

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

SUCCESSFUL KIDS, SUCCESSFUL COUNTRY

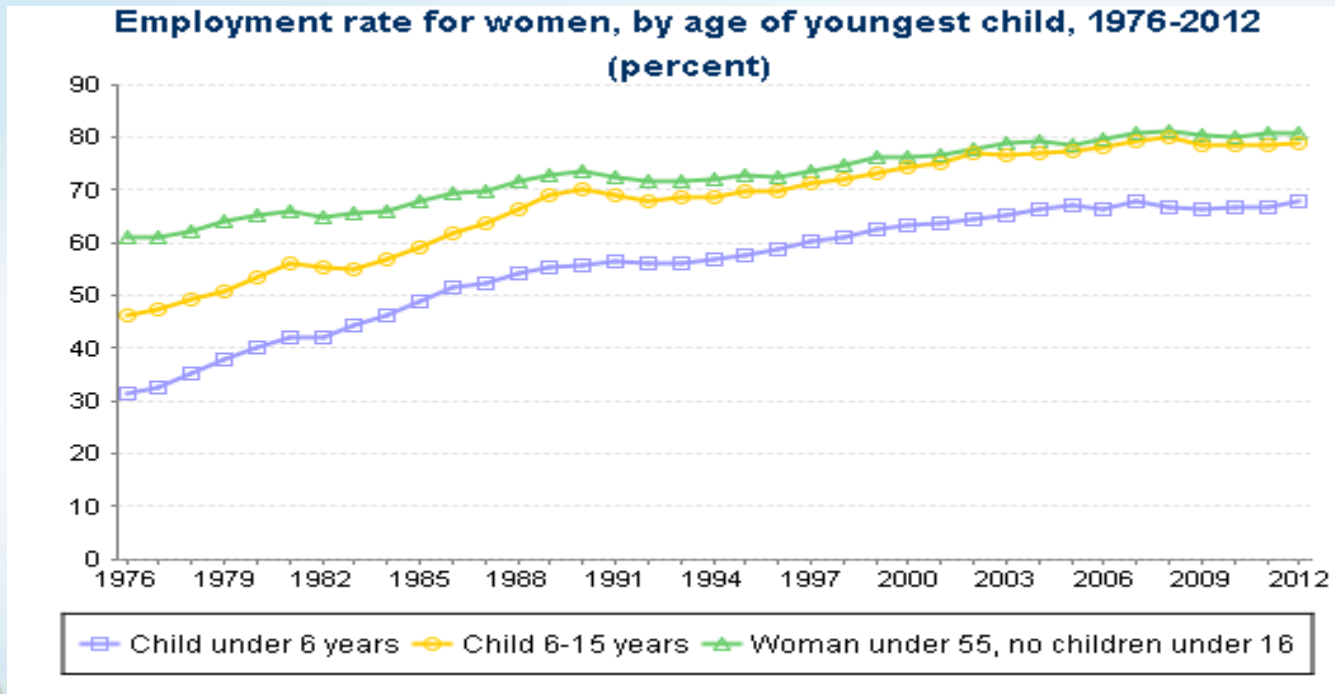
*Why smart public policy needs
to include early childhood education*

Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain

St. John's, NL, Nov. 5, 2013

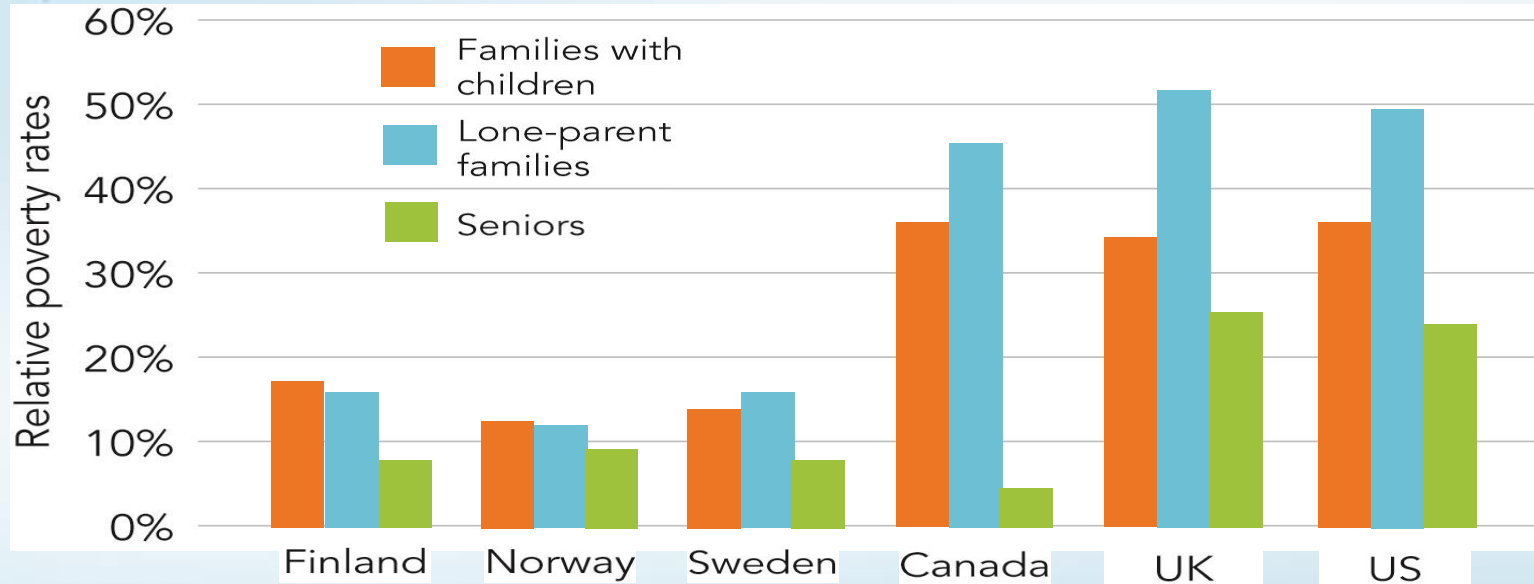


Mothers' labour is essential



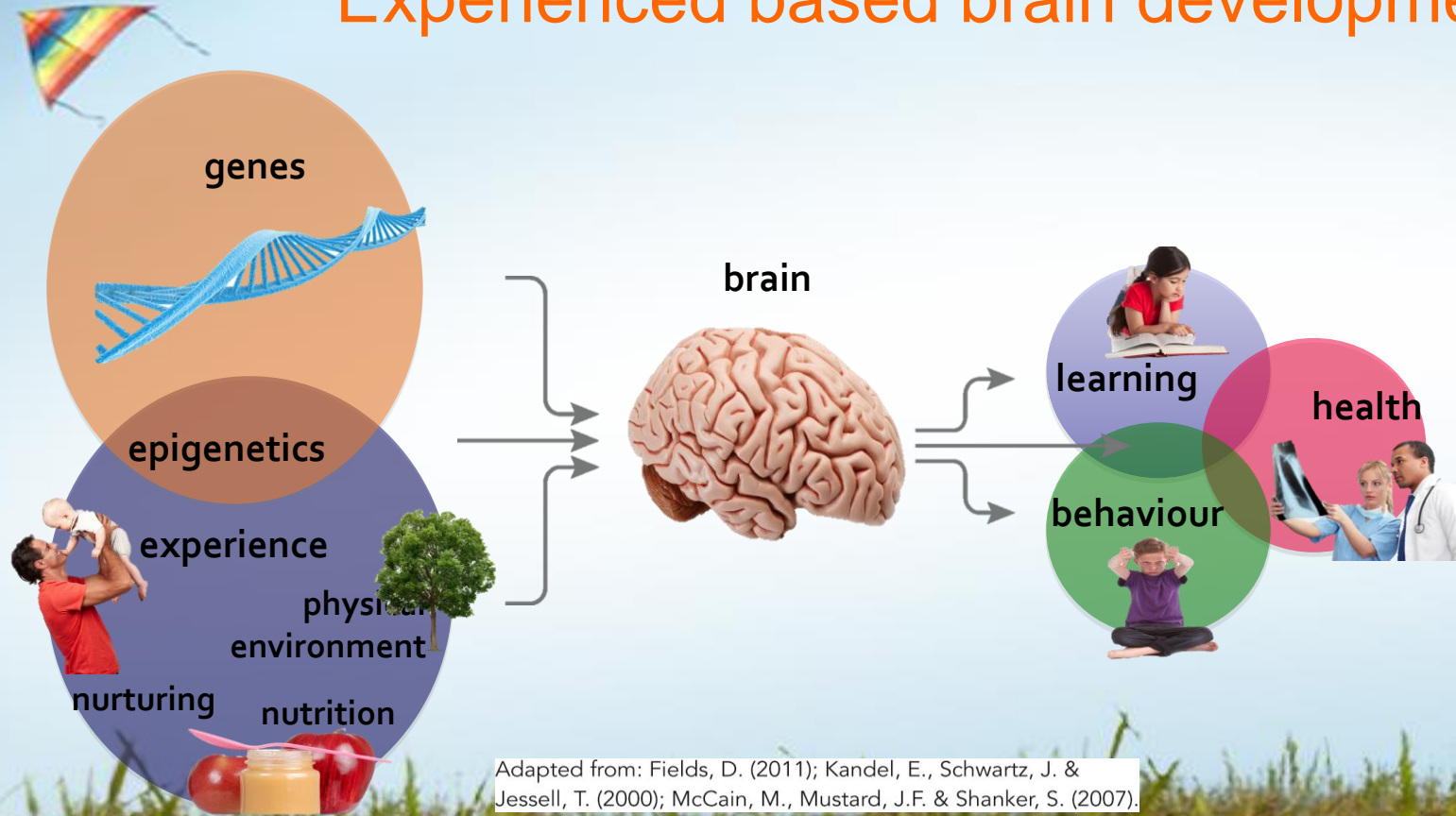


Relative poverty rates for at risk groups



