



## **User Guide for Early Brain Development Presentation**

### **Purpose**

This presentation is intended to create a shared understanding of the importance of early brain development and how a child's experiences in the first five years can build either a strong or weak foundation for future learning, health and life success.

### **Intended Audience**

The intended audiences for this presentation include government, business and community leaders who may not be aware of how early experiences affect brain development--people in positions of power and influence whose decisions and actions can affect the lives of children ages 0-5, their families and communities in which they live. These may include employers, chambers of commerce, health, criminal justice and education professionals, service organizations, community coalitions, and other community stakeholder groups. It is not intended or developed for parents.

### **Validity of Content**

The contents of the presentation have been reviewed by neuro scientists and medical practitioners, vetted against national neuroscience and economic research by respected sources, and are consistent with the goals of the Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC). This presentation includes a pre-recorded voice over of the presentation script to ensure fidelity and consistency.

### **Needed Materials**

You will need internet access to download the presentation. Speakers will be needed to use the voice over and videos embedded within the presentation. It is suggested that users print the supplemental handout, provided at the end of this user guide, for audience members.

### **Introducing the Presentation**

We recommend that whoever is introducing the prerecorded presentation begin with "why," which is the purpose statement above, and offer some thought-provoking questions to prepare the audience for what they will learn, such as:

- Why are the early years of life so important to brain development?
- What effects do our early experiences have on how we turn out as adults, such as the way we respond to challenges, get along with others and succeed or fail in school?
- How is brain development like the building of a house?
- How is building a baby's brain like playing a game of tennis?



- What stage of a child's life offers the biggest return on investment in his or her well-being?
- What is the economic impact of early brain development?

### **Group Discussion Facilitation**

Following the pre-recorded presentation, a facilitator should lead a question and answer discussion with the audience. This discussion can last between 15-60 minutes.

ELAC recommends that you carefully consider the demographics of your audience and tailor the discussion accordingly.

#### Example discussion questions for legislators:

1. As a legislator, what do you see your role to be in promoting early brain development?
2. How will the key messages you learned today inform your future work?
3. What steps are you prepared to take to advocate for early brain development?

#### Example discussion questions for business leaders:

1. As a business leader, what do you see your role to be in promoting early brain development?
2. How does early brain development impact your field?
3. What can employers do to promote early brain development through their policies, benefit packages and the fact they have parents as a "captive audience" at the workplace?

#### Example discussion questions for providers:

1. As an early learning provider, what do you see your role to be in promoting early brain development?
2. How will the key messages you learned today inform your day-to-day work?

#### Example discussion questions for general community stakeholder audience:

1. As a community member, what do you see your role to be in promoting early brain development?
2. How can you engage with your local community to promote early brain development?
3. What roles might housing, neighborhood conditions, food scarcity, health care and human services have in promoting early brain development?



### Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Who can use this presentation?

*Answer: This presentation can be used by community groups, coalitions, and early learning professionals wishing to further educate their communities.*

2. How would I use this presentation?

*Answer: Users should first show the recorded presentation. Following the presentation, a previously designated facilitator should lead a discussion. Discussion questions should be tailored to the audience.*

3. How long is the presentation?

*Answer: The recorded presentation is approximately 20 minutes. The discussion period can range from 15-60 minutes, based on the user's needs.*

4. Who do I contact with questions?

*Answer: Indiana is fortunate to have in-state experts on this topic. If you have additional questions about the content, then we recommend contacting one of these experts who assisted in the development of this presentation:*

**Dr. Nancy Swigonski**, [nswigons@iu.edu](mailto:nswigons@iu.edu)

*Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Indiana University School of Medicine*

*Professor, Fairbanks School of Public Health*

*Children's Health Services Research*

*Past president of The Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

**Dr. Katie Swec**, [kswec@iu.edu](mailto:kswec@iu.edu)

*Medical Director, Reach Out and Read Indiana, Indiana University*

*Early Brain and Childhood Development Chair, Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

