



Positive Parenting and Social Inclusion: Vulnerability of Families with Children

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Overview

Part 1: Why look at Early Childhood and Parenting NOW

Part 2: The Evidence

Part 3: Nurturing Care



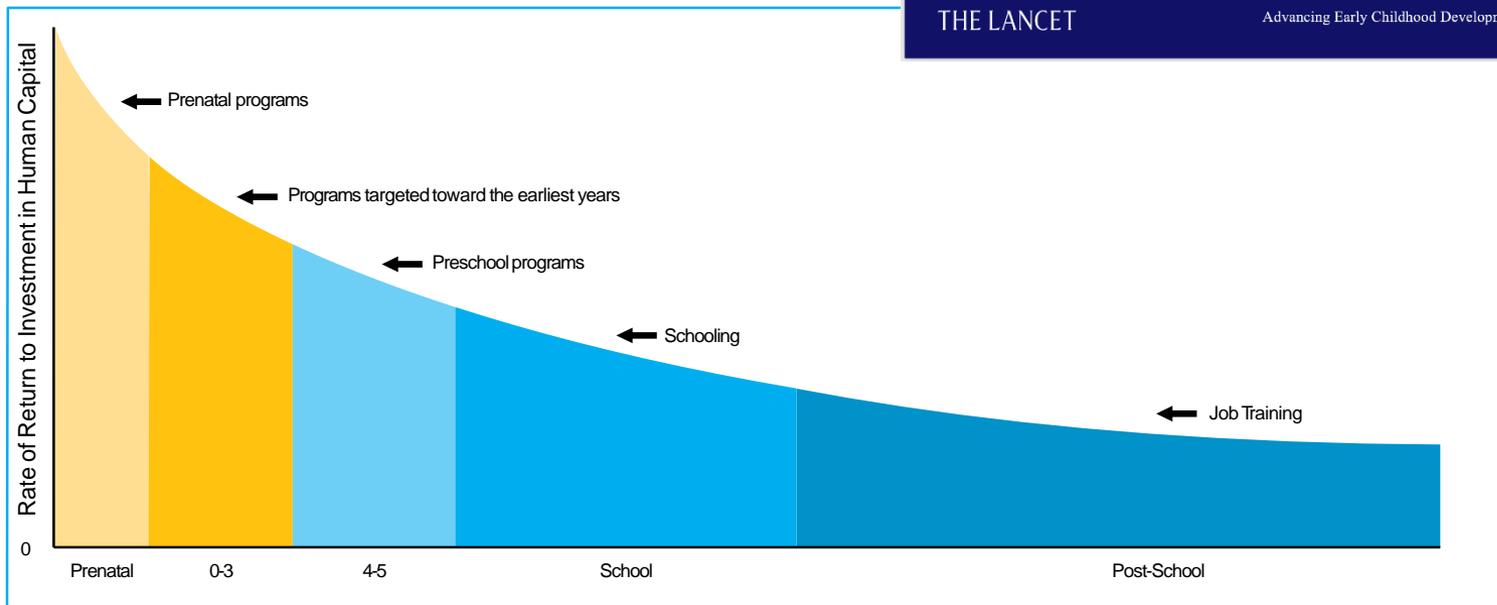
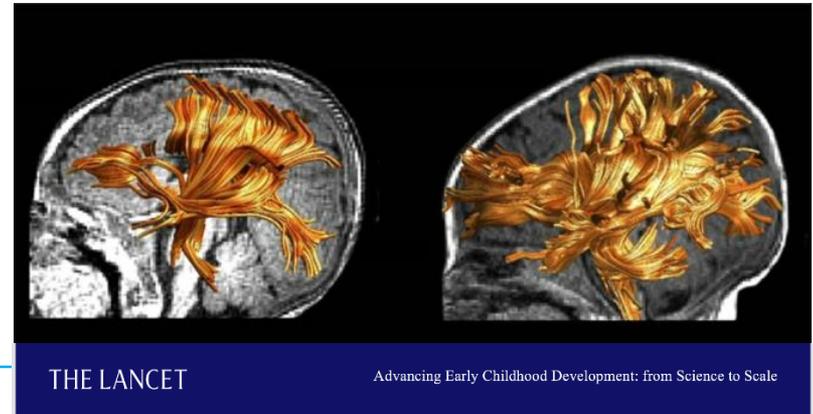
Why look at ECD and Parenting?

