

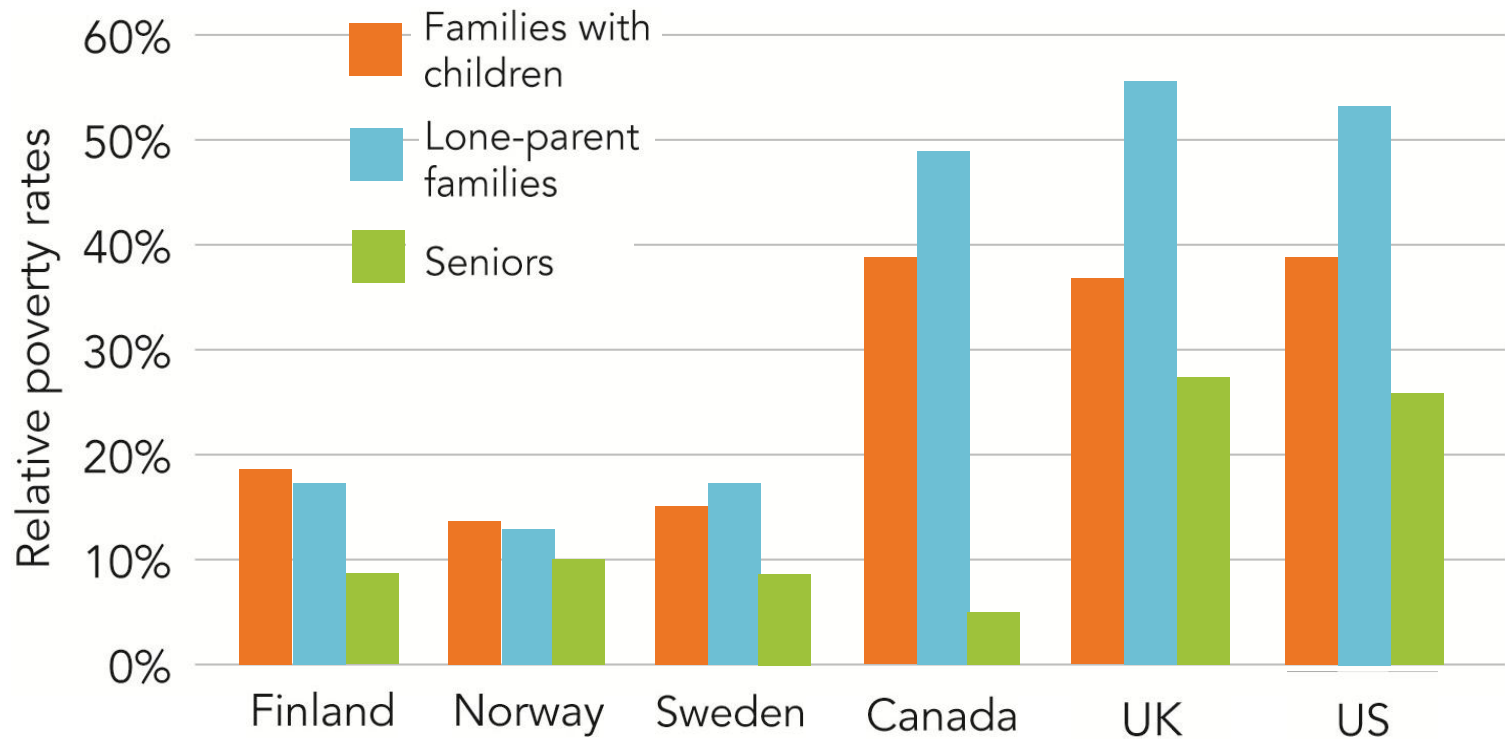


# *Early Years Study 3:* Getting right from the start

Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain  
Victoria, B.C. June 2, 2013



# Relative poverty rates for three social risk categories

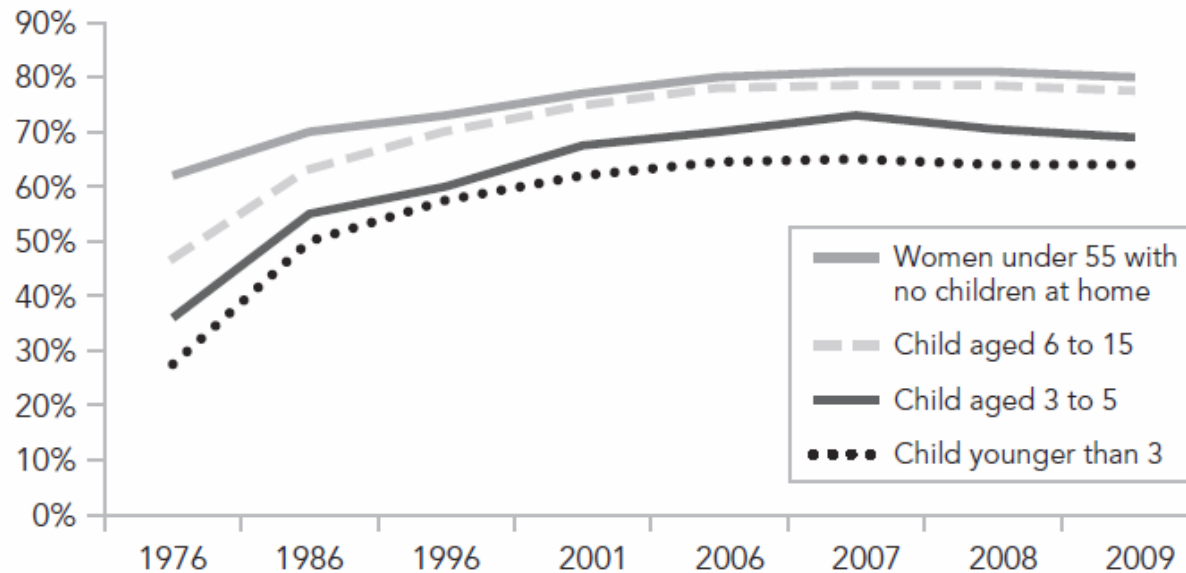


Source: Commission on Social Determinants of Health. (2008). p. 85.



