

Letter to the editor

For Immediate Release

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As Early Childhood Educators, there are many things that we know. Research tells us that the first five years of life lay the foundation for all future learning. Also, more than 40 years of early education research shows that high quality early education experiences positively impact young children. Research tells us that those participating in high quality care are far more likely to graduate from high school, commit less crimes, be homeowners, and have higher earnings. More importantly, they will provide communities with a higher skilled workforce that will be required as technology continues to expand.

This past week Governor Bev Perdue released her proposed state budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This budget makes critical investments in four key areas, education being one of them. I would like to recognize and thank our Governor today for holding the line on investments in young children. Smart Start initiatives across the state were held as equals to the K-12 and Community College systems. This is an important step in our state's future success.