COLORADO

Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

Research shows that during the earliest years of a child's life:

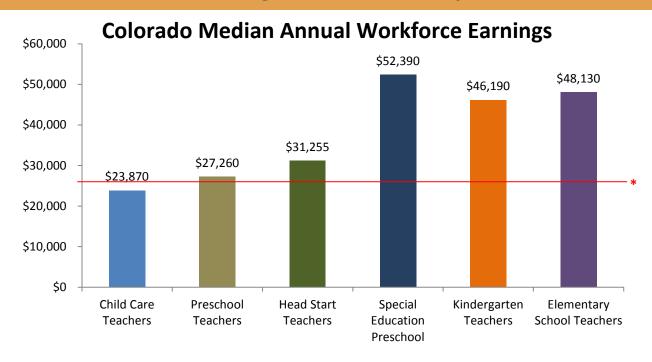
700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second

Genetics plus experiences shape the developing brain

The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities

Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

High Quality Programs Depend on a Quality Workforce **Low Wages Undermine Quality**



^{*}Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: \$26,124

Colorado Demographics

405,577 Children Under Age 6

163,289 Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of **Poverty**

63.9% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working

36.4% Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

16.2% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Colorado Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations







Manicurist & Pedicurist \$19,710



Word Processors/ **Typists** \$35,970



Nurses \$68,540



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year data (2014); U.S. **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics** (2015); Head Start Program Information Report (2015).