

The Foundation for a Thriving New Mexico Economy: Success Begins at Birth

*New Mexico Voices for Children
2008*

We All Hold Core Values Like...

*Every child
deserves an
equal start in life*



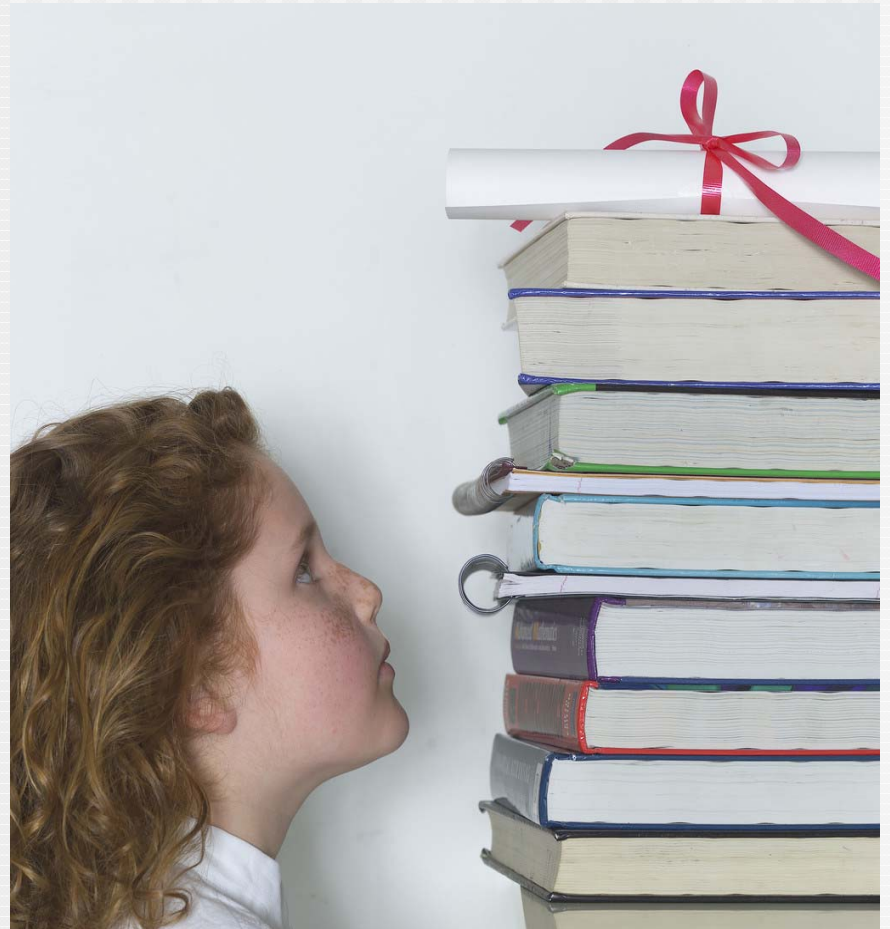
...and



No parent should have to sacrifice their child's well-being to support their family

We Also Know That...

*The success of
our children
determines the
future of our
state*





Success Begins at Birth Because...

- *80% of the brain develops between birth and age 5*
- *During this time, one's ability to learn and attitude toward learning are shaped for life*

Early Brain Development is the Foundation for all Learning to Come

“Both brain architecture and developing skills are built ‘from the bottom up,’ with simple circuits providing the scaffolding for more advanced circuits and skills over time.”



Source: *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy: Using evidence to Improve Outcomes in Learning, Behavior, and Health for Vulnerable Children*, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2007). <http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu>

