

## Maine Community Foundation Summit

November 2017

One of the best ways to ensure economic stability and success for our state is through a dedicated focus on how our children are being raised, primarily from age 0-5.

40% of children entering kindergarten are not emotionally or socially ready to start school.

From 0-5 years of age, brain development is positively affected by close interaction with adults. Reading, feeding, talking, and playing are all positive factors.

Providing dependable emotional support, adequate sleep, nutrition and opportunities to learn new things are also helpful.

Early childhood stress such as neglect, violence, food insufficiency, little to no nurturing time with a parent or parent-surrogate, and exposure to toxins (smoke, etc.), actually changes how childrens' developing brains grow.

Money that is spent to improve these conditions, better support of parents, quality affordable childcare, and other community programs that offer solutions and support directly impact the future success of the children all throughout their education and also their ability to enter the workforce.

Resources are currently being put more into remediation than prevention.

Poverty is a huge contributing factor in these less than adequate situations.