

Pre-Apprenticeship Webinar #1

The Nuts and Bolts of Early Childhood Education

February 7, 2024

Building Bright Futures

- Our program provides **resources and support** for students interested in or currently pursuing a career in **early childhood education**.
- We offer **professional development opportunities** that allow students to understand the importance of this field and the array of career and educational opportunities available.

Valerie Williams

Family and Consumer Sciences Education Consultant
Curriculum and Assessment

Office of Career and Technical Education
NC Department of Public Instruction

Sarah Sexton, Ed.D.

Director

Family, Infant and Preschool Program

J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center
NC Department of Health and Human Services



What is Early Childhood?





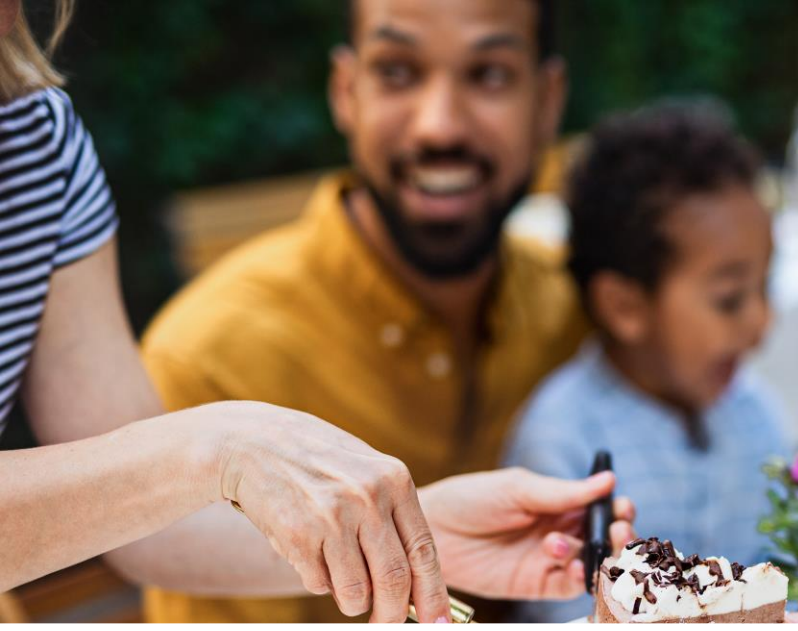










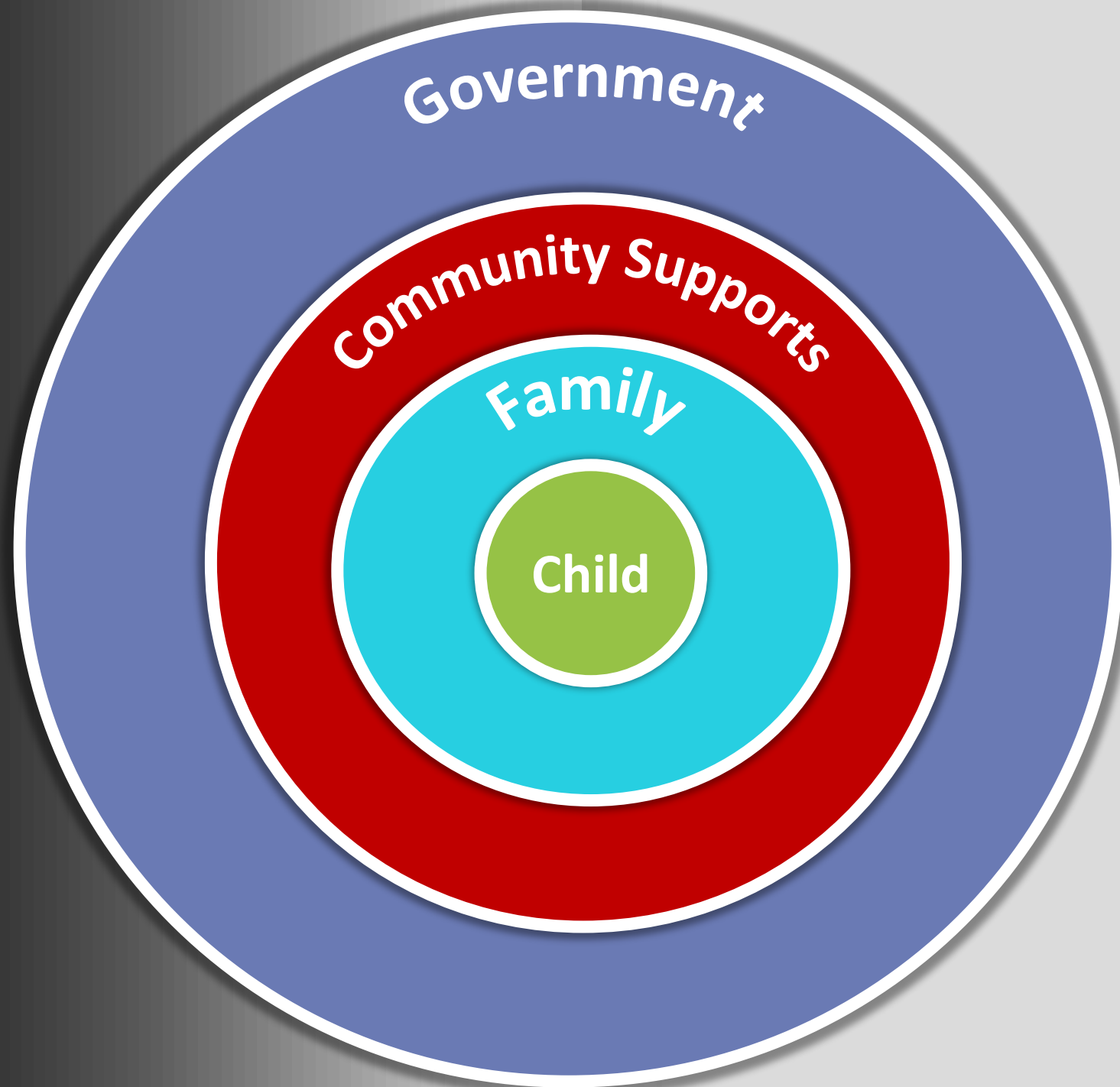






What is Early Childhood?

- Children
- Family
- Community
- Government



Dan Tetrault

Assistant Director of Early Learning

Office of Early Learning
Division of Standards, Accountability, and Research
NC Department of Public Instruction



The Importance of Early Care & Education and a Qualified Workforce



THE CASE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- In the womb, as many as ***250,000 nerve cells (or neurons) are created*** each day.
- “Brain Development” includes not only the formation of these neural cells, but the “wiring” of connections between them.
- More than ***one million neural connections (or synapses) form every second***
- As documented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and others, ***the first five years of life are fundamental to brain development.***



