The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a model public/private partnership that leverages the resources of more than 40 local agencies to create a community-wide system of high-quality programs and services that foster physical, cognitive and social-emotional development during the critical first five years of life.

Why Is Early Learning So Important?

- Increased educational achievement
- Improved job outlook and higher earnings
- Lower rates of participation in special education
- Lower rates of involvement in the criminal justice system

Young Children in Oak Park and River Forest

- Approximately 5,400 children under kindergarten age live in Oak Park and River Forest.
- 800 children are at-risk for academic failure due to family income or developmental delays

The early childhood sector is fragmented and of wide-ranging quality and access often depends on a family’s ability to pay

Do you know me?

- 700 neural connections formed every second during the earliest years of life*

* Source: Center on the Developing Child

Educational productivity increases in classrooms at every level when all students are eager to learn and ready to succeed.

How the Collaboration Is Making a Difference

At the Collaboration for Early Childhood, we provide the resources and connections vital to every child’s opportunity for success in learning and in life.

Research shows that high-quality early care and learning experiences lead to annual aggregated rates of return on investment of 7% - 10%.

Information and Support

Connect parents to the information and resources they need to support their child’s growth and development

Professional Development

Support and training for people involved with our youngest children

Developmental Screening

Early identification of children with developmental delays to ensure they receive services they need

Public Preschool

Promote access to and foster high-quality public preschool programs

Do you know me?

- 700 neural connections formed every second during the earliest years of life*

* Source: Center on the Developing Child

Return on Investment

Source: Heckman (2008)

Rate of Return to Investment of Human Capital

- Programs targeted towards the earliest years
- Preschool programs
- Schooling
- Job training

Return on Investment

Source: Heckman (2008)

Approximately 5,400 children under kindergarten age live in Oak Park and River Forest.

All parents report stress and isolation when seeking early childhood services.

Research shows that high-quality early care and learning experiences lead to annual aggregated rates of return on investment of 7% - 10%.