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

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

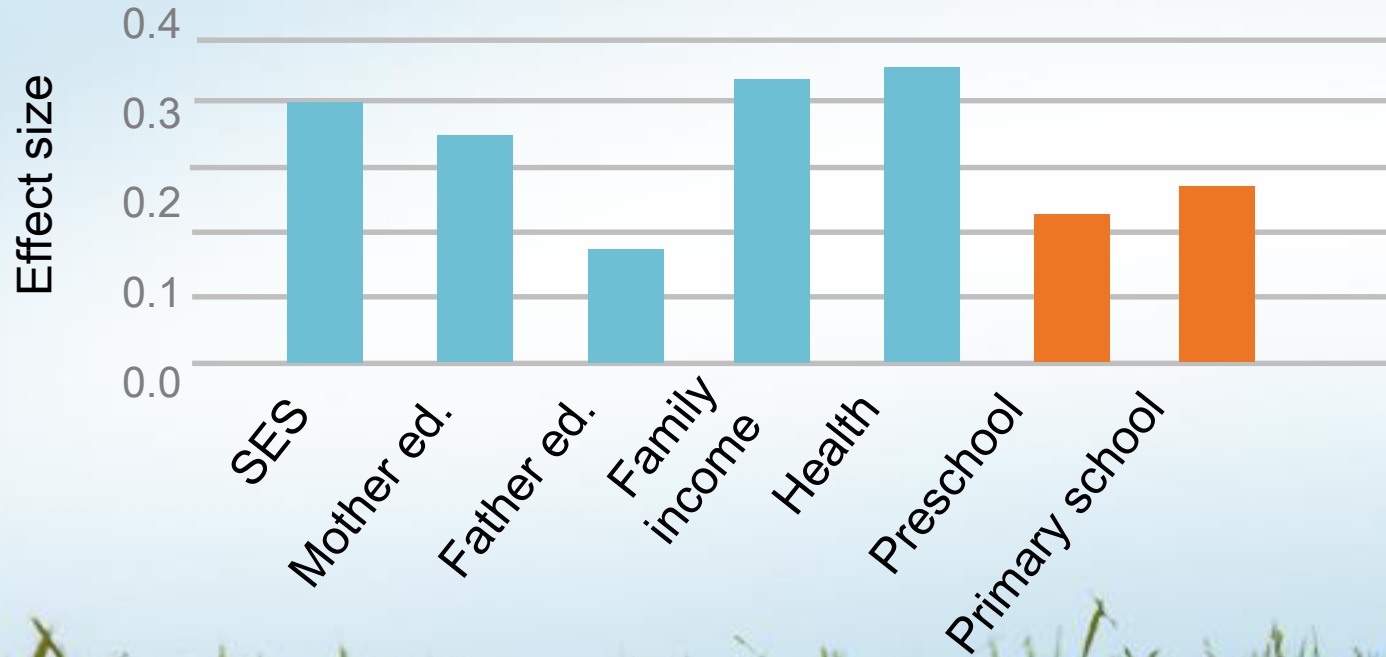
Public cost of high school non-completion in Canada by cohort (2008 dollars)



Source: Hankivsky, O. (2008).

