Empowering Parents: Sustaining the Gains of Early Childhood Education

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Ounce of Prevention Fund

The Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University and the Children’s Defense Fund
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What is Educare?

- Research-based strategies for children ages birth to 5
- Full-day, full-year program
- High teacher/child ratios
- On-site parent engagement
- Blended Head Start, state Pre-K, Title I and private funding
The Achievement Gap Develops Early

Cumulative Vocabulary (Words)

- Professional
- Middle Income
- Lower Income

Child’s Age (Months)

Our Parents: Who Are They?

...And How Do They Experience Parenting?
Parenting and Poverty

- Youth
- Low education
- Resource insecurity
- Isolation
- Lack of trust
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Mental health issues
Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so powerful as HOPE. With HOPE, one can think, one can work, one can dream.

Adapted from Charles Sawyer
The Power of Relationships to Motivate Change and Learning
How Do We Get Parents Engaged?

• The parent-child relationship

• Parent’s role in child’s development, health and learning

• Parent’s role in child’s school experience
Long-Term Outcomes

- Children attend high-performing/charter schools
- Teachers say Educare parents are highly involved
- Most children “meet” or “exceed” ISAT standards
- No fade out in social/concept development skills