

Know and Grow Partnership for Early Learning



Mission: Know and Grow promotes early learning and healthy child development in North Pacific County by connecting families and caregivers with community resources

Our Vision

- ▶ North Pacific County is a vibrant community where children and families are strong and children are valued, safe and healthy. Families are connected to the resources they need and children enter school ready for success. They graduate from high school ready for life.

It is not that they need us.
We need them!



Snapshot of our children – birth to age 5

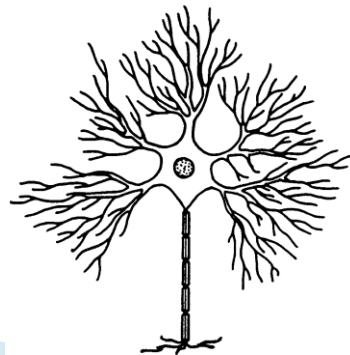
- 1,156 Children 0–3
- 30% of children under the age of 5 live below the poverty level
- 60% qualify for free and reduced lunch
- 10% of births are to teen moms
- 40% of Newborns are born to single mothers
- Nearly 1 in 5 newborns are Hispanic
- 26% of children 0–3 are Hispanic
- 71% of parents are in the workplace
- Highest rate of infant death in the region

Early Brain Development is critical

- ▶ Brain Framework built in first 3 years is foundation for **all** future learning
- ▶ Building brains is like building a house – “Architecture” matters
- ▶ Stress weakens brain architecture
- ▶ ACES studies



While 85% of a child's core brain structure is formed by age three, **less than 4%** of public investments on education and development have occurred by that time.



Economic Impact of investing in Early Learning

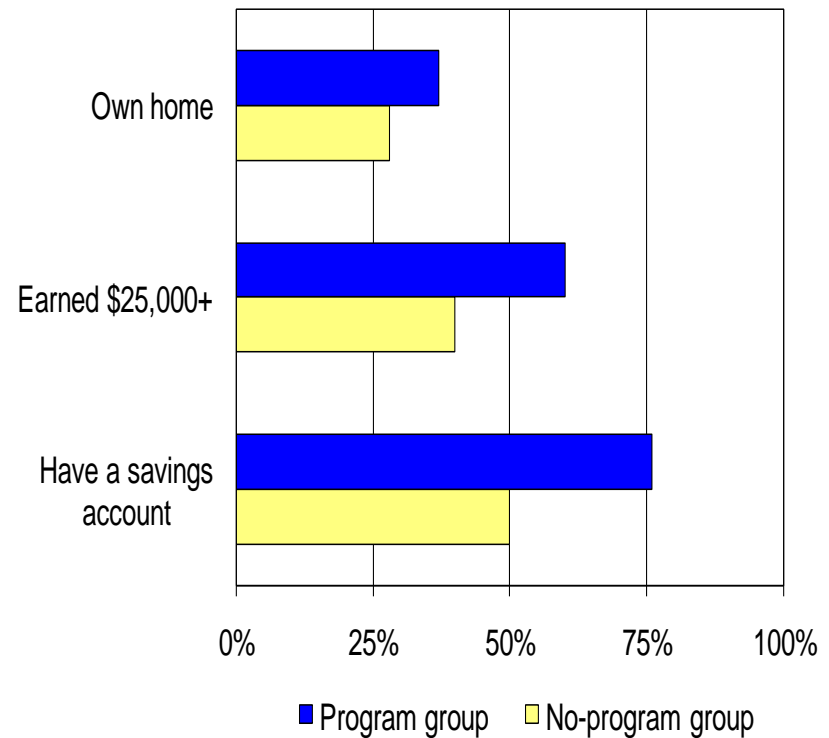
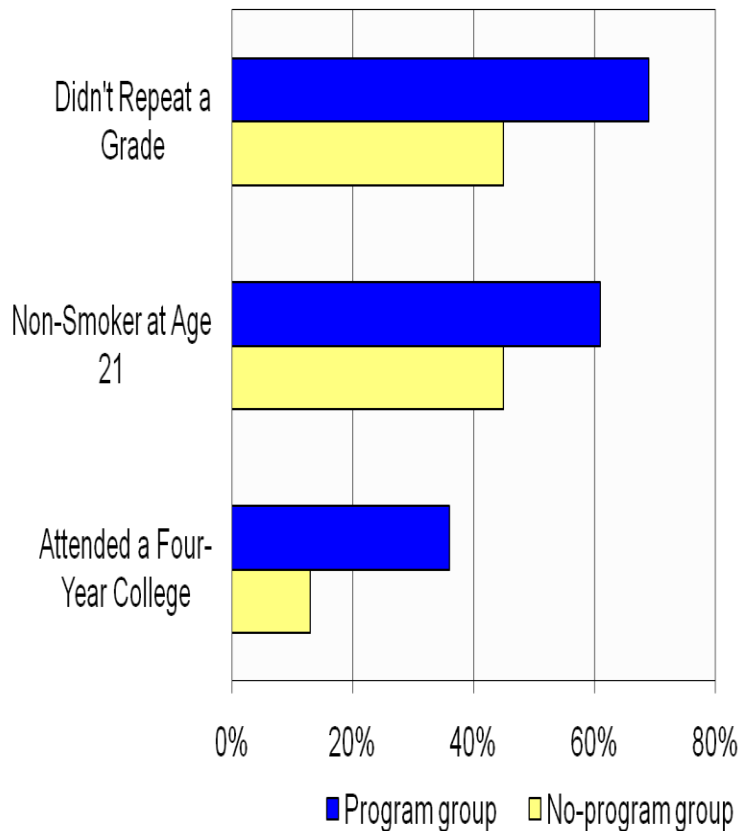
“Although education and the acquisition of skills is a lifelong process, starting early in life is crucial. Recent research – some sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in collaboration with the University of Minnesota – has documented the high returns that early childhood programs can pay in terms of subsequent educational attainment and in lower rates of social problems, such as teenage pregnancy and welfare dependency.”