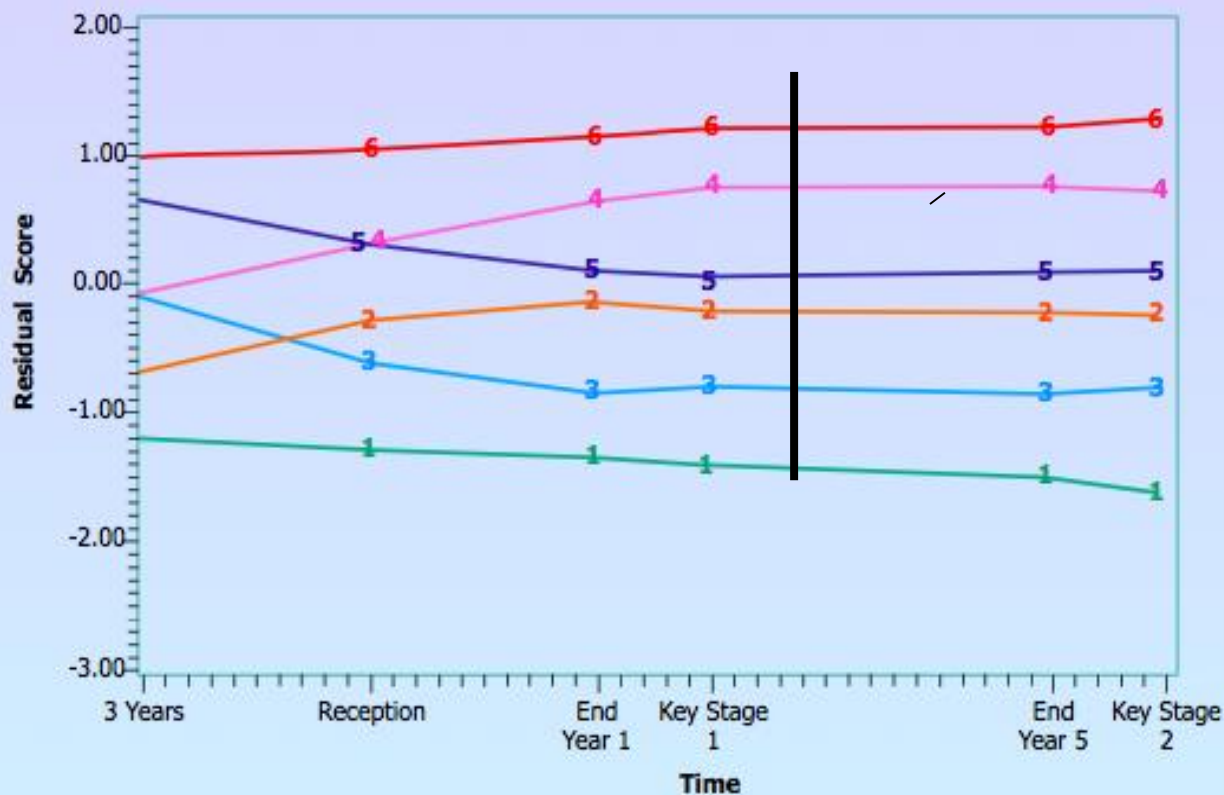


Factors affecting achievement – Age 11



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

Trajectories for Numeracy

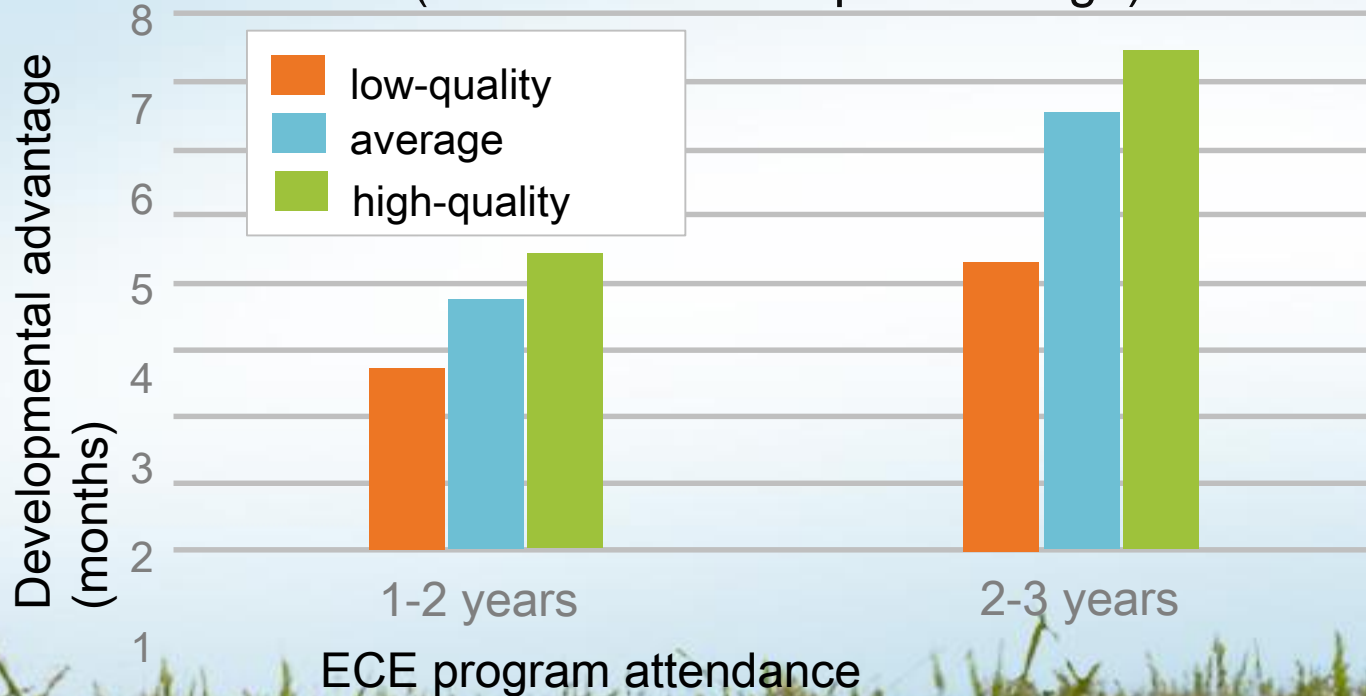


Group % 1-1 8.2% 2-2 19.6% 3-3 18.8% 4-4 17.3% 5-5 23.2% 6-6 12.9%



Quality and duration matter

(months of developmental age)

