

FIRST 2000 DAYS GUIDE TO SOURCE MATERIALS

TOPIC: NATIONAL SECURITY

1. Military leaders are making early childhood a priority and senior retired officials have formed a national organization.
 - [Mission Readiness](#)
2. 77% of Americans aged 17-24 cannot meet the military's eligibility requirements. In NC it's 72%.
 - [Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve, Mission Readiness](#)
 - [Shut Out of the Military](#)
 - [Even More Young Americans Are Unfit to Serve, a New Study Finds. Here's Why.](#)

TOPIC: CRIME PREVENTION

1. Law enforcement professionals are speaking up about early childhood issues and have formed a national organization.
 - [Fight Crime: Invest in Kids](#)
2. At-risk children who didn't receive a high quality early childhood education were 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18
 - [The Link Between Early Childhood Education and Crime and Violence Reduction](#)

TOPIC: STATE BUDGET

1. In 2022, North Carolina spent more than \$3 billion on the Department of Justice and Public Safety and only \$230 million Division of Child Development During that same period.
 - [Open Budget: NC Reports on Demand](#)

TOPIC: ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

1. The US Chamber of Commerce says investments in early learning are imperative to the success of the American workforce.
 - [US Chamber of Commerce Foundation Solutions](#)

2. Students with children in the U.S. are struggling to attain high-quality credentials or post secondary degrees due to child care challenges.
 - [College Student Caregivers More Likely to Stop Classes](#)
3. Participants in high quality early childhood programs have higher earnings, pay more taxes and are less likely to rely on government assistance.
 - [The benefits and costs of investing in early childhood education: The fiscal, economic, and societal gains of a universal prekindergarten program in the United States, 2016-2050](#)
4. Children participating in high-quality early learning programs increases their graduation rate and earnings
 - [Adult outcomes of sustained high-quality early child care and education: Do they vary by family income?](#)

TOPIC: BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

1. The brain is one of the only organs not fully developed at birth; cells are formed, but connections happen in early childhood.
 - [What is Early Childhood Development? A Guide to Brain Development](#)
2. Early experiences determine how the brain is wired (graph).
 - [InBrief: The Science of Early Childhood Development](#)
3. Core concepts of brain architecture.
 - [Experiences Build Brain Architecture - Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University](#)

TOPIC: SOFT SKILLS

1. Nearly 55% of employers say they have a difficult time finding candidates with strong communication skills.
 - [4 in 10 business leaders say recent college grads are unprepared to enter workforce - Intelligent](#)

TOPIC: PROGRAMS THAT WORK

1. Young children that participated in preschool showed positive adult life outcomes in employment and health and were less likely to be involved in criminal activity.
 - [Lifetime Effects: The HighScope Perry Preschool Study through Age 40](#)
2. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education before entering

kindergarten later experience fewer special education placements, decreased grade retention, and improved high school graduation rates compared with peers who do not participate

- [Comprehensive Research Review Finds Lasting Effects of Quality Early Childhood Education through High School](#)
3. Children in NC Pre-K have higher math and reading test scores and reduced rates of special education placement
- [Scholars@Duke publication: Impact of North Carolina's Early Childhood Programs and Policies on Educational Outcomes in Elementary School](#)

TOPIC: ECONOMIC VALUE

1. Economist and Nobel Laureate James Heckman found that government dollars invested in early education have the greatest return on investment. For every dollar spent, the rate of return is 7-13%.
- [Early Childhood Education Has a High Rate of Return - The Heckman Equation](#)
2. Early education can strengthen our economy.
- [The Dual Return on Investing in Quality Early Childhood Programs - The Heckman Equation](#)
 - [Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis: Laying the Foundation](#)

TOPIC: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

1. Children that participated in high quality early learning programs with health screenings and nutrition had better adult health.
- [Heckman Research Summary: Abecedarian & Health](#)