

There is strong support for UK-based interventions in this first edition of *Investing in Children's* report on early years and education.

The well-established **Success for All** programme is producing £23 for every £1 invested. There is also backing for Save the Children's **FAST** programme, which uses schools as a context for boosting parenting skills.

The early analysis is demonstrating several routes towards better educational outcomes. Some are direct, such as **Reading Recovery** and tutoring interventions, and some indirect, for example getting parents involved in school.

It is encouraging that most beneficial options have a low unit cost, although many also carry a high risk of loss if all the components do not fall into place as planned.

Investing in Children has so far scrutinised a small proportion of available school-based interventions, and just two in the early years. Regular reports throughout 2012 will cover many other options.

Many of the approaches and programmes covered in the first editions of *Investing in Children* have an international reputation. As the work continues, the Social Research Unit will spread the net more widely, looking to cover locally developed interventions from across Europe.

Getting a local intervention assessed by the *Investing in Children* team requires two commitments. First, there must be transparent, verifiable information on the cost of the intervention. The second requirement is robust evaluation – at least one and ideally several studies of impact that use good metrics and that compare the progress of children getting the intervention with a control group that gets services as usual.

A full technical report on the work is available at: www.dartington.org.uk/investinginchildren

Investing in Children is one of a series of innovations being prepared by the Social Research Unit at Dartington that are designed to put useful evidence into the hands of hard-pressed policy makers, commissioners and practitioners.

Sitting at the heart of these initiatives are standards of evidence that connect the government's Magenta Book to all public systems, central and local, working to improve children's lives.

Later in 2012, Blueprints for Europe will provide a ready source of information for system leaders on how to implement models meeting high standards of evidence.

This resource will be accompanied by several publications designed to help European innovators to prove their good ideas and scale them with children who can most benefit.

The Dartington Rating will allow local organisations to self-assess their progress towards meeting high standards of evidence.

Investing in Children will be published on a regular basis, providing free and independent advice on the costs and benefits of competing investment options in children's services.

Each edition will focus on a specific children's services system, including:

YOUTH JUSTICE
EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION
CHILD PROTECTION & SOCIAL CARE
CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH

There will be several reports for each system each year, reflecting:

- Analysis of new interventions for which there is reliable data on impact and cost
- Improvements in the data sources on which the economic model relies
- Changing economic conditions

The objective is to provide reliable information independent from government, providers or programme developers.

For more information please call 01803 762400 or email unit@dartington.org.uk

The next editions will be available in:

SUMMER 2012

Investing in Children has been funded by Birmingham City Council and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities as part of their continued commitment to squeeze more value from local government investments, and by the Youth Justice Board as it seeks to reduce crime at lower cost to the taxpayer. Pro Bono Economics, an independent charity that matches volunteer economists with charities wishing to address questions around measurement, results and impact, has provided invaluable support.



The analyses and views presented are those of *Investing in Children* not the funding organisations. Further funds are sought to continue the supply of free and independent investment advice for children's services.

I.I.
APRIL 2012

YOUTH JUSTICE

EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION

CHILD PROTECTION & SOCIAL CARE

CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH

INVESTING
in children



Independent investment advice for children's services from the Social Research Unit at Dartington

COSTS & BENEFITS

EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION

			COST-BENEFIT SUMMARY									BENEFIT BY SYSTEM					
BLUEPRINTS FOR EUROPE	INTERVENTION TYPE	INTERVENTION	COST	BENEFITS TO TAXPAYERS	BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS	BENEFITS TO OTHERS	TOTAL BENEFITS	BENEFITS MINUS COSTS	BENEFIT - COST RATIO	RATE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENT	RISK OF LOSS	YOUTH JUSTICE	EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION	CHILD PROTECTION & SOCIAL CARE	CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH	PUBLIC HEALTH	OTHER
EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS																	
	Approach	Additional Day of Teaching	£21	£25	£50		£75	£54	£3.57	13%	41%						£75
	Approach	Bonus for Teachers	£54	£512	£1,045		£1,557	£1,503	£28.83	20%	0%						£1,557
	Programme	FAST (Families and Schools Together)	£225	£306	£619	£4	£929	£704	£4.12	16%	47%	£3			✓		£926
*	Programme	Good Behaviour Game	£108	£309	£457	£126	£892	£784	£8.26	13%	15%	£85			✓	✓	£807
	Approach	K-12 Tutoring by Adults	£1,578	£2,051	£4,184		£6,235	£4,657	£3.95	8%	4%						£6,235
	Approach	K-12 Tutoring by Peers	£804	£3,779	£7,708		£11,487	£10,683	£14.29	13%	1%						£11,487
**	Programme	Life Skills Training	£27	£134	£46	£165	£345	£318	£12.78	61%	2%	£112				✓	£233
	Approach	Parent Involvement Programmes	£653	£1,021	£2,082		£3,103	£2,450	£4.75	11%	33%						£3,103
	Programme	Quantum Opportunities Programme	£17,966	£6,890	£14,049	-£39	£20,900	£2,934	£1.16	5%	40%	£2					£20,898
**	Programme	Reading Recovery	£1,498	£5,576	£11,372		£16,948	£15,450	£11.31	12%	0%						£16,948
	Approach	Special Literacy Instruction for English as a Second Language	£222	£2,021	£4,123		£6,144	£5,922	£27.68	22%	35%						£6,144
**	Programme	Success for All	£192	£1,513	£3,086		£4,599	£4,407	£23.21	16%	19%						£4,599
	Approach	Tutoring for English Language Learners	£1,077	£3,277	£6,684		£9,961	£8,884	£9.25	15%	37%						£9,961
	Approach	Before and After School Programmes															
*	Programme	Behavioural Monitoring and Reinforcement Programme															
*	Programme	Breakthrough to Literacy															
	Approach	Class Size															
*	Programme	Co-operative Integrated Reading and Composition															
**	Programme	Curiosity Corner															
*	Programme	Direct Instruction															
*	Programme	Early Learning and Literacy Model															
	Approach	Increase Per-Child Expenditure															
*	Programme	Interactive Book Reading															
*	Programme	LIFT (Linking Interests of Parents and Teachers)															
**	Programme	PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)															
*	Programme	Penn Resiliency Programme															
*	Programme	Positive Action (Character Education)															
*	Programme	Power Teaching Math															
*	Programme	Quick Reads															
*	Programme	Read 180															
	Approach	Social and Emotional Learning															
	Approach	Summer Programmes															
*	Programme	Targeted Reading Intervention															
	Approach	Teacher Pay															
*	Programme	The Reading Edge															
EARLY YEARS INTERVENTIONS																	
*	Programme	Abecedarian Programme	£59,995	£3,302	£3,153	£623	£7,078	-£52,917	£0.12	n/e	100%	£420	£1,336			✓	£5,322
	Approach	Early Childhood Education	£5,865	£5,037	£7,955	£631	£13,623	£7,758	£2.32	6%	1%	£430	£707	✓	✓	✓	£12,486
*	Programme	High Scope/Perry Preschool	£2,380	£1,798	£2,458	£865	£5,121	£2,741	£2.15	6%	17%	£593				✓	£4,528
	Approach	Full-day versus Half Day Kindergarten															

* Intervention rated good enough for current use by public systems

** Indicates the best interventions n/e Not estimated