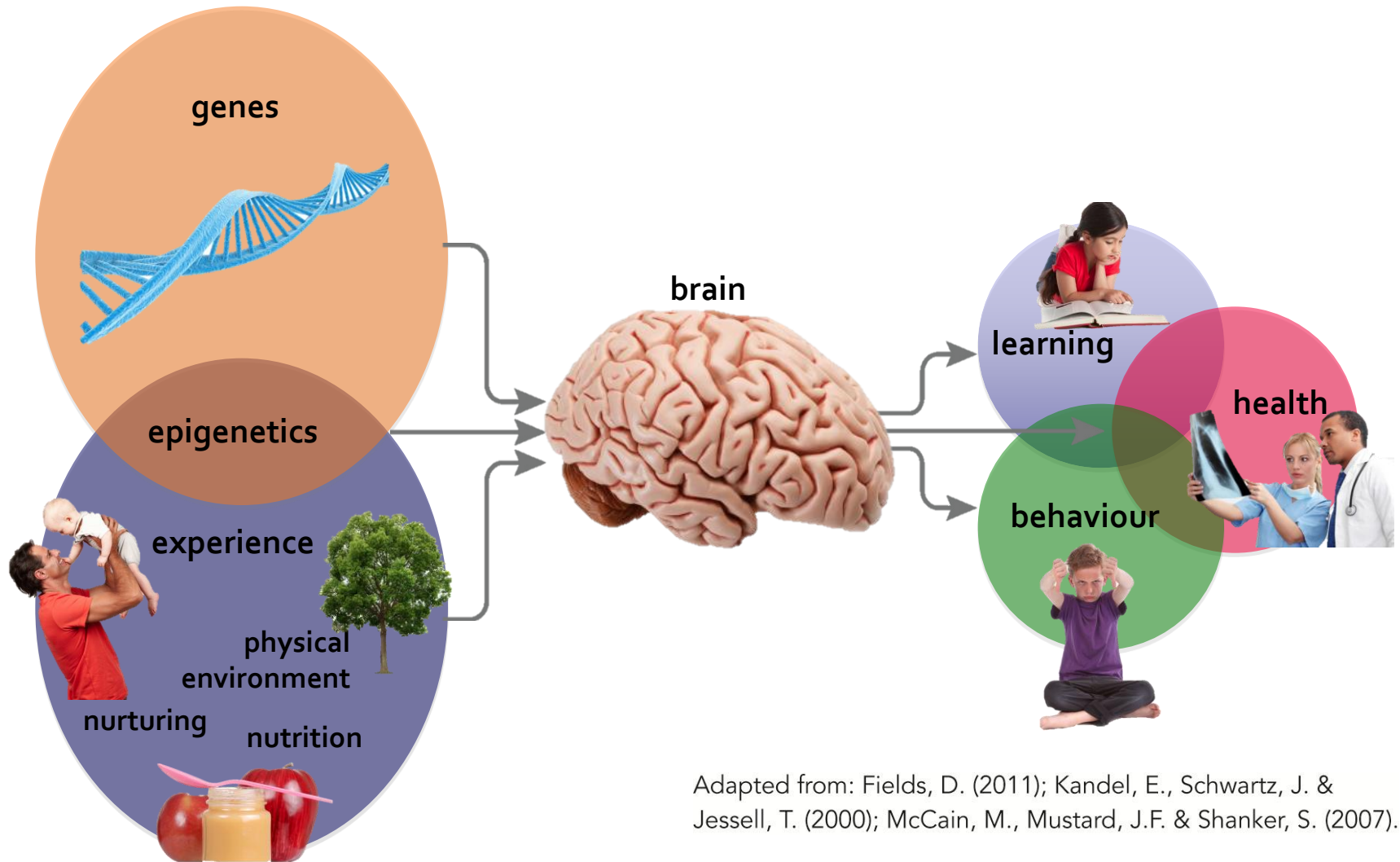
# Mothers' labour is essential

**Employment rate of women with children by age of youngest child, 1976 to 2009**



Source: Statistics Canada. (2011).

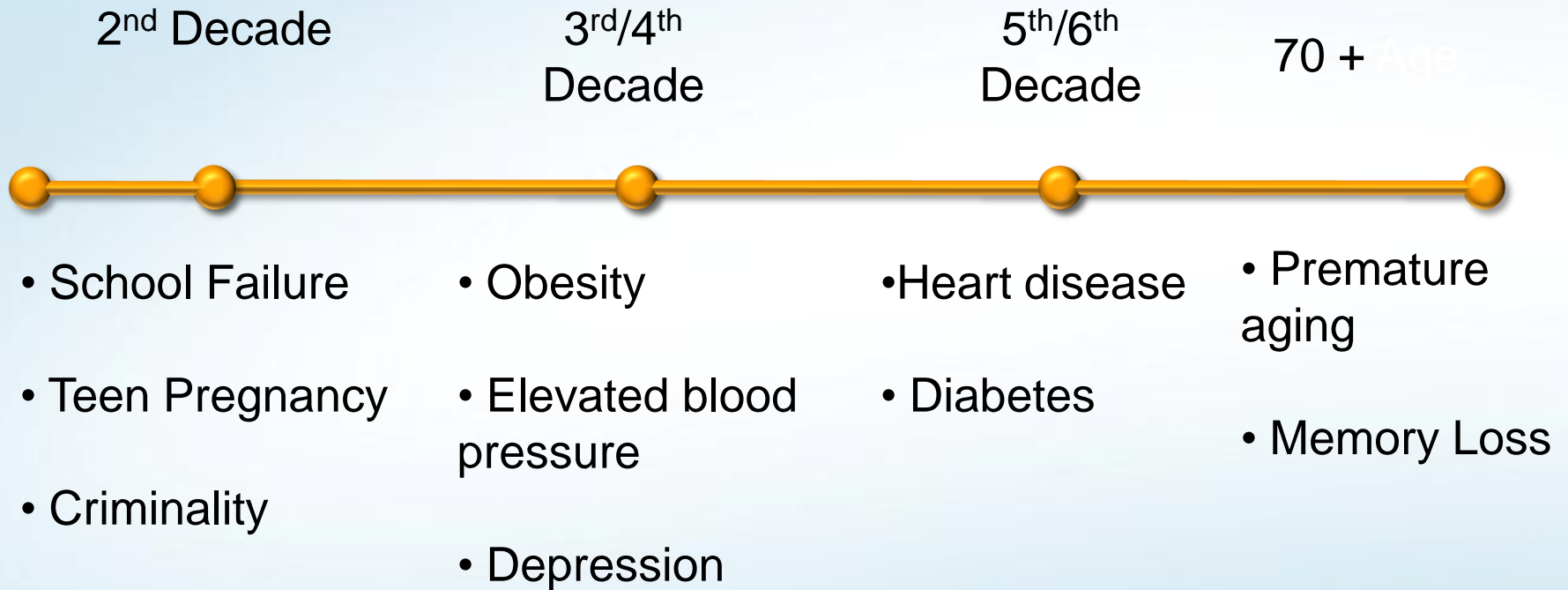
# Experienced-based brain development



Adapted from: Fields, D. (2011); Kandel, E., Schwartz, J. & Jessell, T. (2000); McCain, M., Mustard, J.F. & Shanker, S. (2007).



