

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Everyday Strategies Module 1

Reducing Child Maltreatment
as an Early Care & Education Provider

Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia presents
**“Circles of Caring: What Child Abuse Prevention
Looks Like”**



<http://www.youtube.com/user/PCAWV>

(9 minutes 36 seconds)



"Empathy can't be taught, but it can be caught." - *Mary Gordon, founder of Roots of Empathy, a school-based program designed to foster compassion*

A child's capacity for empathy can further be encouraged when parents model empathetic behavior themselves. When parents treat other people with compassion, selflessness and a lack of judgment, children copy those behaviors.

In the beginning, Center for the Study of Social Policy was seeking a strategic, feasible approach to child abuse prevention that was:

- systematic,
- national,
- reached large numbers of young children, and
- would have impact long before abuse or neglect occurred



ROLES Early care and education programs can serve several critical roles for young parents:

- as a **primary source of information and support** for young families
- as a **gateway to outside services or supports** such as health or mental health services, transportation, and even education, housing and jobs.
- as the **key early warning system** when families or children are in trouble.

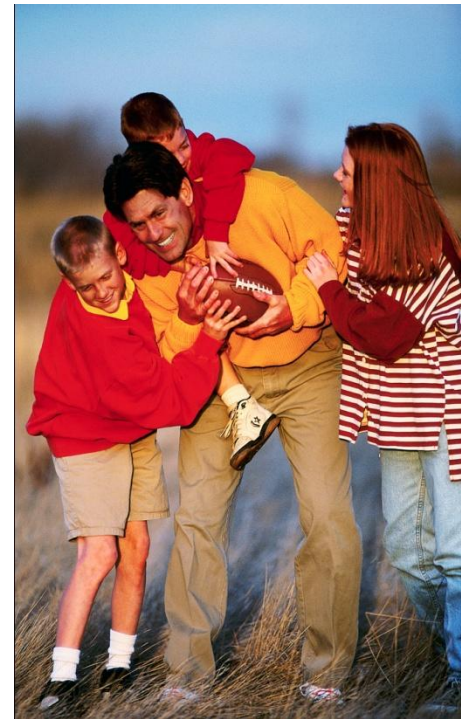
Hypothesis was that early care and education programs could be central because they offer:

- Daily contact with parents and children
- Uniquely intimate relationship with families
- A universal approach of positive encouragement and education for families
- An early warning and response system at the first sign of trouble



The “New Normal”

- Child abuse and neglect prevention becomes **building healthy families**
- Early childhood programs **support families and protect children**
- Child welfare and other state systems **support the developmental needs of young children**
- State policy and funding sustain the work of Strengthening Families



ROLE : How Early Childhood Programs Contribute to Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Quality Early Care & Education:

Program Strategies That:

- *Facilitate friendships and mutual support*
- *Strengthen parenting*
- *Respond to family crises*
- *Link families to services and opportunities*
- *Value and support parents*
- *Facilitate children's social and emotional development*
- *Observe and respond to early warning signs of child abuse or neglect*

Protective Factors

Parental Resilience

Social Connections

*Knowledge of Parenting
& Child Development*

*Concrete supports in
times of need*

*Social and Emotional
Competence of Children*

*Child
Abuse &
Neglect
Prevention*



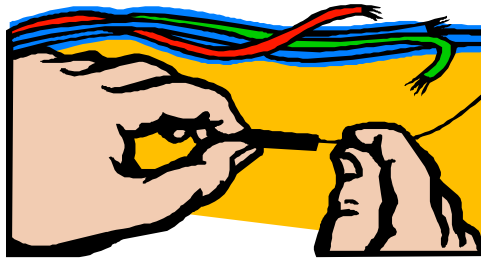
BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The foundation to a good beginning

“If there’s anything more fundamental than a decent start in life, I wonder what it could be.”

