

The Importance and Cost of High-Quality ECE

Presentation to

**Boosting Alaska's Economy: A Summit on the
Economic Impact of Early Care & Learning**

Jonathan King

October 30th, 2015



We Would Scream If We Lost 1/3 of this....

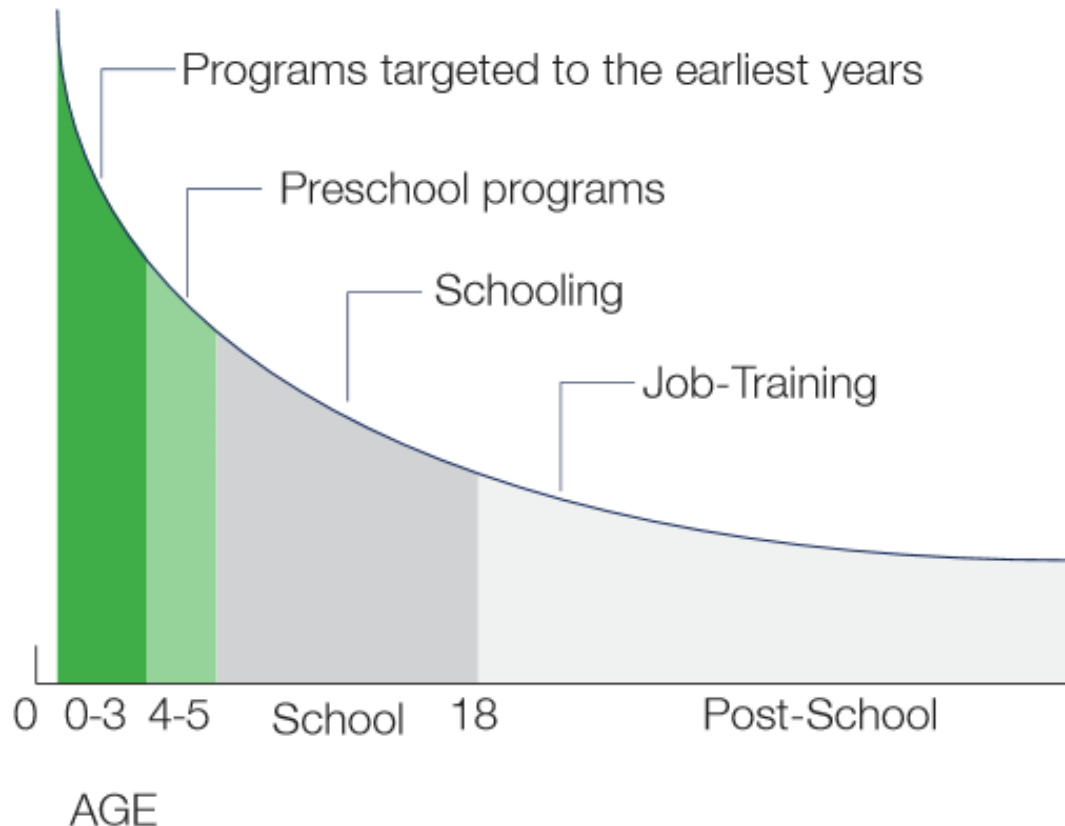


So Why Are We Willing to Lose 1/3 of this?



The Rate of Return is Highest Earliest

Rate of Return to Human Capital Investment at Different Ages



Why Care About Quality?



Why Care About Quality?

..... CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE HIGH QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION ARE

More likely to

Show improved reading
Show improved math
Stay in school longer
Graduate from high school
Attend a four-year college

