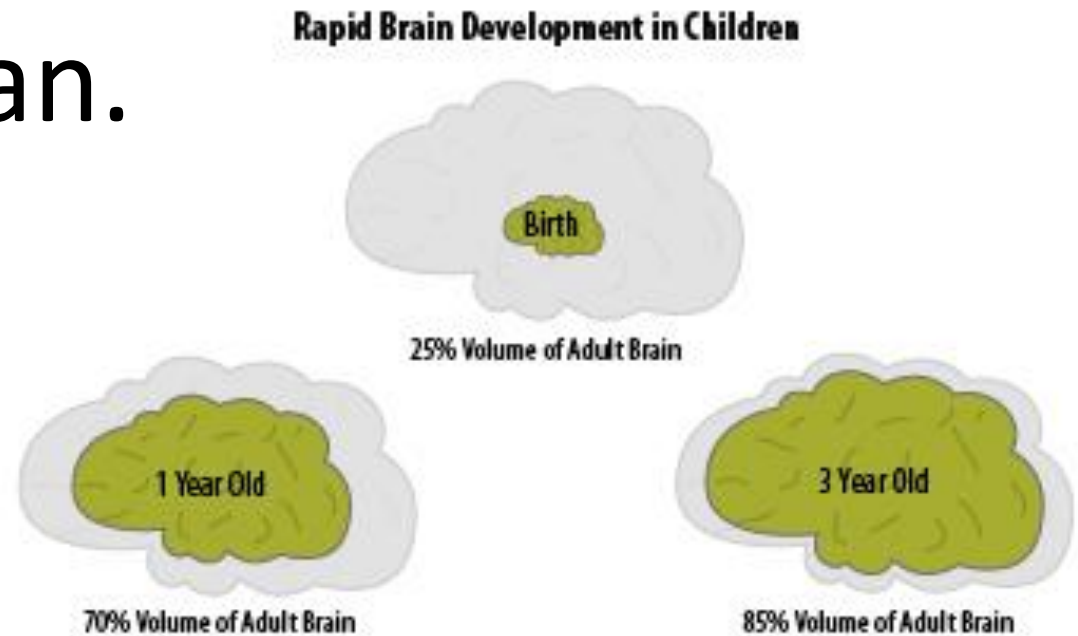


- Early Language

60% of all the energy a
baby expends is
concentrated in the
brain.



The birth-to-three period is the fastest rate of brain development across the entire human life span.



Source: *Wall Street Journal*, "Wise Beyond Their Years: What Babies Really Know," February 11, 2013

Babies whose parents frequently talk to them know 300 more words by age 2 than babies whose parents rarely speak to them



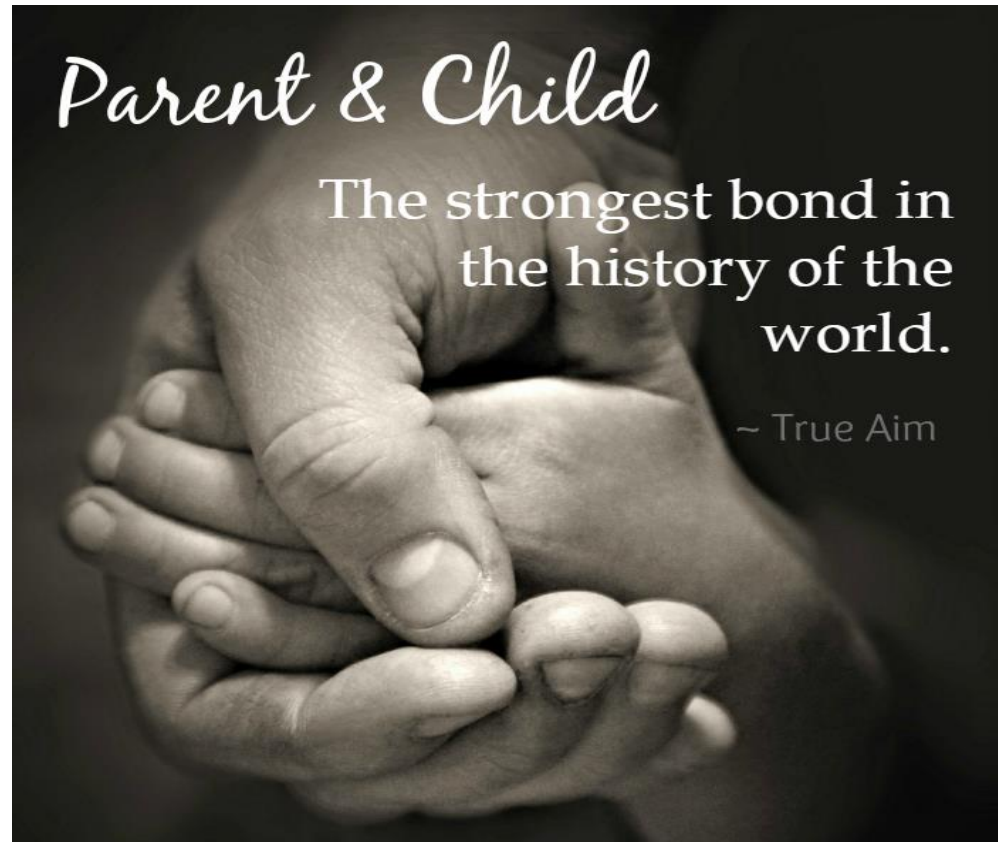
Social interaction enhances the speed and accuracy of learning at all ages.



