

Talking Points and Questions on Early Childhood

- Parents and families are a child's first and best teacher and play an integral role in preparing their children for success in school and in life. *How do you plan to support families and offer them good choices in early care and education as they prepare our youngest citizens for success?*
- Research shows that 90 percent of brain development occurs by age five, laying the foundation for learning for a lifetime. *How do you plan to educate families and create opportunities to capitalize on this window of opportunity?*
- Research shows that investing in early childhood is one of the most cost-efficient approaches to increasing education, health and economic outcomes. Nobel Prize winning economist, James Heckman, says that for every \$1 we spend for quality early childhood programs, we get \$7 in return over a child's lifetime. *In what ways do you plan to support early childhood programs so that Kentucky can benefit from this strong return on investment?*
- Children who experience quality early learning programs are healthier, more self-sufficient and less likely to enter the criminal justice system over their lifetime. *How do you plan to support high quality care and education programs for young children?*
- Kentucky has a statewide kindergarten entry screener giving us readiness data on every child entering school and allowing us to invest in programs that work. *How do you plan to use this data, along with other information, to make improvements in services to children and families?*
- Since 2000, Kentucky has dedicated 25 percent of Tobacco Settlement dollars to Early Childhood, but these funds have been in decline. *What is your plan to fund and sustain progress for these early childhood initiatives and programs?*
- Since 2011 Kentucky has had an 'early childhood headquarters' in the Governor's Office of Early Childhood coordinating, innovating and collaborating to streamline services for children and families. *Will you continue to make early childhood a focus in your administration and how do you plan to do that?*