

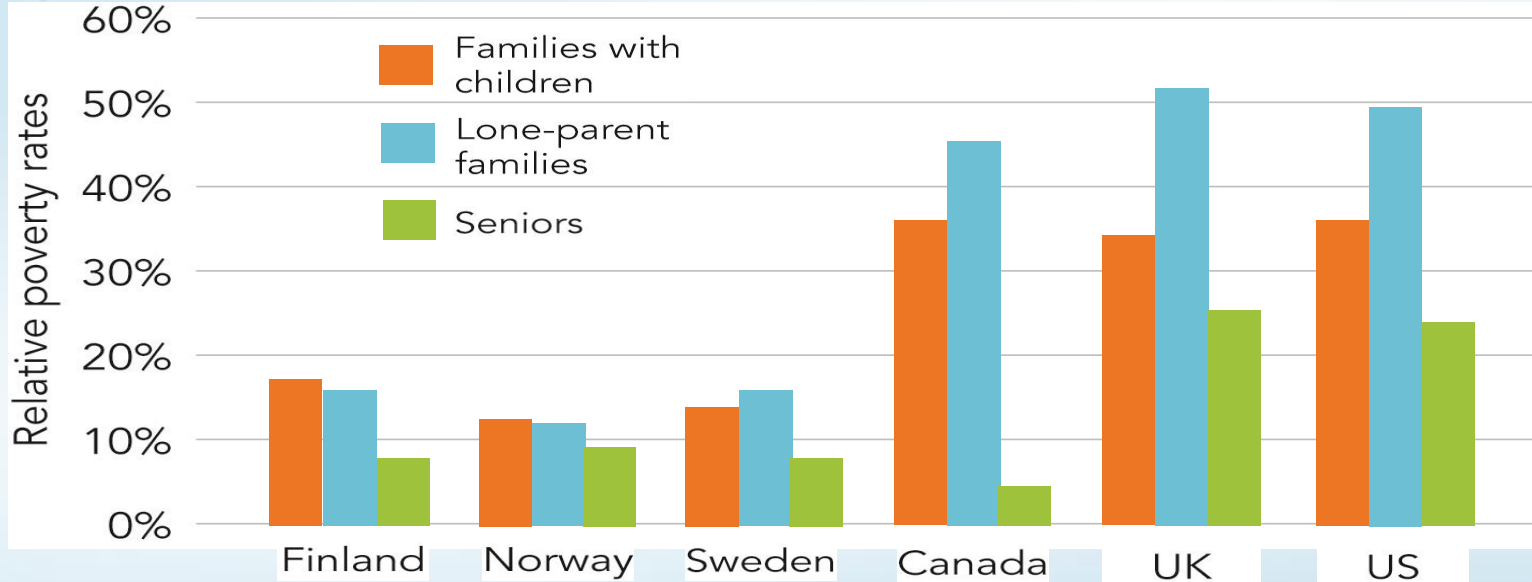
A woman with a child on her back is seen from behind, flying a colorful kite in a field of tall grass under a clear blue sky. The kite is a diamond shape with rainbow colors. The woman is wearing a white t-shirt and pink pants. The child is wearing a white t-shirt and pink pants. The kite is flying in the upper left quadrant of the image.

*Smart Public Policy Includes  
Early Childhood Education*

Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain  
Mount Saint Vincent University, April 2, 2014



## Relative poverty rates for at risk groups

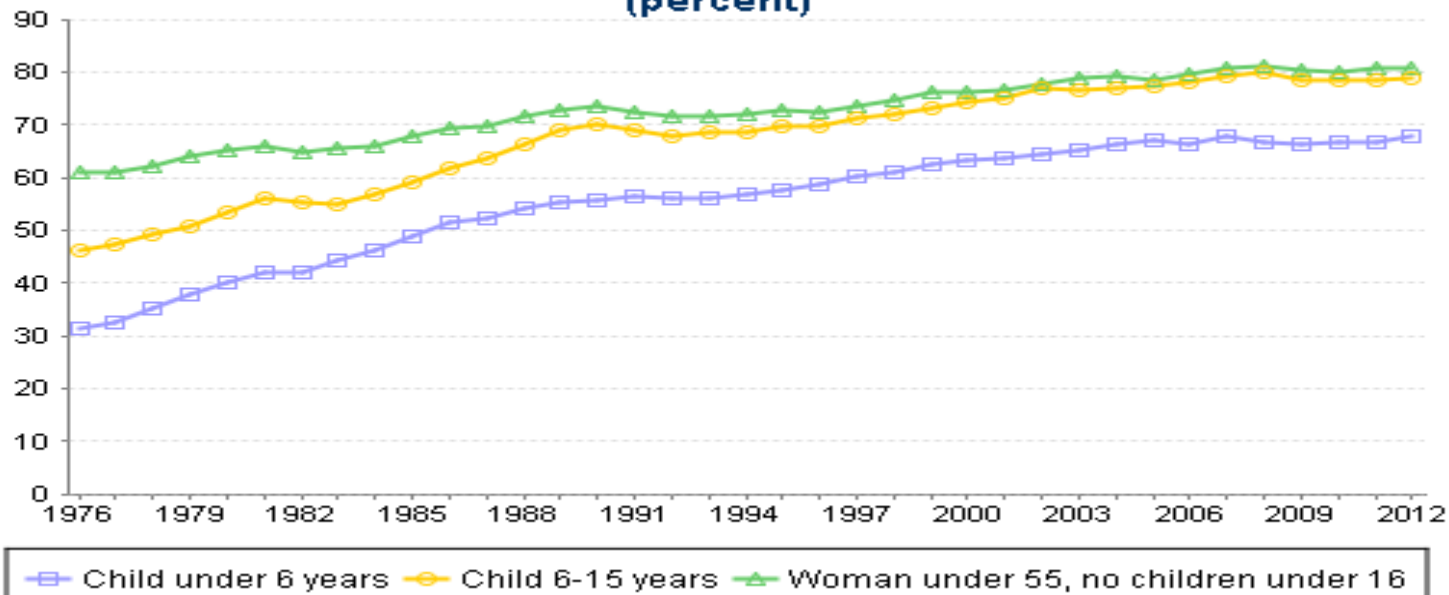


Source: Commission on Social Determinants of Health. (2008). p. 85.

