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Telluride Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment: Ratifying the Telluride Principles

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- Telluride Summit is an annual “Davos-style” early care and education discussion forum
- Last year participants saw a need for a universally-understood context for business, government and service providers to discuss EC policies and programs
- Telluride Principles born of this recognition





- ✓ Telluride Principles are intended to provide a framework for successfully negotiating funding for early care and education investments
- ✓ Also a tool for use by early care and education advocates in building child development sector collaboration.
- ✓ Developed by participants at the September 2007 Telluride Summit, will be ratified at this second Summit in September 2008.
- ✓ Extensive consultation with, revisions based on comments by Telluride, Invest-in-Kids, other participants





“Long-term US economic strength depends on our future workforce. Investing in children is a vital economic growth strategy and a priority of business, government and philanthropy. Resources to invest in children are limited. To provide a framework for understanding and discussing how to allocate scarce resources, the Telluride Forum proposes the following principles --





- 1. Maximizing the life success of every child in America is our highest priority.**
- 2. Involvement of parents, family and other loving adults are crucial to a child's life success.**
- 3. Children are helped most and the economy is made strongest when scarce resources are allocated on the basis of the best evidence of what will lead to positive child outcomes.**
- 4. Sound performance evaluations can ensure goals are attained.**
- 5. Child development programs that use private and public incentives and are scalable will be stronger.**





- **Maximizing the life success of every child in America is our highest priority.**
 - Every child has an equal right to achieve his or her full potential.
 - The earliest investments in a child's development appear to have the highest returns and have the greatest effect if support continues through adolescence.
 - Achieving full potential requires attending to a child's physical, emotional, cognitive and social capabilities; cultural diversity, and unique needs.





- **Involvement of parents, family and other loving adults is crucial to a child's life success.**
 - For best development of the whole child, parents, families and other loving adults need to be involved, wherever possible, at every step.
 - There should be a variety of good options for obtaining high quality child development services.
 - Ending generational cycles of ineffective parenting is vitally important.





- **Children are helped most and the economy is made strongest when resources are allocated on the best evidence of what will lead to positive child outcomes.**
 - Public and private funders should allocate resources (for children and for other purposes) based on rigorous evidence of effectiveness in improving outcomes whenever possible.
 - Policy officials, service providers, and parents should be accountable to each other and to the children and families they serve.





- **Sound performance evaluations can ensure goals are attained.**
 - High quality child development programs need to have clear goals, rigorous evidence of likely success and draw on best practices – when possible, proven practices should be relied upon to ensure benefits.
 - Ongoing performance evaluation, flexibility and continuing quality improvement should be built in at the beginning of program operation and funding design and continue throughout.
 - Evaluations should never be used to penalize children.





- **Child development programs that use private and public incentives and are scalable will be stronger.**
 - Parent and family aspirations, and the incentives of for-profit, non-profit, and government health, nurturing and education providers, are powerful forces that can benefit every child and make the economy stronger.
 - Programs that can be replicated in other communities and expanded regionally or nationally are more desirable.
 - As programs are scaled up, they must not be watered down.

