

The logo for the Pritzker Children's Initiative is a blue rectangle. At the top, the word "PRITZKER" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below it is a thin yellow horizontal line. Underneath the line, the words "Children's Initiative" are written in a larger, white, sans-serif font.

PRITZKER  
Children's Initiative

## What we believe

The Pritzker Children's Initiative is dedicated to building a promising future for our country by unlocking human potential through investments in early childhood development. Without immediate and significant investment in children at the earliest stages of life, particularly from birth to age three, an estimated 6 million of our nation's most at-risk children will soon arrive at kindergarten unprepared to learn. Once the foundation for learning is set, research tells us that more costly interventions later in life will likely not make up for this missed opportunity.

The potential impact to our country is significant – an unprepared workforce and almost a quarter of our next generation essentially not able to realize their potential. Our economic security – in fact, our nation's future – is in jeopardy. This is a national crisis.

Economists and scientists agree: early childhood development is the best investment we can make in our nation's future.

Neuroscience and behavioral research show that a child's capacity to learn begins at birth. Rich, high quality interactive experiences with nurturing caregivers are needed to help the brain develop, while poor experiences can have a negative effect. This early development lays the foundation for all further learning and skills acquisition. Expensive interventions later will not be as effective and cannot fully make up for the lack of care and stimulation that build this foundation during the first three years.

Economists tell us that the most impactful investment our country can make in human capital is in high quality early learning. It provides long-term benefits to both the child and society, alleviating poverty and resulting in lower incarceration rates, higher graduation rates, better health, and a stronger ability to find and keep employment.

Despite this strong case, among the world's 34 most developed nations, the United States ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in total spending on early childhood education. We need to dramatically increase our investment in early childhood development as a nation and give every at-risk child access to high quality early learning opportunities. To this end, the Pritzker Children's Initiative focuses its efforts on:

- unlocking sustainable public and private sources of capital for evidence-based programs;
- increasing the supply and reach of evidence-based interventions; and
- accelerating innovation and knowledge sharing.

The legacy of these investments in early learning will be that today's at-risk children will become tomorrow's contributors and leaders in our society, building a more promising future for themselves, their families and our nation.