




Human Development


Early child development
is the first
and *most critical*
phase of human growth.



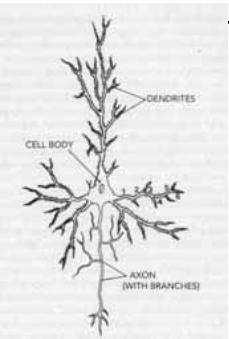
COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Brain Development

A child's capacity for
learning and relating
occurs early in
brain development.



COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

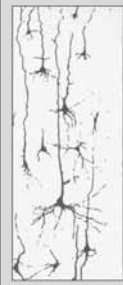




“The nerve cell, or neuron resembles a miniature tree...”
A newborn has @100 billion neurons when they are born and form 1 trillion connections by the time they are 3
Diamond & Hopson, 1998

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

03-012

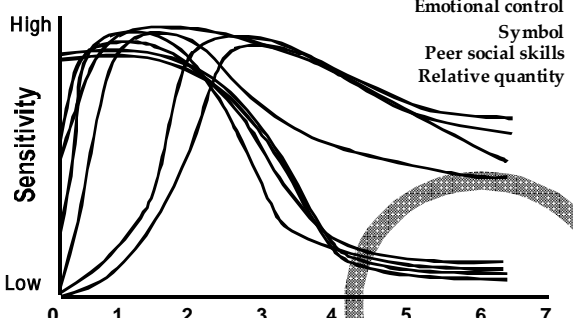
Synaptic Density

At Birth	6 Years Old	14 Years Old
		

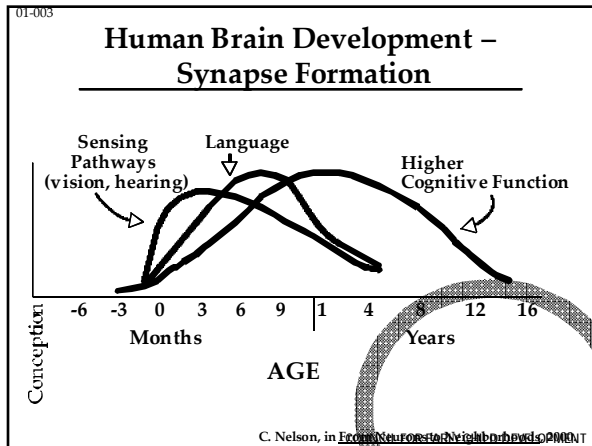
Rethinking the Brain, Families and Work Institute, Rima Shore, 1997.

‘Sensitive periods’ in early brain development

Binocular vision
Central auditory system
Habitual ways of responding
Language
Emotional control
Symbol
Peer social skills
Relative quantity



COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Quality

The quality of the child's early experiences is critical: nurturing relationships, quality stimulation, and good nutrition optimize brain development.

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Early Child Development and Language

- Brain development starts early – first 7 months
- Sets capability for mastering multiple languages
- Sets literacy and language trajectory by age 3

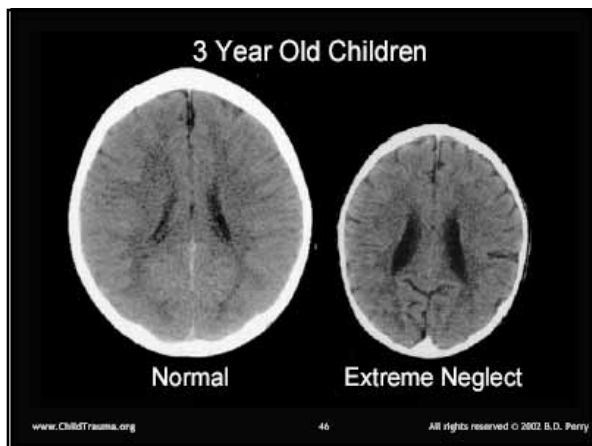
COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