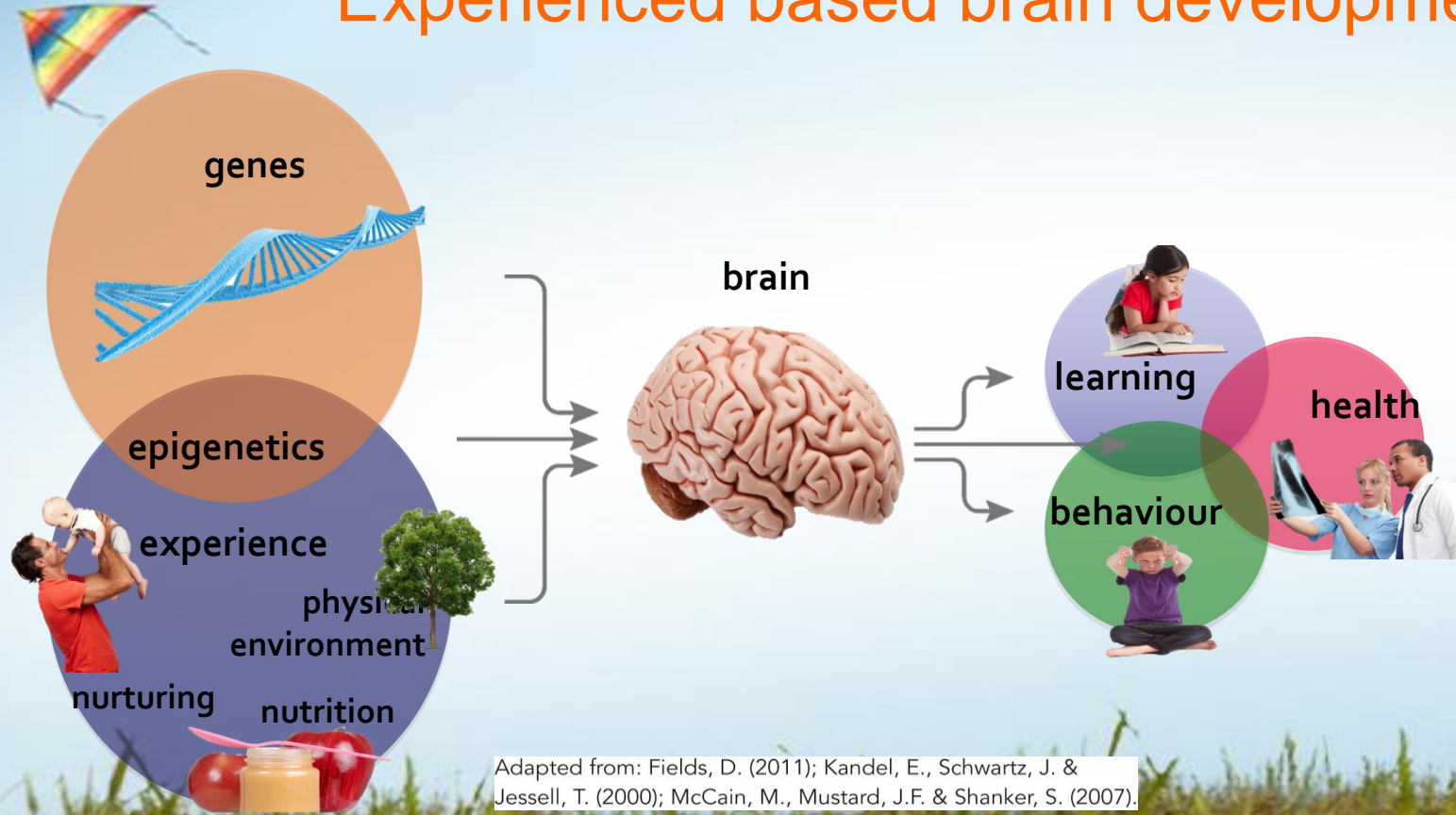


# Mothers' labour is essential

Employment rate for women, by age of youngest child, 1976-2012  
(percent)



# Experienced based brain development



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



# Cost of early school leavers

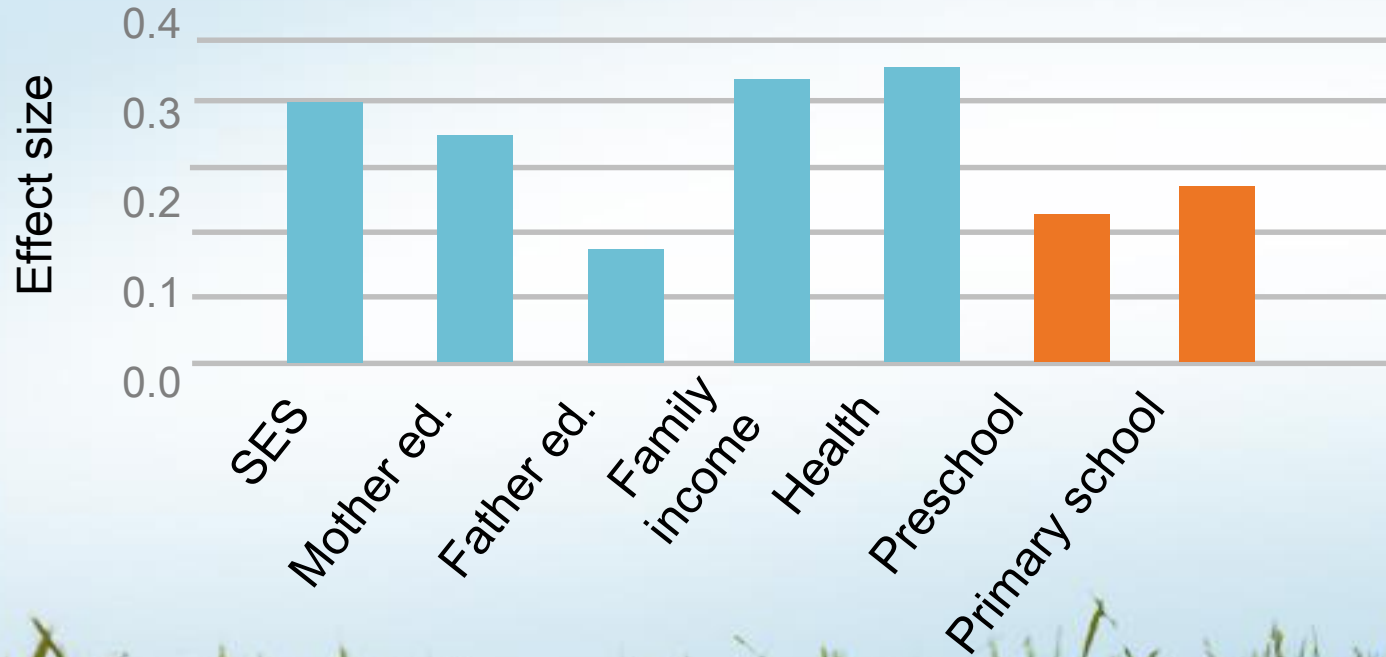
Public cost of high school non-completion in Canada by cohort (2008 dollars)



Source: Hankivsky, O. (2008).