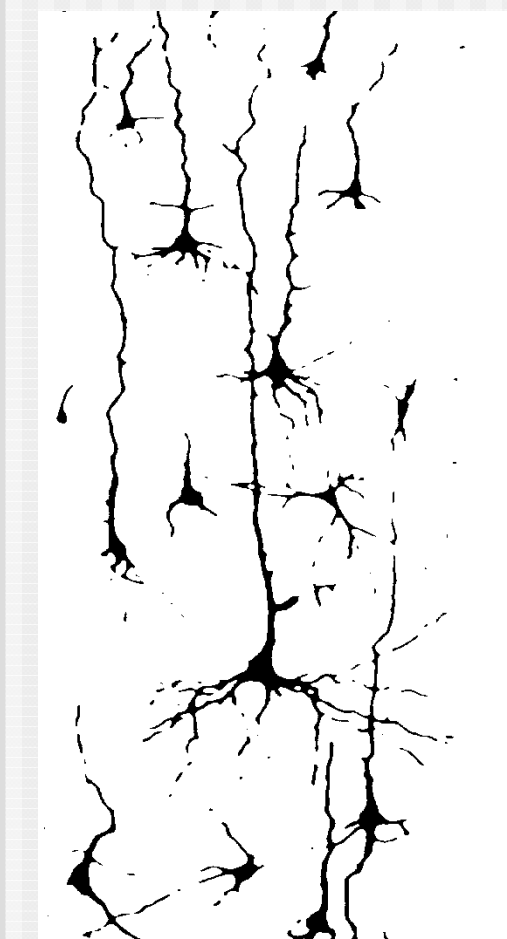


Healthy Human Brain Development

At birth

Age 6

Age 14

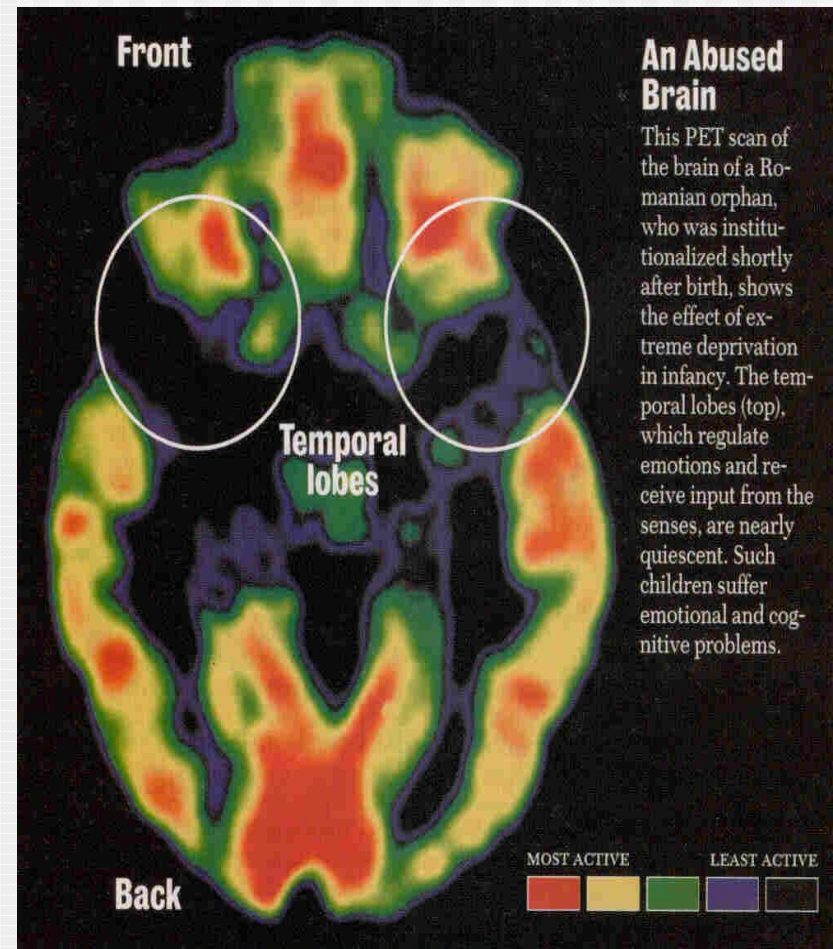
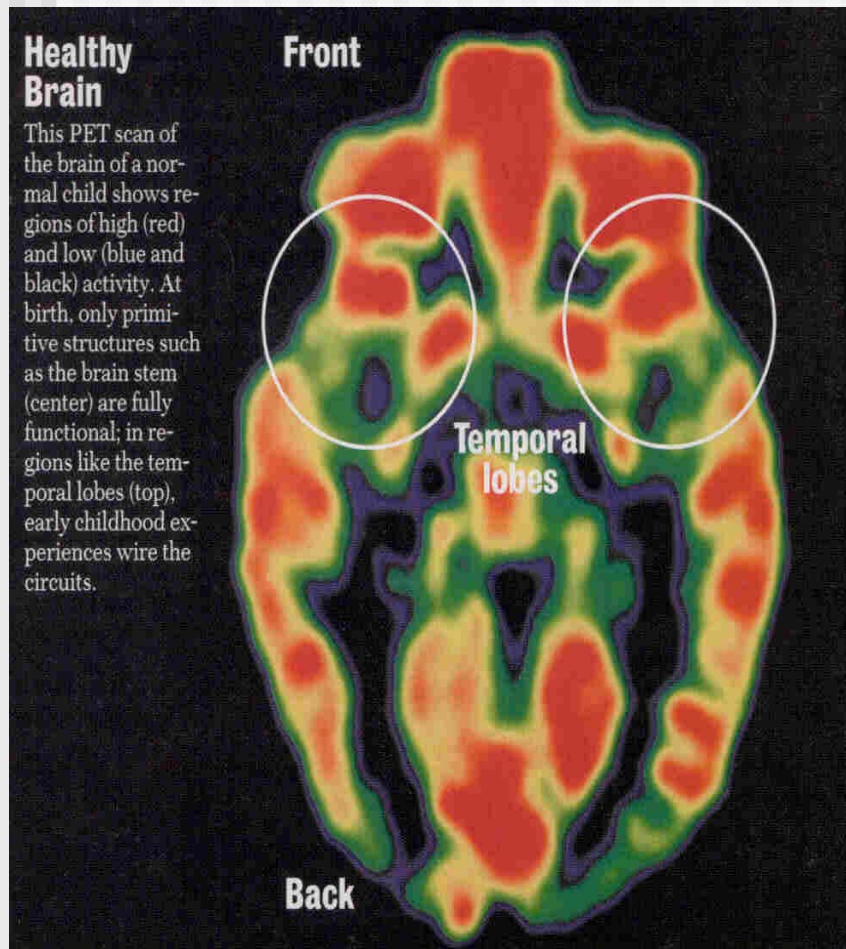


Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

The Consequences of Failing to Nurture the Developing Brain

Healthy brain

Brain of a nurture-starved child



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Early Childhood Development (ECD): The Foundation for School Success

High school graduation



Reading proficiency in fourth grade



Children enter kindergarten ready to learn



Healthy child development
Birth to age 5



School Success: The Foundation for Economic Success

| <i>Educational Level</i> | <i>Expected Earnings</i> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| With a Bachelor's degree | \$45,221 |
| Without a college degree | \$26,123 |
| Without a high school diploma | \$15,250 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey



Without ECD, Educating Our Students is Challenging

- In 2006-07, only 54% of New Mexican fourth graders were reading at or above grade level

Source: 2008 New Mexico Children's Cabinet Report Card

- In 2005, 38% of New Mexican eighth graders scored below basic reading level
- New Mexico ranks 48th in the nation for high school drop-out rates

Source: *KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles in Child Well-Being*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2006

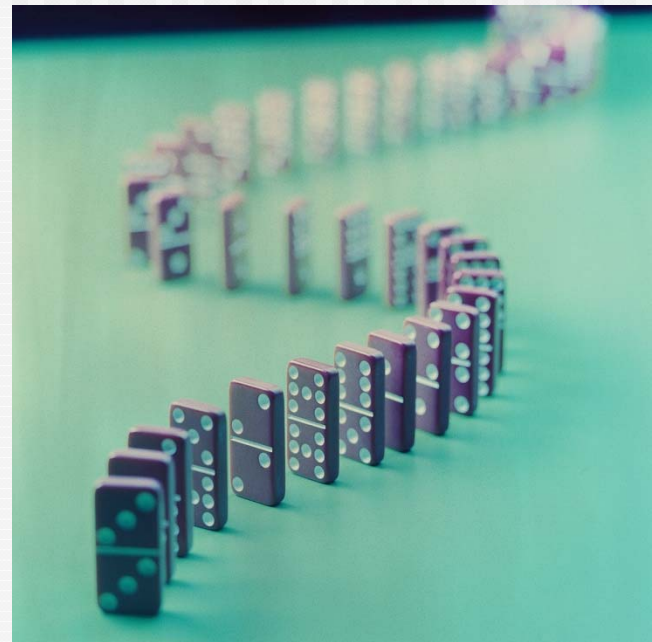
The Costs of Failing to Invest Early

Juvenile Justice and
other corrections
Child Welfare
Income Supports
(Medicaid, welfare,
etc.)

State Expenditures

FY06 \$411 million

- Remediation represented 8.8% of New Mexico's \$4.7 billion General Fund (recurring revenue) expenditures in FY06





40-Year Study: Perry (MI) Project Estimated Return on Investment

- Benefit-to-cost ratio = \$17 to \$1
- Annual rate of return = 18%
- \$100,000 savings in criminal costs
- \$62,000 savings in judicial system costs
- \$60,000 more in annual earnings

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis



ECD and Proven Economic Benefit

“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 problems, such as teenage pregnancy and welfare dependency.”

