



The Economic Case for Investing in Children from Birth to Age 3

The earlier the investment, the greater the return

Supporting America's babies today will ensure a prosperous tomorrow



Investments in high-quality early childhood education starting at birth provides taxpayers with **a return of \$7.30** for every dollar invested.¹



This return has compounding benefits, driving a **13%/year** return on investment through better education, health, social and economic outcomes later in life.²

Birth-3 investments are needed to prepare our children for an ever-changing workforce



48% of low-income children arrive in kindergarten unprepared to succeed.³

The growing American skills gap will lead to



6 million unfilled jobs by 2020.⁴

High-quality infant and toddler care is too costly for many working families



In 33 states and the District of Columbia, the cost of infant care exceeded the cost of in-state public college tuition.⁷

Birth-3 investments in high-quality child care bolster the economy TODAY

Companies providing child care decrease employee absences by 30% and



83% of millennials



say they would leave their jobs for ones with more family-friendly benefits.⁶

Average cost of full-time center-based care

\$10,000 per year⁸

U.S. businesses lose

\$3 billion

annually

due to employee absenteeism resulting from child care issues.⁹

20%



Nearly one in three families are spending 20 percent or more of their annual household income on child care.¹⁰

Every year, U.S. families lose out on

\$8.3 billion in wages due to lack of child care.¹¹



Citations

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