

PRE-K MATTERS

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF PRE-KINDERGARTEN ON CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



You could probably guess that sending a child to pre-kindergarten results in better kindergarten readiness, improved vocabulary, and enhanced reading skills.

But did you know that the benefits of Pre-K go far beyond their school years and into their adult lives?

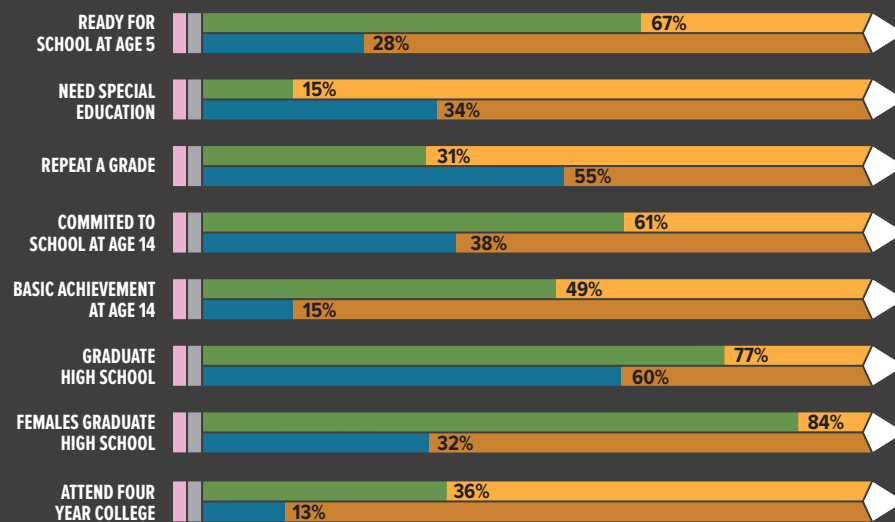
Starting at age four, nationwide studies reveal that investing early in a child's education by sending them to pre-kindergarten yields a long list of benefits that go beyond test scores, and into the very fabric of their--and our--futures.

SHORT-TERM BENEFITS

For too long, Pre-K has been considered simply as an arbitrary preparation for kindergarten. But the information gathered about children who attend pre-kindergarten versus children who don't tells a different, more compelling story. Pre-kindergarten impacts a child throughout his or her entire school experience, resulting in everything from heightened vocabulary scores to improved attendance and high school graduation rates.