— *Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke in a speech to the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 6, 2007*

Source: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/Bernanke20070206a.htm>



Early Learning in New Mexico

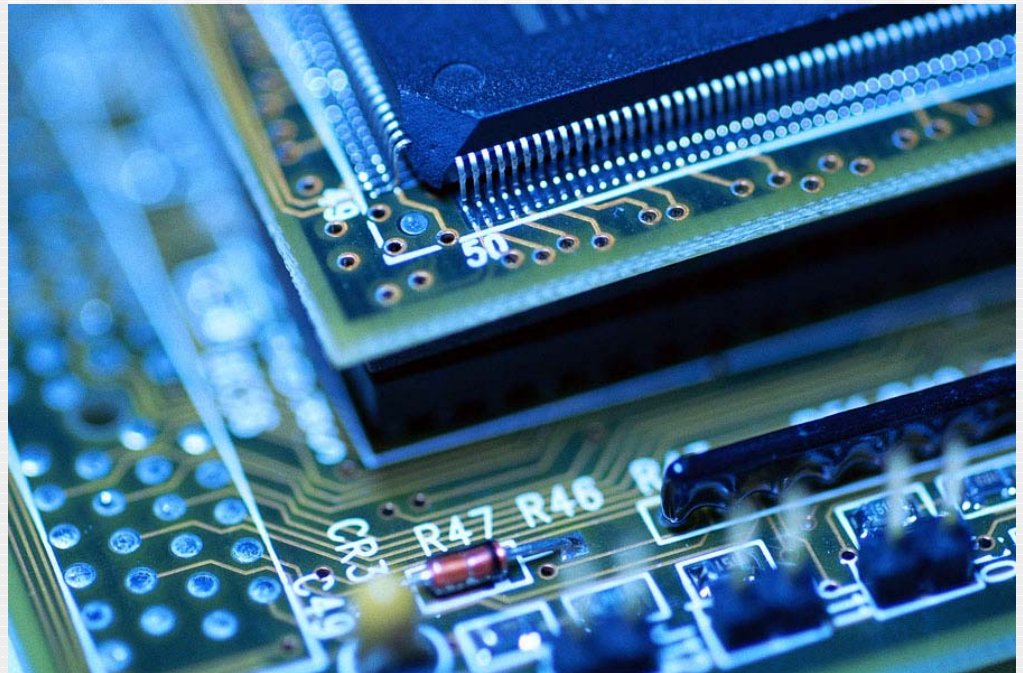
Children benefit from our pre-K program:

- 54% increase in vocabulary
- 40% increase in early math skills
- 118% increase in understanding print concepts

Early childhood education works;
it's time for a full investment

Why ECD Now?

- Our economy has changed
- Today's jobs require more education than ever
- New Mexico needs a better-prepared workforce to compete





Effective ECD Programs

- Prenatal and infant ECD
- High quality early care
- Voluntary pre-K for all 4-year-olds

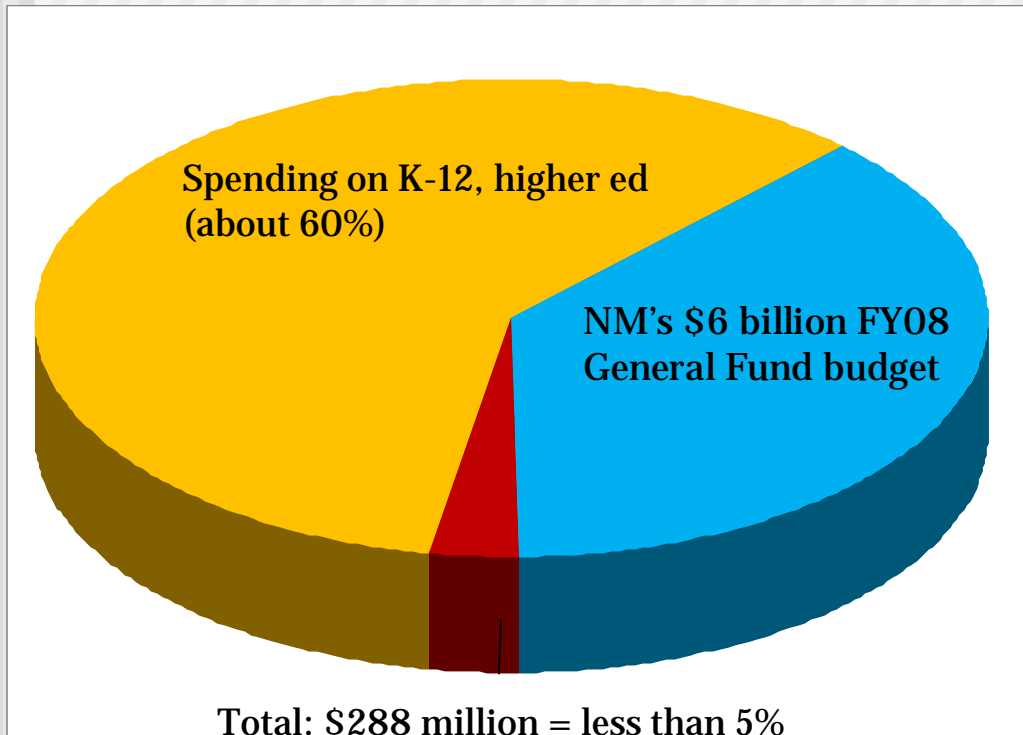
Source: *Proven Benefits of Early Childhood Interventions*, Rand Corporation, 2005