ALL caregivers who are a part of a child's life impact his/her brain development.



A strong parent-child bond in early childhood prepares children to better handle stress throughout life.



Babies learn what is important to pay attention to by following the eye gaze of adults.



Humans are born with the
ability to learn any language.



Learning more than one language improves cognitive development.

I want to learn a second language!

spanish?

Italian?

English?

French?



Children do not need special toys or videos to stimulate their brain development.



Babies use the facial expressions of adults to decide how they feel.



Holding and stroking an infant stimulates the brain to release important hormones that allow him to grow



If babies' bodies grew at the same rapid pace as their brains, they would weigh 170 pounds by one month of age.



Reading aloud to children helps stimulate brain development, yet only 50% of infants and toddlers are routinely read to by their parents.



By the time they are 3,
children's brains have formed
1000 trillion connections
between neurons.



Newborn



1 Month



9 Months



2 Years



Adult

“Floor time” with a child including talking, singing, reading, playing, and exploring objects and physical space are the best ways to stimulate brain development.



Adult/child interaction

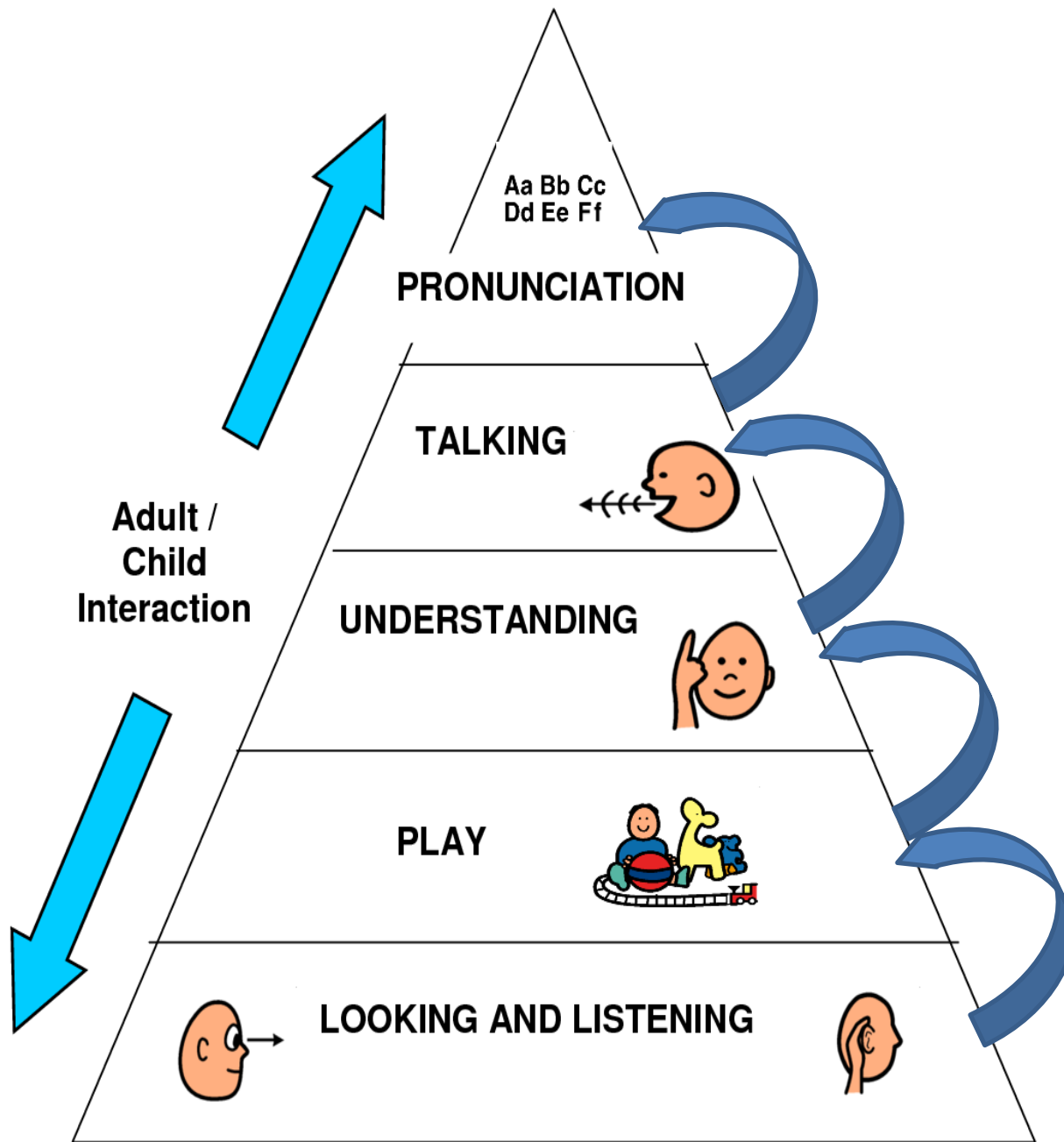
Play

Understanding

Pronunciation

Looking and listening

Talking



Things that can influence a child's development

The first five years of a child's life is a time of great promise and rapid change, when the developing brain is most open to the influence of relationships and experiences. However, millions of children across the world are at risk of not reaching their full potential because they do not get the care and early stimulation they need.

Many factors can influence children's development

Family background

Different expectations for development, support, love, family makeup/background

Environment

Housing, pollution, available resources/opportunities, community safety structure and values



Health Status

Illness, SEN, diet, exercise, hygiene

Gender

Different rates of growth for boys and girls and expectations

Finances

Amount of money available for food, education, holidays clothing and resources/toys

