

Facts at a Glance

Child's Path: The Art of Early Learning

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Simply put, a child's early years lay the foundation for all that is to come. Researchers now understand that the human brain develops the vast majority of its neurons, and is at its most receptive to learning, between birth and three years of age. Early education plays a critical role during this developmental period. Research linking early intervention to both cognitive and socio-emotional gains has reinforced the importance of quality, community-based programs for children at this early age.

Nevertheless, we face a critical shortage of programs for underserved children in Collier County who are facing poverty and early learning deficits. Almost two-thirds of children are economically needy. Less than half are socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten, and less than 25 percent can read at kindergarten levels.

More than 4,000 children do not have access to affordable and high-quality early childhood learning. Many are placed in unlicensed facilities, or stay at home in sometimes unstable environments. These deficits have long-lasting impacts on their future, leaving them ill-equipped to develop a foundation for success.

If we can help solve the childcare affordability issue, everyone will benefit. If childcare costs were more affordable, 76,335 more parents would have the option to work and contribute \$7.6 billion in new economic activity in Florida. The future of Collier County depends on the success of future generations.

The Importance of Investing in Early Childhood Learning

- i. Since 80% of a child's brain is developed by age three, quality early childhood education has a lasting impact on the child's ability to learn and succeed in school and life.
- ii. Access to quality early childhood education is essential to form the basis of personality, intelligence, social behavior, and capacity to learn for further education.
- iii. Children who receive quality early childhood learning are healthier, happier, more likely to graduate from high school and college, avoid teen pregnancy, be employed, earn higher wages and enjoy home ownership. Children are less likely to repeat a grade, require special education, be incarcerated, live in poverty as adults and rely on public assistance.
- iv. Parents with children participating in high-quality childhood education saw sustained parental wage growth. Access to affordable, reliable, and high-quality early learning and care opportunities provide working families with better job stability and overall economic security.

Children who do not attend early learning programs are:

- i. 25% more likely to drop out of school
- ii. 40% more likely to become a teen parent
- iii. 50% more likely to be placed in special education
- iv. 60% more likely never to attend college
- v. 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime

“Supporting early childhood development is an investment - not a cost. Numerous studies show that there is at least a 7:1 return for every dollar invested in early childhood development.”

Child’s Path is on a mission to break the cycle of poverty and give each child the cognitive, social and emotional resources they need to be successful in life.

- **FOUR** early learning centers operated by Child’s Path, serving **300+** children annually
- **3,600** total number of children served since 2008
- **85,000** healthy meals provided annually
- **Over 80 %** of Child’s Path children are from low-income, working families and receive tuition assistance
- **100%** of children made gains in all of their developmental areas in our program, including: cognitive, social, emotional, mathematics and physical
- **64%** of school-age children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, a challenging and constant economic need in Collier County - *still looking for this reference.*
- **83%** of Child’s Path children were socially, cognitively and emotionally ready for kindergarten, well above the Florida state average of **53%** and the Collier County average of **43%**
- We address educational, psychological, and sociological influences to stimulate learning in appropriate ways
- We ensure the learning environment is warm, loving, healthy, safe, art-based, nature-inspired and flexible – promoting creativity and problem-solving

- We build relationships with teachers, parents and their children to create positive habits and ensure success outside of the classroom

In the future, we plan to expand to serve many more deserving children, particular in the Golden Gate community where larger gaps exist for affordable care and education.

Your Investment contributes the following toward a brighter future:

- Providing scholarships and assistance to needy, working families to ensure affordability, access and school readiness to those who need it the most
 - Adopting a classroom to provide the necessary technology and tools to facilitate the Reggio Emilia learning philosophy - providing impactful, measurable and experiential learning experiences and educational success
 - Providing access to healthy meals and snacks daily at no cost to our children’s families
 - Making outdoor learning adventure equipment available to enhance the learning experience
 - Ensuring sustainability of our organization for future generations
- a. You can help ensure the success and future of Collier County children and the community by investing in CCCR today. You can also provide a gift online at www.collierchildcare.org/invest.



- a. **The Demand Continues to Grow! How You Can Make a Difference**
- b. DONATE: online atlist new website

- c. VOLUNTEER: and join all of the people who help make CCCR/Child's Path a Success
- d. ATTEND: one of our annual events (list link to website for events)
- e. SPONSOR: by underwriting or contributing in-kind services
- f. PROVIDE PRODUCTS/SERVICES: offer an auction lot by donating an exclusive experience or item(s)
- g. ADOPT A CLASSROOM/CHILD: \$5,000 per child annually, Insert dollar amount for classroom adoption
- h. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT: Invest in the tools necessary to facilitate success: Smart Boards, Smart Tables,
- i. LEGACY GIVING: ensure our successful future in serving even more of Collier County's bright young minds. Contact our development team at ... or visit us online at.... to learn how you can create a lasting impression