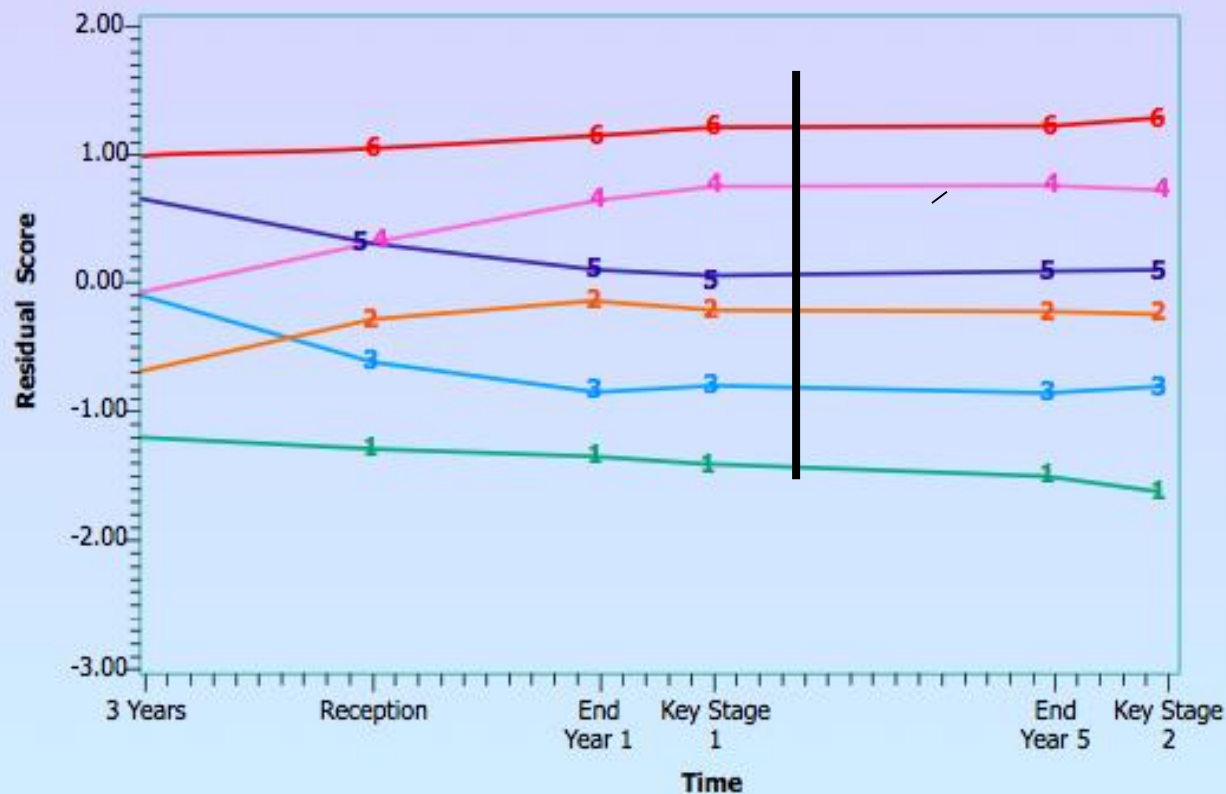


## Factors affecting achievement – Age 11



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

## Trajectories for Numeracy



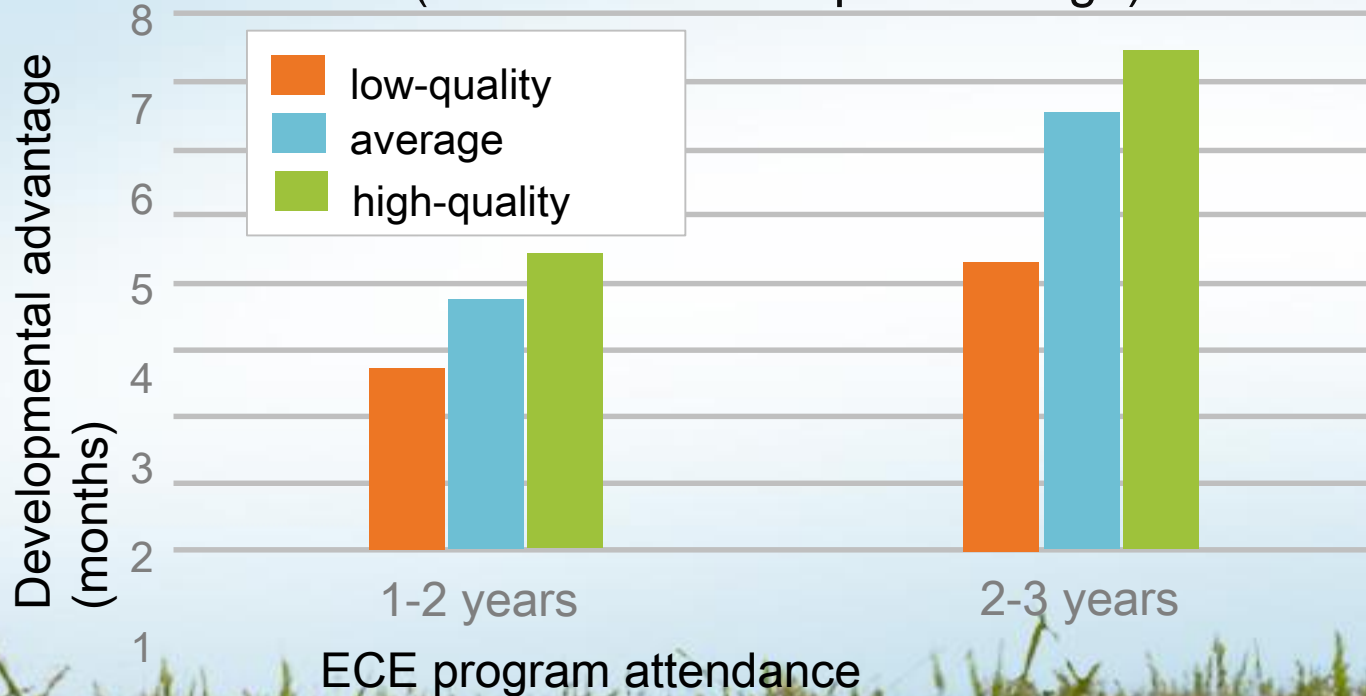
Group %

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



# Quality and duration matter

(months of developmental age)



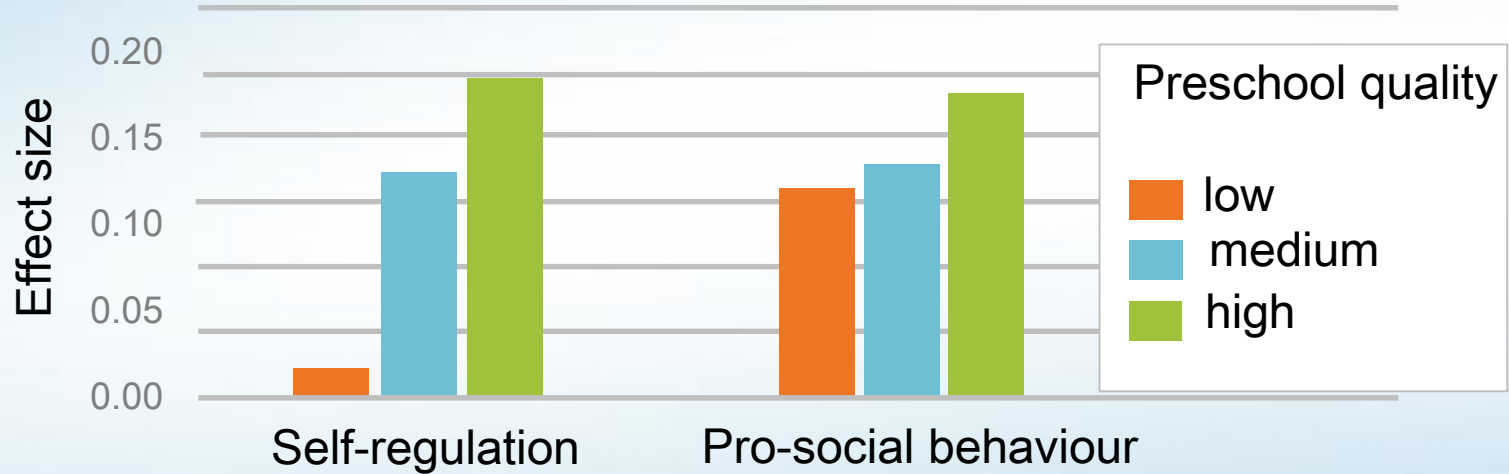
Source: Melhuish, E. in Roseveare, D. (2011).





