

5 Reasons Why Early Intervention Is Valuable



Hawai'i Department of Health
Early Intervention Section

For years early intervention has helped families learn how to be the best teachers for their children with developmental delays or disabilities. Early intervention's evidence-based practice of helping families incorporate intervention strategies into daily routines increases children's rate of growth in key developmental areas, multiplies the opportunities and effects of intervention, and increases the return on every dollar spent.

Discover how early intervention can help the children and families in your community and healthcare practice.

"Investing in the continuum of learning from birth to age 5 not only impacts each child, but it also strengthens our country's workforce today and prepares future generations to be competitive in the global economy tomorrow."
Professor James Heckman, University of Chicago

1 Reduces Need for Special Education

The National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS) Special Education and Part C Programs tracked children with a developmental delay and found 46% did not need special education by the time they reached kindergarten as a result of early intervention services.

36%

had no disability, and were not receiving special education services.

10%

were reported to have a disability, but were not receiving special education.

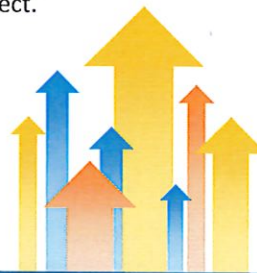


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2 Positive Results for Children

Studies found that children who participate in high-quality early intervention/early childhood development programs tend to have:

- Less need for special education and other remedial work.
- Greater language abilities.
- Improved nutrition and health.
- Experienced less child abuse and neglect.



2

3 Works with Brain Development

Neural circuits create the foundation for learning, behavior and health. These circuits are most flexible from birth to three.

Early social/emotional development provides the foundation upon which cognitive and language skills develop.

High-quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

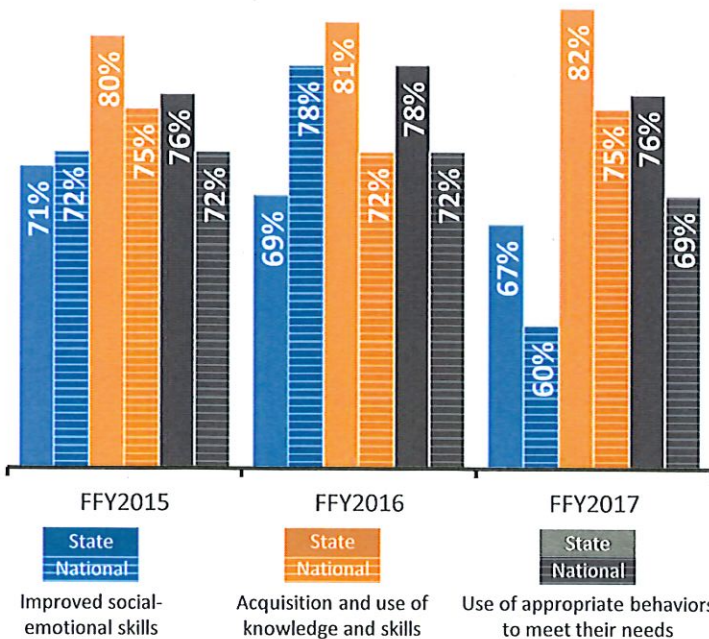
Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later.



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4 Significantly Increases Child's Growth Rate

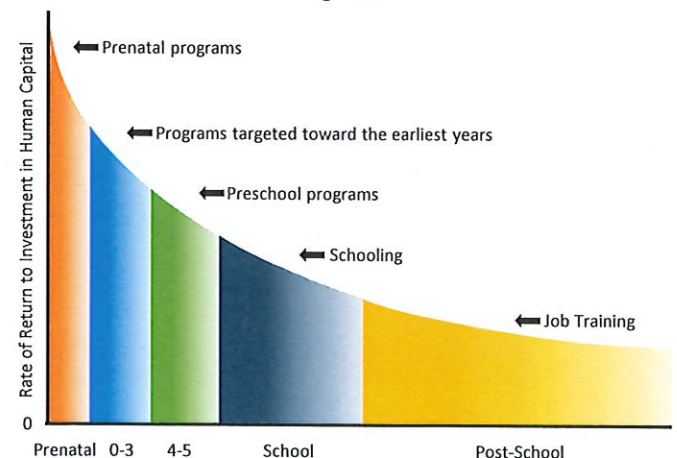
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5 Increases Rate of Return on Investment

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The earlier the investment, the greater the return.



"The highest rate of return in early childhood development comes from investing as early as possible, from birth through age five, in disadvantaged families. Starting at age three or four is too little too late, as it fails to recognize that skills beget skills in a complementary and dynamic way. Efforts should focus on the first years for the greatest efficiency and effectiveness."
James J. Heckman, Ph.D., Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago and Nobel Laureate in Economics