

Realizing PEI's Vision for Young Children

Phase II CHANCES initiative

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"Our youngest Islanders deserve the strongest start possible and government has a societal responsibility to provide all Island children with access to high quality early learning opportunities."

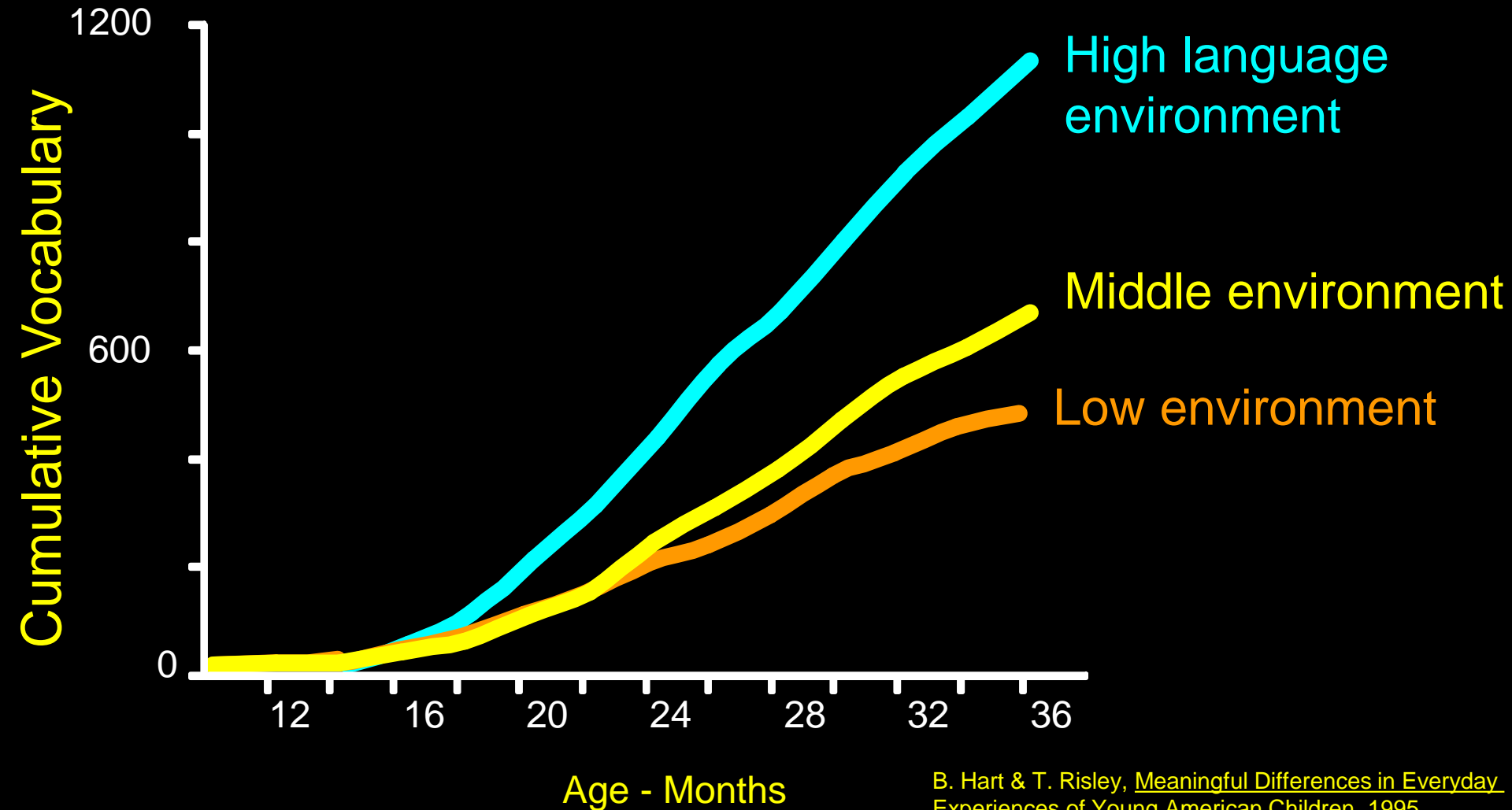
Early Years in PEI

- The Preschool Excellence Initiative aimed to provide equity from the start with supports to young children from birth to age four, their parents and their educators.
- To build an accessible, sustainable and quality-driven system
 - Establish Early Years Centres
 - Renovate and equip available school space
 - Align Early Years Centres with family resources

