

Rochester Area Foundation - News & Publications**Quote of the Moment...**

Always plan ahead. It
wasn't raining when Noah
built the ark

~Richard C. Cushing ~

Make the most of kids' potential

By Mary Wellik

Wed, Aug 31, 2005

In the past several years, there has been extensive media coverage of the incredible knowledge we are gaining about brain development in babies. Seventy-five percent of a child's brain development occurs by age 5. Current local data indicates that more than half of our children need a higher level of preparedness to enter kindergarten.

It is more challenging and important than ever that we make the most of every preschool child's potential. We want every child, when they enter kindergarten, to be ready to learn -- socially, emotionally and physically. As families, child care providers, friends and community organizations we will need to learn to more effectively provide the best environment, stimulation and protection for every child.

The Rochester Area Foundation, through the First Steps Program, has a well-researched plan that will help that happen. They have partnered with Public Health, Social Services, Rochester Public Schools, Child Care Resource and Referral, and other community organizations in this important initiative. Not only is this important to each child; it is important to our community as we invest in the workforce of our future.

If you have children in your family, your neighborhood or your future; check out the First Steps Web site (www.FirstSteps.us) to learn what you can do to support their growth and development.

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