THE CASE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

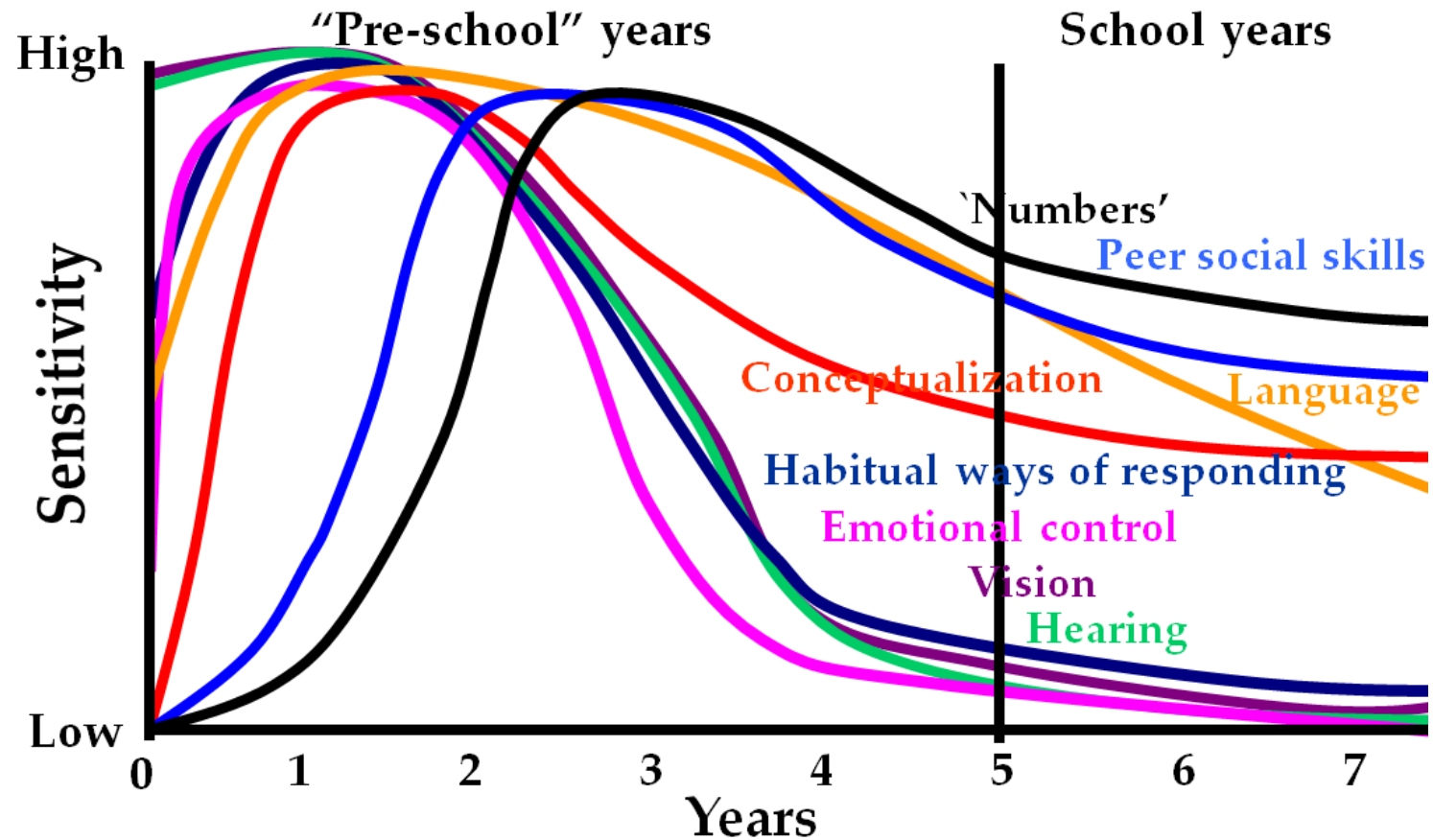
Window of Opportunity

- At birth, 25%
- At age 1, 75%
- At age 3, 90%

Brain Development

WHAT WE'VE KNOWN...

'Sensitive periods' in early brain development




Graph developed by Council for Early Child Development (ref: Nash, 1997; *Early Years Study*, 1999; Shonkoff, 2000.)




Benefits of Early Care and Learning: Long-Term Societal Benefits



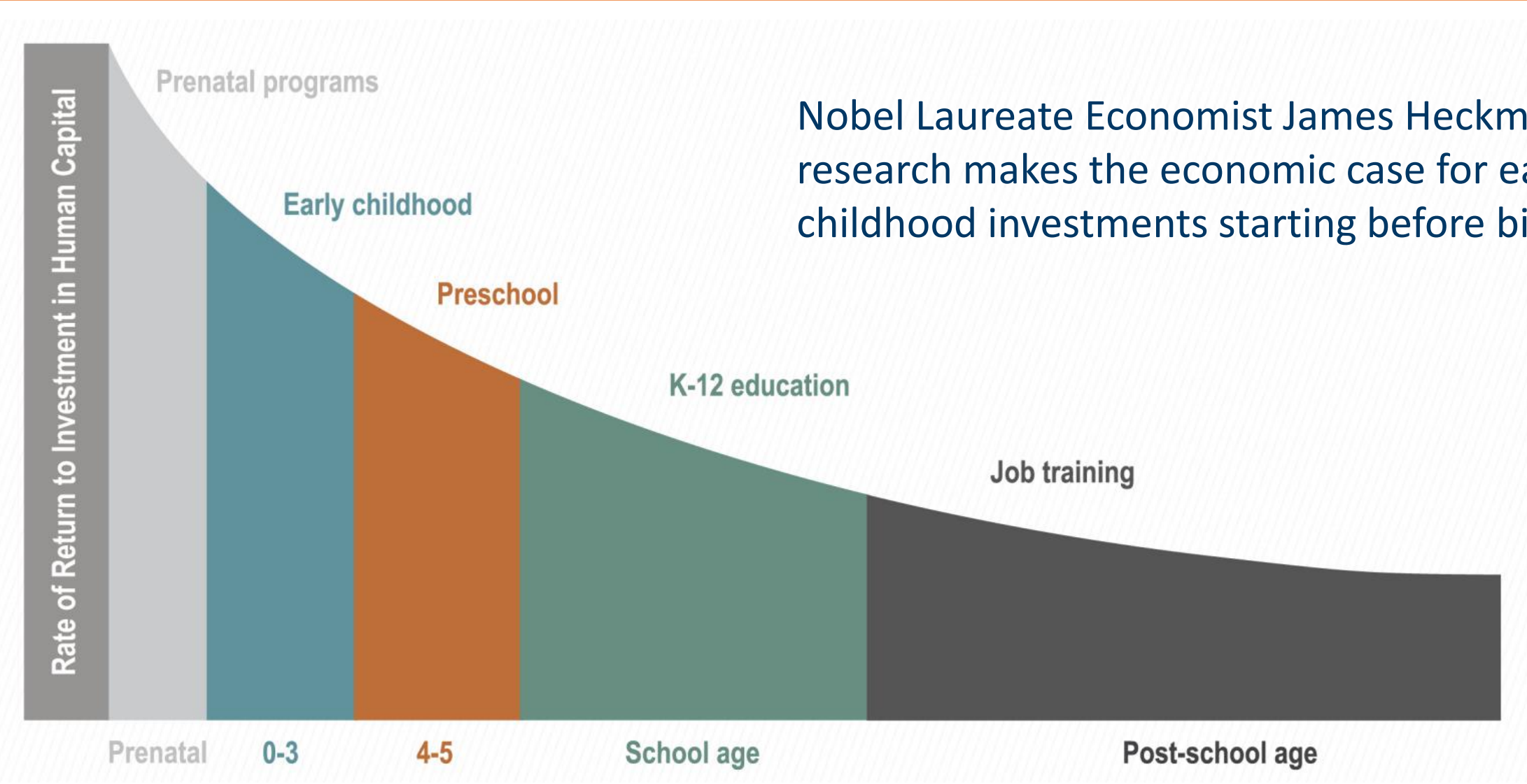
- Reductions in crime, welfare dependency, and child abuse and neglect
 - Decreased grade level retention, remedial education, and special education costs
 - Reduced health care costs and improved health outcomes
 - Earning gains associated with high school graduation
 - Advanced jobs and higher lifetime earnings
 - Overall positive health effects, including fewer underweight, overweight, and obese children
 - Increased maternal employment and income
- 



