High-Quality Early Care and Education: What it Means and What it Takes

September 17, 2018
Kearney, NE

Start early. Start well.
QUALITY

The Challenge

What it IS

What it TAKES

Promising Directions
QUALITY

The Challenge…

Why high-quality early care and education is essential…
Nebraska Values Young Children
Nebraska Values Families AND Education
Families in Nebraska Work

75% of children under 6 have all available parents working

KidsCount; Voices for Children Nebraska, 2017
Our local, state, and national prosperity of the future rest on the care and education of young children today.
Investment and Impact

High quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children can deliver a 13% Return on Investment.

Starting earlier provides greater returns. Learn more.

www.heckmanequation.org
QUALITY

What it IS…
Brain Development

Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000
Brain Development

Schore, 2001

Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000

Gunnar, 2009
Serve and Return

Hello, sweet baby!
Are you ready to play?

Gahhh!
Quality
=
Serve and Return Relationships
QUALITY

What it IS…

Safety – physical and emotional

Interactions – warm, 1:1, language-rich, extending
QUALITY

What it IS...

Safety and Relationships

SERVE AND RETURN
QUALITY
What it TAKES…
Provisions
Serve and Return

Hello, sweet baby!
Are you ready to play?

Gahhh!
What it takes

Families
Families

Supportive  Supported  Informed
What it takes
Interactions

- Frequent
- 1:1
- Warm
- Language-Rich
- Extending
What it takes

Instruction
Instruction

• “Whole” Child
• Challenging/Scaffolded
• Curriculum-based

(Burchinal, 2018)
What it takes

Programs
Program Quality
Family Childcare Homes
Home Visiting

Family Strengthening
“For children at risk, early childhood programs are nothing less than a lifeline to success.”

DR. SAMUEL J. MEISELS,
FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
What it takes

Professionals
Early Childhood Professionals:

*Skilled, Informed and Well*
Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation

www.iom.edu/Birthtoeight
Transforming the Workforce

Figure 8-1. Factors that contribute to quality professional practice and ultimately to improving child outcomes.

Nas, 2015
Frontline Servers and Returners
What it takes

Communities
Communities
High-quality early care and education may be the single most important factor for community thriving and prosperity.
What it takes
QUALITY

What it TAKES…

Provisions that increase the likelihood that children experience SERVE AND RETURN.
Our local, state, and national prosperity of the future rest on the care and education of young children today.
Promising Directions...