, resulting in better working public schools, more educated workers and less crime.”

- Art Rolnick, Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota

By investing in Early Childhood programs and education today we prepare the workforce for the coming 75 years, creating a strong foundation for innovation and prosperity in Washtenaw County. The High/Scope Perry Preschool study showed that when children who received a high quality early childhood education are compared to a control group who did not, the ones who had quality preschool education had:

- A thirty percent higher high school graduation rate - among women over twice the number graduated
- Higher median incomes as working adults - averaging more than \$5,000 additional per year
- More home ownership
- Fewer arrests and incarceration for violent crimes (down 15%), property crimes (down 20%) and drug offenses (down 25%)

Quality Early Childhood intervention works, and gives a huge economic return on investment - The High/Scope Perry Preschool study has shown a \$16 return for every \$1 invested.

In addition, investment in early childhood programs and education yields economic benefits today - young professionals are seeking communities where they can enjoy their work and nurture their young families - Let's make Washtenaw County a place they want to be!



Brain Growth and Development

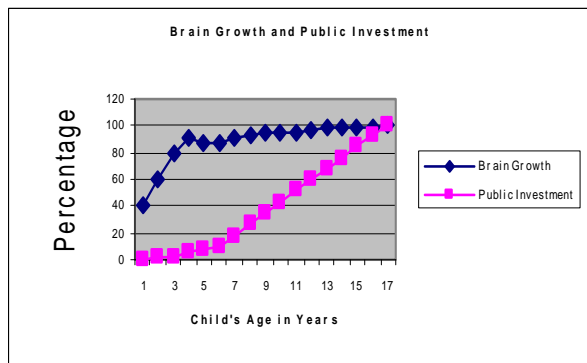
“The early years of life matter because early experiences affect the architecture of the maturing brain. As it emerges, the quality of that architecture establishes either a sturdy or a fragile foundation for all of the development and behavior that follows -- and getting things right the first time is easier than trying to fix them later.”

- *FrameWorks Institute*

Investment in early childhood programs and education is investment in our children's brains: (source: Born Learning, United Way of America)

- 90% of the brain develops in the first 5 years.
- By the age of 5, many children in high-risk environments are already developmentally behind. This gap only grows over time – undermining school readiness and success in life.
- Kindergarten teachers estimate that 1 in 3 children enter the classroom unprepared to meet the challenges of kindergarten.
- Some 46% of kindergarteners come to school at risk for failure.
- The poorest children start kindergarten 1-2 years behind in language and other skills important to school success.

Yet, despite this knowledge, we continue to invest less at this critical time - putting our economic future at risk.



Source: Rand Corporation



What you can do!

Participate in Community Collaboration

You can get directly involved to support early childhood education by joining the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative an organization of business, governmental, educational and non-profit leaders who meet on a bi-monthly basis to shape and direct early childhood policy and actions within Washtenaw County.

To join contact Melissa Pinsky at 734-994-8100, ext 2177

Promote the Importance of Early Childhood Education

Within your workplace, plant or office, you can ensure that the message about the importance of the first six years is heard by your colleagues and employees. You can:

- Hang posters regarding early childhood education and programs near water coolers, vending machines and in waiting areas.
- Encourage employees to participate in early childhood programs and agencies - as volunteers and as parents.
- Adopt an early childhood program for focused volunteer efforts, such as reading to children, playground and room improvement or donation of books and clothing.
- Share company expertise, talent and skills, such as accounting skills, management training, public relations, construction ability and others, with the early childhood world.
- Be aware of policies impacting young children and their families; communicating your concerns and ideas to policymakers and governmental representatives
- Provide in-kind support, such as copying, faxing, mailing or printing assistance to local early childhood organizations.



What you can do!

Participate as a Board or Advisory Member for an Early Childhood Nonprofit

Join the Board or Advisory Board of a local early childhood nonprofit. Throughout the community they are seeking the skills and knowledge that you have. Call Siân Owen-Cruise at 734-994-8100, ext 1277 if you would like help finding the right match for your skills and interests.