# Life course problems related to early life

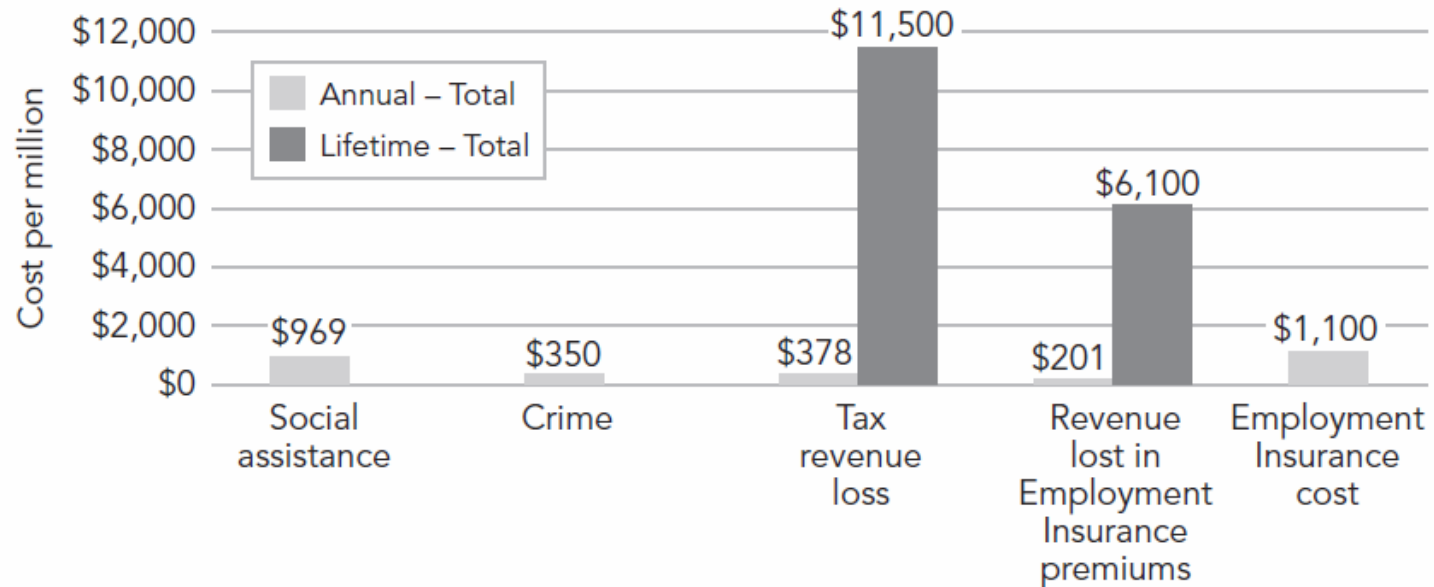




# Cost of early school leavers

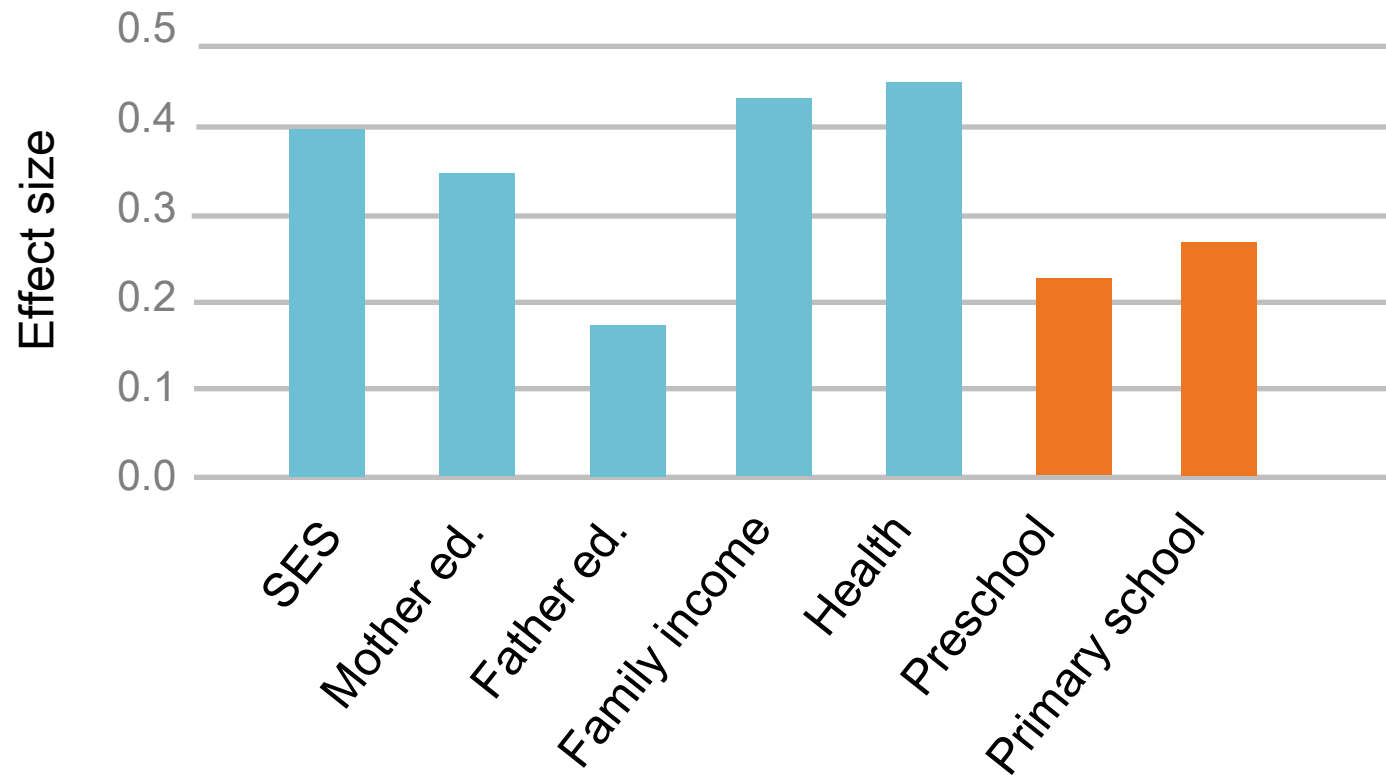
FIGURE 1.10

## Public costs of high school non-completion in Canada by cohort (2008 dollars)



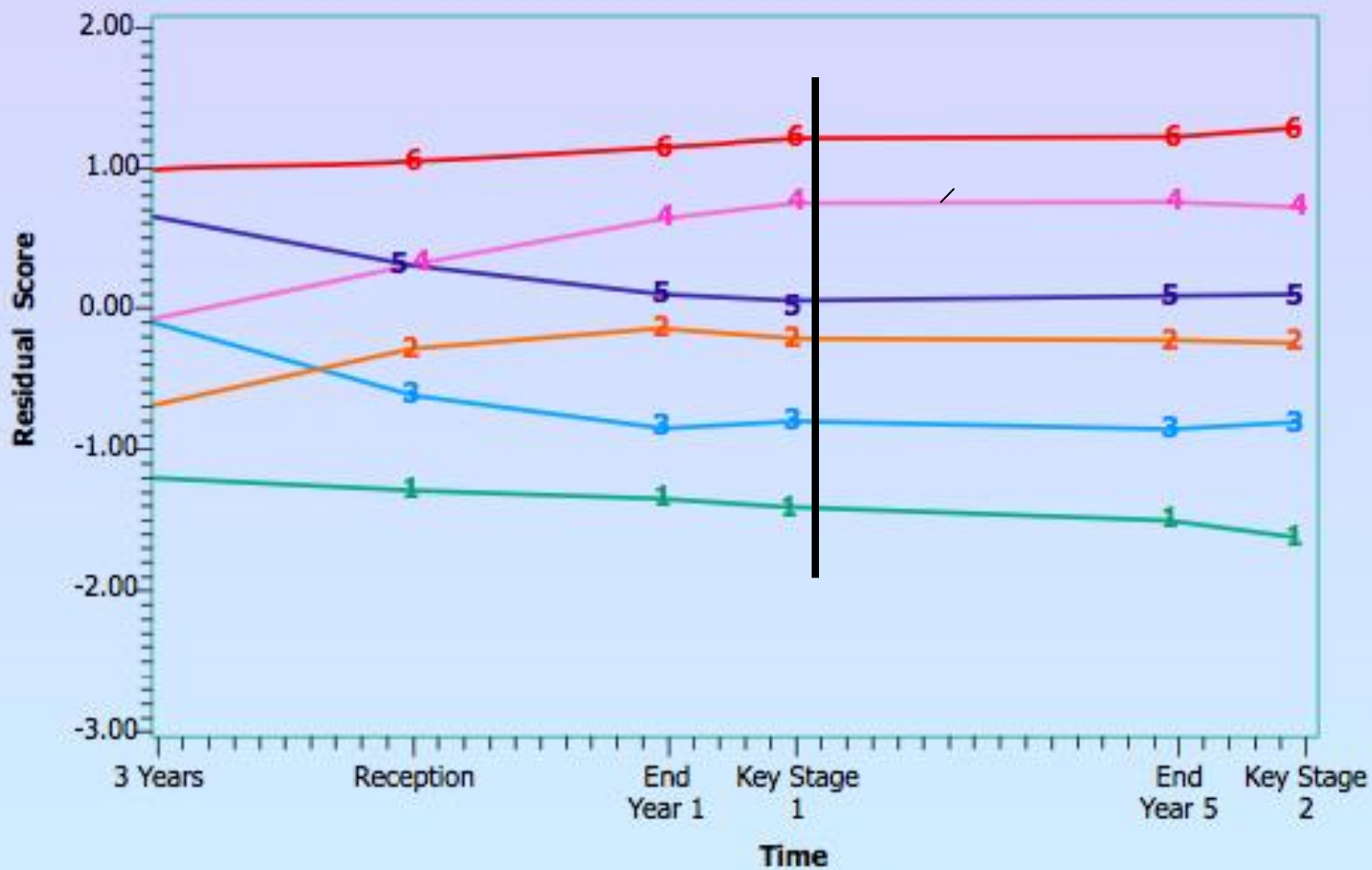
Source: Hankivsky, O. (2008).

# Factors affecting achievement – Age 11



Source: Melhuish, E. in Roseveare, D. (2011).