Benefits of Early Care and Learning: Economic Benefits

- Enables workforce participation
 - Creates jobs and supports economic growth
 - Reduces income inequality
 - Fosters innovation and productivity
 - Supports families
- 

Early Childhood Development is a Smart Investment



Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman's research makes the economic case for early childhood investments starting before birth.

Each child needs access to qualified early care and education teachers to have an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential and contribute to society.



THE CASE FOR QUALIFIED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION TEACHERS

Child Development Knowledge

Safety and Health

Education Support

Social and Emotional Support

Individualized Attention

Partnerships with Families

Timeline:

Prior to COVID-19

265,000 children enrolled in regulated childcare, 25% receiving subsidy
5,746 licensed childcare facilities
76% centers/255,600 children
24% homes/9,900 children
40,000 teachers and staff

December 2020

126,000 children enrolled in regulated childcare

Open facilities
Centers 93%
Homes 97%
39,000 teachers and staff

April 2022

218,411 children enrolled in regulated care

Total Sites: 5,600

Open Facilities
98% of Centers and Homes
38,917 teachers and staff

December 2023

221,081 children enrolled in regulated care

Total Sites: 5,404

41,773 teachers and staff

April 2020

60,000 children enrolled in regulated childcare

Subsidy stabilized + co-pays

Open facilities
Centers 49% & Homes 87%

20,000 teachers and staff

April 2021

185,000 children enrolled in regulated care

70% total pre-pandemic enrollment; **100%** pre-pandemic subsidy enrollment

Open facilities
Centers 93%
Homes 97%

39,000 teachers and staff

April 2023

223,504 children enrolled in regulated care

85% pre-pandemic enrollment

Open Facilities
100%

40,845 teachers and staff – back to pre-pandemic levels

QUALITY OF STAFF HIRED SINCE 2020

- **Lead Teachers**
 - 30% said their new hires were less educated
 - 35% said they were less experienced
- **Assistant Teachers**
 - 40% said the new hires were less educated
 - 43% said they were less experienced

CAREERS IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

CAREERS IN EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

A National Directory



Theresa Roedersheimer

Senior Early Childhood Policy Advisor

NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Dawn Winn-Burdo

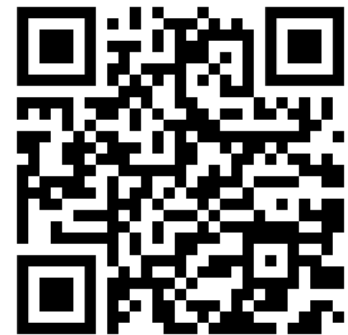
Training and Planning Development Supervisor

NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Do You Think a Career in ECE is for You?

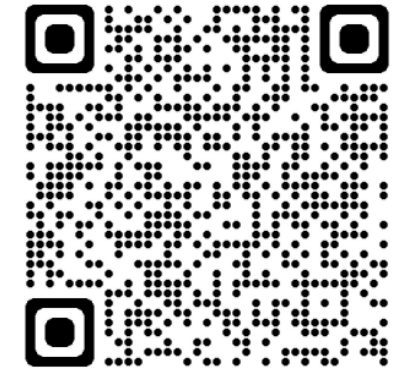
A pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship is a great place to start!

- Opportunity for **career exploration**
- Supportive career and educational pathway combining **on-the-job training** at a child care center with **related classwork**
- Building Bright Futures supports pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships with **resources, guidance, and financial support!**



Thank You!

Your feedback is important to us.
Please scan the QR code to complete a brief survey.



For more information on Building Bright Futures,
please contact:

Morgan Ford

Program Director

morgan.ford@nc.gov

Megan Johnson

Program Manager

megan.johnson@nc.gov



@NCBCEBBF