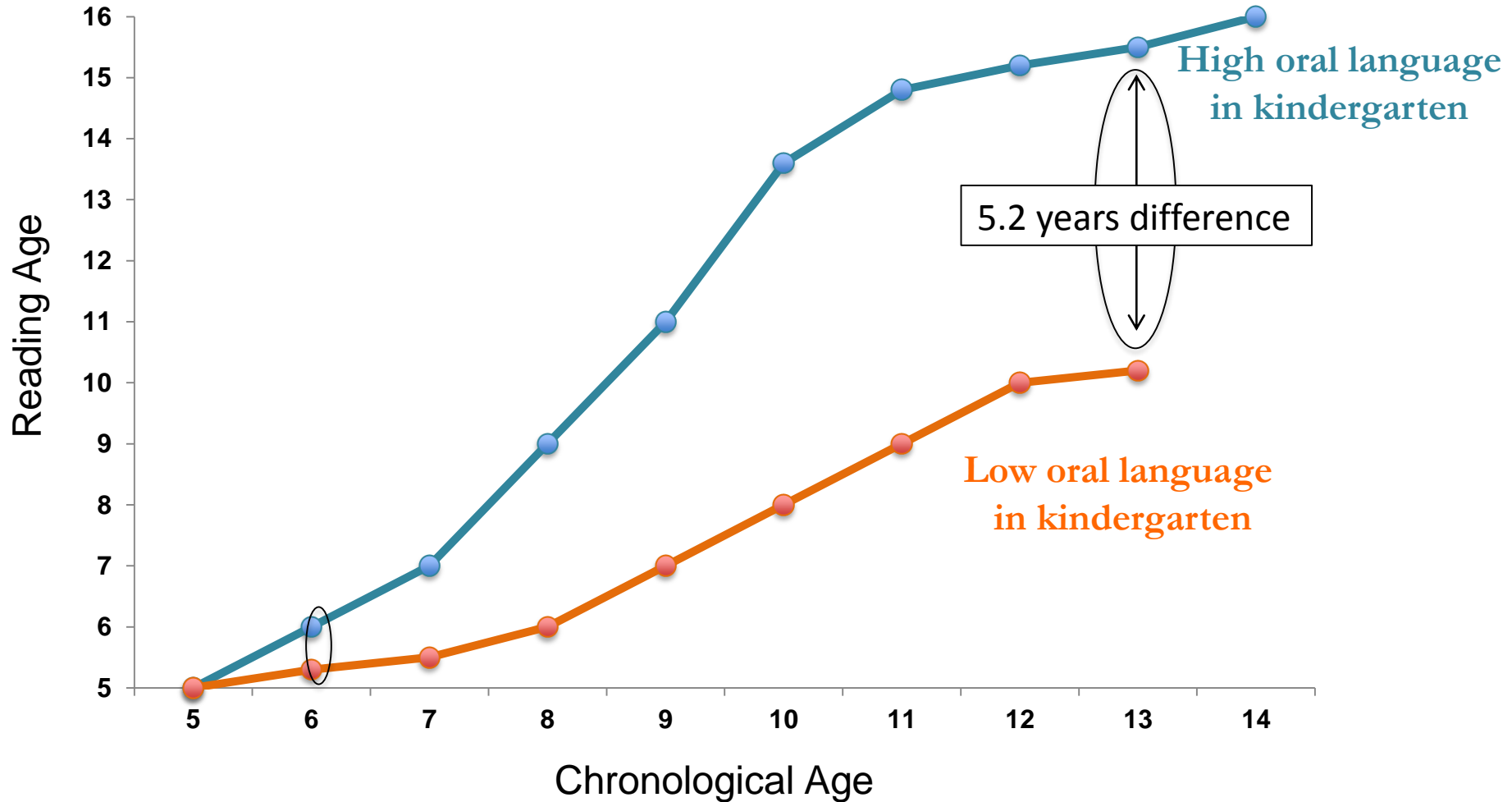
Five Years Later

- Significant progress in PEI
- *ECE Report 2014* found PEI tied with Quebec, ahead of other provinces
- Rapid transition to Early Years Centres
- Infrastructure for access and quality
- But, access now stalled and literacy challenges continue in schools