# Trajectories for Numeracy



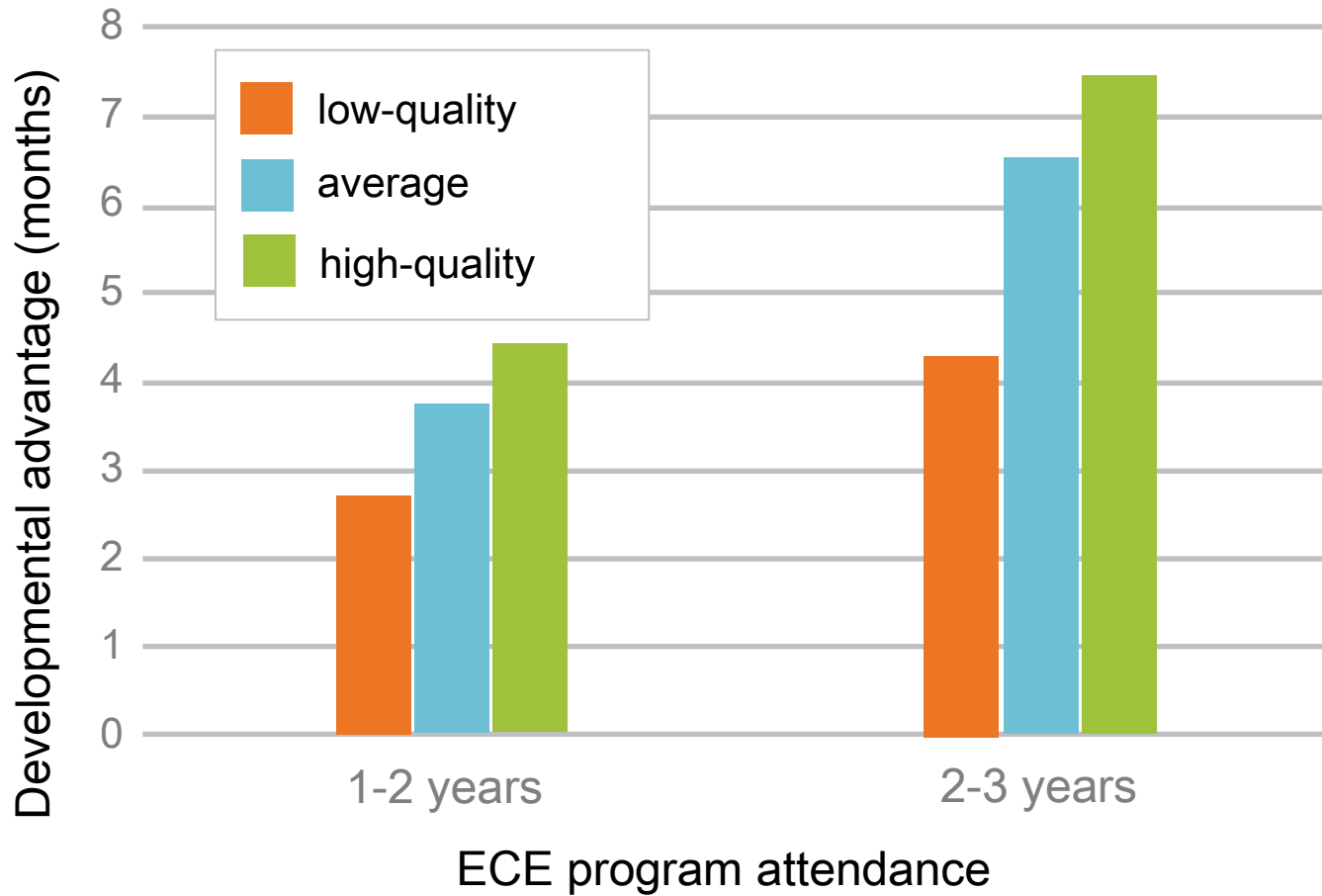
Group %

1-1-1 8.2%    2-2-2 19.6%    3-3-3 18.8%    4-4-4 17.3%    5-5-5 23.2%    6-6-6 12.9%



# Quality and duration matter

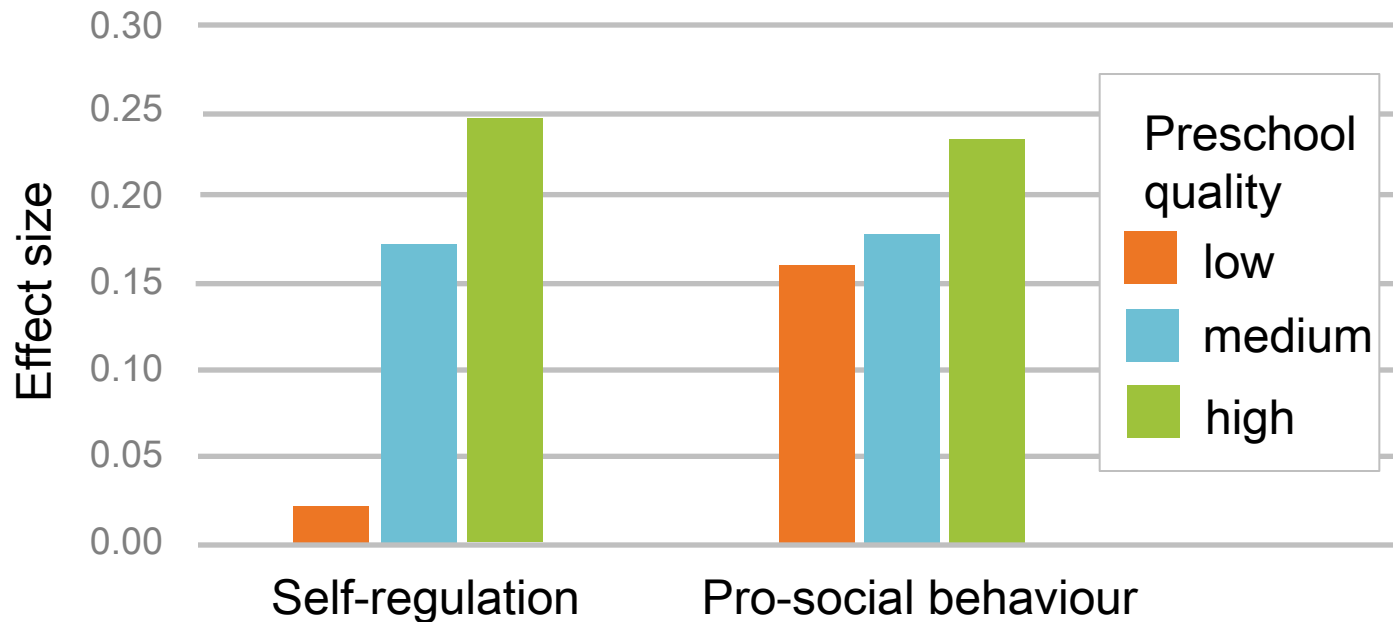
(months of developmental age)



Source: Melhuish, E. in Roseveare, D. (2011).

# Quality linked to better outcomes

*Preschool quality and self-regulation and pro-social behaviour (age 11)*



Source: Melhuish, E. in Roseveare, D. (2011).

