

"Our genes, and ultimately our developing brain architecture, are influenced powerfully by positive early experiences – and negative ones, too."

- Pat Levitt, Ph.D., Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, Univ. of Southern California

"The success of modern economies depends in part on well-educated and adaptable workers who are capable of learning new skills so that they remain competitive in a continually changing global market."

- James Heckman, Ph.D., Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences Winner

"Although education and the acquisition of skills is a lifelong process, starting early in life is crucial. Recent research...has documented the high returns that early childhood programs can pay in terms of subsequent educational attainment and in lower rates of social programs, such as teenage pregnancy and welfare dependency."

- Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board



(702) 228-1869

2101 S. Jones Blvd., Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89146
www.caanv.org



School Readiness

Ensuring Our Children Enter School Ready to Learn

The Children's Advocacy Alliance is committed to ensuring that every child in Nevada has the opportunity to enter school ready to learn. Our goal is to create a comprehensive early childhood system in Nevada that supports families by making sure they have high-quality options for their children's early care and learning—whether their children spend their days at home, in formal childcare, or with family and friends. To achieve this goal, we advocate for:

- ♥ Access to high quality, affordable child care for all children.
- ♥ Parent education and family support programs designed to improve the confidence and competency of all parents and support them in their role as their children's first and most important teachers.
- ♥ A highly qualified and appropriately compensated early childhood workforce.

We know that providing children with the right start will lead to less intervention and remediation in later grades – ultimately resulting to increased rates of graduation and success in adulthood. In Nevada, over 57% of children ages 0-5 live in families where all available parents are in the workforce. The average annual cost of child care in a licensed center in Nevada ranges from \$8,987 for an infant to \$7,340 for preschoolers (age 3-5). The average individual income is \$38,334. Only 39 of the 448 licensed child care centers in Nevada are accredited programs.

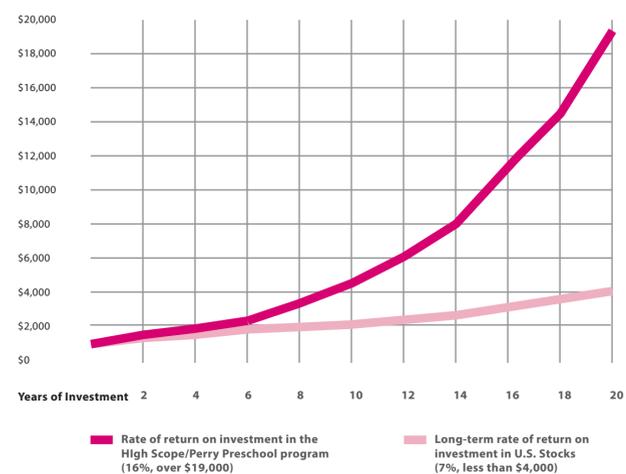
To ensure that children have access to high quality, affordable child care, the Children's Advocacy Alliance will work toward:



- ♥ The adoption of a state definition of "School Readiness" and a common kindergarten entry assessment.
- ♥ Enhanced qualifications and training requirements for early childhood professionals.
- ♥ Supporting and enhancing the development of the Silver Stars Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) and integration of participation with child care subsidy reimbursement to provide a quality accountability structure for the use of state dollars.
- ♥ Promoting business involvement in early learning through tax incentive programs that reward businesses which offer child care stipends for employees, site based care, promotion and use of FSA programs, and others.
- ♥ Implementation of a coordinated early childhood data system that is linked to the K-12 data system.
- ♥ Increasing child care subsidy eligibility to ensure that more working families can afford care and increasing the state child care development fund contribution, including the use of current market rates to determine subsidy reimbursements.

Return on \$1,000 from a High-Scope/Perry Preschool Program vs. US Stocks

Source: Rolnick and Grunewald (2003). Reprinted with permission.



Benefit-Cost Ratios of Early Childhood Education Programs

PROGRAM	PER CAPITA BENEFITS	BENEFIT/COST RATIO
High Scope Perry Preschool	\$76,426 to \$253,154	5.15 to 17.1
Abeceadarian Project	\$138,635	3.23
Chicago Child-Parent Centers	\$49,337	7.14
Brookings Meta-Analysis	\$15,742	2.36