- ❑ **Normative: ECD is a right:** Global Commitment SDGs, Target 4.2
- ❑ **Neuroscience and Economic Argument**
- ❑ **Social Returns:** Evidence on ECD as an important platform that can facilitate social cohesion
- ❑ **ECD can promote Gender equality:** Family-Friendly policies, Parenting support, Fathers



Economic Evidence

Early Childhood is the foundation of sustainable development



Economic Benefits of Investing in Early Childhood Development

- ❑ **Return on investment for individuals:** 25% increase in earnings as an adult.
- ❑ **Return on investment for societies:** 13% annually if all children born today could be educated to a basic level of literacy and numeracy skills in LMICs.
- ❑ **ECD Programmes are affordable:** On average, ECD programmes cost \$0.50 *per capita* per year
- ❑ **The cost of inaction is high:** Governments spend 2-3 times the cost of ECD programmes in related health and education programmes ***by not making these initial investments from the start of a child's life.***

5 Key Messages from Neuroscience



Message 1: The relationship between genes and environment is closer than ever before

Message 2: Timing matters - early intervention is the answer

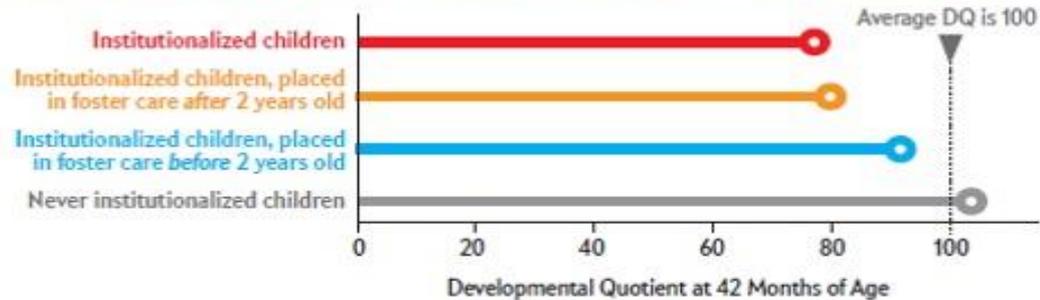
Message 3: Toxic stress during early childhood = lifelong impact

Message 4: Brain complexity - not homogenous but interconnected

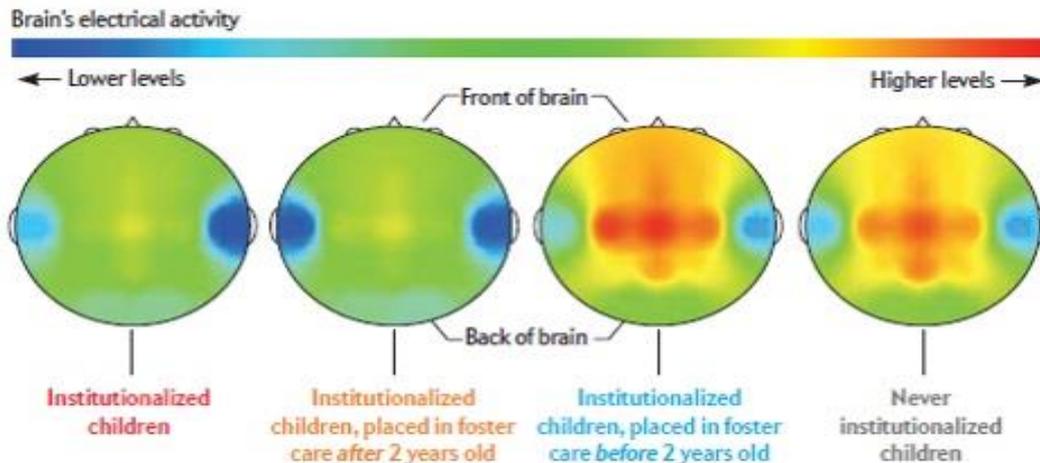
Message 5: Nourishing the mind = nutrition + stimulation

Early Intervention is Key!