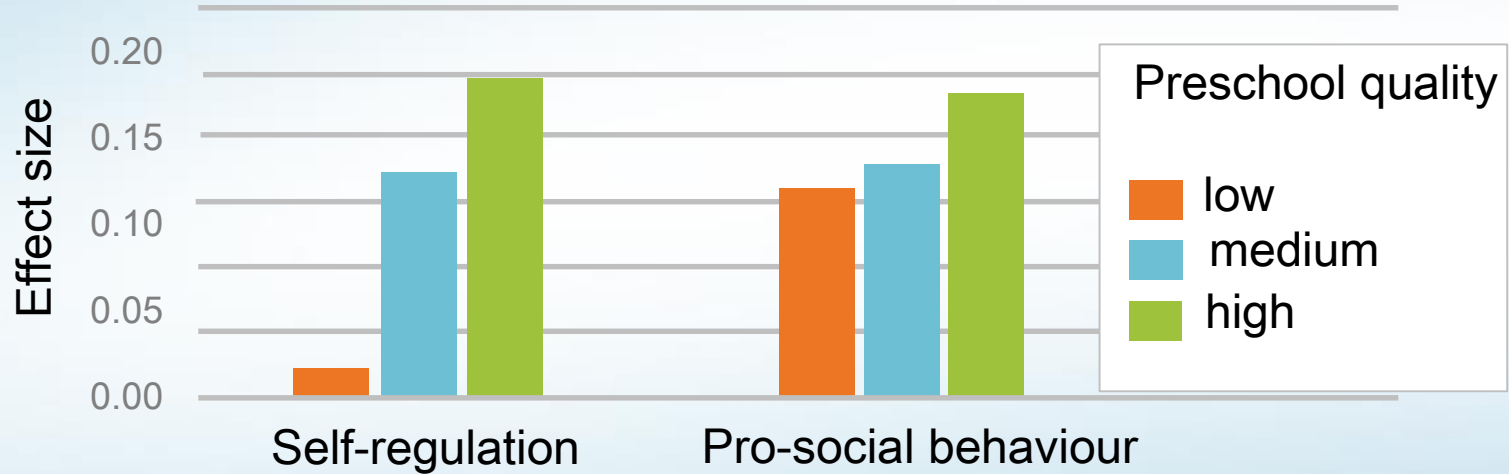


Source: Melhuish, E. in Roseveare, D. (2011).



