



## Three Things You Can Do For Young Children After the Election

The November 2012 elections brought sweeping change to North Carolina which no doubt will have an effect on early childhood care and education. In January 2013, in addition to dozens of new legislators, North Carolina will have a new Governor (Pat McCrory), with the power to replace state agency directors. Both the legislature and the Governor will also have the power to make appointments to the N.C. Child Care Commission and the Early Childhood Advisory Council. Now is the time to let North Carolina's newly elected officials know that young children deserve their support and that quality early care and education matters for the future of our state. Here are three things you can do now to help our new leaders become early childhood supporters before they take office in January 2013 in Raleigh.

### 1. Get to know your newly elected officials.

In January, there will be 45 new freshmen state legislators in the NC General Assembly. When combined with those elected in 2010, more than half will be either freshman or sophomores, with not much experience or knowledge about early childhood education. Be sure you get to know them and the issues they care about. You can visit these websites to find out the election results.

- [State Board of Elections](#) – Here you can find complete statewide and district results.
- [WRAL Election Results](#) – Here you can find a summary of statewide election results, and can search by county to find the local results.

### 2. Share information about the importance of early childhood education.

Make sure these new legislators (and those who will be continuing) know that a child's experiences during early childhood have a lasting impact on later learning and success. Send them a congratulations letter and include the attached flyer from the [First 2000 Days](#) Campaign ([www.first2000days.org](http://www.first2000days.org)) in your communications. Another good national resource is the First Five Year's Fund ([www.ffyf.org](http://www.ffyf.org)) and the attached flyer. Continue to keep them posted on the latest research about the economic, educational, and social benefits of early childhood education.

### 3. Invite newly elected officials to visit your programs.

Make sure these new officials know about the important work you do as an early childhood professional and the impact it has on young children's readiness for school and life. One simple way is to host an open house during the holiday season and invite them to come by and learn more about your programs and meet the staff and children and families you serve. It is always easiest to reach legislators at home and they appreciate opportunities to connect with the children and families who are neighbors and residents of their home county. Don't forget to invite the media to cover your event. Discover new resources and strategies to engage your community from the [T.E.A.C.H. I Make a Difference Campaign](#) ([www.childcareservices.org/ps/teach\\_ta\\_qac.html](http://www.childcareservices.org/ps/teach_ta_qac.html)) developed by Child Care Services Association.



# First 2000 DAYS

Early Investment  
A LIFETIME OF RESULTS

There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child begins kindergarten.

Experiences during that time have a lasting impact on later learning, health and success.



## Investment

Every dollar invested in early childhood education produces a 10% per annum return on investment.

## Economy

Participants in high quality early childhood programs have increased median earnings by as much as 36%, pay more taxes and depend less on welfare.



## Science

In the first few years of life, 700 new neural connections are formed every second.



## Worker Readiness

Research shows that the learning and development that occur in a child's earliest years have a strong impact on later outcomes, including the mastery of skills a productive worker needs.



## Health

High quality early childhood programs improve nutrition and health.



## Education

High quality early childhood programs increase graduation rates by as much as 44%;  
NC's graduation rate was 65% before Smart Start; now 77.7% .



## Jobs

Early education programs make it possible for 380,000 North Carolinian parents to work.



## Crime

Enriched early childhood programs appear to reduce future crime, and in the long run, they are the most cost-effective way to reduce crime.

Join North Carolinians as part of the First 2,000 Initiative at [www.first2000days.org](http://www.first2000days.org)

# SMART INVESTMENT, BIG RETURNS: QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

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## THE INVESTMENT

Prioritize spending on investments in quality early childhood development, especially for disadvantaged children who need it most.

Support state efforts to build quality early childhood systems that provide parents with the resources they need to raise healthy, high performing children.

Fight automatic, across-the-board cuts in domestic spending that slash cost-effective but underfunded programs like early childhood.

## THE RESULTS

When at-risk children experience high-quality early learning programs, they have better school, employment, and life outcomes. These results demonstrate the significant economic gains generated by investing in quality early childhood development.



### School readiness by kindergarten

Children who participated in Early Head Start performed better than nonparticipants on measures of cognition, language, and social and emotional behaviors.



### Meeting standards in elementary school

Low-income students in Louisiana who did not receive state preschool were 37 percent more likely to fail to meet basic third-grade statewide standards.



### Reduced special education costs

Children who received early education through the North Carolina Abecedarian Project were half as likely as their peers to require special education.



### Reduced crime and delinquency

Chicago children who did not attend preschool were 70 percent more likely than peers who did attend to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.



### Fewer teen pregnancies

North Carolina children who attended the Abecedarian Project were almost half as likely to become teen parents than peers who did not attend.



### Increased high school graduation rates

Children who attended quality preschool were 29 percent more likely to graduate from high school than their peers who did not attend, and were less likely to repeat grades.



### Increased college attendance

Students who attended quality early education programs, including Perry Preschool, the Abecedarian Project, and Chicago Child Parent Centers, were more likely to attend college than their peers.



### Greater adult employment and higher wages

Adults who attended Perry Preschool as children were more likely to be employed and had a 33 percent higher average income than their peers who did not attend.