Social class

Impact of poverty, attitudes to educational development

Cultural background

Expectations of different groups/ EAL

Genetics

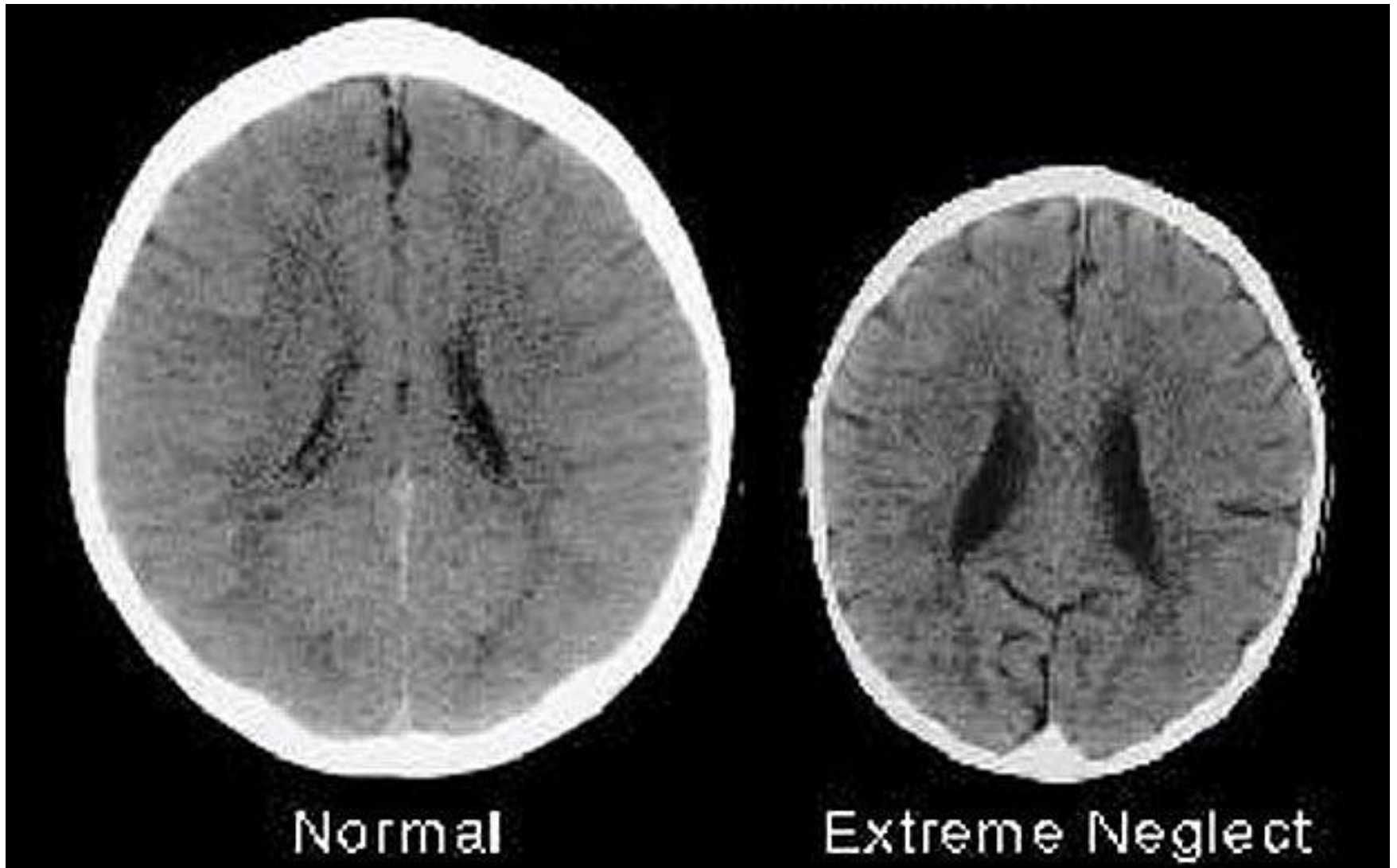
Effects of inheritance

Many synapses are formed as a result of genes; this is how the basic brain becomes wired. However, the environment then plays a part in further development. Other synapses are formed as a result of a child's senses reporting about his or her environment and experiences, and stimulating neural activity.



If synapses are rarely used, they stay weak and are more likely to be eliminated during the pruning process. Stronger synapses support the efficiency of the brain, supporting learning, memory and other cognitive skills. Therefore, a child's experiences have a great influence on how a child's brain will process information for the rest of his or her life. This is why the first years of a baby's life are critical.



