

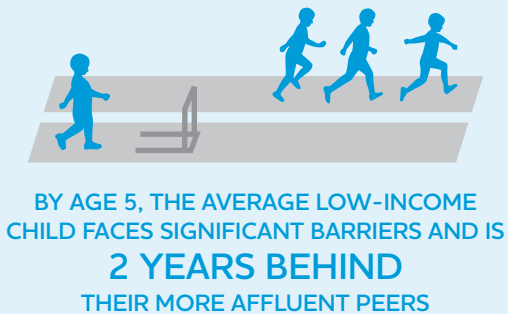
# THE EVIDENCE FOR STARTING EARLY



Decades of respected research point to the wisdom of providing high-quality early education and care to all young children. California has made a good start by expanding access to school readiness programs and improving quality for some families. It's time now to make good childcare and preschool available to all families, in all corners of the state.

## Here's Why

The achievement gap starts early. By age 2, low-income children are 6 months behind their higher income peers in language development. By age 5, they are 2 years behind.<sup>i</sup>



## Good Programs Work

Studies of quality, large-scale, publicly funded programs in Chicago, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina and Oklahoma show significant gains for children, from better school performance to higher graduation rates to stronger earnings in adulthood. In California, early evidence from Transitional Kindergarten<sup>i</sup> suggests significant boosts in performance for participating children at kindergarten entry.<sup>ii</sup>

## Dual Language Learners (DLLs) Win

For DLLs, who make up 22% of the school population and 60% of California children 5 and younger, results are especially strong, narrowing achievement gaps at kindergarten entry.<sup>iii</sup> English learners in TK show substantial readiness advantages over similar children who don't go to TK.<sup>iv</sup>

## Quality Makes a Difference

The best outcomes for children are delivered by well-trained, fairly compensated educators and caregivers who have ongoing professional development to support their work.<sup>v</sup>

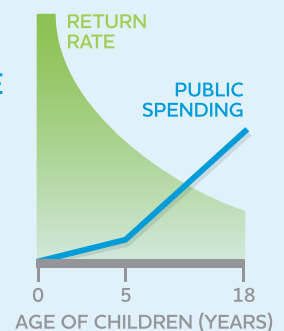
## Screening and Intervention Matter

For infants and toddlers, proven but scarce programs like voluntary home visits, developmental screenings, and Early Head Start improve cognitive, behavioral and health outcomes,<sup>vi</sup> and can prevent far costlier treatments, remediation and special education placements down the road.<sup>vii</sup>

## Investment Pays Off

Quality early learning returns \$8 for every \$1 invested in the form of fewer students held back in school, placed in special education, or involved in crime.<sup>viii</sup>

**EARLY LEARNING INVESTMENTS HAVE THE HIGHEST RETURN RATE, YET PUBLIC SPENDING IS LOWEST FOR THE EARLIEST YEARS.**



Based on research from Nobel laureate economist Dr. James Heckman



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<sup>1</sup> TK is a year-long public school-based readiness program for 4-year olds with fall birthdays.

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- vi. National Research Council (2008). National Academies Press; Crown and Van Pham (2014). *The Next Generation*; Isaacs and Roessel (2008). Brookings.
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- viii. Council of Economic Advisors (2014). Executive Office of the President of the United States.

Full citations available upon request.