

First 5 El Dorado Commission

Growing Children, One by One...



El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

"El Dorado County will remain the leader in supporting our safe, healthy, and vibrant communities, wisely managing our natural resources, and preserving our local heritage."

June 17, 2014



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Growing

Learning

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Growing Children, One by One...

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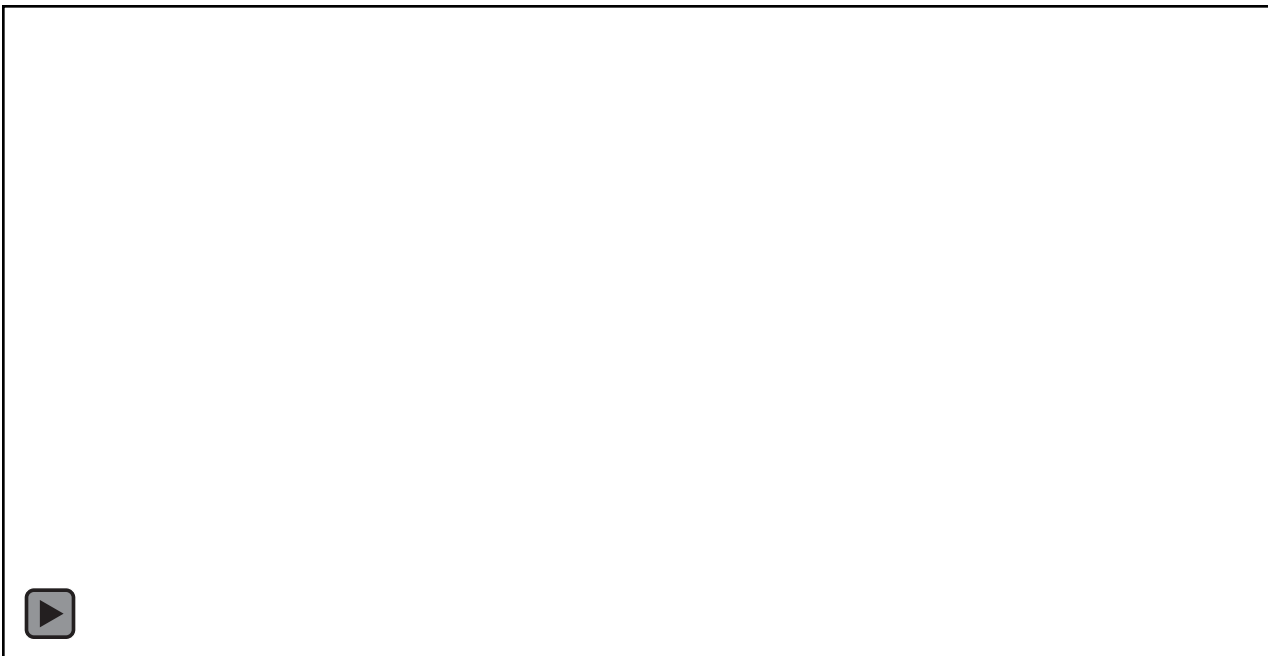
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Key Messages:

- ★ *The first 5 years of a child's development is critical.*
- ★ *Entering school ready to learn sets a course for future success.*
- ★ *Early childhood investments benefit everyone in our community's diverse population.*
- ★ *El Dorado County has the information and tools for all children to enter school ready to learn.*



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The first 5 years of a child's development is critical.

**90% of a child's
brain develops in
the first 5 years.**

Talk. Read. Sing.
Your words have power.



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Entering school ready to learn sets a course for future success.

Children who are ready for school score higher on third grade reading tests, a predictor of high school graduation rates.



Children can be **18 months behind** by the start of kindergarten.



Children not kindergarten-ready are **half as likely to read well** by third grade.



Children not reading proficiently by third grade are **four times more likely to drop out.**



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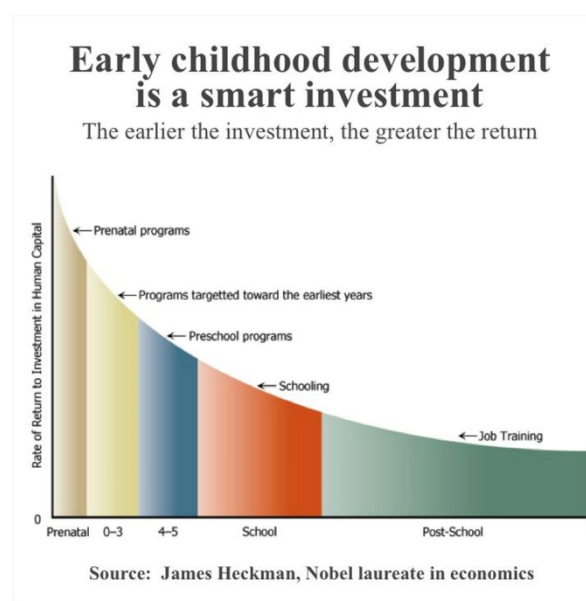
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Early childhood investments benefit everyone in our community's diverse population.

For every dollar spent on early investments in young children, at least \$4-\$9 is saved in juvenile justice, remedial and special education.



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El Dorado County has the information and tools for all children to enter school ready to learn.

In Fall 2013, 80% of children in El Dorado County were ready for school.

- ✓ *Targeted Outreach*
- ✓ *District Level Plans*
- ✓ *Annual Evaluation*

Essential Principles for Investing in Early Childhood Education

- ☑ Focus on disadvantaged families
- ☑ Start at birth
- ☑ Integrate health
- ☑ Develop cognitive *and* character skills
- ☑ Encourage local innovation in quality programs from birth to five

James Heckman
Nobel Laureate in Economics,
On the Strong Start for America's Children Act



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Community leaders can support early learning.

Inform: *Learning begins at birth
Parents are their child's first teacher
Promote school readiness: health, literacy, child care, family supports.*

Engage: *Facilitate early childhood discussions
Encourage early childhood collaborations*

Support: *Consider impacts of decisions on early learning
Identify county level early childhood leads
Assess investments in early childhood services*



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Early Learning Matters.



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