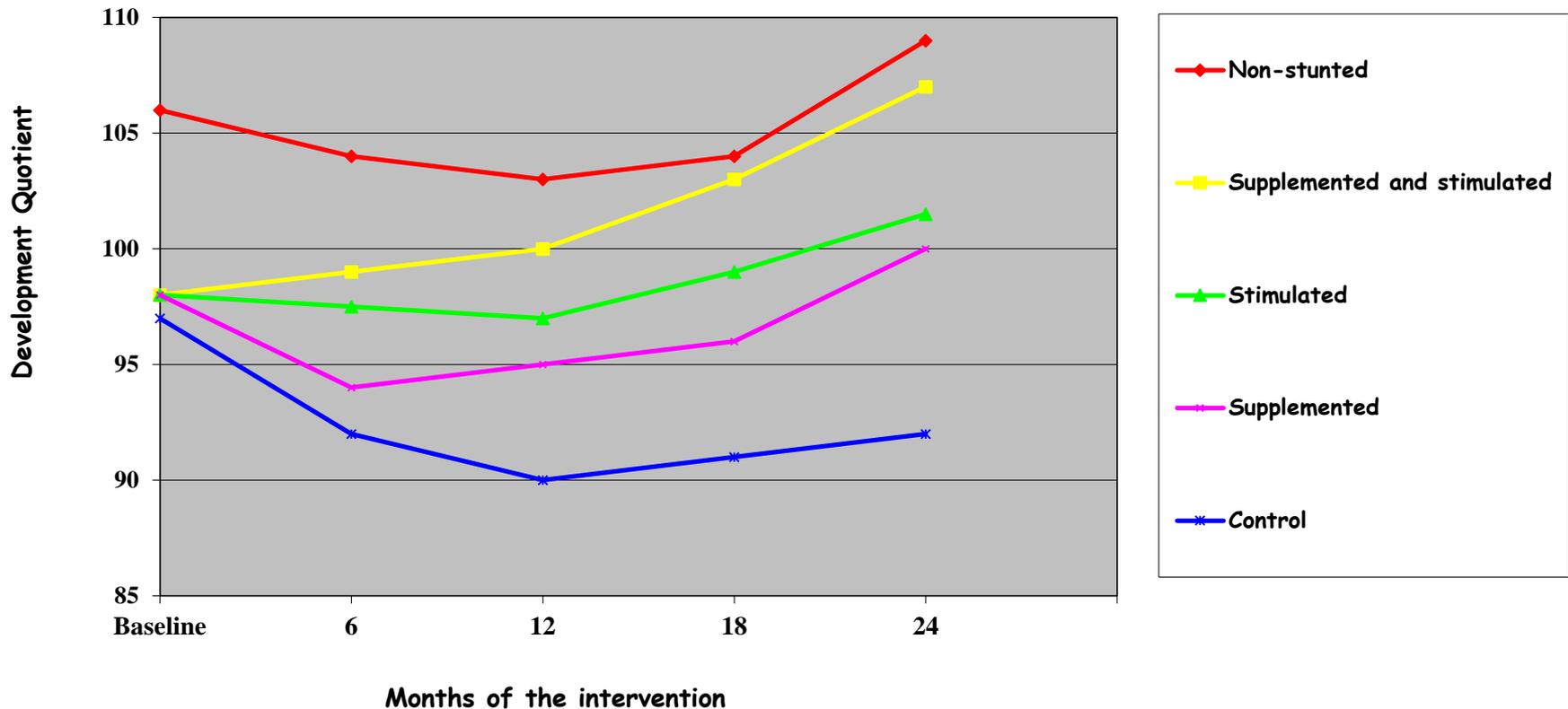
Early Entry into Foster Care Resulted in Higher Average Intelligence ...



... and Brain Functioning at Age 8 Almost Matched That of Never Institutionalized Children



Nutrition + Stimulation Makes the Difference



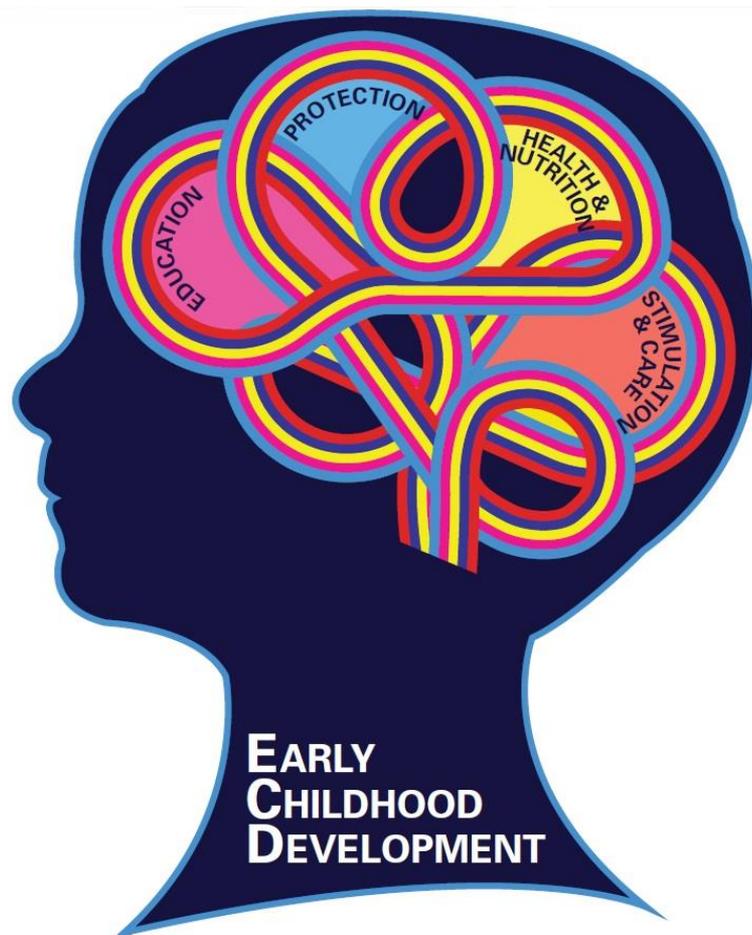
Development quotient includes practical reasoning, eye and hand coordination, hearing and speech, and performance. S.M. Grantham-McGregor, et al. (1991).

Ingredients of Healthy Early Childhood Development

The healthy development of a baby's brain depends on **nurturing care**



Implications for Programming: A child with such an Inter-related Brain is going to need Multi-sectoral Action!



CONCLUSION

- To ensure social inclusion and the critical period of brain development in early childhood development, supporting parents and families is absolutely critical
- “Parenting support is a set of (service and other) activities oriented to improving how parents approach and execute their role as parents and to increasing parents’ child-rearing resources (including information, knowledge, skills and social support) and competencies.”
- Moving from parents as trainees to parents as partners, in line with appreciative inquiry approaches.