Quality linked to better outcomes

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



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

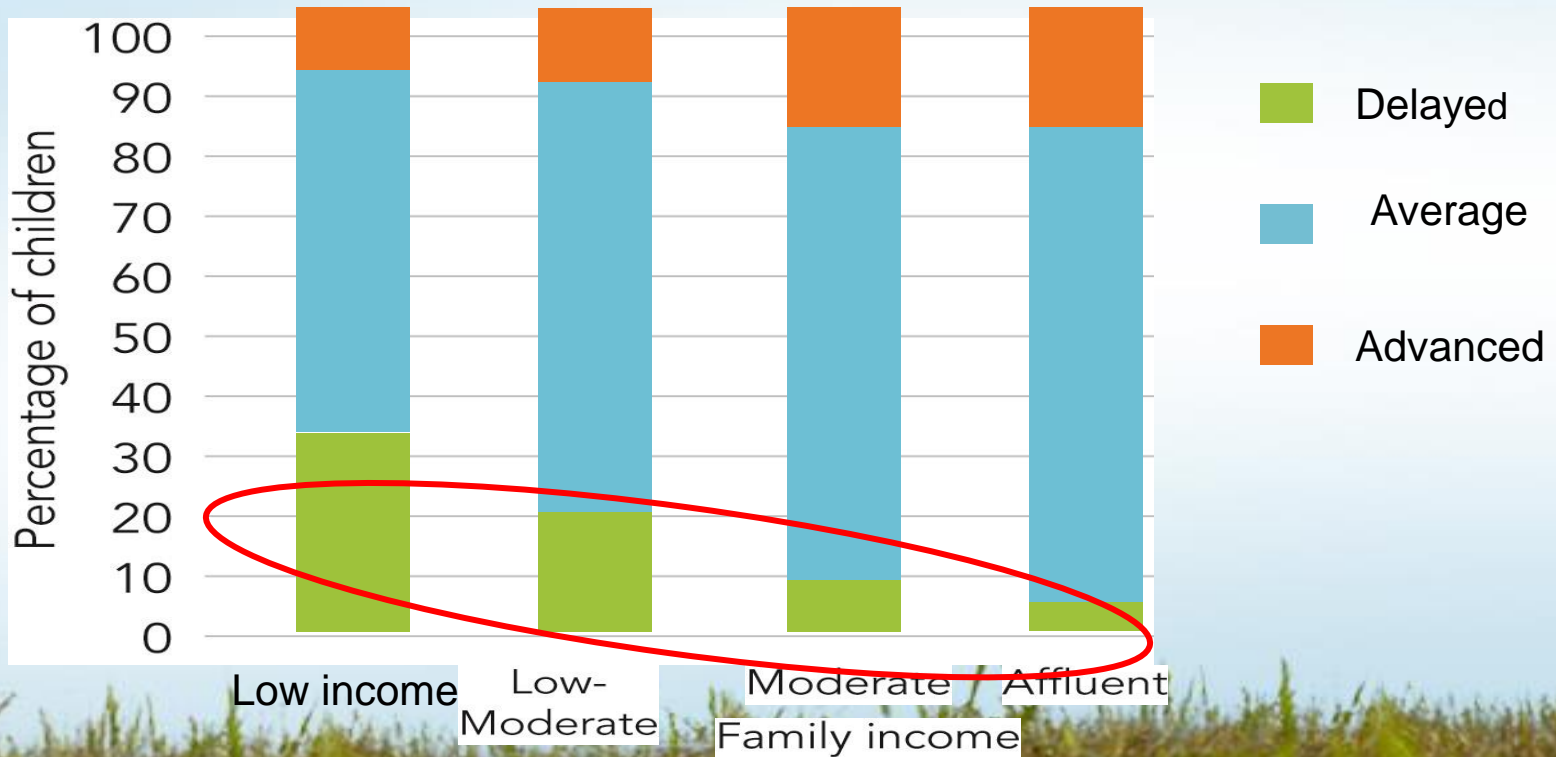


What makes a quality ECE environment?

Five areas are particularly important:

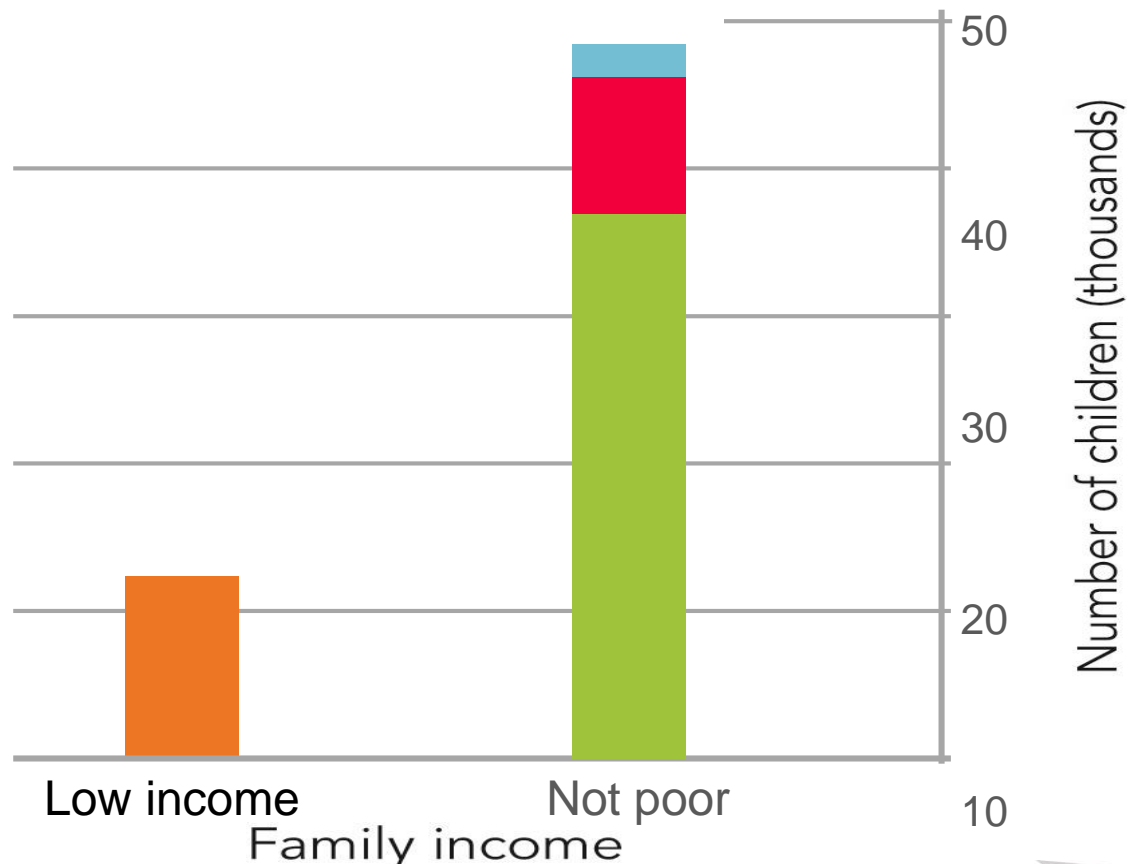
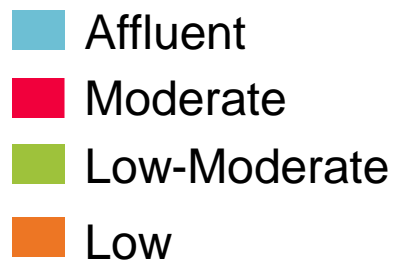
- Quality of the adult-child verbal interaction
- Knowledge and understanding of curriculum
- Knowledge of how young children learn
- Adults skilled in helping children resolve conflicts
- Helping parents to support children's learning at home

