Perks of Preschool

**ASD Preschool**
- General Education & Special Education programs
- High quality learning opportunities for success in kindergarten
- Building a strong foundation for school success
- Focus on all areas of development (social/ emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy, math)
- Embedded, intentional learning through play
- 4-year-old children attend 4 hours/day = **648 hours of learning prior to Kindergarten!**

-> ... every $1 invested in quality early childhood programs can yield returns between $4 and $16¹

-> Children that attend preschool are **MORE** likely to graduate from high school²

-> Children that attend preschool are **LESS** likely to:
  - Need special education²,³
  - Be arrested¹
  - Require social services¹
  - Be retained in a grade²
  - Be suspended from school⁴

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Endnotes
1 García, Heckman, Leaf, & Prados (2016), as cited in First Five Years Fund [FFYF] (2016)
4 Heckman, J. J. (2016). There’s more to gain by taking a comprehensive approach to early childhood development. Chicago, IL: The Heckman Equation
ASD Facts

Only **19.28%** of incoming kindergartners in ASD met all 13 goals on the Alaska Developmental Profile (kindergarten readiness assessment)

374 children served in general education preschool programs

Children attending preschool programs in ASD outperform their peers in literacy and math in kindergarten

**ASD Kindergarten Students Receiving Special Education Services (% Proficient)**

- **Letter Sound Fluency**
  - Fall 2019: 31.6%, 29.1%
  - Fall 2018: 41.4%, 38.8%
  - Fall 2017: 29.7%, 32.3%

- **Number Identification**
  - Fall 2019: 47.2%, 34.6%
  - Fall 2018: 46.6%, 37.7%
  - Fall 2017: 38.4%, 37.4%

**ASD Kindergarten Title I Students (% Proficient)**

- **Letter Sound Fluency**
  - Fall 2019: 42%, 38%
  - Fall 2018: 51%, 37%
  - Fall 2017: 51%, 35%

- **Number Identification**
  - Fall 2019: 53%, 55%
  - Fall 2018: 58%, 46%
  - Fall 2017: 53%, 47%

22 general education preschool programs

About **10%** of Anchorage 4-year-olds attend a general education ASD program

470 children on waitlists for current programs