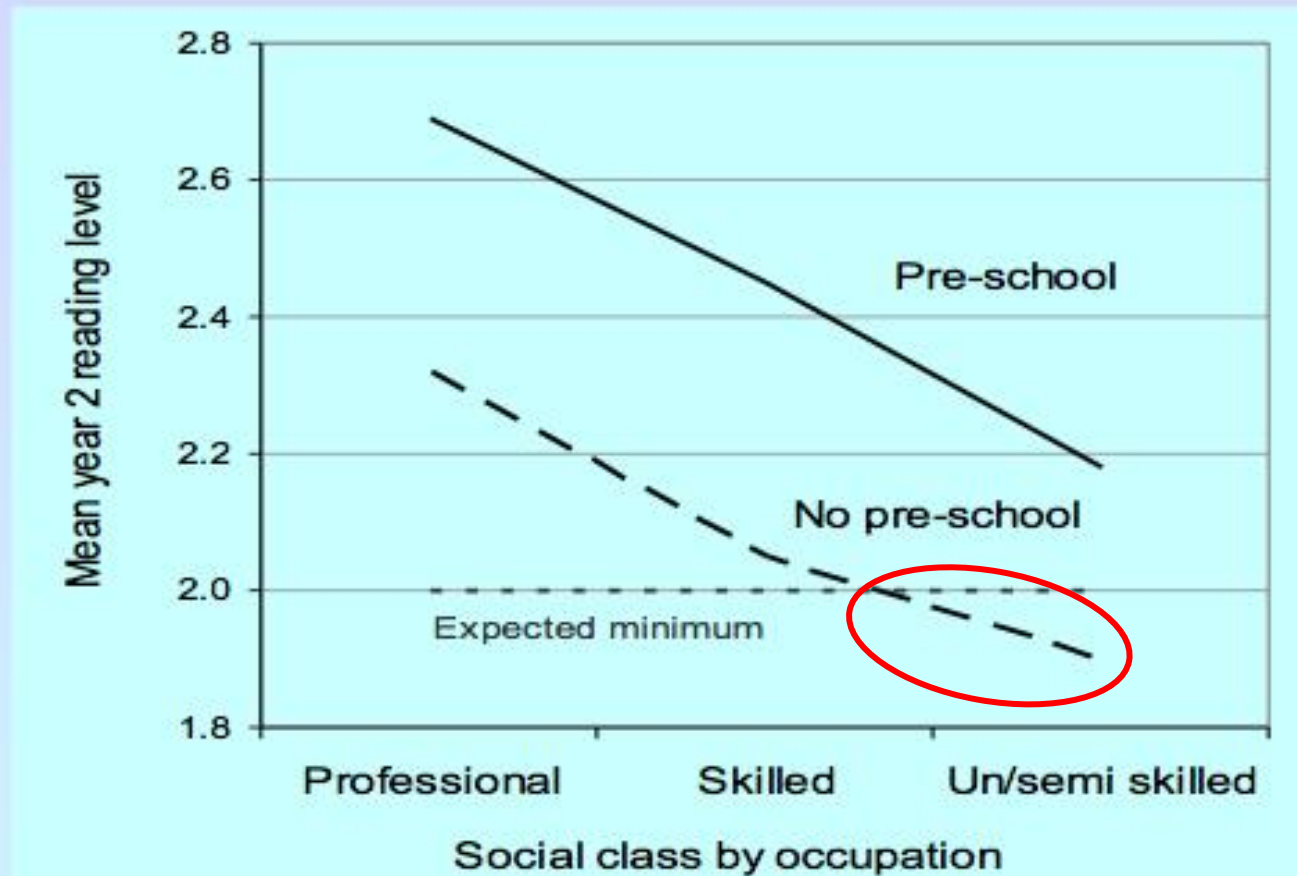


## What makes a quality environment?

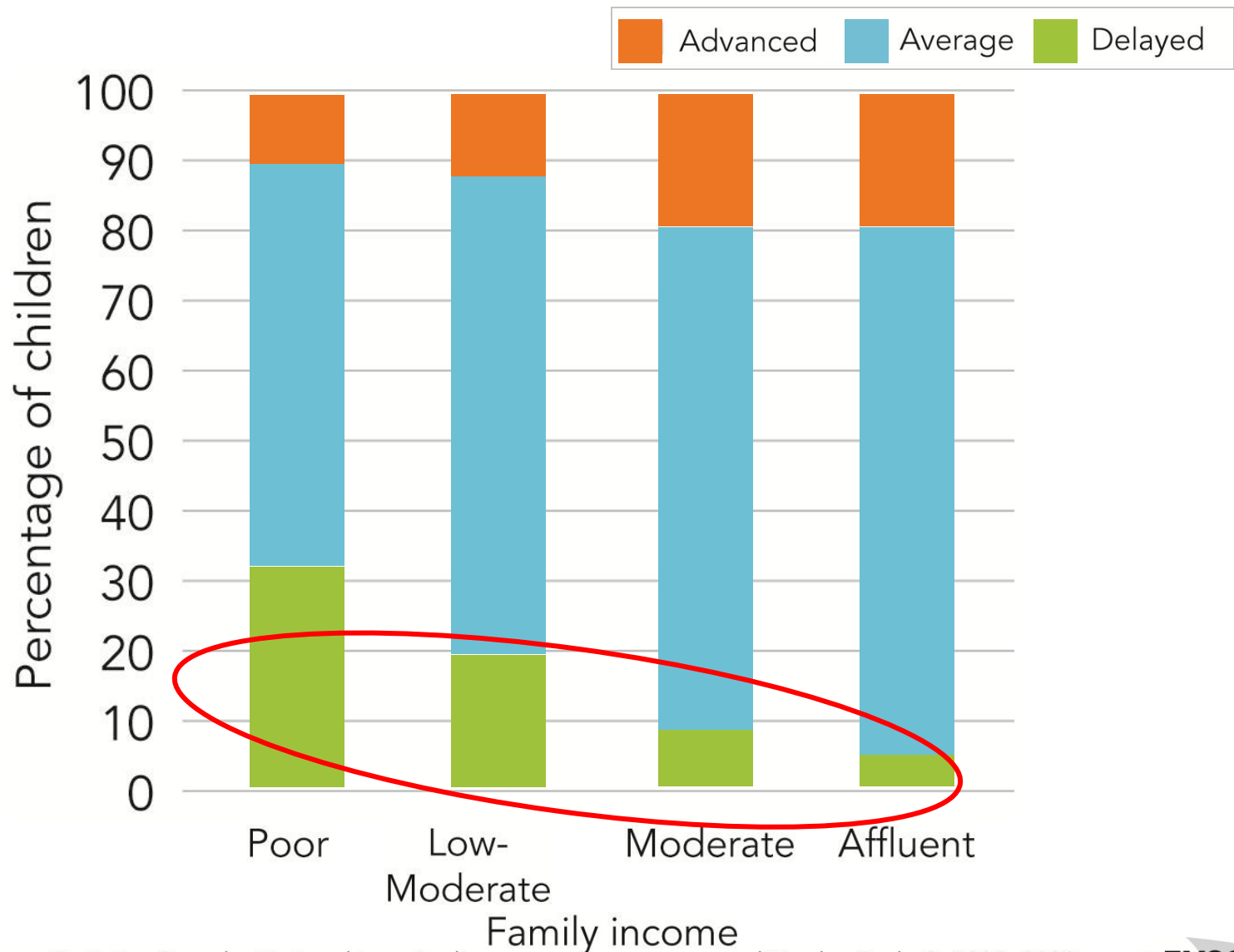
Five areas were particularly important:

- Quality of the adult-child verbal interaction
- Knowledge and understanding of curriculum
- Knowledge of how young children learn
- Adults skilled in helping children resolve conflicts
- Helping parents to support children's learning at home

## Social class and pre-school on literacy (age 7)



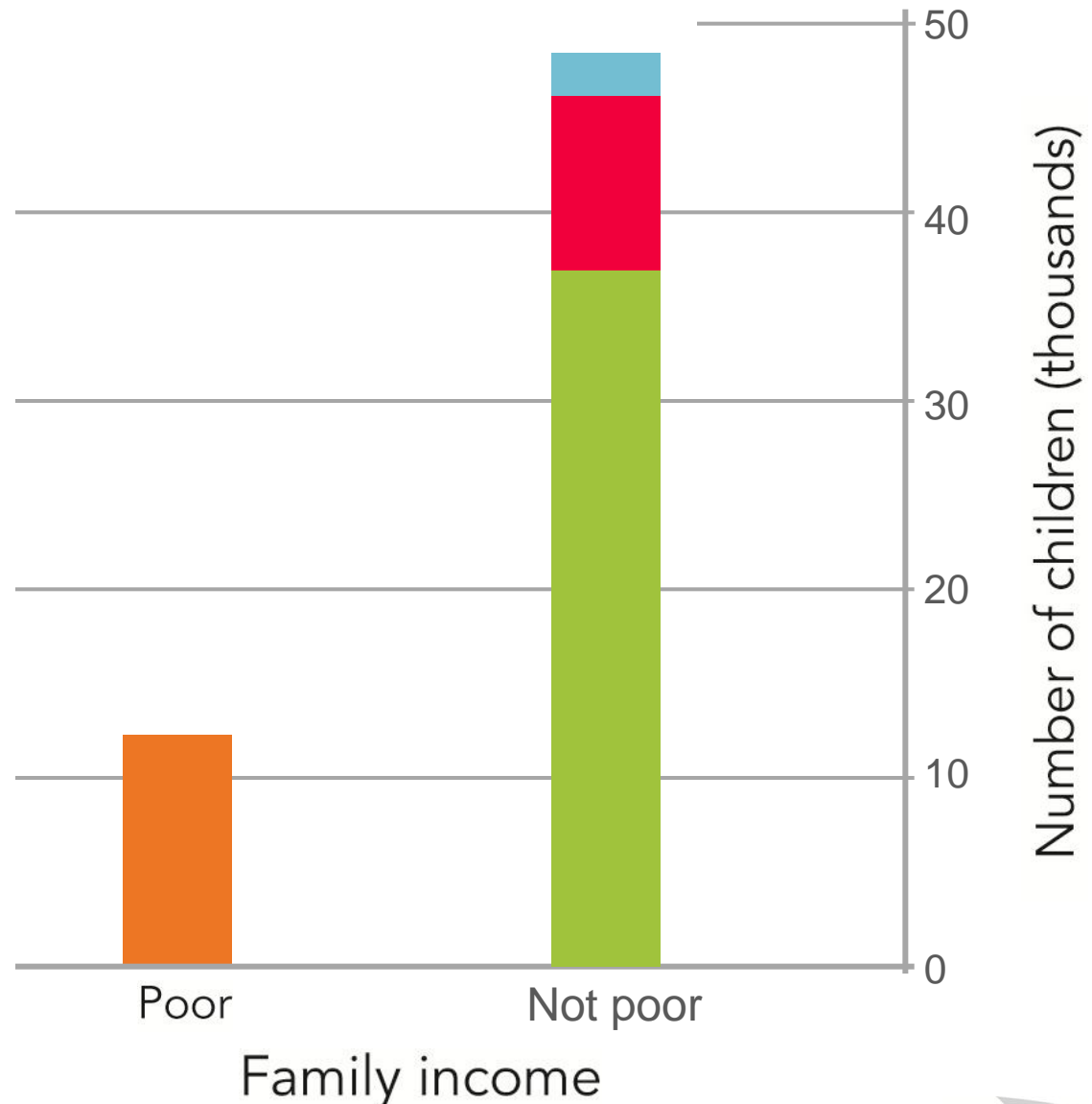
# Universal access promotes equity - *Vocabulary skills in children ages 4 and 5 years by family income*



Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008–2009. Special tabulation.