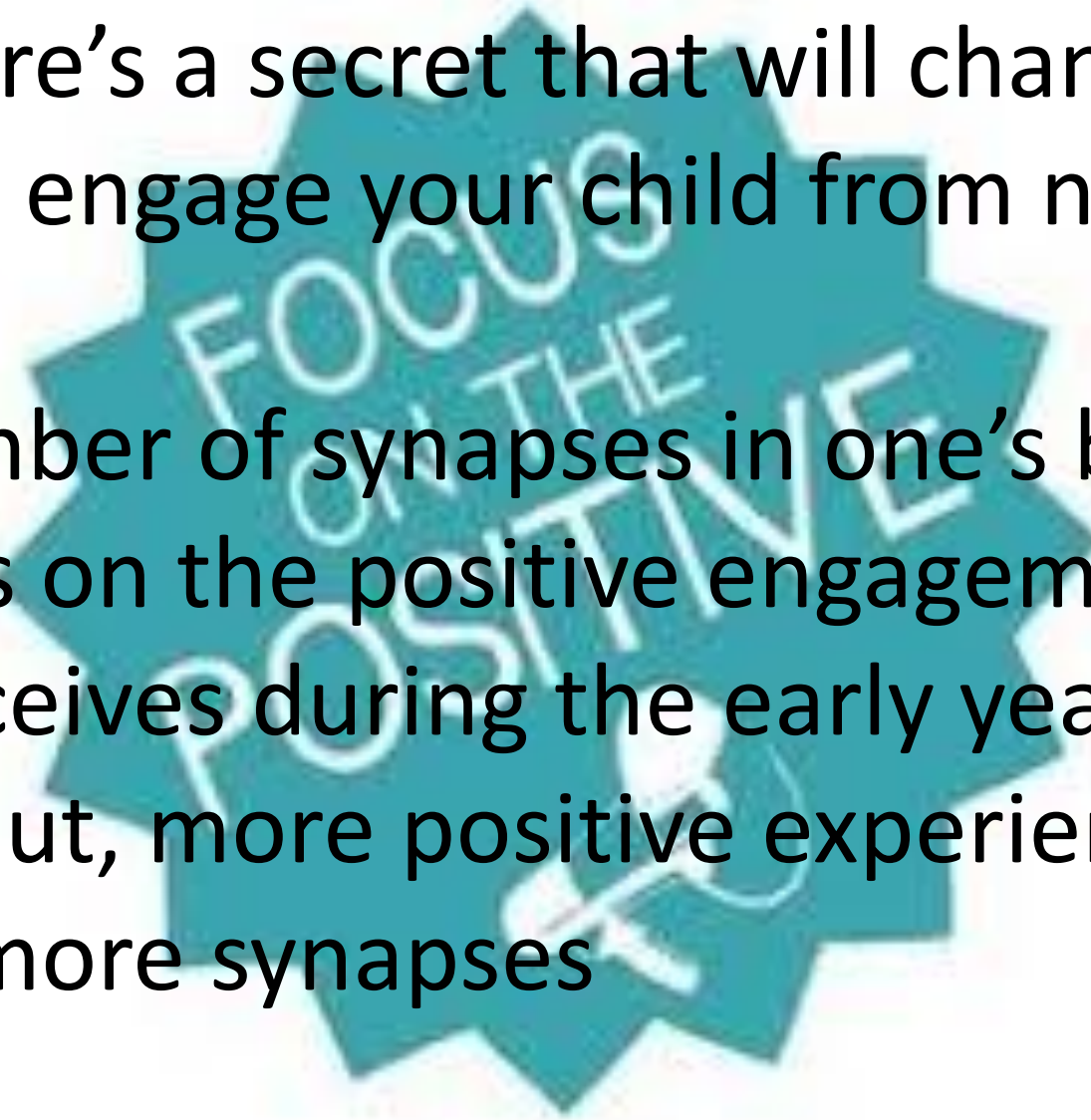


This image, from [research conducted by Dr Bruce D Perry, Ph.D](#) (PDF), illustrates the negative impact of neglect on the developing brain.

Why Is It So Important?

Well, here's a secret that will change the way you engage your child from now on...

The number of synapses in one's brain depends on the positive engagement a child receives during the early years. So simply put, more positive experiences means more synapses



In 1975, Edward Tronick and colleagues first presented the “still face experiment” to colleagues at the biennial meeting of the [Society for Research in Child Development](#). He described a phenomenon in which an infant, after three minutes of “interaction” with a non-responsive expressionless mother, “rapidly sobers and grows wary. He makes repeated attempts to get the interaction into its usual reciprocal pattern. When these attempts fail, the infant withdraws [and] orients his face and body away from his mother with a withdrawn, hopeless facial expression.” It remains one of the most replicated findings in developmental psychology.