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

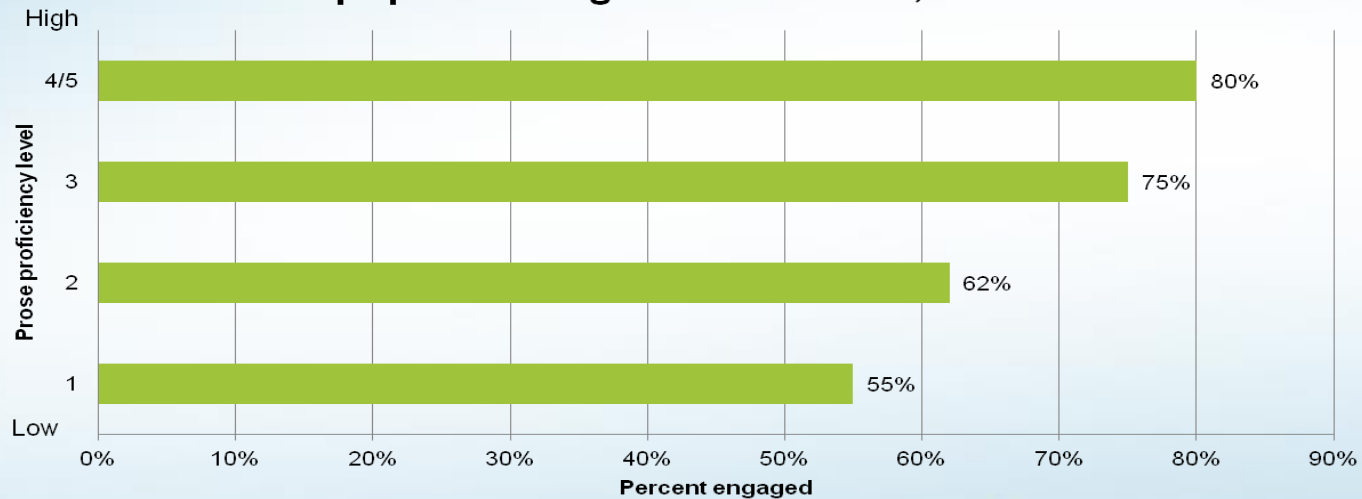


Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008–2009. Special tabulation.



Literacy and civic engagement

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



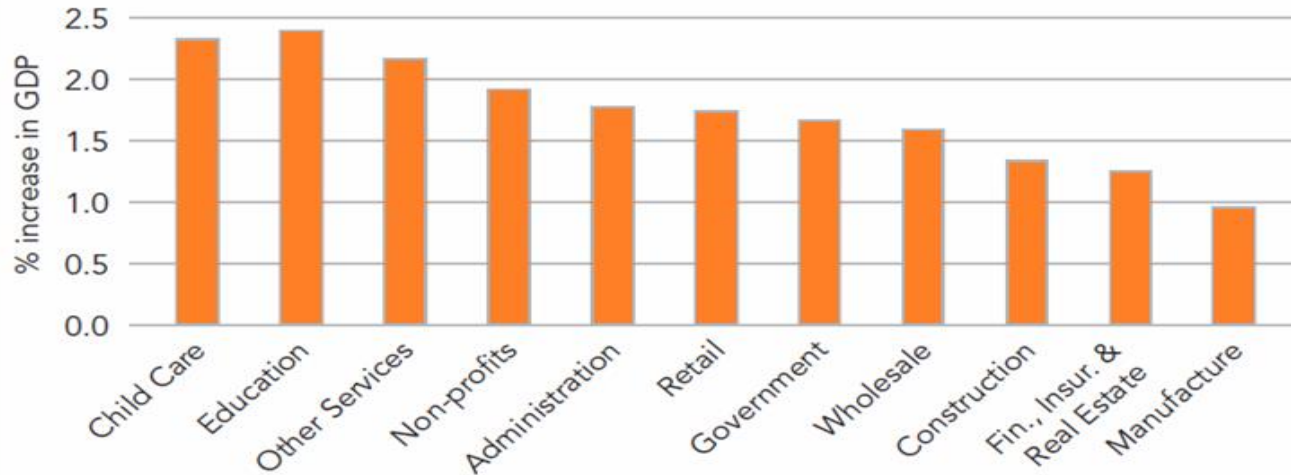
Source: Barr-Telfard, L., Nault, F., & Pignal, J. (2005)