# Quality linked to better outcomes

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



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

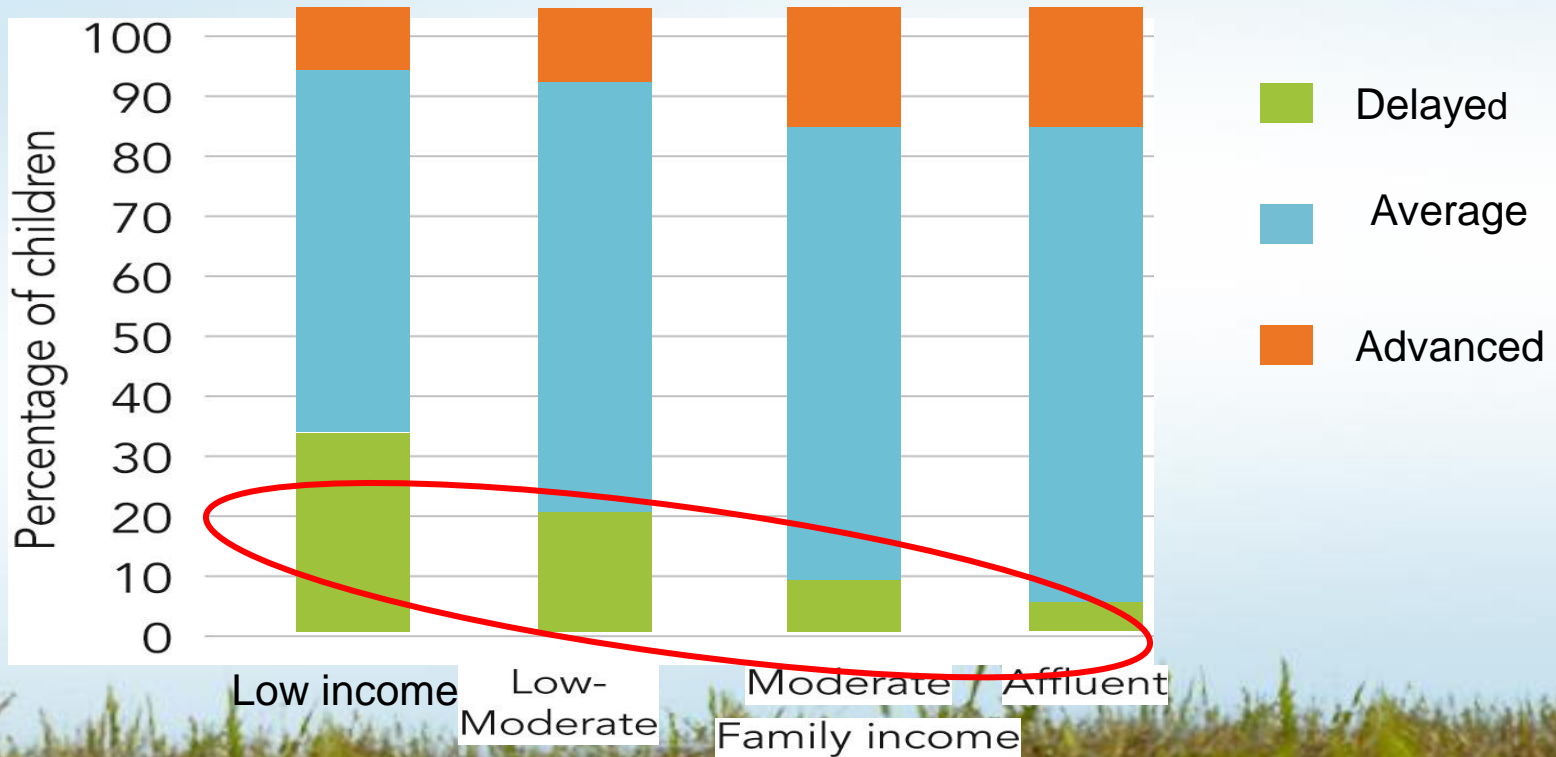


## What makes a quality ECE environment?

Five areas are particularly important:

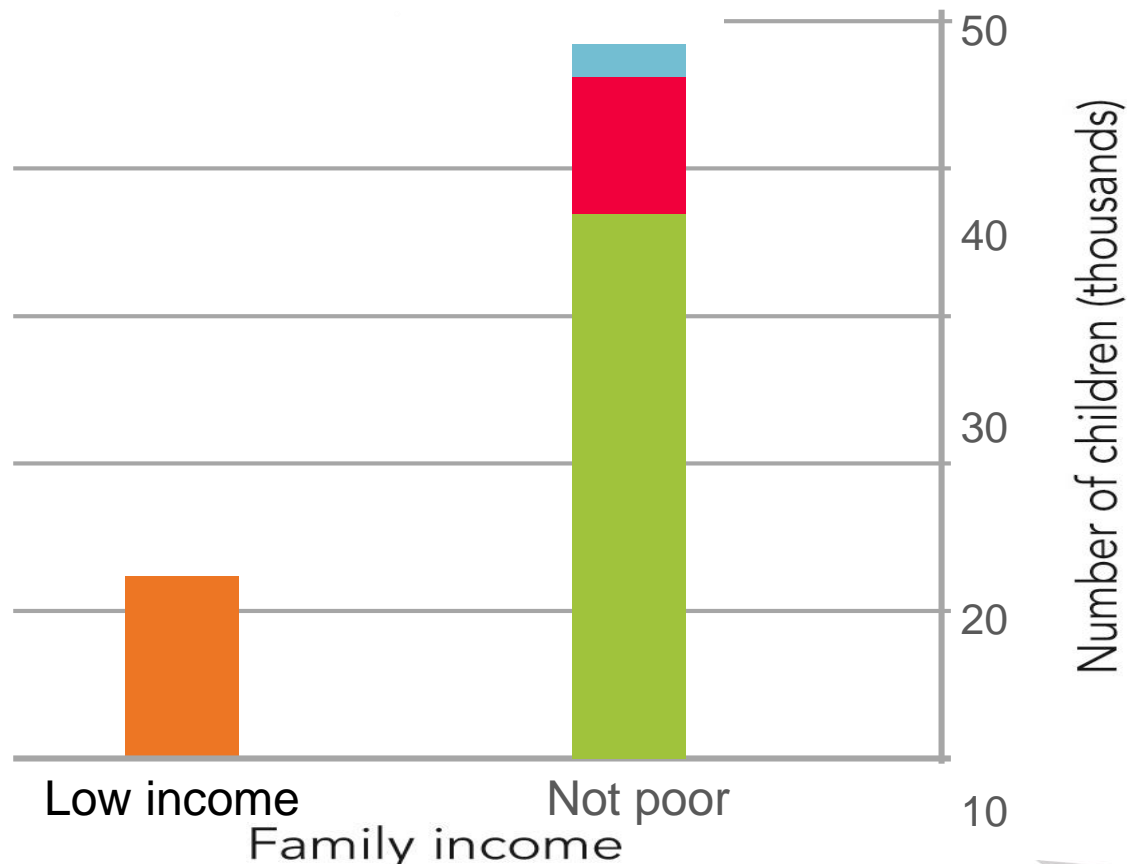
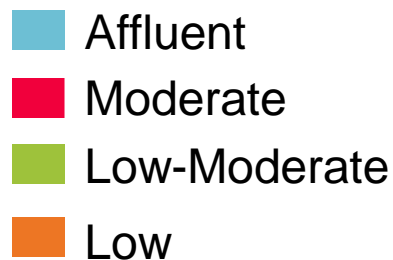
- Quality of the adult-child verbal interaction
- Knowledge and understanding of curriculum
- Knowledge of how young children learn
- Adults skilled in helping children resolve conflicts
- Helping parents to support children's learning at home

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



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

*Number of children with 'delayed' vocabulary*

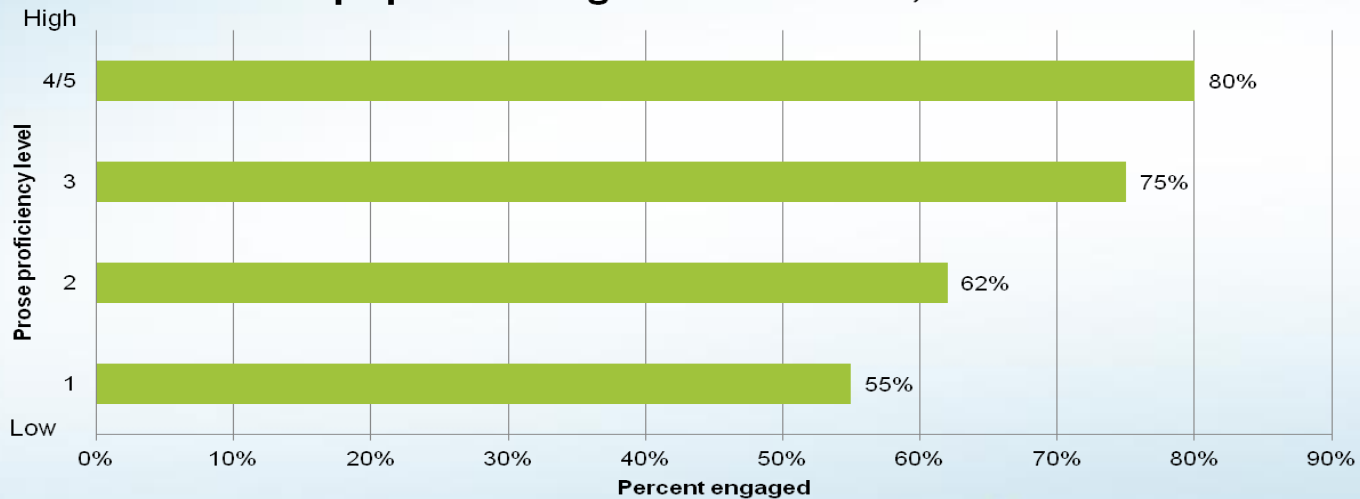


Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008–2009. Special tabulation.