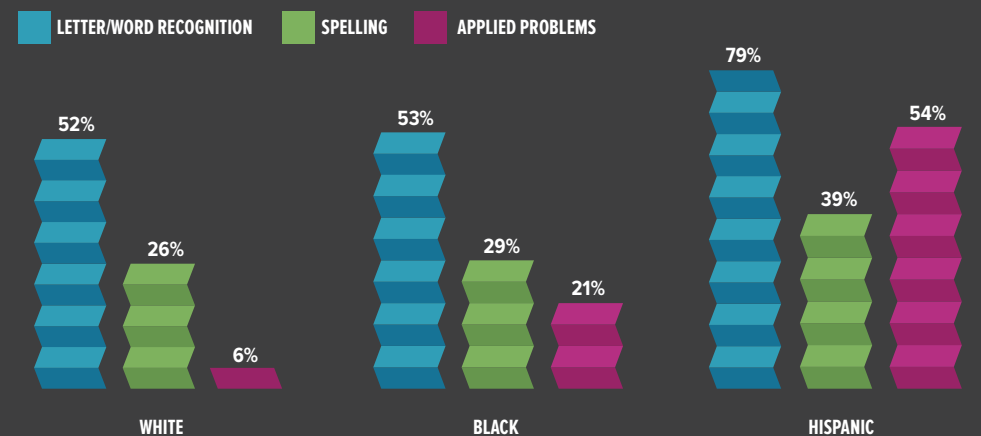
ACADEMIC BENEFITS

PRE-K NO PRE-K



PRE-K BENEFITS ACROSS RACE / ETHNICITY

% IMPROVEMENT OVER CHILDREN WITH NO PRE-K

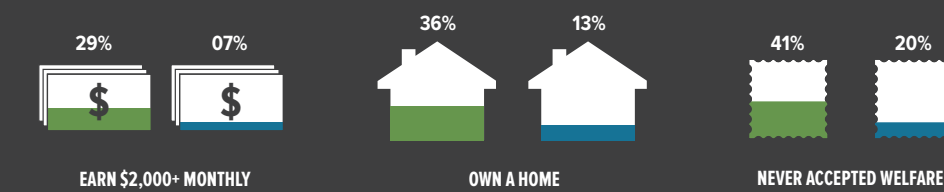


LONG-TERM BENEFITS

There has been a surprising shift in the overall understanding of the benefits of pre-kindergarten in a child's life. Beyond test scores and reading levels comes proof that a pre-k program can impact children in teen and adult years, long after school. Things like improved family formation, increased number of job hours worked, avoidance of criminal behavior and reliance on social support, even proof of increased earnings and better health; these things all stem from enrollment in pre-kindergarten.

QUALITY OF LIFE BY AGE 27

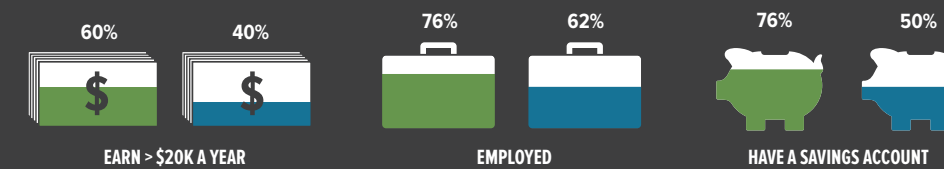
PRE-K NO PRE-K



ARRESTS FOR PERSONS WITHOUT PRE-K BY AGE 27



QUALITY OF LIFE BY AGE 40



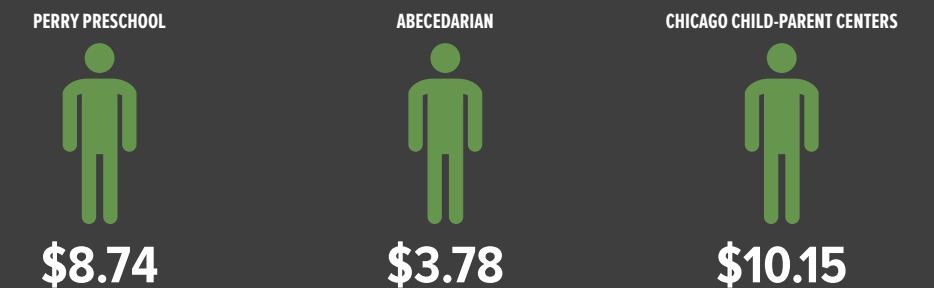
CRIME INVOLVEMENT AT 40



RETURNS ON INVESTMENT

The case for pre-kindergarten continues to have an effect that goes beyond our old way of thinking. Aside from the compelling, individual benefits, it impacts our community on a very real level. Research shows that communities who invest in pre-kindergarten programs experience considerable returns on their investment to private citizens, as well as local, state, and federal government.

RETURNS ON \$1 INVESTED TO 3 PRE-K PROGRAMS



\$1 SPENT = \$5.12 IN BENEFITS TO PRIVATE CITIZENS, LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN FOUR DECADES



CONCLUSIONS

The Urban Child Institute knows that big things start when children are small; and pre-kindergarten is no exception. For every child in our community--regardless of social status, financial standing, or even family dynamics--overwhelming research supports the importance of building certain, critical skills before entering kindergarten; skills influence their in-school development and performance as well as their future adult lives and our community.

Barnett, WS. (2006). Benefits of preschool for all. [PDF document]. Retrieved from <http://nieer.org/resources/files/Benefits.pdf>
 O'Brien, EM. & Dervarics. (2007). Pre-kindergarten: what the research shows. Retrieved from <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Pre-kindergarten/Pre-Kindergarten/Pre-kindergarten-What-the-research-shows.html>
 Gormley, W., Gayer, T., Phillips, D. & Dawson, B. (2004). The effects of Oklahoma's universal pre-kindergarten programs on school readiness. Retrieved from http://www.crocus.georgetown.edu/reports/executive_summary_11_04.pdf



THE URBAN CHILD INSTITUTE IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN FROM CONCEPTION TO AGE THREE IN MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY, TN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.URBANCHILDINSTITUTE.ORG

