



# Our Kids Deserve a **Strong Start**



## Kentucky's commitment to early childhood opportunities

### To invest in our children, we must invest in their first educator outside the home.

A successful education needs a strong start. That start begins with early learning – and the professionals who are caring for and educating our children. They are the brain-builders for the future.

These early childhood educators are caring for our children during a crucial time: Children who receive quality early childhood education services before age 5 are more likely to succeed in grade school, high school and beyond. It is THE way to ensure a strong start for future academic success.

#### Kentucky must work to help ensure that these professionals receive:

- Better pay
- Assistance overcoming barriers to starting their own home-based business of caring for our children – many in underserved areas
- A child-care reimbursement that is more in-line with expenses they incur
- More dependable, higher reimbursement for preschool



Our children's first educators are underpaid: Child-care workers are more than twice as likely to live in families with income below the official poverty line vs. workers in other occupations

*Brain-Builder*  
**Family**  
*Educator*  
**PARTNER**  
*Entrepreneur*  
**Professional**



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