

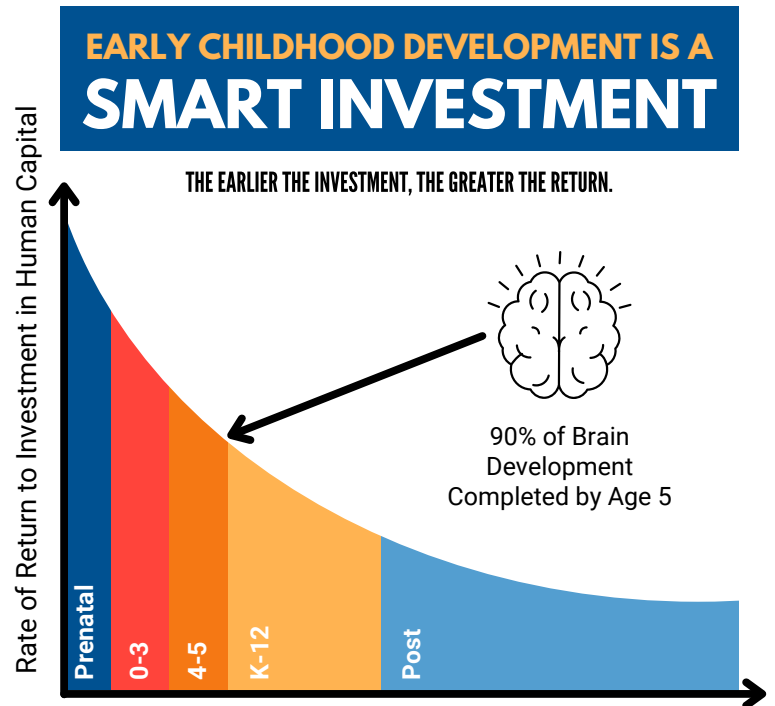
WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

Third grade is a benchmark year for future academic success. A student not reading at grade level in third grade is 4 times more likely to drop out of high school.

Proficiency in reading depends on the quality of their early learning experiences.

Learning builds on prior learning. If the foundation is weak, later achievements will falter. Study after study shows that investments in the early years have by far the greatest return *particularly for disadvantaged children.*

INVESTMENTS IN HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRODUCE RETURNS UP TO \$13 FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED.



Source: Heckman (2008)

FOCUS AREAS FOR CHILDCARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SYSTEMS (BIRTH - AGE 8)

Home Visiting

Supporting healthy development and family relationships for children from prenatal to 5 years.

Quality Childcare

Providing full-time, full-year care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

Quality Pre-K

Promoting school readiness for children ages 0 to 5 years.

Excellent Early Ed

Achieving grade-level literacy for children from kindergarten to 3rd grade.

93% of voters—including 92% of Republicans and 95% of Democrats-- agree with the statement, "Early education, from birth to 3rd grade, provides the building blocks of all learning."
Tennessee Early Education Statewide Survey– November 2019

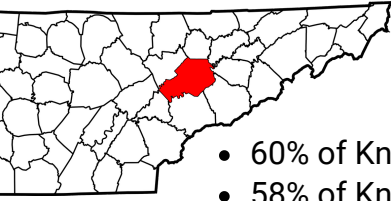
EVERY CHILD READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE

United Way of Greater Knoxville in partnership with Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) will advocate, coordinate, and convene stakeholders that support young children and their families to ensure children birth through age 8 thrive socially, emotionally, and academically in Knoxville-Knox County, TN.

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A coordinated intervention in early childhood will offer one of the strongest avenues for mitigating the negative effects of poverty and adverse childhood experiences in Knoxville-Knox County.



CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY

- 60% of Knox County 3rd graders **are not** reading on grade-level
- 58% of Knox County 3rd graders **are not** on grade level for math
- Quality childcare costs over \$8K per child annually in Knoxville-Knox County
- Resources available to low-income families are underutilized and under communicated
- 63% of Knox County children ages 0-5 are economically disadvantaged*
- 16% of Knox County children ages 0-5 are living in deep poverty
- Poor children and near-poor children are more than twice as likely as their more affluent peers to have had three or more other adverse experiences
- 14% of all Knox County students and 25% of students who are economically disadvantaged are chronically absent
- Percent of children kindergarten-ready is not currently tracked

**Economically disadvantaged indicates children living near poverty level, in poverty, or in deep poverty.*

CHILDCARE IS IDENTIFIED AS THE NUMBER 1 AVERAGE FAMILY EXPENSE AT OVER \$1,000 PER MONTH, HIGHER THAN AVERAGE RENT AND UTILITIES PER THE 2019 ALICE REPORT.

Interviews and 1:1s with Steering Committee members and local stakeholders

Interviews with relevant TN State agencies on current agenda and existing efforts

Interviews with experts/leaders from communities outside of Knoxville

Analysis of Knoxville-Knox County data on access, affordability, and quality

Research on emerging practices and successful external models

MULTI-FACETED APPROACH NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY BRIGHT START GREATER KNOXVILLE STRATEGIC PLAN



TARGET: IMPROVE ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND QUALITY OF CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING SYSTEMS ALONG THE BIRTH TO GRADE 3 CONTINUUM

KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY IS SEVERAL YEARS BEHIND PARTNER COMMUNITIES IN ECE SYSTEM PLANNING