



For Immediate Release: December 7, 2011

**Letter to the Editor:
Invest in Early Learning, Invest in the Greater Seacoast**

December 7, 2011

Dear Editor, friends and families of the seacoast:

Community Child Care Center of Portsmouth asks you to contribute to the prosperity of the seacoast by investing in its work. We've begun our Annual Appeal for the 45th year of caring for and educating children of the seacoast. Incorporated in 1967, we have become the premier center for quality early childhood education and school-age care, serving over 310 children from 250 families each day in five locations.

Quality early learning programs positively impact children for their entire lifetime. Child Care in NH, an Economic Impact Report lists significant outcomes from high quality programs: positive effects on IQ, reduction in juvenile delinquency, improved social skills and school readiness, and improved achievement test scores.

Right now, there is a huge gap in early learning in this country. Nationally, 34% of children in 4th grade are reading below basic 4th grade reading levels; in New Hampshire that statistic is 22%. One in every five kids has fallen behind. Nationwide, 40% of children ages 3-5 are not enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten; in New Hampshire that statistic is 37%. We are not doing the best for our children if each child is not ready to learn. These statistics negatively impact our state, our seacoast, and our quality of life.

We can all do better at ensuring that the future of our seacoast is bright. Current research shows that for every dollar spent, quality early learning yields \$17, increases tax revenues, and lowers costs for special education, welfare, and crime.

Please invest in Community Child Care Center of Portsmouth and you will be investing in the future of the seacoast for yourself, your children, and your community. Learn more at communitychildcarenh.org or call 603-422-8223.

Sincerely,

Deb Stokel
Community Child Care Center of Portsmouth