

Vermont's future depends on all of our children having the opportunity to succeed.

- **Children who receive sensitive and responsive care from their parents and other caregivers enjoy an important head start toward lifelong success.** With this solid foundation for their social, emotional, communication, physical and intellectual development, children will be engaged and contributing members of their community and economy and have better social and academic success later in school. These children have been found to enjoy school more, develop successful reading skills earlier and are less likely to become involved in crime and drugs.

Early environments and interactions critically affect children's development.

- **Children's brains develop rapidly when they are young, and much like building a house, a solid foundation is critical.** Good environments and positive interactions help create optimal brain development. Stress and neglect are toxic to the wiring of children's brains.

- **Child care is second only to the immediate family as the environment in which early development unfolds,** starting in infancy and continuing through school entry for the vast majority of children.

Denying access to quality child care for Vermont's working families is denying too many children the opportunity to succeed.

- **Costs for child care exceed what Vermont's working families can afford.** When that happens, children are denied the opportunity to succeed.

**FOR VERMONT'S WORKING FAMILIES BELOW THE MEDIAN INCOME,
QUALITY CHILD CARE HAS BECOME AN UNAFFORDABLE NECESSITY.**

**VERMONT CHILD CARE ADVISORY BOARD
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A partner in the Building the Foundation for Bright Futures Coalition with Building Bright Futures, Kids Are Priority One, Voices for Vermont's Children, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, Mama Says, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, and the Vermont Commission on Women.