Less likely to

Drop out of school
Repeat grades
Be placed in special ed

..... AND BY AGE 40, THEY ARE



24%

more likely
to own a home



18%

more likely
to be employed



53%

less likely to have
multiple arrests



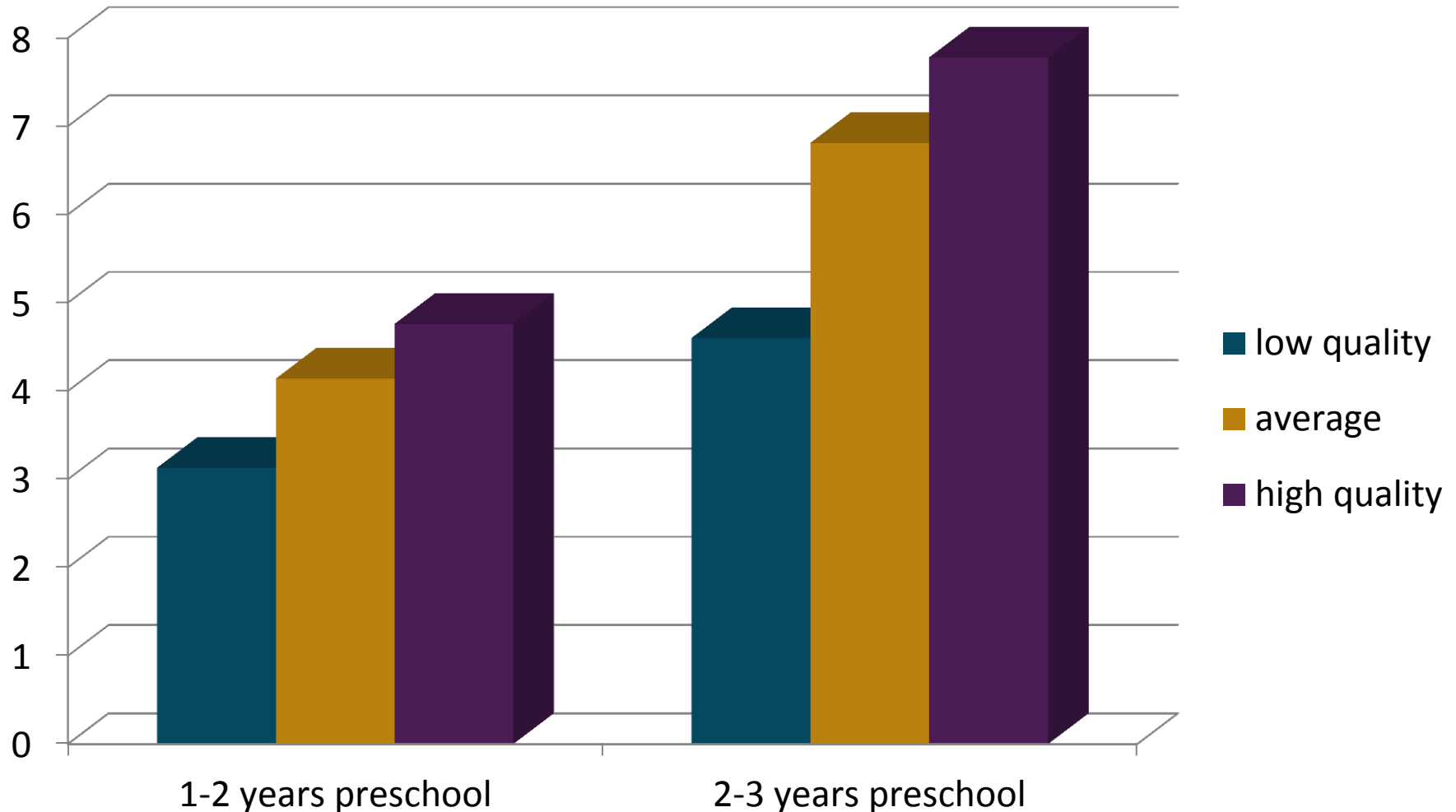
more likely to
make higher
earnings

THE STREET TO SUCCESS

ENGLAND - EPPSE longitudinal study - 3000+ children

Quality and Duration matter

months of developmental advantage on literacy – 5 year olds



Policy Impact in the UK

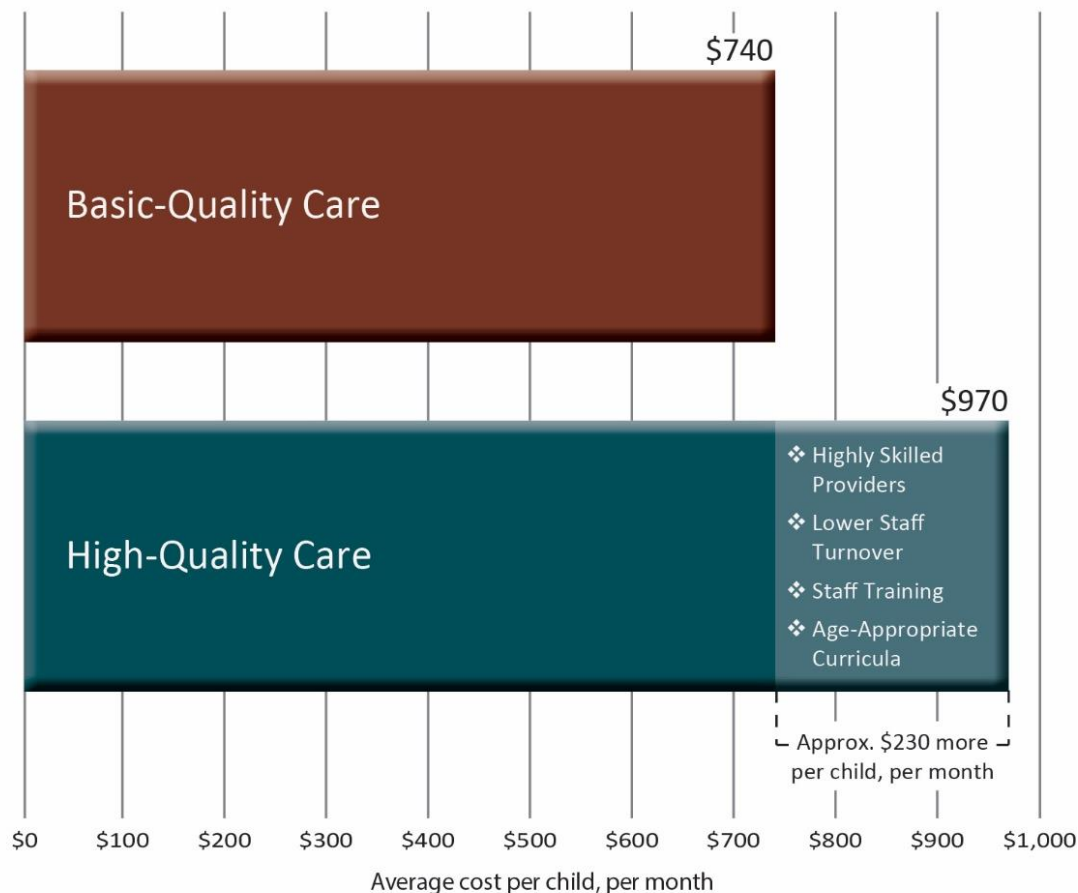
- **2004** - Free ECEC place from 3 years – 15 hours/week
- **2013** - Free ECEC place from 2 years – 15 hours/week
(40% most deprived)
- **2016** - 15 hours/week increases to 30 hours/week
- Maternity leave increased to 1 year
- New Early Years curriculum
- New training programs for EY staff
- Acceptance that EY is part of state responsibilities

What is Quality Care?

- It's a bit like some other things—you know it when you see it.
- Quality care comes from.....
 - Highly skilled practitioners supported by coaches and leaders.
 - Providers that have low-staff turnover because they invest in their practitioners via salary, benefits and training.
 - Providers and practitioners delivering age-appropriate curricula.
 - Giving children a stimulating and interactive environment.

Quality Care Costs More in Alaska

Higher-Quality Child Care Costs More



Quality Care Costs More—So What?

- It's time to think outside the box and long term.
 - In Utah, a directed program provide high-quality care to 595 low-income children who would not have gone to pre-school.
 - The program reduced the number of incoming kindergartners requiring special education services from 18 percent to less than 1 percent.
 - On average, the State of Utah is saving \$2,600 per child per year.
 - The cost of running the program in the first year was \$773,000 and the savings are running at over \$250,000 per year.
 - The State of Utah will double it's money in avoid costs before the first cohort leaves elementary school and the expectation in the long run is for this group alone to save \$1M in school costs by the time they graduate.
 - Cohort 3 entered pre-school this fall.