

Early Childhood... Why Does It Matter?

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MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Early Childhood



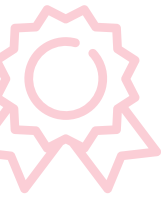
VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



EVERY Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



Let's Have A Little Fun!

4

- Go to www.menti.com
- Type in the code: 2705 6981

Early Childhood Education...What Does the Science Say? 5



- 90% of brain growth happens before kindergarten
- Newborns have all the brain cells (neurons) they'll have for the rest of their life, but it's the connections between these cells that really make the brain work
- The early years are the best opportunity for a child's brain to develop the connections they need to be healthy, capable, successful adults

- Needed for higher-level abilities
 - Motivation
 - Self-regulation
 - Problem-solving
 - Communication
- Either formed or not formed in early childhood
- More difficult to be formed later in life

- Everyday experiences
- Positive interactions with parents/caregivers
- Using senses to navigate surroundings
- Quality care in the early years
- Stimulation and interaction in early years



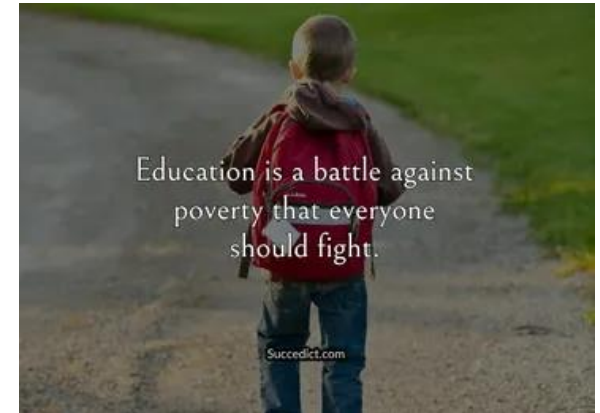
- Most significant influence on brain development
- Essential to healthy development
- “Serve and return” process is fundamental to brain wiring
 - Give attention
 - Be responsive
 - Provide interactions



Early Childhood & School Readiness

Does Early Childhood Matter?

- 1 out of 3 children begin school lacking the basic experiences needed for success
- Most of these children are close to or below the poverty line
- High-quality early childhood programs CAN make a difference



- A 1993 survey of kindergarten teachers believed that success in Kindergarten was dependent on the health of the child as well as their ability to communicate, follow instructions, and work cooperatively with others.
- If these same teachers were surveyed again today, do you think their responses would be the same?
- Why?/Why not?

Ready to Learn!



Areas Impacted by Quality Early Childhood Experiences 13

- Language and Literacy Concepts
- Math/Numeracy Concepts
- Physical Development
- Social/Emotional Development



Language and Literacy Concepts

14

- Listening
- Viewing
- Speaking
- Writing
- Reading



- Read Alouds
- Journals, Creative Writing, Illustrations
- Reading/Book Center
- Songs, Nursery Rhymes, Poems, Fingerplays
- Print-rich Environment
- Other Examples?



Math/Numeracy Concepts

16

- Number representation
- Operations
- Computing, estimating, predicting
- Patterns, sorting, classifying
- Measuring, comparing, weighing



- Mathematical Play
- Everyday Objects (Connections to real life):
Buttons, Beans, Noodles
- Discussions on comparisons,
measurements, and predictions
- Promote exploration and observation
- Other examples?



Physical Development

18

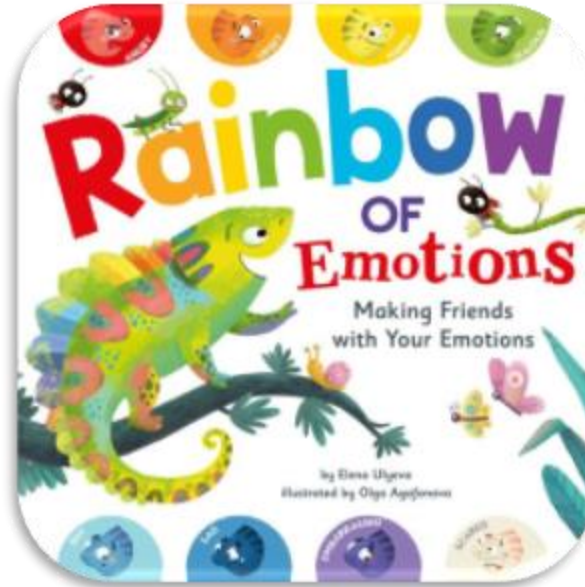
- Gaining strength and coordination
- Increasing control of hands and use of fingers



- Block Play
- Art Center Activities
 - Painting and drawing
 - Using scissors
 - Play Dough
- Threading beads or noodles
- Opportunities for large muscle development



- Turn-taking
- Cooperation
- Empathy
- Ability to express one's own emotions



Social/Emotional Development in Early Childhood 21

POWER
of
PLAY



- Provide quality feedback
 - Prompt thought processes
 - Provide information-expand, clarify
- Plan concept development activities
 - Creating—brainstorming, planning, producing
 - Integration—connect concepts & integrate previous knowledge
 - Connections to the real world
 - Analysis and reasoning—why and how questions, prediction



Office of Early Childhood Website—
www.mdek12.org/EC

- Family Engagement Calendar
- Family Enrichment Activities
- Splash Pages
- MPB Classroom TV Episodes



Supported development of young children increases:

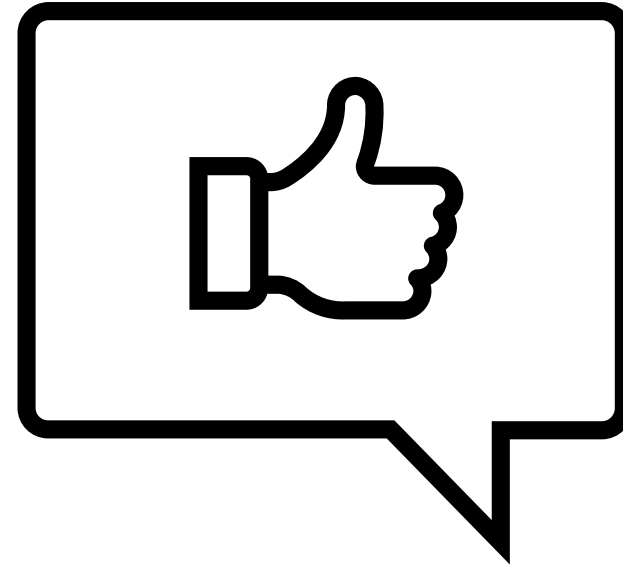
- Third-grade reading proficiency
- High school graduation and postsecondary education
- Gainful employment
- Lifetime physical and mental health and well-being



- Join your breakout room!
- Take a screenshot of these instructions!
- In your breakout group: Create a slogan to promote Early Childhood in a TV commercial or online ad based on your knowledge and experience in early childhood!
- Choose one member from your breakout group to share your slogan!



**Start with early childhood education
and build a better **US**.**





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