



VISION: That all children have access to high quality early learning experiences and environments to create a solid foundation for lifelong success.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS IT?

ELSD is a community-driven grass roots effort, bringing awareness and support to the importance of how access to a variety of early learning environments impacts our community's future.

WHERE DOES EARLY LEARNING TAKE PLACE?

Everywhere! In the home, classroom, friend's home, religious organizations, on the ranch and playground!

WHO IS AN EARLY LEARNER?

All children ages 0-8. A child in the home, preschool classroom, grandparent's house, foster home, places of worship, on the farm or ranch. Every child in our community is an Early Learner!

WHY?

All children are the future of our state. They are the next generation of parents, workforce, and leaders. Data is clear. Early access to quality learning for ALL children leads to healthier, thriving communities. Commitment to our future is rooted in community and state leadership, quality services that work for all young children and their families including backing local/state policies and creating safe and caring neighborhoods that support families. *

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EARLY LEARNING?

You! Everyone can support early learning and our future.

HOW?

First, be aware and informed. Then, invest time, knowledge, resources, perspectives, talent and skills.

WHEN?

The time to support early learning is now. Find out how you can be involved by contacting: info@earlylearnersd.org

FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:

"Recent research confirms that the first five years are particularly important for the development of the child's brain, and the first three years are the most critical in shaping the child's brain structure. Early experiences provide the base for the brain's organizational development and functioning throughout life. They have a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities."

Studies show that access to quality early learning has long-term results for children**:

- Fewer teenage pregnancies
- More likely to graduate from high school
- More likely to hold a job and have higher earnings
- Commit fewer crimes
- More likely to own their own car and home

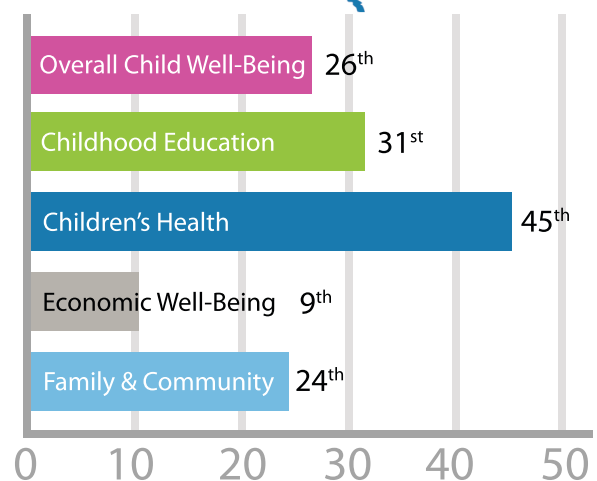
Lack of access to quality early learning has shown harmful effects on individuals and society**:

- Increased long-term health conditions into adulthood such as hypertension and coronary heart disease
- Costs the U.S. economy \$1.8 billion in tax revenue

**Perry Preschool Project, The Heckman Equation, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

HOW DOES SOUTH DAKOTA RANK?

South Dakota ranks highest in the Economic Well-Being Category while Children's Health sits at 45 out of 50 states.



From the 2019 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State trends in Child Well-Being from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Get involved now in Early Learning
South Dakota by contacting
info@earlylearnersd.org
www.EarlyLearnerSD.org

EARLY LEARNER
South Dakota
is an initiative led by:

sdaeyc

South Dakota Association for the
Education of Young Children