

Additional Commentary

“Knowing that we need more investments in early childhood development does not necessarily tell us how to invest. This paper is based on the best research and best practices in the early development field, and it helps to illuminate what works and where funding can be most effective. It is a blueprint for potential investors, public as well as private, and is a must-read for both.”

ARTHUR ROLNICK, PH.D., SENIOR FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA; FORMER SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS; AUTHOR OF LANDMARK STUDY DEMONSTRATING RATE OF RETURN FOR HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

“Science, economics, and common sense tell us that investing in the earliest years of life is critical to the well-being of children, families, communities, and countries. This report sends an important message about the role the private sector can play in supporting expanded public investments.”

JOAN LOMBARDI, PH.D., FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND INTERAGENCY LIAISON FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

“When hard-headed economists and businessmen endorse early education, we can be sure it is not only right, but right for our economy. This paper makes the case for supporting early care and education abundantly clear.”

BARBARA T. BOWMAN, M.A., CO-FOUNDER, THE ERIKSON INSTITUTE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT; FORMER CHIEF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OFFICER FOR CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“We at the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation believe that our nation can change the life trajectories of disadvantaged children and youth by developing a deeper understanding of ‘what works’ and expanding programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness. This report is an example of the tools philanthropists need to identify opportunities for greater impact and make smarter investments in early childhood.”

NANCY ROOB, PRESIDENT, THE EDNA MCCONNELL CLARK FOUNDATION

“We are at a pivotal moment in the growing Early Childhood Movement. The wisdom of investing wisely in the early years is gaining traction. More people ‘get it,’ but they’re wondering what to do. This paper is a valuable tool, especially if you are a philanthropist looking to make smart investments in this highly under-invested field.”

SUSAN A. BUFFETT, BUFFETT EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

“Impact investors and philanthropists should look to this paper for smart ideas on how to invest in social programs, like early childhood development, that have long-term benefits to those in need and to society at large. Supporting the expansion of early childhood programs, especially through innovative funding models like Pay for Success, can have a high social impact while also being a worthwhile investment.”

JAMES LEE SORENSON, CHAIRMAN, SORENSON MEDIA, INC., AND FOUNDER, JAMES LEE SORENSON GLOBAL IMPACT INVESTING CENTER AT THE ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

“As demonstrated page after page, when we provide children with access to high-quality early learning opportunities, we ensure that children start out on an equal playing field. Our country’s ability to address systemic social and economic problems starts with early childhood education, and I hope philanthropists and policy makers use the report to make progress for all children.”

NEERA TANDEN, PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

“This paper is a powerful tool for generating greater investments in children zero to five. This will accelerate the work of garnering permanent, sustainable solutions for funding early childhood education to prepare children for competition as early as kindergarten. This guide works not only with investors but with advocates, parents, and [care] providers of young children who want to make an impact at the local, state, and national level.”

KRIS PERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE FIRST FIVE YEARS FUND (WORKS WITH POLICY MAKERS, BUSINESS LEADERS, EXPERTS, AND ADVOCATES TO ADVANCE INVESTMENT IN QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM BIRTH TO FIVE)

“Every child is full of potential and deserves to realize it. The best way to tap into this potential is to invest during the first five years of life, when brain development is the most rapid. This paper makes it abundantly clear that we all have an opportunity to change lives and transform our collective future for the better.”

JACKIE BEZOS, PRESIDENT, BEZOS FAMILY FOUNDATION

“This paper provides a road map for philanthropists who want to maximize their grants to high-quality early childhood services and to the development of leadership in the field. J.B. and M.K. clearly understand the value of investing in the earliest years of life.”

JOAN HARRIS, PAST CHAIRMAN, THE IRVING HARRIS FOUNDATION

“Indianapolis just launched our first ever Preschool Scholarship Program utilizing a public-private partnership because high-quality early learning opportunities are beneficial for children’s lives and neighborhood health. These children are more likely to graduate and get a job, which is imperative for the economic vitality of our city.”

GREGORY A. BALLARD (R), MAYOR, INDIANAPOLIS, IN