# Vocabulary skills in children ages 4 and 5 years by family income

*Number of children with 'delayed' vocabulary*



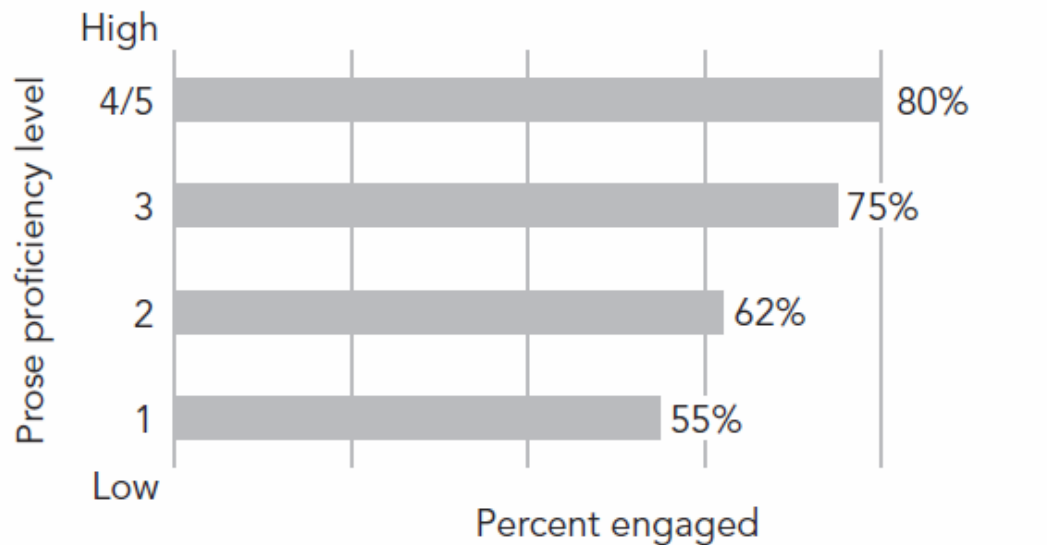
Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008–2009. Special tabulation.



# Literacy and civic engagement

FIGURE 2.13

**Civic engagement by literacy levels, Canada, population aged 16 and over, 2003**



Higher literacy levels are associated with increased civic engagement.

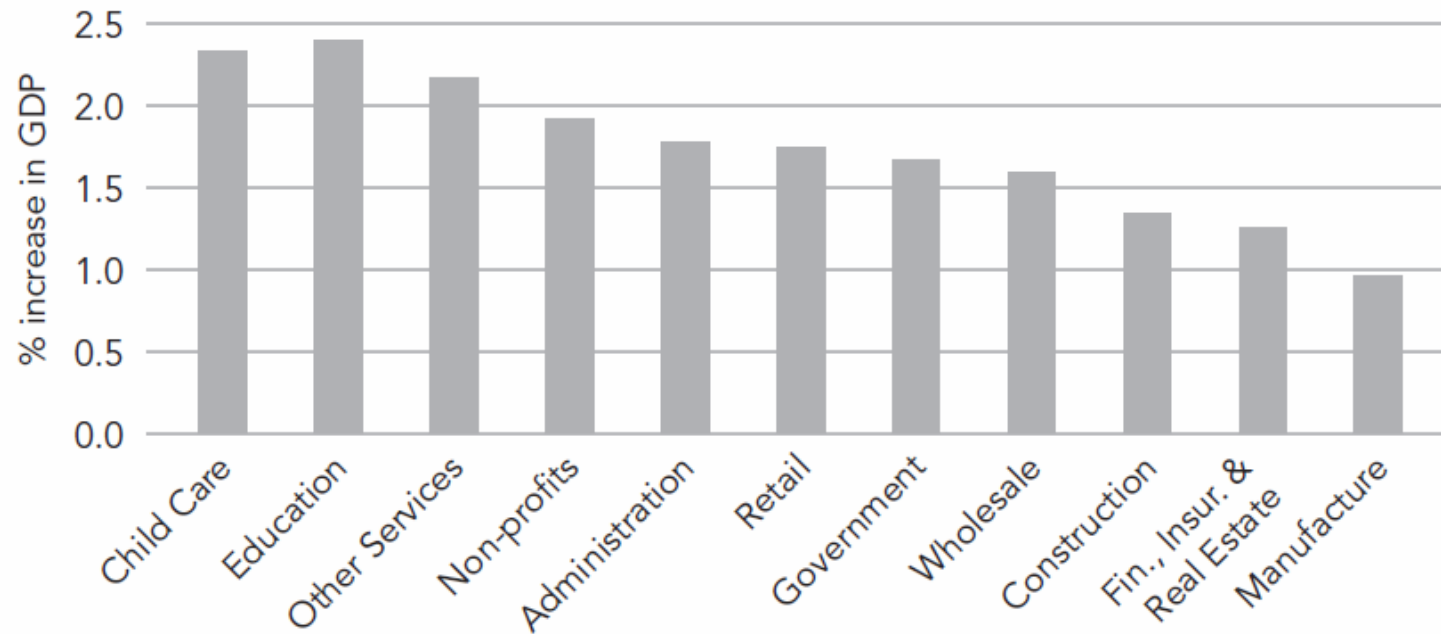
Source: Barr-Telfard, L., Nault, F., & Pignal, J. (2005).



# ECE is economic development

FIGURE 4.4

Effect on GDP of public investment by sector



Source: Fairholm, R. & Davis, J. (2010).



# What has low cost early education and care done for Quebec?

- 70,000 more mothers are working
- They pay \$1.5-billion annually in taxes
- And draw \$340-million less in social transfers
- Boosting the GDP by \$5-billion

Source: Fortin, P., Godbout, L., & St-Cerny. (2012).

# Quebec mothers have:

- Moved Quebec from the bottom to the top in female labour force participation in Canada
- Halved child poverty rates
- Halved social assistance rates for lone parents
- Boosted fertility
- Meanwhile, Quebec student test scores have moved from below to above the national average

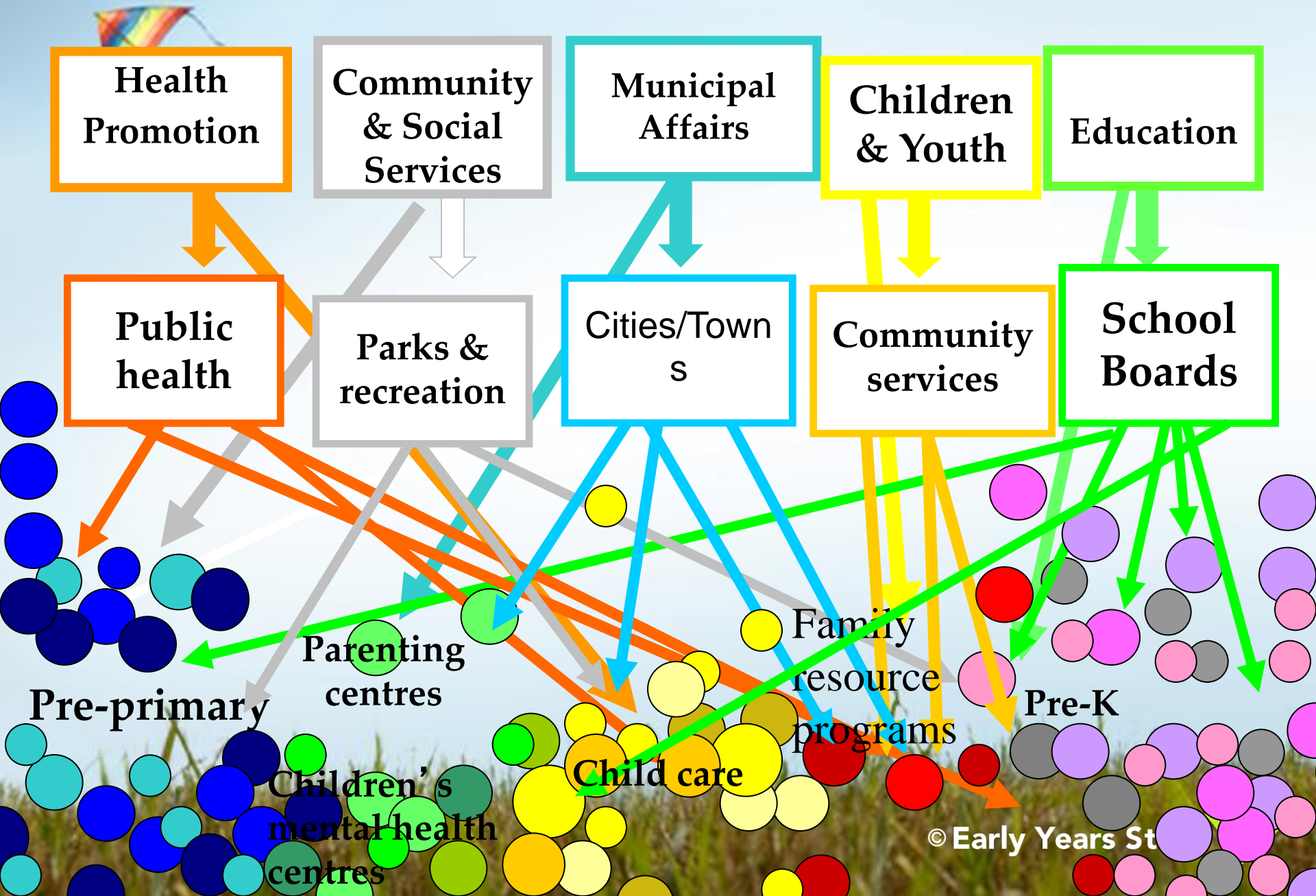
Source: Fortin, P., Godbout, L., & St-Cerny. (2012).