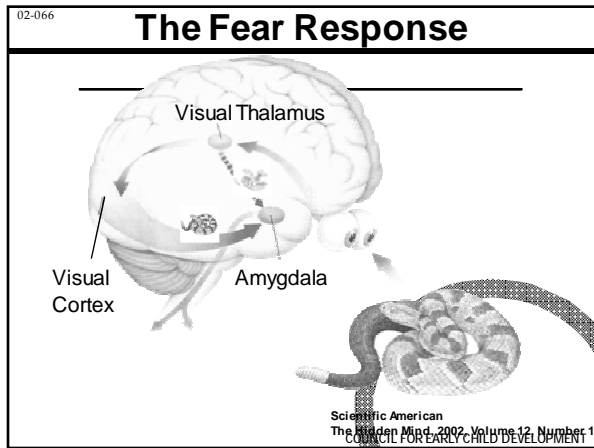
06-085

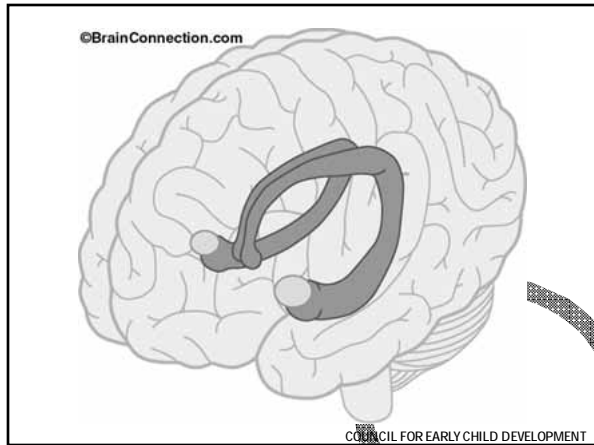
Early Development and Behaviour

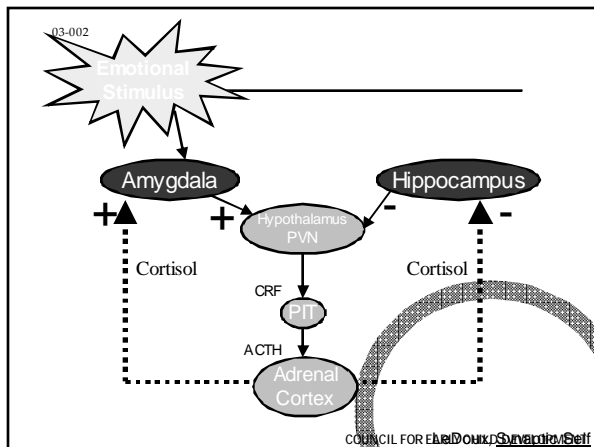
- Antisocial
- Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism
- Mental Health (Depression)
- Addiction to drugs and alcohol

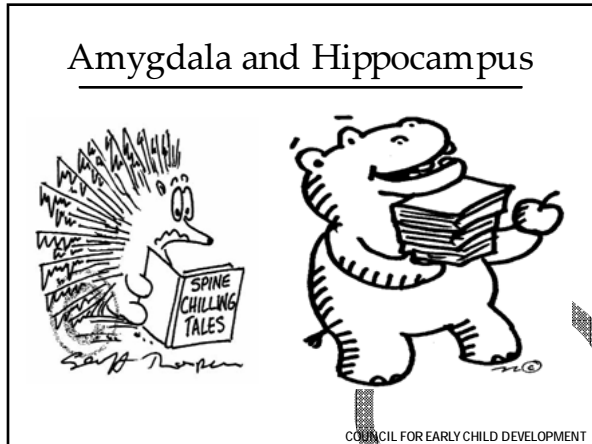
COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT



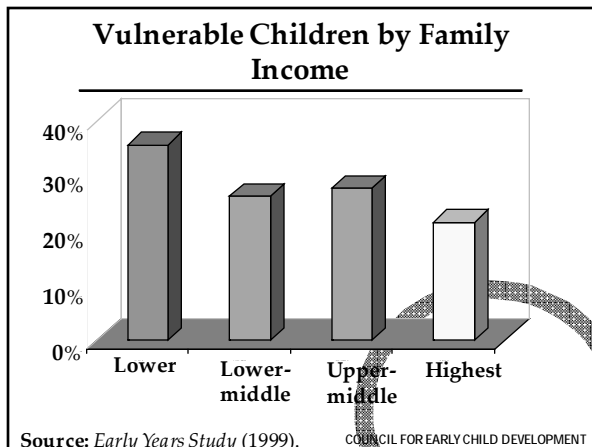












Early Development Instrument (EDI)

- ◊ Physical health and well-being
- ◊ Social knowledge and competence
- ◊ Emotional health/maturity
- ◊ Language and cognitive development
- ◊ Communication skills and general knowledge

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Parents

Sensitive, responsive parenting is the single most important benefit children can receive during their early years (Collins et al., 2000; Willms, 2002).

