

TLC: The Learning Center

Public Benefit

City leaders in economic development and education identified the need for an affordable and quality community Child Care Center to support positive youth development in May 2001. This need was fulfilled when TLC: The Learning Center opened its doors 17 years ago in May 2001. TLC is committed to offer and provide a quality, safe, loving, fun and nurturing environment for all children of the Center. With emphasis on literacy, numeracy and social competence each level of care follows the nationally recognized early childhood curriculum “Creative Curriculum” by Teaching Strategies. TLC’s environment and programming are designed to provide stimulation for emotional and intellectual development to support each child to be “school ready” when going to the public school system. More than 1500 children have been a part of TLC since its inception.

TLC employs more than 25 individuals as well as participates in the local Foster Grandparent program that subsidizes the 7-10 Foster Grandparents that support Center children. Currently more than 60 Charles City, Floyd County and Mitchell County business and company families that work in Charles City are served by TLC. All income levels are represented at TLC. TLC grants are annually written and received to provide scholarships for family needs and we are designated as the Child Care choice of many Child Care Assistance families.

TLC strives to meet the needs of the changing community dynamic with its constant configuration of our infrastructure of rooms to meet the age need availability to our families. We write grants constantly to meet the needs of the internal and external environment that must be met by DHS regulations and standards to best serve the children. We participate in the Iowa Child Care Quality Rating System. We currently have a 4 star (out of 5 star) ranking. As a DHS licensed Child Care Center our staff is responsible for 12 hours of essentials training, CPR/First Aid, Mandatory Reporter, Universal Precautions, 15 hours of New Staff Orientation and each year an additional 10 hours of early childhood training.

We are the Charles City Community Child Care Center.

Quality Child Care is Economic Development

Economic prosperity relies on its most important asset - Employees. To create a thriving economy today and for the future, employers must be able to depend on a stable and focused workforce.

Working families rely on the child care system in order to arrive at work ready to be productive. When working parents can rely on high-quality, affordable child care, their productivity increases, absenteeism is reduced and turnover is minimized.

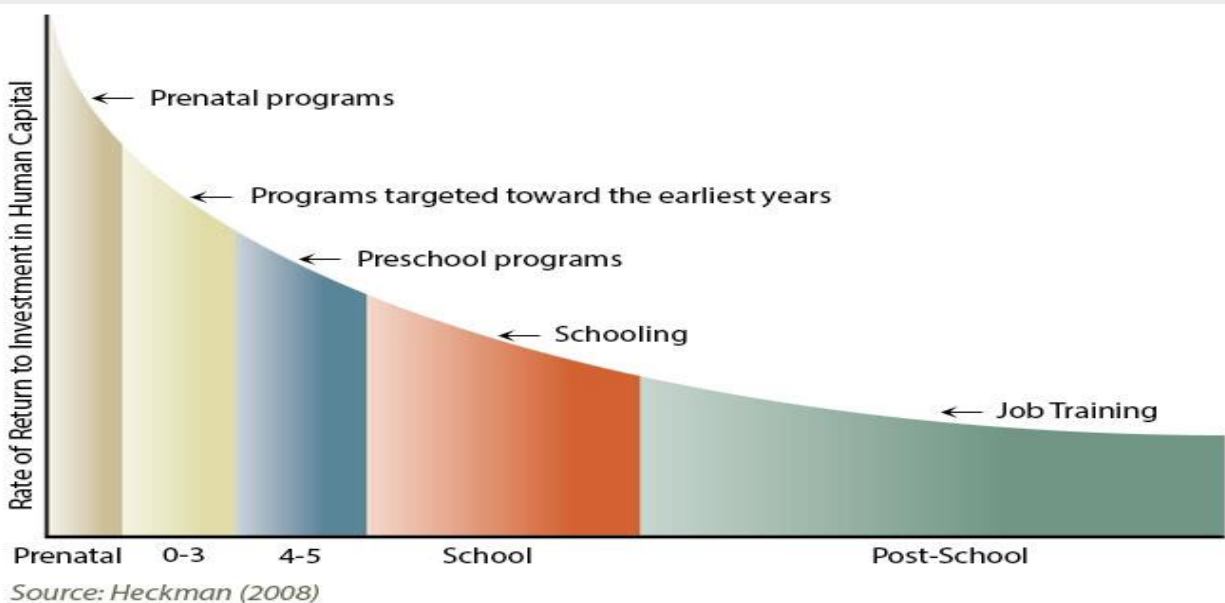
Early Childhood Investment is Workforce Development

Employers need individuals who have strong cognitive, communications and social and emotional skills. Science tells us that the most critical time for development occurs during the early years, laying the foundation for success in school, relationships and future work. To encourage healthy development, young children need access to quality learning environments.

Research demonstrates that every dollar invested in early childhood yields a 10% annual rate of return.⁵

Consistent investment throughout life is important to sustain and build upon early gains in skills, but dollar-for-dollar early interventions yield a much higher rate of return.

This graph, developed by Nobel-winning economist James J. Heckman, shows that early investment is the best workforce development investment.



Mitigating Public Education Costs

Investment into high-quality, affordable child care can help mitigate future costs in the public education, health care and corrections systems because children with a strong foundation during the early years are more likely to enter kindergarten prepared and ready to succeed.

To create a thriving economy today and in the future, we must invest in high-quality, affordable early care and learning programs. This is a solvable problem that is nationally recognized as an important issue to address for our children, families and businesses.

From www.letsgrowkids.org

5 <http://heckmanequation.org/content/resource/invest-early-childhood-development-reduce-deficits-strengthen-economy>