Remarks by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben S. Bernanke
Before the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce,

Longitudinal Research:

- ▶ Abecedarian Educational Child Care
 - \$4 return on each \$1 invested
- ▶ Chicago-Child Parent
 - \$7 return on each \$1 invested
- ▶ Elmira Prenatal/Early Infancy Project
 - \$5 return on each \$1 invested

Educational and Economic results of Investing in Early Learning



The achievement gap

- ▶ Nearly one in four children enter kindergarten without basic school readiness skills
- ▶ For every 50 children who don't learn to read in kindergarten, 44 of them will still have trouble in 3rd grade
- ▶ Children without reading skills by 3rd grade are far less likely to graduate
- ▶ Grades & absenteeism rates by 3rd grade predict with 90% accuracy whether the child will drop out

A recipe for successful children



Resilient parents and/or caring adults

Good nutrition

Shelter, a stable living arrangement

Health Care – dental care

Learning opportunities

Social emotional skills

Welcoming schools

A relationship with nature

Early Learning Programs in No Pacific County

- ECEAP 5 sites, 118 slots
- Head Start services recently ended
- Early Support for Infants & Toddlers – 49 children served
- Licensed Child Care – need for 425 slots, only 1 licensed center in North Pacific County
- Subsidized care for just 6 infants and 25 toddlers
- Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program



Block Fest at the Raymond Early learning Fair

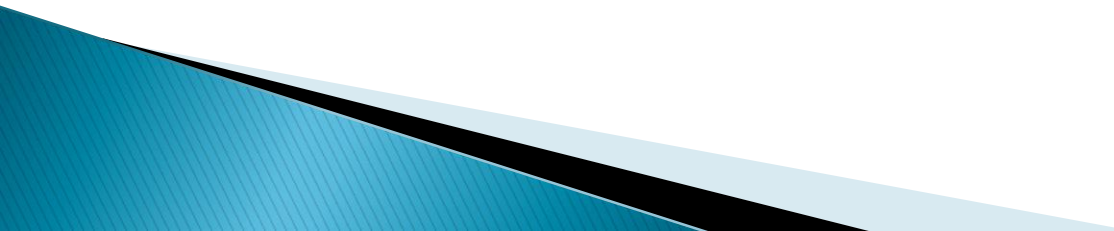
Know and Grow partners provide many resources

- ▶ Storytimes at Timberland Library branches
- ▶ Maternal health visits by nurses
- ▶ Basic needs support through Coastal Community Action
- ▶ Child Care Resource and Referral services to parents seeking child care
- ▶ Professional development and consultation to child care providers
- ▶ Parent Education

Know and Grow Success...