— *David Hamburg, President of Carnegie Foundation of New York*

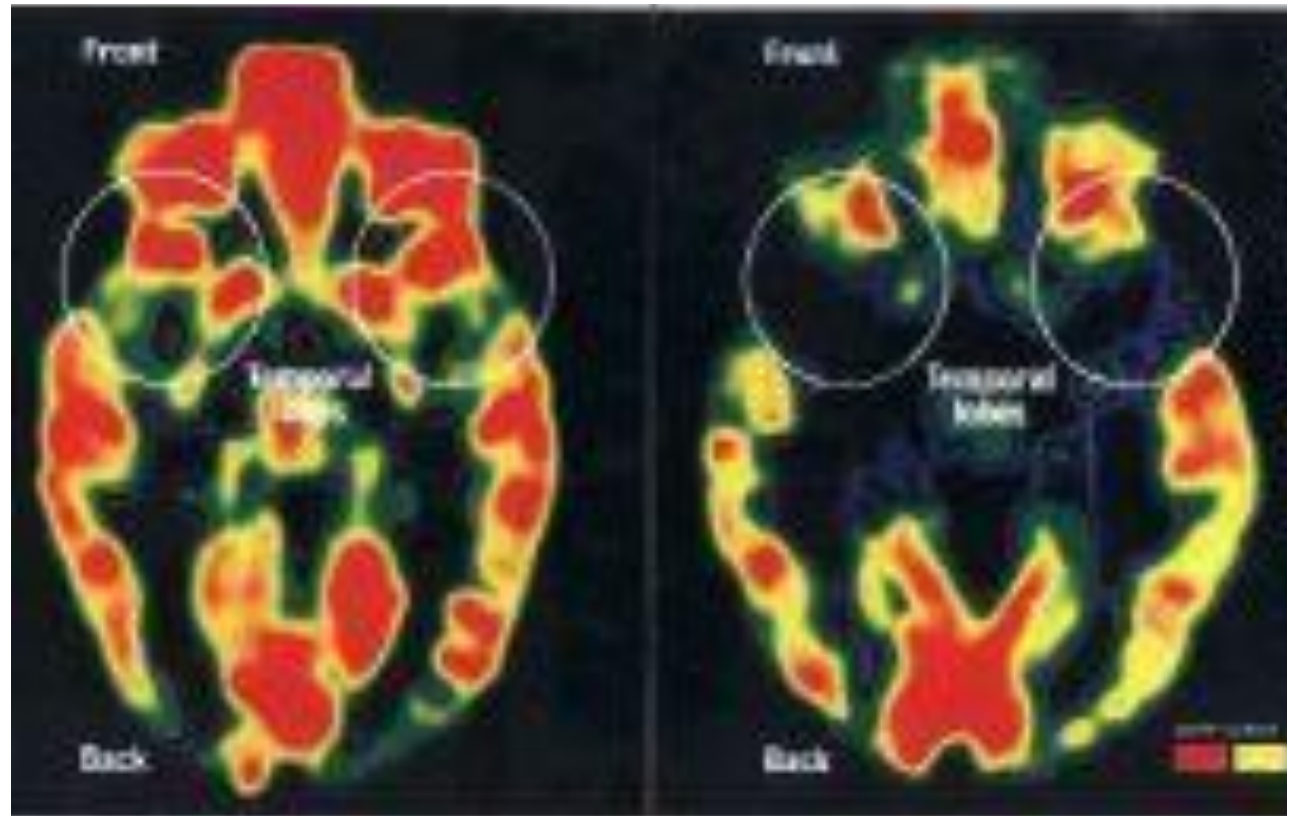




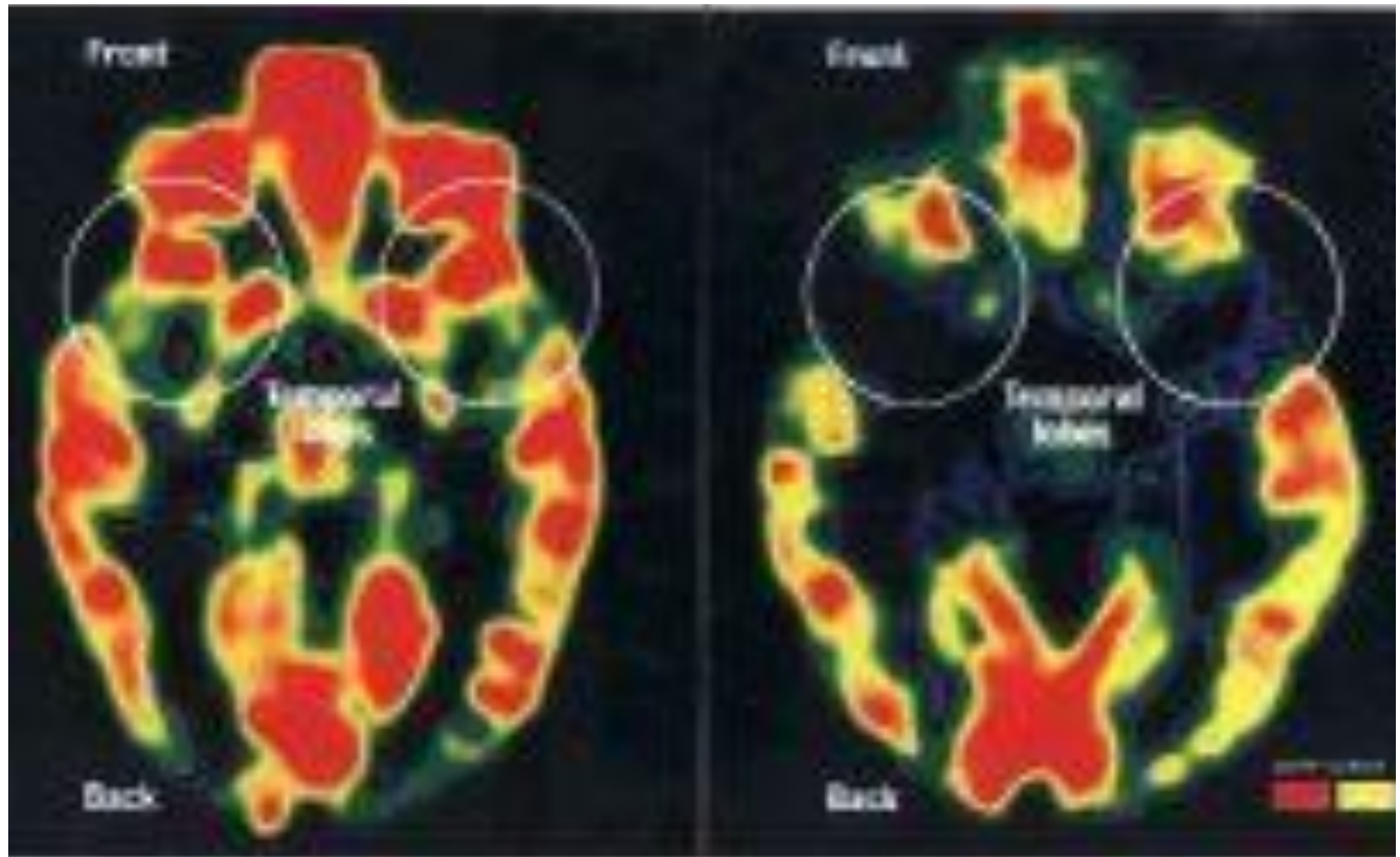
Wiring a brain is like wiring a house

Scan – Child nurtured

Scan - Child in orphanage with extreme neglect



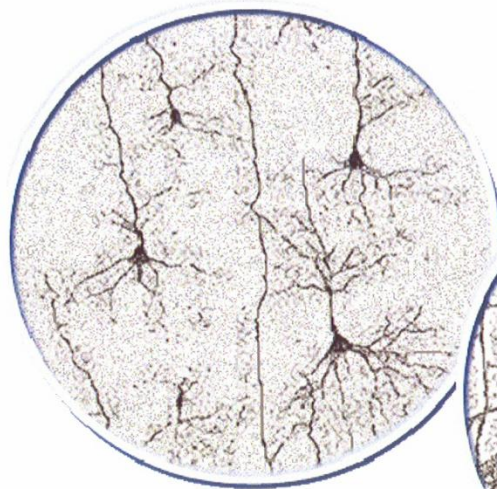
**It's better
if you
start from
the
beginning**