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

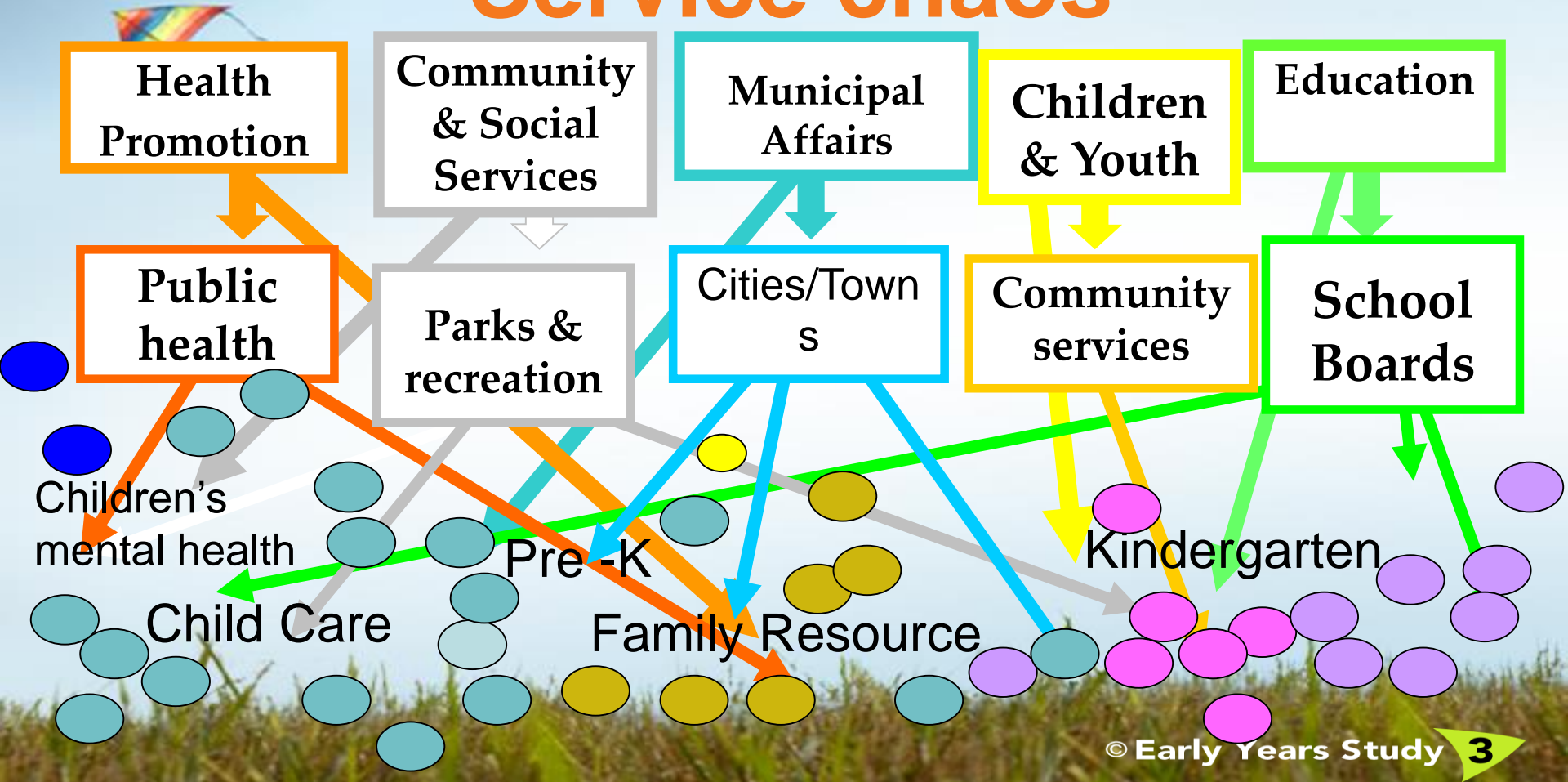
Source: Fortin, P., Godbout, L., & St-Cerny. (2012).

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

- Integrated delivery of early childhood and family support programs serves more families, more cost-effectively and in ways they want to be served



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



The community school

- Schools are in every neighbourhood – not just some
- Provides viability to small schools, particularly in rural and remote areas
- Creates efficiencies, reduces overlaps and gaps, expands service, improves quality and accountability



Early Years Study 3
www.earlyyearsstudy.ca

Early Education Report
& Policy Monitor
www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson