

EARLY ACTION BUILDS STRONG COMMUNITIES

How Early Talk And Responsive Caregiving Shape Lifelong Outcomes



90%

OF BRAIN GROWTH HAPPENS BEFORE AGE 5.

Children who begin school behind often remain behind.
Language-rich early experiences can alter life trajectories.

1

BIRTH

FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

- Neural connections form at extraordinary speed beginning at birth, wiring the brain for learning, relationships, and emotional health.
- Early experiences lay the foundation for future achievement.

2

EARLY EXPERIENCES

(0-3 YEARS)

- Responsive, language-rich interactions during everyday routines build vocabulary, cognitive skills, self-reflection, and social-emotional abilities.
- These skills are strong predictors of later reading and academic success.

3

SCHOOL READINESS

(4-5 YEARS)

- Children with robust language skills enter kindergarten prepared to thrive.
- Those who begin school behind are more likely to experience long-term academic, social, and behavioral challenges.

4

READING BY 3RD GRADE

- Students not proficient in reading by this stage are four times more likely to drop out of high school and face greater risks of unemployment, poverty, and incarceration.

5

GRADUATION

PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY

- Early childhood experiences strongly predict graduation rates.
- High school graduates are more likely to pursue higher education or workforce training, secure stable employment, and contribute positively to their communities.

6

CAREER AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

- Strong literacy skills drive workforce readiness and economic growth.
- Limited communication skills reduce job opportunities, lower lifetime earnings, and cost the U.S. economy hundreds of billions annually.

7

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Literacy shapes lifelong health outcomes.
- Individuals with stronger literacy skills make better health decisions, manage chronic conditions more effectively, and reduce healthcare costs.

8

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Higher literacy rates correlate with lower crime, decreased reliance on public assistance, and stronger civic engagement.
- Communities with higher literacy rates thrive socially and economically.

THE PATH IS CLEAR: Investing early yields long-term dividends.

Every dollar invested in early childhood programs saves multiple dollars later through reduced costs in education, healthcare, and public safety. Strategic investments in caregiver education, early childhood systems, and family supports set children — and communities — on a path to resilience and prosperity.

FeedMeWords
TALK EARLY, TALK OFTEN