The Word Gap

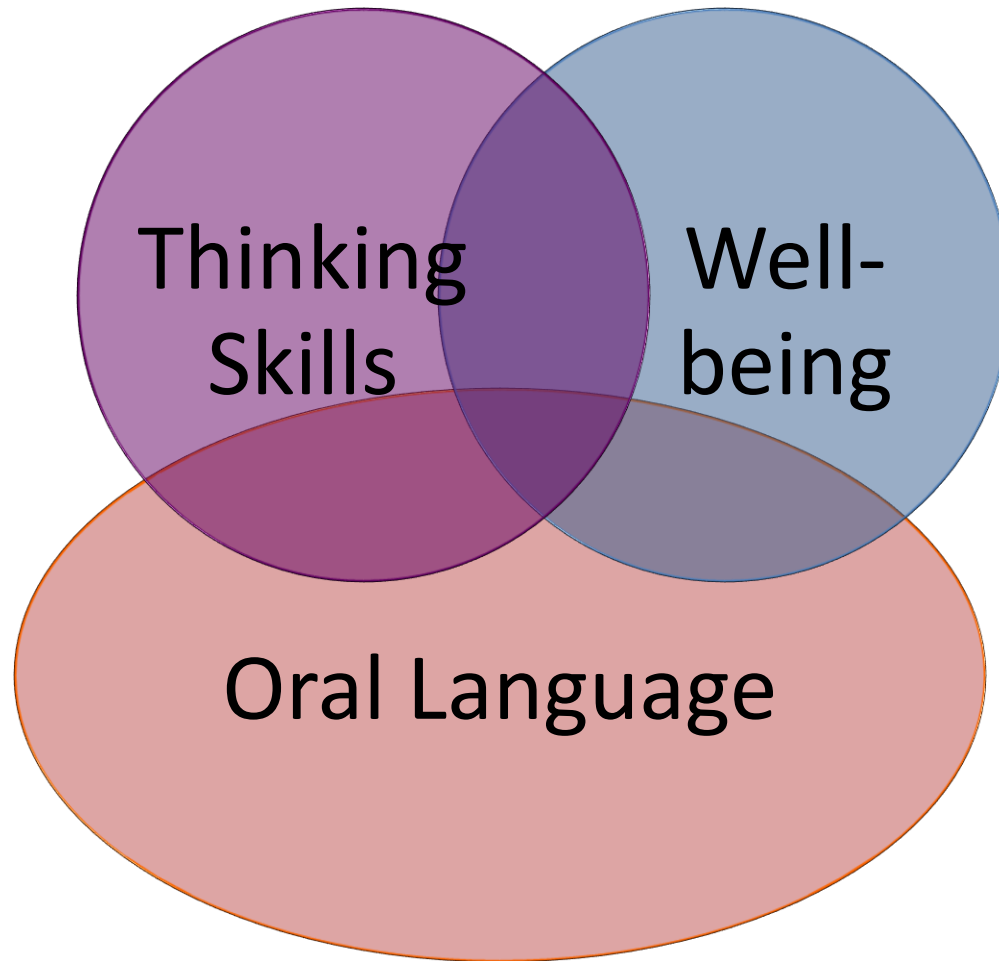


The Effects of Weaknesses in Oral Language on Reading Growth (Hirsch, 1996)



Hart & Risley, 1996

Oral language is foundation



What the research says....

- Direct participation in early childhood education is the policy lever that impacts child outcomes and has economic benefits.
- A parenting focus can amplify benefits IF it models positive interactions and provides opportunities for practice

CHANCES and MWMFF

- Multi-year partnership that builds on CHANCES leadership and accomplishments
- Government's recent contributions include extension of Best Start from 2 to 3 years and funding for early literacy focus
- A laboratory to test the full PEI vision

CHANCES Phase II

- Access to ECE for all Best Start families
- Linking public databases to track impact
- Increasing family utilization across CHANCES program areas
- Professional Learning Agenda
- Program Observation Tool
- Improvements in program quality and children's outcomes emerging

Next Steps

1. Partner with PEI government in new plan for education
1. Improve EYC alignment with school system
1. Share learnings from CHANCES with provincial staff working with the sector