

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910965208103321
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Titolo	From early child development to human development : investing in our children's future // editor, Mary Eming Young
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : World Bank, c2002
ISBN	9786610088072 9781280088070 1280088079 9780821388938 0821388932 9780585456447 0585456445
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xii, 406 pages : illustrations ; ; 23 cm
Classificazione	BUS020000
Altri autori (Persone)	YoungMary E. <1955->
Disciplina	305.231
Soggetti	Child development Child health services Early childhood education
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Proceedings of a World Bank conference ... Washington, D.C., April 10-11, 2000"--Verso t.p.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Foreword; Acknowledgments; Chapter 1 Introduction and Overview; I. The Benefits of Investing in Young Children; II. Measuring the Early Opportunity Gap; III. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Early Childhood Programs; IV. The Private Sector's Influence on the Public Sector; V. Investing in the Future: Action and Policy; Authors; Index
Sommario/riassunto	It is never too early to become involved but it can easily be too late.'Armed with such alarming statistics as 125 million primary-school age children are not in school; another 150 million children drop out of primary school before they complete four years of education; and almost one-half of the children in the least developed countries of the world do not have access to primary education; the World Bank convened a global conference in April 2000, to address the benefits and challenges of investing in early childhood development. Scientific studies now show how critical the first few years o

