

Toddlers can save New York

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Who can help save New York from its fiscal conundrum? Toddlers can, according to the non-profit organization America's Edge.

The organization released a report today showing that if the state were to invest in child care and pre-kindergarten, the programs would create jobs, provide a large boost to local business sales and produce long-term economic growth.

The report also shows that for every \$1 invested in New York pre-k and child care, \$1.86 is generated in additional spending for the state. This return on investment would come from real estate, restaurants and wholesale manufacturers, according to the report.

The report estimates that if all New York children were given an additional \$3.6 billion in total, the return on investment would generate \$6.7 billion in new spending from businesses.

In addition to the economic effects, members from the organization say the added child care and pre-kindergarten would equip children with better reading and math skills, improving their chances of success in the education system, and in life.

"High-quality early education pays for itself over the long term," said Lori King-Kocsis, New York director of America's Edge, which describes itself as "a business leaders' organization that works to educate

the public that smart investments in kids are the key to success in today's global marketplace."

Sen. Martin Golden, R-Brooklyn, made a short appearance and speech at the press conference this afternoon to announce the findings of the report. Other legislators in support of the funding are Assemblyman Ron Canestrari, D-Cohoes and Sen. Velmanette Montgomery, D-Brooklyn.

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