Characteristics of Effective ECD Programs



- Universally available
- Invest in quality
- Involve parents
- Start early
- Teach cognitive and non-cognitive skills
- Public/private investment

The Big Picture: NM's Best Investment



■ Prenatal and infant
ECD:

**\$70 million/phased in
over several years***

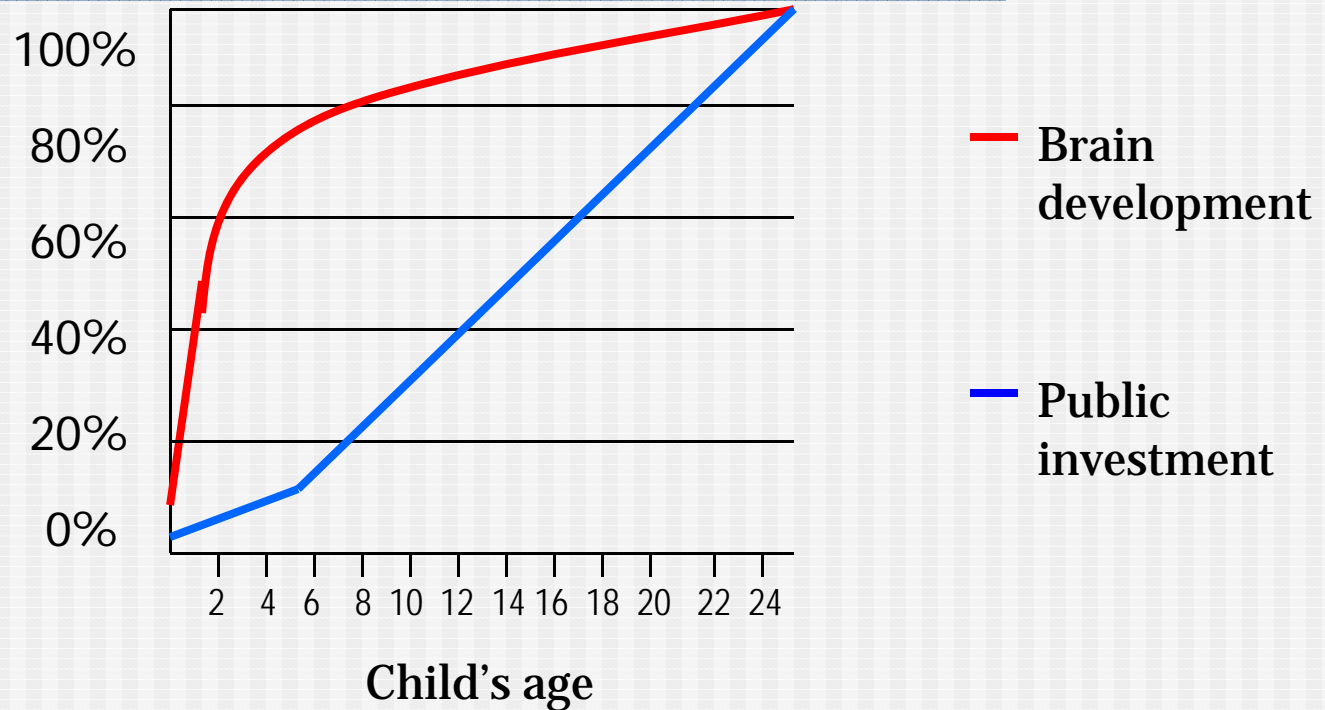
■ Quality early care:

**\$20 million/phased in
over 5 years**

■ Voluntary pre-K for
all 3- and 4-year-olds:

**\$198 million a year
when fully phased in****

NM Public Spending on ECD



- Less than 2% of the General Fund is spent during the years when 80% of the brain develops
- We spend 60% of the General Fund on K-12 and higher education

Conclusions



Quality early childhood development benefits us all:

- Children are prepared for school
- Parents can participate in the workforce
- School success leads to life success
- Our tax investments earn the best possible rate of return

Call to Action

- Become an ECD advocate
- Lobby the Legislature
- Put family-friendly practices in place at work