An experiment entitled “Still Face Experiment” shows how babies react when they do not manage to interact with their mothers.



Today, with the introduction of smartphones and TV, children have started engaging passively. Interactions with other human beings has reduced drastically. Children are seldom introduced to decision-making in real-life situations



Discussion

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences that occur before the age of 18 and are remembered throughout adulthood.

These experiences range from suffering verbal, mental, sexual and physical abuse, to being raised in a household where domestic violence, alcohol abuse, parental separation or drug abuse is present.

Evidence shows children who experience stressful and poor quality childhoods are more likely to develop health-harming and anti-social behaviours, more likely to perform poorly in school, more likely to be involved in crime and ultimately less likely to be a productive member of society.

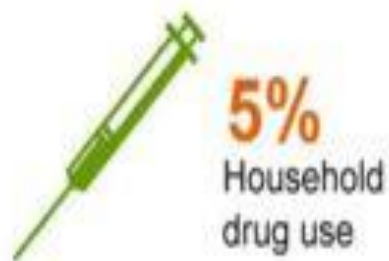
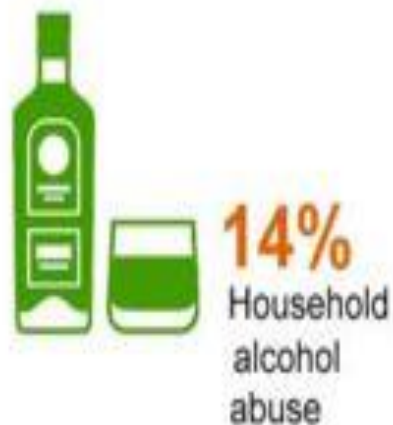
Cymru Well Wales has committed to addressing ACEs and their impact in Wales by; making all public services in Wales able to respond effectively to prevent and mitigate the harms from ACEs, and by building protective factors and resilience in the population to cope with ACEs that cannot be prevented.

Children who are exposed to abuse, domestic violence or other stresses are far more likely to develop long term health problems, says new research.

The Public Health Wales study looks at adverse experiences in childhood (ACEs) which include parents separating.

Children with four or more ACEs, around 14%, are three times more likely to get lung or heart disease later in life.

One senior health figure said instead of "mending broken adults" a focus was needed on "building stronger children".



Adverse Childhood Experiences

Proportion of Welsh adults suffering from each

Source: Public Health Wales
Welsh Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, 2016

For Prof Bellis it is crucial for the future to get it right.

The long term costs of leaving these things untreated are enormous," he said.

"What we've got to focus on is instead of mending broken adults we must build stronger children."

Prof Mark Bellis, director of policy and research at Public Health Wales

Impact on Early Language Development



School Readiness

Language Development at age 2 is a strong predictor of children's school readiness at age

4

(Roulstone et al 2011)



Disadvantage Cycle

Children from low income families lag behind high income counterparts by 16 months in vocabulary at school entry

Vocabulary difficulties at 5 associated with poor literacy, mental health and employment outcomes at 34
(Law et al 2009)

Criminality

65% of young people in young offenders institutions have communication difficulties



Mental Health

40% of 7 to 14 year olds referred to child psychiatric services had an undiagnosed language impairment



Janet Kay



Behaviour/ vulnerability

2/3 of 7-14 year olds with serious behaviour problems have a language impairment

Information on the services that are involved within Early Intervention

Service

Jig-so

Early Language Development Team

Family Partnership team

Team around the family

Family Wellbeing Team

EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Supporting families to build and enhance skills that will better enable them to help their child to meet their developmental milestones. Encouraging families to engage and promote play and language skills through 1-2-1 home sessions and within group.

Talk, sing, read and playing with your child

We are Families First and Flying Start Funded and we cover the whole of Swansea

We are 9 ELDT project workers and 1 manager

As Dr Seuss put it:
“The more that you read, the
more things you will know. The
more that you learn, the more
places you’ll go.”

