

TIPS FOR COMMUNITIES to nurture young children

It Takes a Community Children and families need us.

- ★ 80% of Minnesota children under age five are in care outside their homes. It is everyone's job to ensure they are receiving good care.
- ★ Every child deserves to be cared for by people committed to nurturing, supporting, and guiding them.
- ★ Society's investment in children needs to start early and support deeply. Our future depends on it.



The Developing Brain

Talk to children. They learn up to 40,000 words before Kindergarten!

- ★ Children's brains are wired and ready to learn at birth, with 100 billion neurons. Each neuron must connect with other neurons in order for thinking, feeling, and understanding to occur in their growing brains.



- ★ Important neural connections are made when infants and toddlers are spoken to, played with, and loved. Children need care that supports healthy brain development.

Invest Early

Support early childhood programs. The return is healthy, secure, productive citizens.

- ★ Research shows that early prevention and intervention are key to avoiding social, emotional, and learning issues later in life.
- ★ Prevention and intervention services are vital but they are also costly. Early care and education is a wise investment.



See other side for more tips

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School Readiness

Children are learning every day of their lives.

- ★ The ability to start school prepared for success depends on the quality of care in the early years.
- ★ Paying attention, following directions, and managing emotions are key to school success.
- ★ Children begin to learn and develop these skills at birth in kind, nurturing environments.



They Need Us Teach them to care.

- ★ From ages birth to five years, children are organizing their understanding of the world and learning to care, love, trust, and accept.
- ★ Children learn what they live. Young children need to receive responsive and loving care.

Pay Now or Pay Later

Give early. Community support is critical!

- ★ Early experiences and school success matter. Third grade test scores are used to determine high school graduation rates. And, 80% of prison inmates are illiterate.
- ★ Research has indicated that for every dollar spent on early childhood programs, there is up to a \$17 return.

Read, Hug, Listen, Laugh, Play Make time for children.



- ★ Children come into the world needing the adults in their lives to support and guide them.
- ★ The best support we can offer is to invest in children and families and be present in their lives.

See other side for more tips

A program of the
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MINNESOTA EARLY CHILDHOOD



a campaign for our youngest children
www.northlandfdn.org