

LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS™

Early learning: Closing the gaps
September 17, 2014

Today, we will...

- Provide an overview of the benefits of early learning
- Discuss what “high-quality” early learning is
- Hear from Jessica Colinares, a parent from South Shore PK-8 School on why early learning makes a difference for families

High-quality early learning is one of the best economic investments we can make

- For every dollar spent on high-quality early learning, there is a return of seven dollars or more
- A child's brain development before kindergarten can be a tremendous asset or pose a challenge for learning in later years.
- Studies have shown a “preparation gap” for children entering kindergarten.
- High quality early learning is one of the best ways to close opportunity and achievement gaps

What does high-quality early learning look like?

- Children enter school ready to succeed
- Quality interaction between adults and children (teacher training, class ratio, class size)
- Facilities that are safe, well-organized, and have age-appropriate resources
- Programs that support the whole child and offer wrap-around services
- Open communications and genuine engagement with families
- Mixed income classes
- Dosage (number of hours)

Jessica Colinares

How early learning makes a
difference for families



My daughters Lana and Eva Rose

Lana: quality childcare

- Had excellent childcare provider: in home, one other child her age
- Taught Lana many important skills: independence, self control, how to manage with other children
- Provider used off-the-shelf preschool curriculum with Lana for a year
- Not kindergarten ready: struggled with sight words, couldn't count to 100

Our dilemma

- Quality childcare costs \$900/month
- Quality private preschool costs \$1800/month, only two hours/day
- How many families can afford high-quality preschool?

Eva Rose

- Obtained a slot through lottery for all-day preschool at South Shore
- Professionally trained teachers, curriculum aligned with rigorous early learning standards
- Testing
- Wrap-around services
- Benefits to her academically, socially and to parents of the program: will start kindergarten a year ahead of Lana

QUESTIONS?