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

By First Grade...

Approximately 1 in 4 (28%) of Canadian children has a behaviour or learning problem when they enter first grade.

— National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 2004

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**Vancouver
Grade 4 and Grade 7 Tests**

Proportion of children failing to meet Grade 4 and Grade 7 test standards correlates strongly with proportion of children vulnerable on the EDI index at time of school entry.

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE
DON'T INVEST IN THE
EARLY YEARS?**



A missed opportunity.....

01-040

**Levels of Literacy:
A Reflection of ECD**

Level 1: indicates persons with very poor skills.

Level 2: people can deal with material that is simple. @40% of adult Canadians at 1&2

Level 3: is considered a suitable minimum for coping with the demands of everyday life.

Level 4: people who demonstrate command of higher-order processing skills.

Level 5: competence in sophisticated reading tasks, managing information and critical thinking skills. @ 5% of pop.

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Downstream effects of poor ECD

- Mental health
- Crime
- Addictions
- Child welfare
- Illiteracy and Unemployability

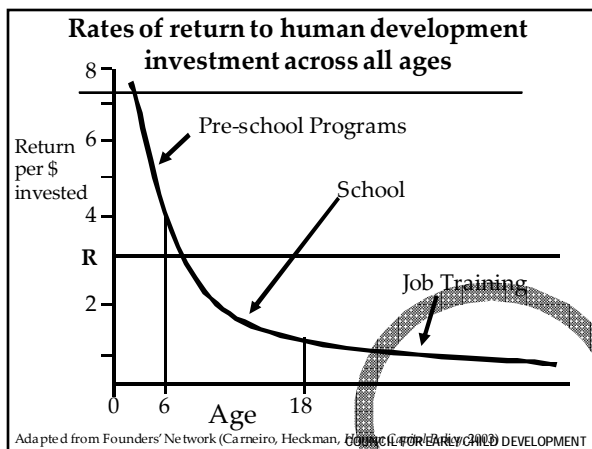
COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

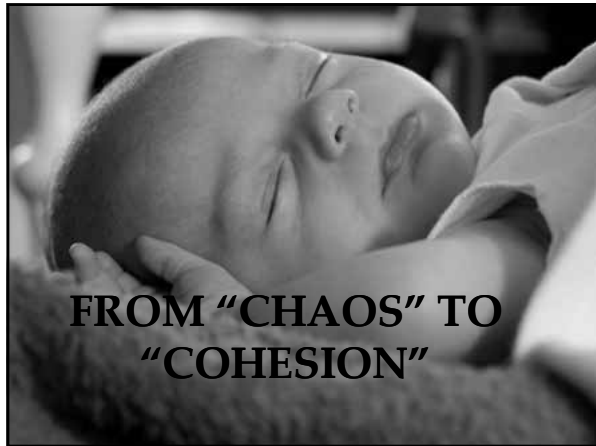
07-158

Cost to Individuals and Canadian Society of Poor Early Child Development (estimates)

Crime	\$120 Billion/year
Mental Health and Behaviour	\$100 Billion/year

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT



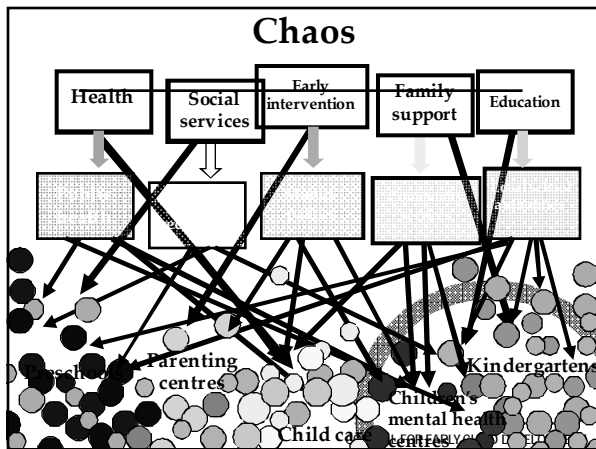


Where are we now with early child development?