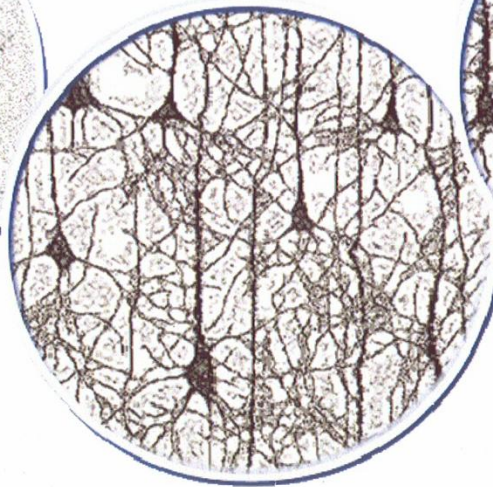
Scan – Child nurtured

Scan - Child in orphanage with extreme neglect

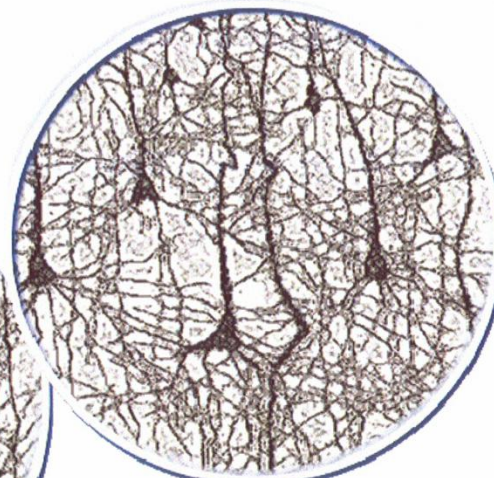
Birth to Two Years–Synaptic Density



Birth



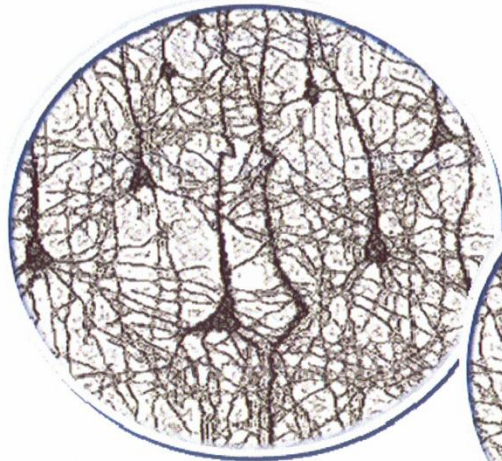
15 months



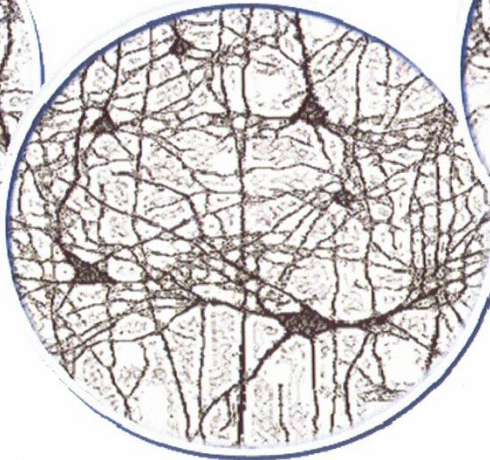
2 years

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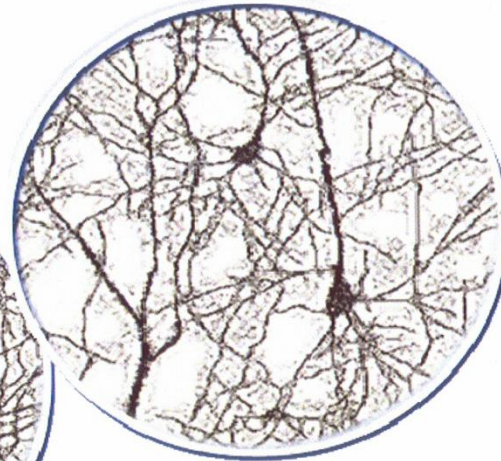
Two to Six Years--Synaptic Density



2 years



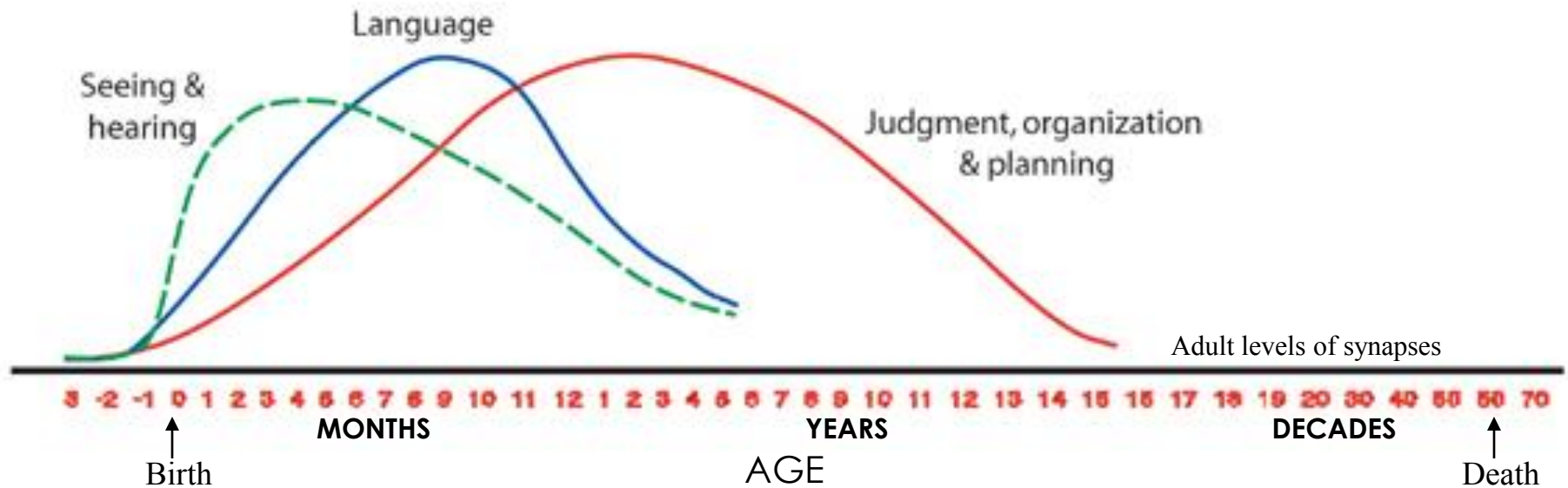
4 years



6 years

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Human Brain Development



SOURCE: Charles A. Nelson, University of Minnesota.

Next Session...

- Strategies to build Protective Factors
- Staff Surveys on Protective Factors

Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia and its funding partners—the West Virginia Children's Trust Fund, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources—provide this opportunity to help children grow up free from abuse & neglect.

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