# Done right early education and care pays for itself

*For every dollar Quebec spends on ECE,  
it collects \$1.05 in increased taxes and  
reduced family payments, while the  
federal government gets \$0.44*

Source: Fortin, P., Godbout, L., & St-Cerny. (2012).

# Service Chaos





# The ECE challenge

- Internationally, many jurisdictions have consolidated their child care, family support and education departments at the state and local level
- Research indicates integrated delivery of early childhood and family support programs from a stable platform serves more families, more cost-effectively and in ways that they want to be served

# Policy trends in ECEC



Governance	Policy	EC Workforce	Curriculum	Parents
Lead ministry	Strategy for 0 to 8	EC trained	Have one	Free access
Merged functions	Quality agenda	Narrow qualification gap	Living documents	Lower school age
ECE units with experts	Research/evaluation	Ongoing professional development	Align with school to support transitions	Ceiling on fees & supports
Regional leadership	Reconcile goals	Enhance recognition	Expert & sector input	Democratic input
Dedicated funding	Reduce transitions			Open doors



# New approaches – ECEC provincial oversight

	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AL	BC
ECEC under common department/ministry	<u>Under discussion</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y		Y		
Common ECEC supervisory unit		Y	Y	Y		Y		<u>Under discussion</u>		
Common ECEC policy framework		Y		Y	Y		Y			
Common local authority for ECEC management and administration				Y		<u>Under discussion</u>				

\*Quebec schools are responsible for out of school programs for children 5–12 years old. [McCuaig](#), [Bertrand](#) & [Shanker](#) (2012) Updated 2013



## New approaches across Canada

- Full-day kindergarten in BC, PE, NS, NB, QC, ON, NT
- School delivered preK programs in NS, QC, MB, SK, AB, YK in selected school districts. Universal JK all 4-year olds in Ontario and Quebec.
- Ministries of education in ON & BC support school-based programs for parents and preschoolers.



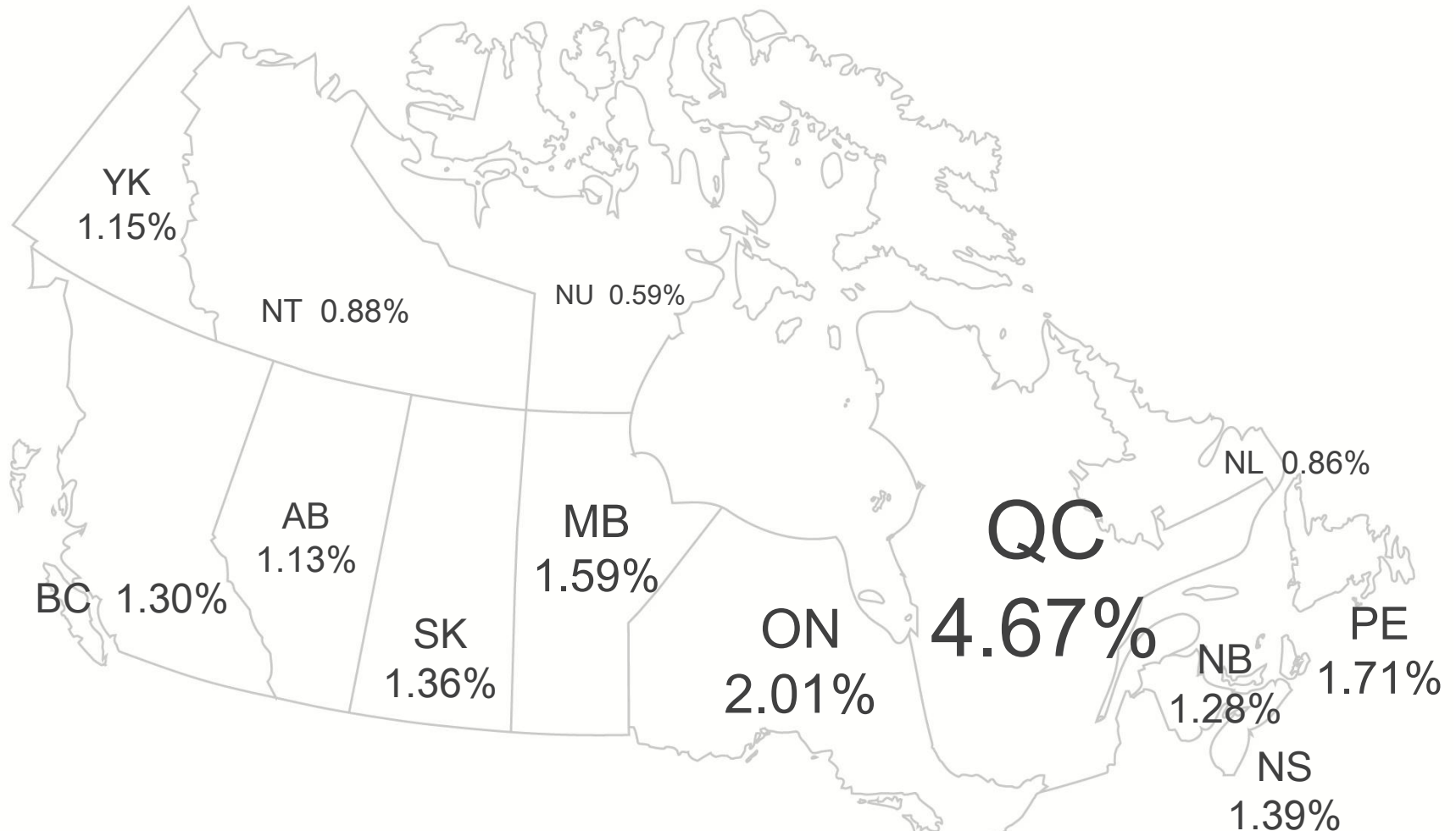


## New approaches across Canada

- Almost all provinces have developed curriculum frameworks for early childhood programs based on guided play.
- Creating a learning continuum through to grade 3
- Raised the qualifications, compensation and professional recognition of early childhood educators
- Introduced population based assessment – Early Development Instrument
- Maintaining public reporting on investments and outcomes

