

## Strong starts matter...

- ◇ 15 years ago, 70% of early learning programs in Delaware were mediocre or detrimental to children's development
- ◇ Today, over 50% of low-income children are in high-quality programs

## But we still have work to do...

Early learner survey data tell us **almost half of all children enter kindergarten without the skills they need.**

### Solutions:

- ◇ Continue to invest in quality incentives through Delaware Stars – and continue to increase standards over time
- ◇ Increase the base rate of child care subsidy so programs can serve children who need care the most and whose families could not otherwise afford it

## Act Now

- ◇ Call your legislator and **ask them to support the \$3.8M door opener for quality early learning** in the proposed Department of Education budget
- ◇ Encourage them to **continue to invest in the basic rate of child care subsidy** in the Department of Health and Social Services budget



**90% of brain growth occurs in the first five years of life**



- ◇ **35,457** children are in **495** Stars programs statewide
- ◇ And **82%** of Stars programs have undertaken the necessary and difficult work to reach a Star level **3** or higher, with **66%** of all programs at Star **4** or **5**