- ▶ *Family Fairs in May 2010 and 2011* – involving more than 220 children in early learning fun and connecting parents with community resources that support their success.
- ▶ *Health and Wellness Fairs in August 2010 and 2011* – providing over 250 children and parents with developmental screening, school supplies, haircuts and community resource information
- ▶ Welcome Baby program for moms of newborns – a collaborative effort led by the Pacific County Health Dept.
- ▶ Culturally-responsive education event for parents, public school teachers and early learning professionals to ensure all children thrive.
- ▶ 3 year Strategic Plan to guide the coalition's future work.
- ▶ \$50,000 from the Foundation for Early Learning to launch and maintain our community coalition.

Identified Areas of Need...

- ▶ Connecting diverse families with community resources that support success of young children living in North Pacific County
 - ▶ Increased communication between parents, medical professionals and the school system
 - ▶ Promoting early literacy
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Goals for 2012 and beyond...

▶ ***Ready & Successful Children***

- Promote early literacy.
- Refer children with developmental concerns from birth to age 3 for screenings.
- Secure services of a pediatrician.

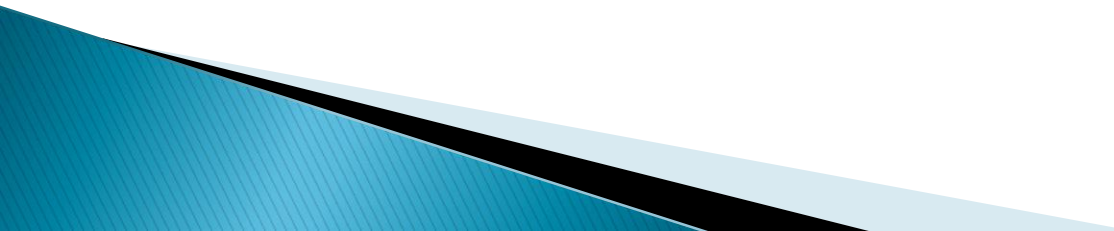
▶ ***Ready & Successful Parents***

- Connect parents to community resources.

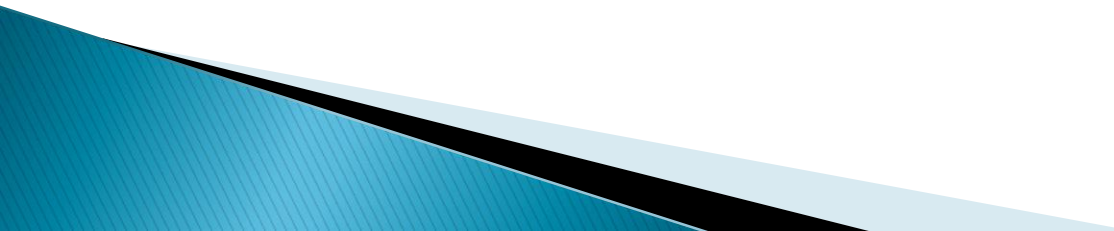
▶ ***Ready & Successful Professionals***

- Enhance skills of early learning providers.
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What are your ideas?

- ▶ Services needed to support young children their families.
 - ▶ Resources can be tapped to support Know and Grow efforts.
 - ▶ Possible partnerships.
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Get involved – invest in early learning

- Pledge your active engagement.
 - Attend monthly coalition meetings
 - Promote Know and Grow community events
 - Read to a young child
 - Support public and private investment in early learning
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Children hold the future of Pacific County



Let's invest wisely in Early learning