A chaotic three-level system



COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Moving to coherence:
**An integrated approach
to
early child development**

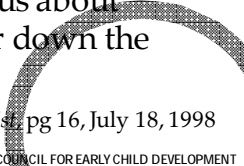


COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Education

“The principle of free education for school-age children is already entrenched throughout the rich world; there would be nothing incongruous about extending it further down the age range.”

The Economist, pg 16, July 18, 1998




COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

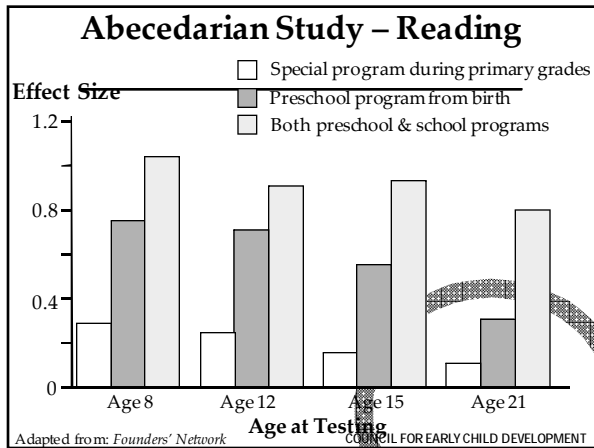
What Provides the Best Results for Early Child Development?

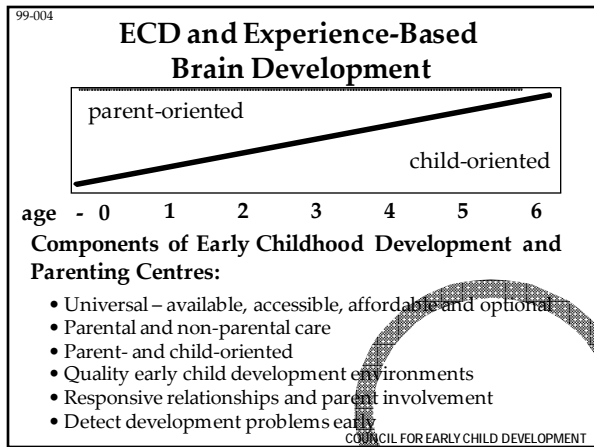
Full year Centre-based ECD-P programs that:

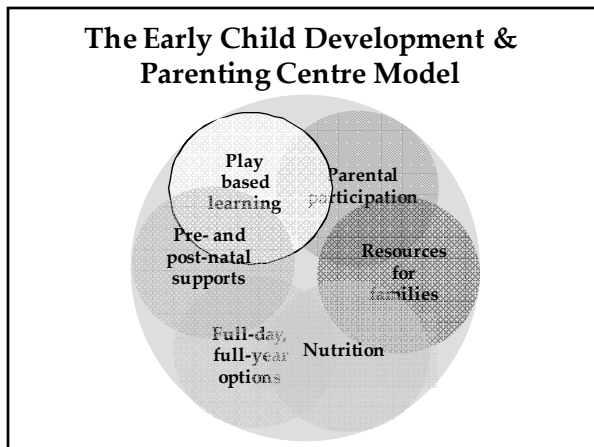
- Start early
- Involve parents
- Home visiting
- Qualified staff in neuroscience and development
- Provide non parental care



COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT









Where do we start?

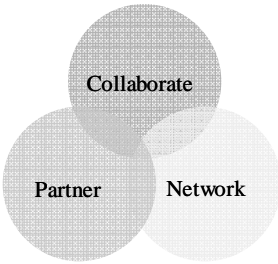
- Foster the Leadership of “self” so that we are able to collaborate.
- Messaging and Evidence- no data/no problem/no action
- Build on what’s already working
- Create an open and transparent process that everyone is invited to participate in.

COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT



The People

- Service providers & citizens join forces
- Changes result from relationship building
- Share knowledge, build trust...take action



Slide created by The Early Years Planning Group, Woodstock (Carleton County, New Brunswick):




the COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Putting science into action for children

What is the Council for Early Child Development?

- Formed around the recommendations of the *Early Years Study* (1999), co-chaired by the Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain and Fraser Mustard
- A national, non-profit, non-governmental organization supporting community change through network building and knowledge exchange.



COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Getting Involved

www.councilecd.ca

www.earlychilddevelopment.ca



COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT
