

The Raising of Fort Worth

An Early Childhood Education Forum

“The longer a society waits to intervene in the life cycle of a disadvantaged child, the more costly it is to remediate disadvantage.”

- James Heckman
Nobel Prize-Winning
Economist

Why does early childhood matter?

- **85%** of a child’s core brain structure is formed **by age 3**.
- Early interventions of disadvantaged children have been proven to help promote **schooling**, reduce **crime**, reduce **teenage pregnancy**, and foster **workforce productivity**.

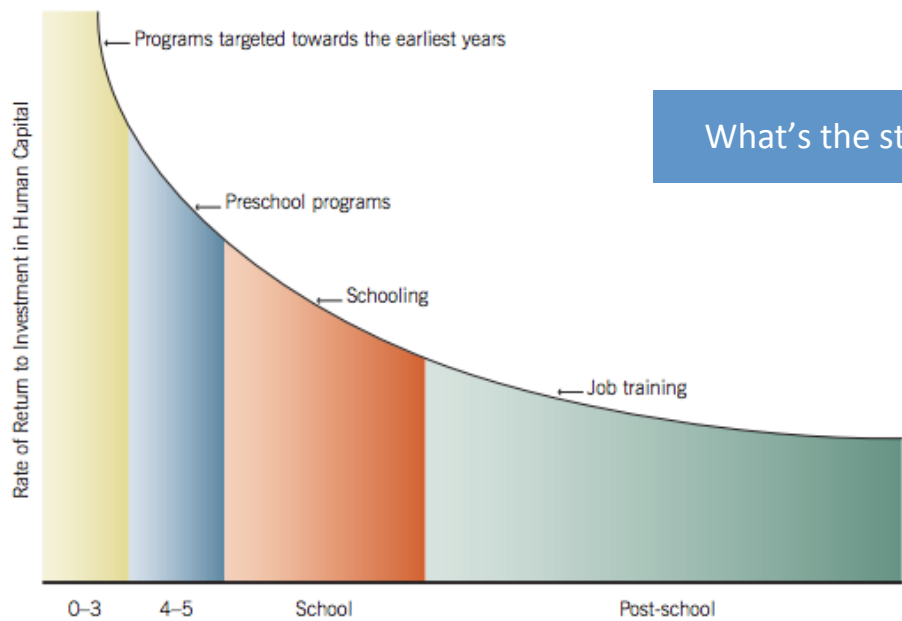
Sources: *Voices for America’s Children* and the *Child and Family Policy Center*, Heckmanequation.org

What is the return on investment?

Early interventions have much higher economic returns than later investments (see below graph):

- **7 - 10% per annum** for programs investing in disadvantaged young children
- **\$7 - \$16 for every ONE DOLLAR** invested in quality early childhood programs

Returns to a Unit Dollar Invested



*Heckmanequation.org, Perry Preschool Study at Age 40

What’s the state of early childhood in Tarrant County?

In Tarrant County,
only 7% of centers
are considered “high quality.”

*As defined by NAEYC, NACCRRRA, TRS, TSR

EDUCATIONAL ALIGNMENT
FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Supporting partners include:

