A groundbreaking study found that children from high-income families are exposed to 30 million more words than children from families on welfare. Follow-up studies showed that these differences in language and interaction experiences have lasting effects on a child’s performance later in life.

—BETTY HART & TODD R. RISLEY

THE 30 MILLION WORD GAP BY AGE 3

90% of brain development occurs by age 5.
—ZERO TO THREE

5% of public education dollars are spent on early childhood education.
—INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES

MAJORITY OF CHILDREN NOT READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Not Ready</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Identification</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Not Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counting</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>Not Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Recognition</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Not Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Name</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>Not Ready</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION, 2013

www.earlymattershouston.org
The dropout rate is an epidemic that affects the entire community.

51% of students in the Houston Area fail to graduate within 4 years of entering high school.

—COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF HOUSTON, INC.

Only 1 of 5 Texas children make it through the system with some form of post high school credential.

—NATIONAL CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

75% of prison inmates are high school dropouts.

—CHILDREN AT RISK, 2011; BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
Quality Early Care and Education

means higher math and reading scores, lower risk of grade repetition, fewer referrals to special education, lower crime and unemployment rates, and fewer teen pregnancies.
—EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE, 2011

LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH

ABECEDARIAN PROJECT PROVIDED HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE IN EARLY YEARS, TRACKED CHILDREN THROUGH ADULTHOOD

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

LIFETIME EFFECTS: THE HIGHSCOPE PERRY PRESCHOOL STUDY THROUGH AGE 40

Over half of young children are in care of other adults while parents are working.

—U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-2009 Average

553,400 children under age five live in the Texas Gulf Coast Region and more than 74% of these children live in Harris County, which has the highest poverty rate of the large counties.

—Kids Count Database, U.S. Census Data, Center for Public Policy Priorities, 2010

22% of young children in the Texas Gulf Coast region are cared for in “informal care” environments by a family member, friend or neighbor.

—Center for Houston’s Future, Community Indicator Report 2012

35% are enrolled in 1 of 3 systems (child care, head start or pre-Kindergarten)

QUALITY MATTERS

QUALITY OF CARE CONCERNS

Of the 57% (234,000) of Harris County young children who are in the care of other adults during the workday, three-fourths (179,122) are in unregulated informal care or licensed child care.

—We Can Achieve School Readiness Report

Only four percent of Harris County childcare centers are nationally accredited by the main accrediting bodies, including National Association of the Education of Young Children.

—We Can Achieve School Readiness Report
Among indicators of quality in a childcare program, the teacher-child ratio is one of the most critical. Texas Ratios are Among the Lowest Standards in the Nation.

—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL AGENCIES, 2012
Every $1 invested in early childhood education can save $8 in long-term costs associated with remedial education, criminal justice and welfare payments. —NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

48% Child care has a large percentage of teachers (48%) that only meet the minimal level of teacher education — a high school diploma or GED. —COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN QUALIFYING DATABASE

Licensing Requirements:

HOURS OF TRAINING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetologist</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massage Therapist</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correction Officer</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATIONS & TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

MONEY MATTERS

FUNDING AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

$1 saves $8

42nd in Spending per Student
50th in Percentage of Population Graduated from High School
47th in SAT Scores

Texas Ranks:

—TEXAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP, TEXAS ON THE BRINK, 2013
For two children in child care with 2 working parents, a typical family needs to earn $61,188.

While parents are encouraged to save early, and for their children to apply for scholarships and grants for college, there are few resources available to help parents pay for quality child care.

—COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN’S QUALIFY DATABASE

18% Children eligible for Head Start in Harris County under current funding.

AND ONLY

50% Eligible children that receive a child care subsidy.

EARLY EDUCATION FUNDING IS INADEQUATE AND IS IMPACTING THE SCHOOL READINESS OF OUR CHILDREN.