



# THE VALUE OF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE CENTERS PRIORITIZE CHILD SAFETY AND LEARNING, MAXIMIZING RETURNS ON OUR INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION.

Recommended Number of Children Per Adult in Child Care Centers to Support Safety, Care, and Learning.

Infants	1-Year-Olds	2-Year-Olds	3-Year-Olds	4-Year-Olds
3	4	4	7	8

## MOST FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD THE TRUE COST OF QUALITY CHILD CARE.

- \$ Quality child care for children birth to age 3 costs as much as \$13,000 per year.
- \$ This cost breaks down to a little over \$6 per hour for child care for a 40-hour work week, which is still too expensive for most families.
- \$ The costs of high-quality care can force families to seek out lower quality care, which has detrimental effects on children.

## LOUISIANA EARLY EDUCATORS ARE CREDENTIALLED PROFESSIONALS WHO DESERVE PROFESSIONAL WAGES-BUT DON'T GET THEM.

- 🎓 Teachers are trained to facilitate the cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development of children and keep every child safe.
- 🎓 Over one-third of early educators have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 🎓 The average wage for Louisiana child care teachers is \$9.77 per hour.



### QUALITY IS ABOUT SAFETY & LEARNING

Quality centers have more teachers per classroom and smaller classroom sizes, supporting increased child safety and learning.



### PERSONALIZED CARE

The return on investment of early childhood education can be 13% to 18% for high-quality programs. To get those returns, we must invest in centers with smaller class sizes where teachers can provide personalized care.