Investing in infant & toddler child care provides a great return on investment

When young children have access to safe, stimulating early learning experiences and their parents can work, children, families, and communities benefit. Unfortunately, access to quality early care and education, especially for infants and toddlers, is limited.

By supporting access to quality child care, with a particular focus on families with very young children, we can help families succeed economically and support young children’s healthy development.

+1,000,000 MORE THAN 1 MILLION NEW NEURAL CONNECTIONS ARE CREATED IN YOUNG BRAINS PER SECOND

Children under age 6 in need of child care, compared to licensed capacity


Across Colorado, the struggle to find stable child care weighs on parents’ minds. In many communities—both urban and rural—the estimated number of children who need care exceeds licensed capacity in child care centers, family child care homes and preschools.
1. In many communities in Colorado, high-quality infant and toddler care is extremely hard to find. How would you target solutions to infants and toddlers so that families can find high-quality child care during these important developmental years?

2. The median pay for a child care teacher in Colorado is $12.32 an hour, which is just above what animal caretakers and parking lot attendants make. Low wages in this profession contribute to high turnover, which affects the quality of care kids receive. How would you increase the availability of quality child care for Colorado families without cutting the already low salaries of child care educators?

3. The number of students enrolling in an early childhood education preparation program at Colorado’s community colleges has dropped by 30 percent in only two years. How would you address the growing shortage of early childhood educators we rely on to provide high quality early experiences for our kids?

4. What would you do to help more families afford high-quality child care?

5. How would you plan to make early care and education a priority during your time in office?

6. How would you make sure children in sensitive situations and families with low-incomes have access to high-quality early care and education?

7. How do you plan to address the shortage of child care for infants?

8. Where do you stand on increased funding for pre-K and other early childhood education programs?

9. What would you do to ensure equitable educational opportunities for students of color, low-income students, dual language learners, and students with special needs?

Questions for Candidates

Here are questions you might ask candidates to learn more about their positions on issues affecting Colorado kids. Whether you ask in person, online or by phone, these questions are designed to help you educate candidates while learning more about whether they are making kids a priority in their platform:

For every job created in the Colorado early care and education sector, 1.5 jobs are created in the state’s economy.


Almost 2/3 of mothers with children under 6 are working outside the home, compared with fewer than 1 in 10 in 1940—a sevenfold increase.

Nearly 3 in 10 mothers now return to work within two months of their baby’s birth, and almost with an infant under a year old are employed full time.

For every dollar spent in the Colorado early care and education sector, $2.25 is contributed to the state’s economy.

Colorado children under 6 have all parents in the workforce.

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