Share Key Child Development Information with Your Workforce

With the help of Washtenaw Success by 6 you can distribute child development and parenting information to your entire staff on a regular basis. We have materials available to you free of charge. Call Siân Owen-Cruise at 734-994-8100, ext 1277 to discuss how you can participate in this.

Make Your Voice Heard Throughout the Community

In the organizations that you are part of - places of worship, chambers of commerce, service clubs and social groups - share the early childhood message, stressing the importance of the first six years of life, and encourage others to educate themselves and get involved.

Participate in Fund Raising for local Early Childhood Nonprofits

Fund raising occurs throughout the year and includes the United Way Campaign, community events like the Big House/Big Heart Run, and individual organization events.



Links and Connections

Website Links

These are some key resources - both business and early childhood that have made the case for the long term economic impact of quality early education, or that provide local early childhood services.

Business Roundtable - An association of CEO's of leading U.S. companies with \$5 trillion in annual revenues and nearly 10 million employees.

<http://businessroundtable.org/initiatives/education/prek-12>

Committee for Economic Development - independent, nonpartisan organization for business and education leaders.

<http://www.ced.org/issues/education/early-care-and-education>

Families and Work Institute - A nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that studies the changing workforce, the changing workplace, the changing family and the changing community.

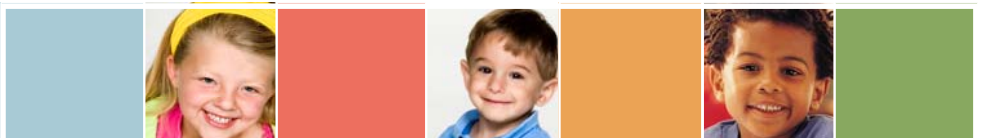
<http://www.familiesandwork.org/>

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis - One of twelve regional reserve banks that together make up the Federal Reserve System

<http://tiny.cc/FedReserveBankMinneapolis>

High/Scope Educational Research Foundation - Independent non-profit research, development, training and public outreach organization.

<http://www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=3>



Who is already involved?

Our Executive Committee

Martha Darling
Community Volunteer

Cheryl Elliott
Ann Arbor Area Comm. F

Marj Hyde
First Steps Ann Arbor

William Miller
Washtenaw ISD

Mark Ouimet
County Commissioner

Robert Guenzel
Washtenaw County

Susan Miller
Community Volunteer

David Rutledge
WCC Board Member

Pat Horne-McGee
Washtenaw Head Start

Sandra Rupp
United Way of Washtenaw

Our Members

Anya Abramzon
Jewish Family Services

Elaine Brady
Parent Member

Constance Colthorp
Parent Member

Julie DuChateau
Parent Member

Richard Fleece
Washtenaw Public Health

Norman Herbert
Community Volunteer

Donna Lasinski
Parent Coalition Chair

Cynthia Maritato
Washtenaw D Human Ser.

Todd Roberts
Ann Arbor Public Schools

Steven Sheldon
Community Health

Larry Voight
Catholic Social Services

Chris Aris
EMU Children's Inst.

Pam Byrnes
State Representative

Mindy Costello
Parent Member

Joseph Dulin
Roberto Clemente

Mark Foster
Rotary Club of A.A.

Sandra Hilton
Perry Nursery School

Shannon Luhrs
Parent Member

Jennie McAlpine
UM Work/Life Program

Donna Sabourin
CSTS

Pam Smith
Child Care Network

Patricia Warner
UM Mott Hospital

Lindsay McCarthy
Ann Arbor Chamber

Robert Chapman
United Bank and Trust

April Davis
Parent Member

Linda Edwards-Brown
Juvenile Court

Shannon Campbell
Junior League of A.A.

Angie Juarez
Parent Member

Michael Manchester
Ypsilanti Chamber

Josie Parker
Ann Arbor District Library

Clay Shouse
High/Scope Foundation

Nancy Thelen
MSU Extension

Althea Wilson
Parent Member



Contacts and Partners



For more Information

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Our Website: www.washtenawsuccessby6.org

Our Community Partners