# Literacy and civic engagement

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



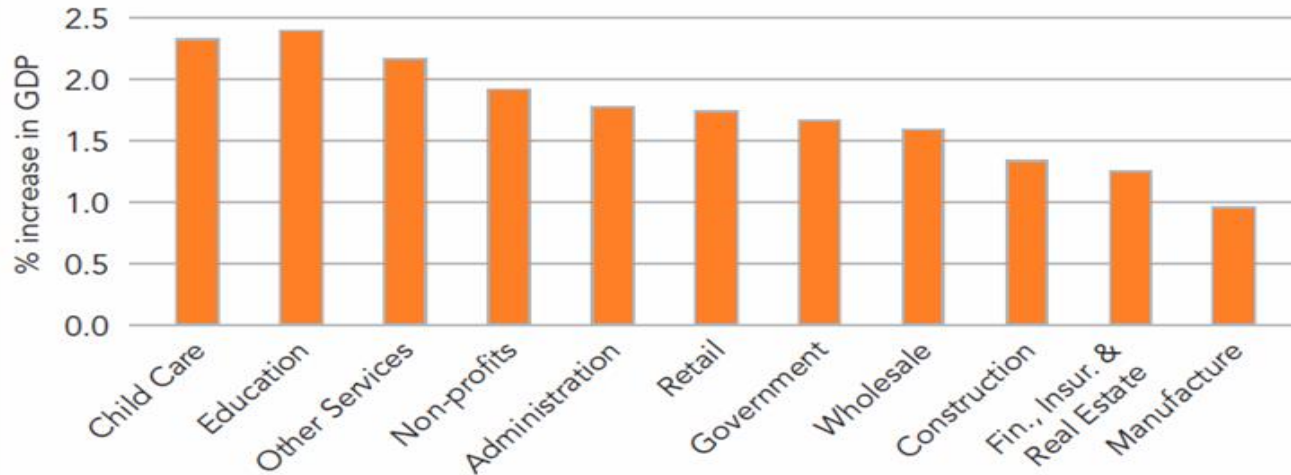
Source: Barr-Telfard, L., Nault, F., & Pignal, J. (2005)