# ECEC across Canada

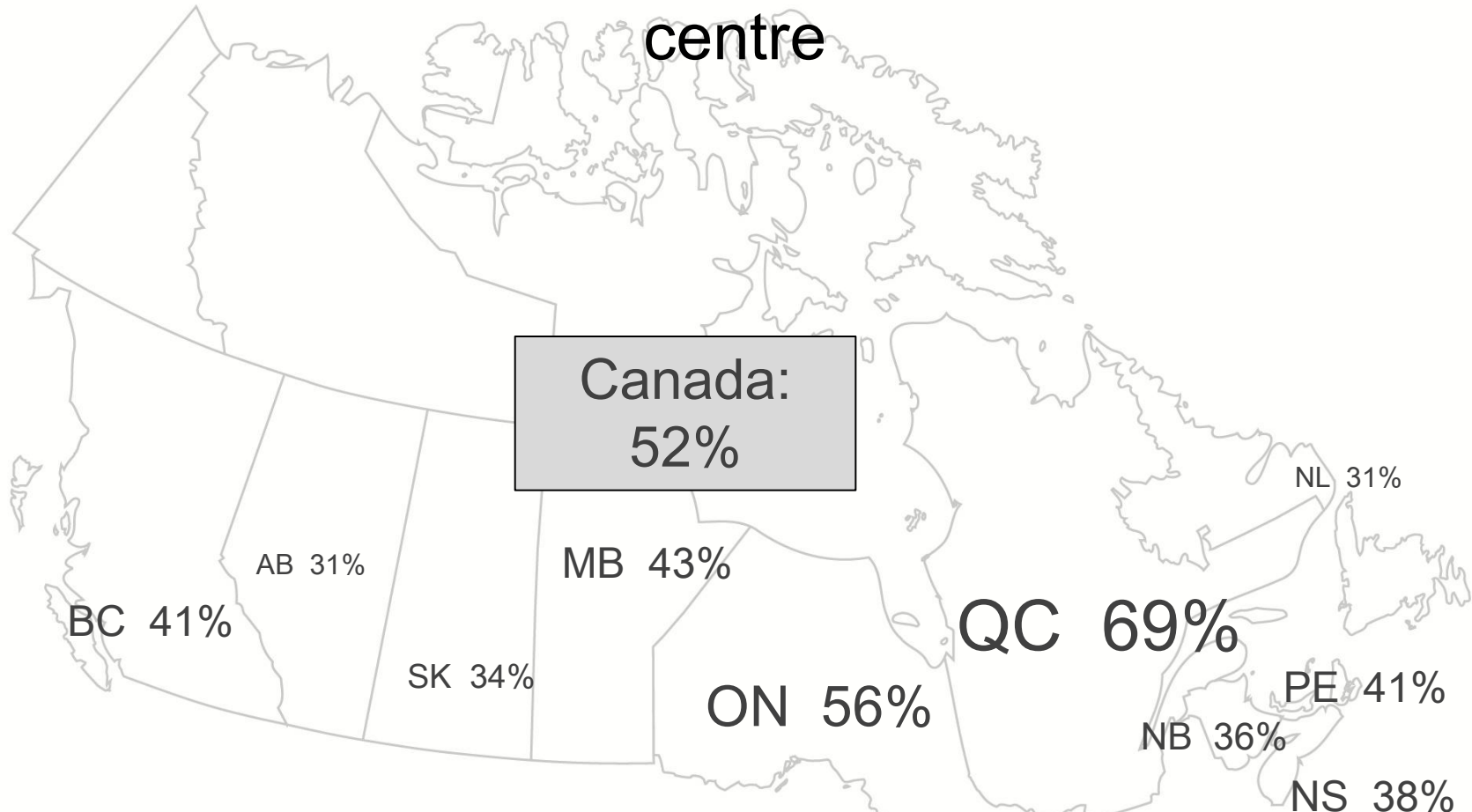
## ECE budget as a percentage of P/T budgets 2011-12



Across Canada, 50% of children between ages 2 and 4 years attend an early childhood education programs - up from 35% just 10 ago (McCain, Mustard & McCuaig, 2011)

# ECEC across Canada

% of 2 – 4-year-olds regularly attending an ECE centre






Across Canada, 50% of children between ages 2 and 4 years attend an early childhood education programs - up from 35% just 10 ago (McCain, Mustard & McCuaig, 2011)



# More attention to monitoring

FIGURE 5.16 EDI use across Canada

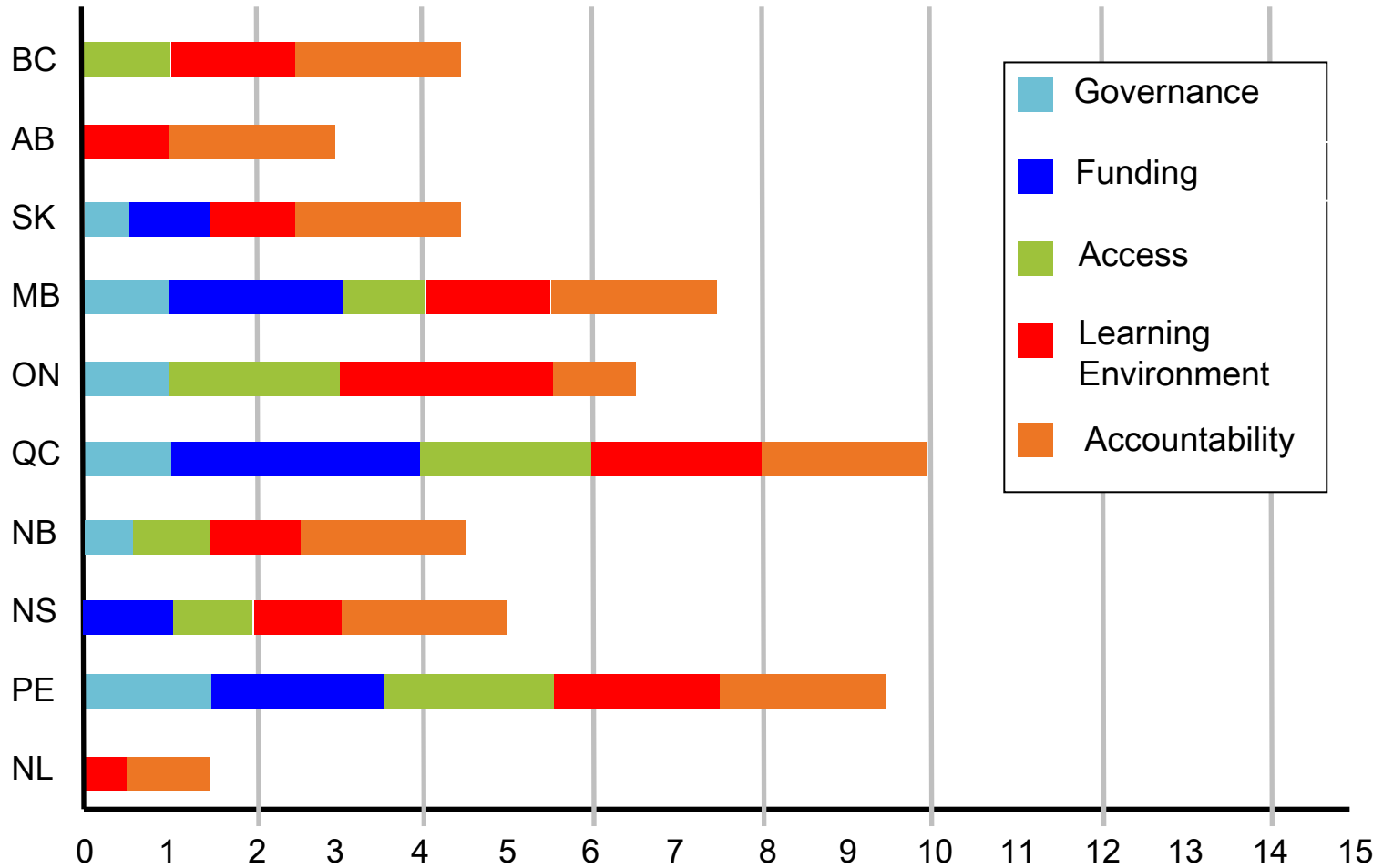


-  **CATEGORY 1:** Provincial/territorial coverage (at least once by 2011)
-  **CATEGORY 2:** Working towards provincial/territorial coverage
-  **CATEGORY 3:** Ongoing commitment to implementing the EDI provincially/territorially

Source: Provincial/territorial profiles [www.earlyyearsstudy.ca](http://www.earlyyearsstudy.ca).



# Early Childhood Education Report





## Why the school as the platform?

- Public education enjoys public confidence. Highest percentage enrolment of all the Anglo-American countries
- Facilitates the building of strong relationships between children, families, the community and the school
- Transforms schools into community learning centres rather than a place separating children from the world of adults and the wider community



# The community school

- Improves communications across sectors involved with children and families
- Provides viability to small schools, particularly in rural and remote areas
- Schools are in every neighbourhood – not just some – often have suitable space and a supportive infrastructure that are not readily available elsewhere in the community
- Provides opportunities to create efficiencies, reduce overlaps and gaps, expand service, improve quality and accountability



# *Early Learning*

*and Early Childhood Education*



An Accord by the  
**Association of Canadian Deans of Education**



**ACDE**  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN  
DEANS OF EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES  
DOCTES ET DOCTEUSES  
D'EDUCATION







Early Years Study 3  
[www.earlyyearsstudy.ca](http://www.earlyyearsstudy.ca)

Early Education Report  
& Policy Monitor  
[www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson)