**Dr. Nancy Michael**, [nmichael@nd.edu](mailto:nmichael@nd.edu)

*Director of Undergraduate Studies, Neuroscience and Behavior*

*Assistant Teaching Professor*

*Department of Biological Sciences*

*University of Notre Dame*

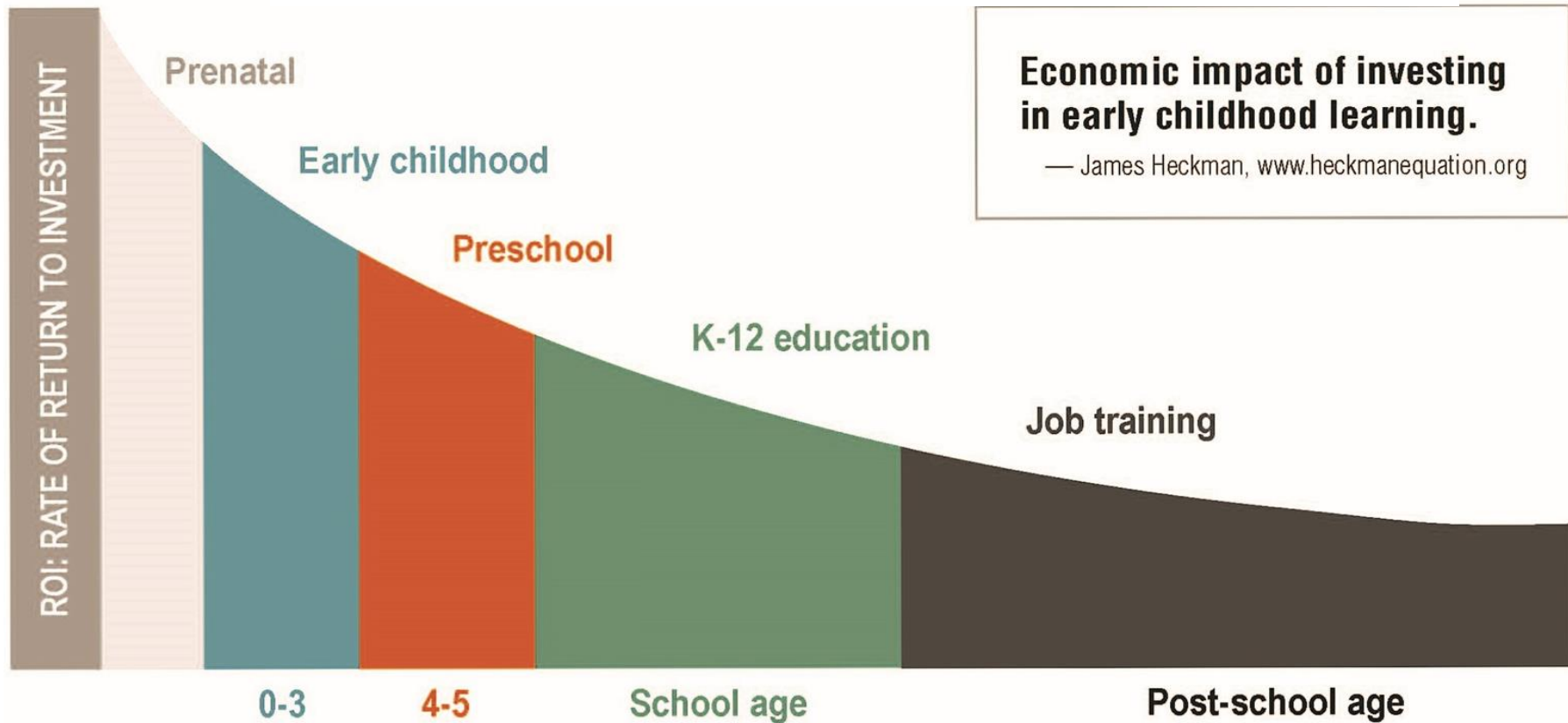
*If you have questions about the presentation and use of it, then you may contact ELAC [here](#) or the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics at [cw@inaap.org](mailto:cw@inaap.org).*



### Additional Resources

1. Zero to Three: <https://www.zerotothree.org/>
2. Child Trends: <https://www.childtrends.org/>
3. Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/>  
(See more on “Resiliency” at <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/resilience/>.)
4. Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee: <http://www.elacindiana.org>
5. American Academy of Pediatrics Indiana Chapter: <http://inaap.org/>
6. Brighter Futures Indiana: <http://brighterfuturesindiana.org/>

# Why Early Childhood Matters



## Recommended Resources

Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee: <http://www.elacindiana.org/>

American Academy of Pediatrics Indiana Chapter: <http://inaap.org/>

Brighter Futures Indiana: <http://brighterfuturesindiana.org/>

Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/>

Child Trends: <https://www.childtrends.org/>

Zero to Three: <https://www.zerotothree.org>



**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY



**Indiana Early Learning**  
Advisory Committee