# 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
- Reduced vulnerability in children entering grade one

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

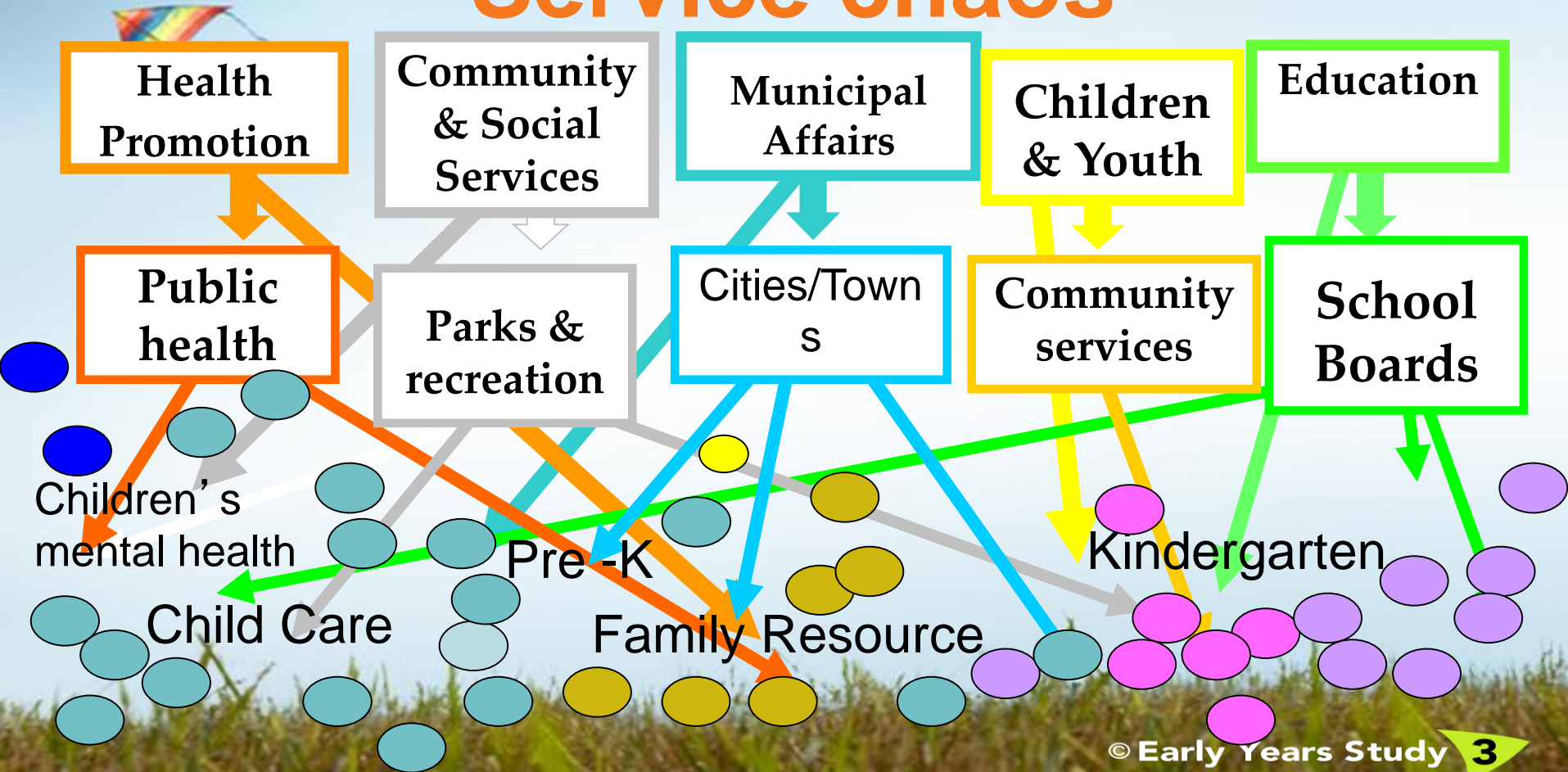


# Done right early education and care pays for itself

*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



## New approaches across Canada

- Full-day kindergarten in BC, QC, ON, PE, NS, NB, NT. Scheduled for NL in 2016.
- School delivered preK programs in NS, QC, MB, SK, AB, YK, NT in selected school districts. Universal JK all 4-year olds in ON and NWT. Under consideration in Quebec
- Ministries of education in ON & BC support school-based programs for parents and preschoolers.

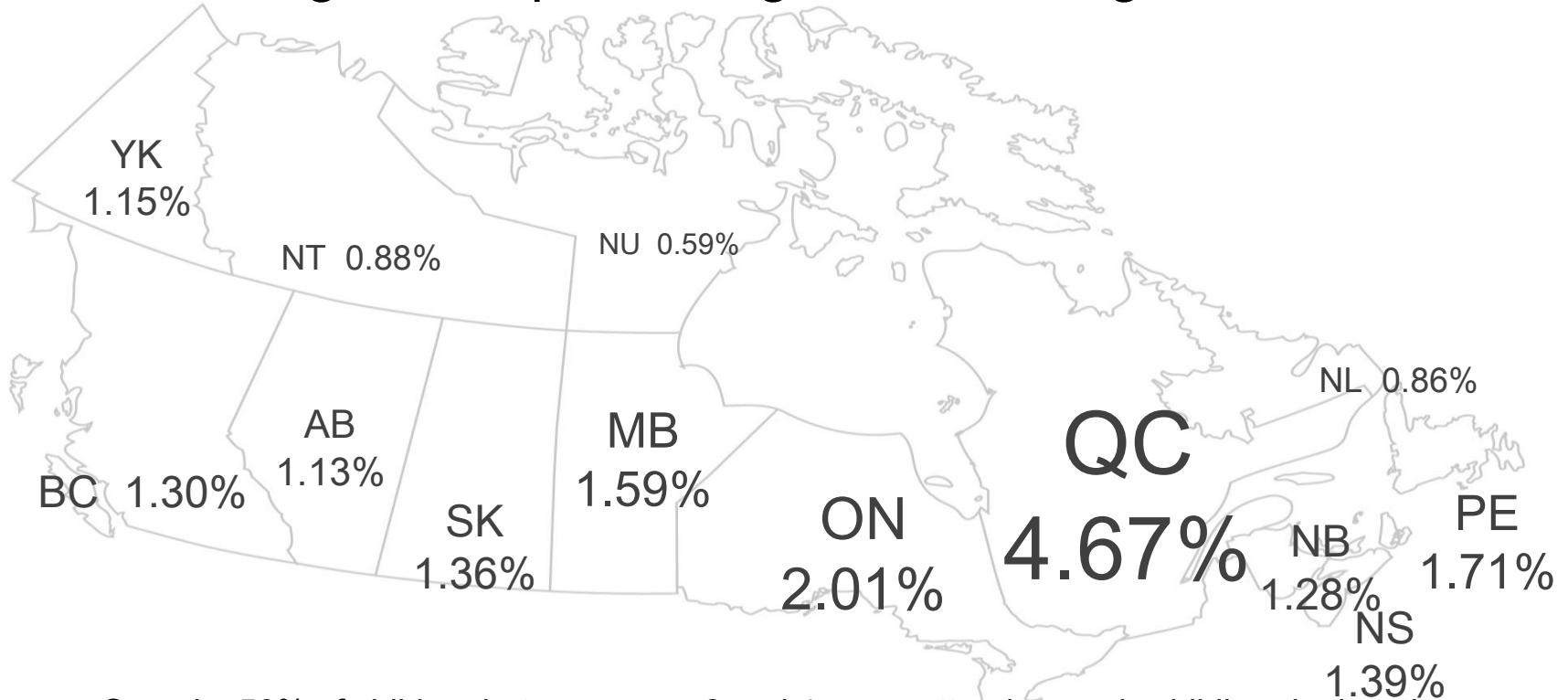


## New approaches across Canada

- 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

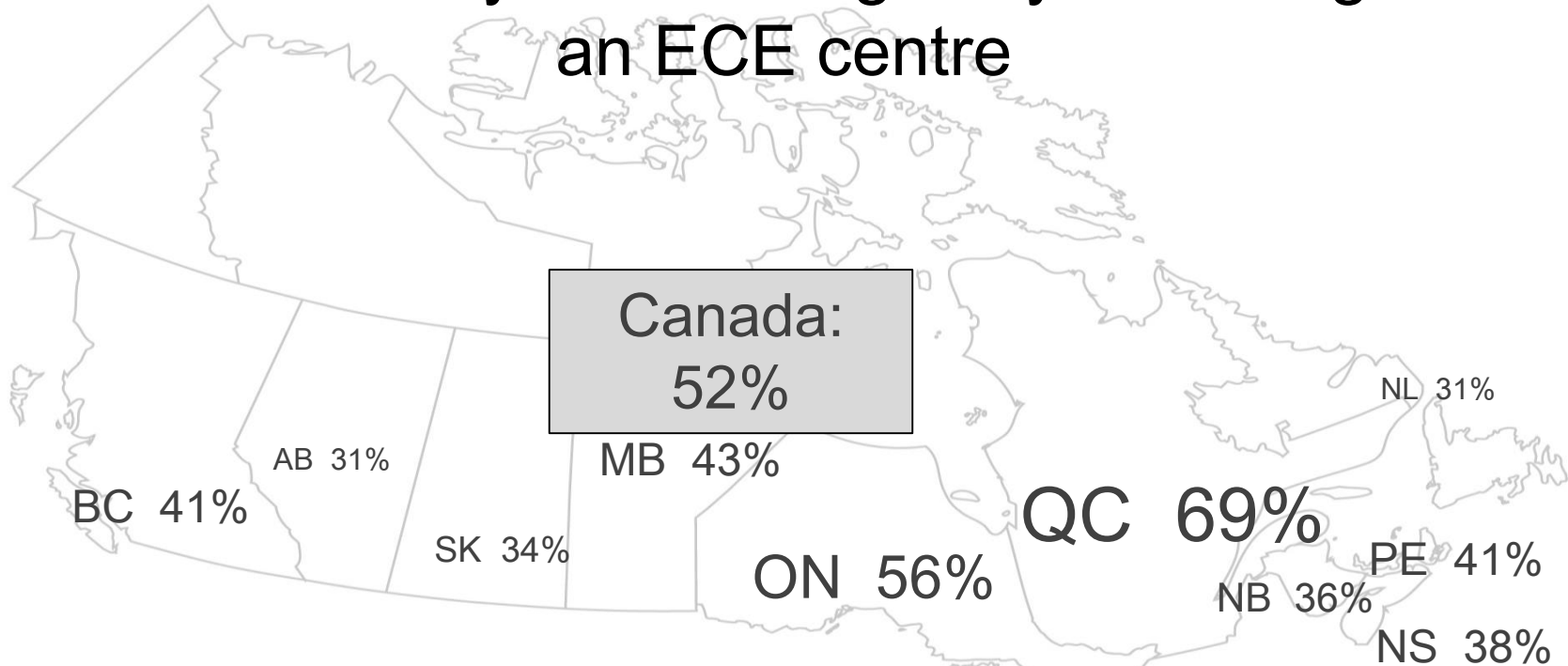
## ECE budget as a percentage of P/T budgets 2011-12



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

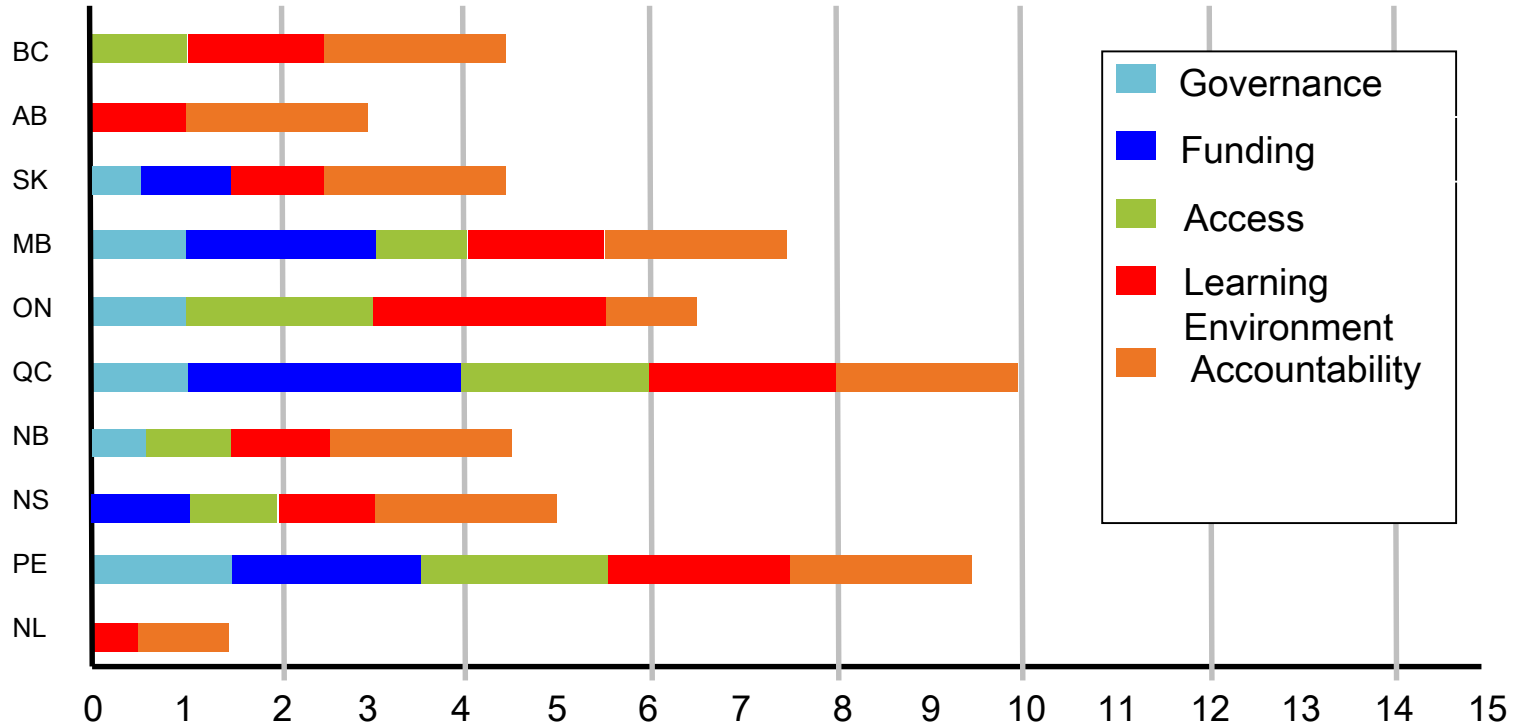


Across Canada, 50% of children between ages 2 and 4 years attend an early childhood education programs - up from 35% just 10 ago (McCain, Mustard & McCuaig, 2011)





# Early Childhood Education Report





## Why the school as the platform?

- Public education enjoys public confidence.
- Builds strong relationships between children, families and the community
- Transforms schools into community learning centres



# *Early Learning*

*and Early Childhood Education*



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





# Early Years Branch

- Integrate Programs and Services
- Establish 4 Early Years Centres
- Develop a Comprehensive 18-month and 36-month Visit



## Early Years Centres in Nova Scotia

- Jubilee Elementary School in Sydney Mines, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board;
- East Antigonish Education Centre in Monastery, Strait Regional School Board;
- Yarmouth Central in Yarmouth, Tri-County Regional School Board.
- Rockingstone Heights School, Halifax Regional School Board



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)