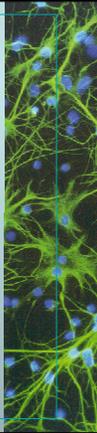


Transitional Kindergarten

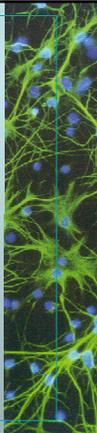
- It **bridges the path** between preschool and kindergarten.
- It provides the **gift of time** that will help students build a strong foundation for future success.
- But it needs to be **developmentally appropriate**.
 - Do **not** push down the Kindergarten curriculum!



Endangered Minds

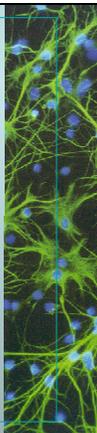
Author Jane Healy contends that many of our children's minds are endangered because they are living in a "language deprived" environment.

1. Many children are not talked to or read to or encouraged to interact verbally.
2. Children watching television aren't personally involved with language.
3. Majority of babies born in U.S. are placed in full time day care within a year. In many day care centers there is little interactive talk.



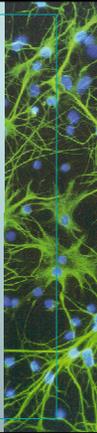
Talk, Talk, Talk

- Remember the **mirror neurons**!
- The **child is watching** your mouth, your tongue and your teeth as you pronounce the words.
- The environment influences how fast and how well a child **learns to speak and eventually to read**.



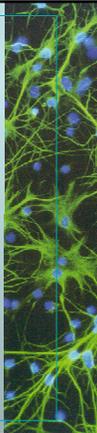
Read, Read, Read

- Reading to children is one of the **most important jobs** in which parents and teachers engage!
- Even before they begin to read, they are learning "bookness," which is right side up, how to turn pages, that we read words, not pictures, etc.
- Children like to listen to the **same books** over and over. Why?



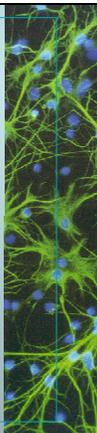
Songs and Rhyme

- **Music and language** are intertwined.
- Nursery Rhymes are the child's **first phonics lessons**. (which words sound alike and which ones do not)
- Use simple rhythms using **musical instruments** such as rhythm sticks, bells, triangles, maracas, etc.
- Use commercial **songs** or make up your own.



Research Findings Regarding Media

- **Media** = TV, computers, mobile phones, tablets, newspapers, magazines
- Kids are growing up in a very **different world**.
- **Media are powerful**, far more than most people realize.
- **Media affect everyone** and can have both **positive and negative** effects.



Basic Statistics

The average America household with children has 4 TVs, 3 VCR/DVD players, 2 video game consoles, and 2 computers with an Internet connection.

30% of 0-3 year-Olds, 43% of 4-6, 71% of 8-17 have TVs in their bedrooms.



Ron Gentile, University of Iowa

A Week in the Life of an American School-Age Child

Alone with father	0.5
Alone with mother	2.5
Home work	4.0
Reading (non-school)	0.5
Computer (non-school)	10.0
Video Games	9.0
Watching TV	31.0

Children spend more time in front of electronic screens than any other activity except sleeping!

Gentile, 2013

Does media have any positive impact on learning?

Some TV (Mr. Rogers: Neighborhood) teach nurturance, sympathy, task persistence, empathy, obedience, cooperation, and imagination.

Some computer games (BrainWare Safari) enhance cognitive skills.

Some computer games (Between the Lions) teach reading and counting skills.

Many other TV, computer and video games teach reading, math and other academic skills.

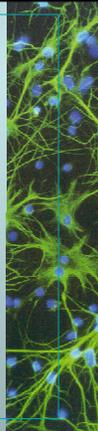
What are the negative effects of media?

Watching Baby Einstein videos actually **decreases** babies' language development.

Watching violent TV and/or playing violent video/computer games results in:

- increased meanness, **aggression** and violence towards others,
- increased **desensitization**, callousness and apathy towards others,
- increased **fearfulness**, mistrust
- increased self-initiated behavior to see **more violent material**.

Violence is not just hitting; it can be relational as well.



Key Developmental Tasks of Early Childhood (2 ½ - 5) Years

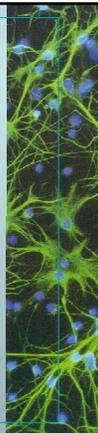


Learning behavior, self-control and compliance with rules.

Learning **emotional self-control**.

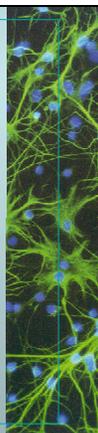
Learning **gender roles** and stereotypes.

Can you think of any media that might assist in developing the tasks necessary for **healthy lifestyles** in this age group?



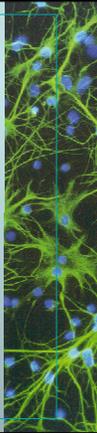
Intellectual Development

The I Q's of children born into poverty, or of those who were premature at birth, can be **significantly raised** by exposure to toys, words, proper parenting and other stimuli.



Abecedarian Project

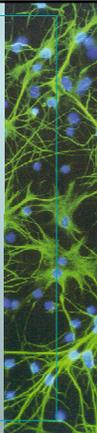
Craig and Sharon Ramey, exposed a group of impoverished inner-city children (beginning as young as 6 weeks) to an enriched environment, 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year. A control group received no intervention other than nutritional information for parents.



Results.....IQs of children in this group were significantly higher than in the control group....15 to 30 points higher! At 12 years of age, the benefits of the early intervention endured.

"The bottom line is that we now have clear and strong evidence that if we begin early intervention in the first years of life, we can prevent a very substantial amount of mental retardation and developmental disabilities."

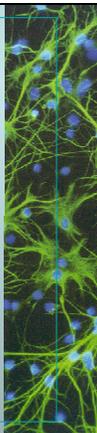
Craig Ramey, quoted in "Inside the Brain" by Ronald Kotulak



Notes from Bruce Perry

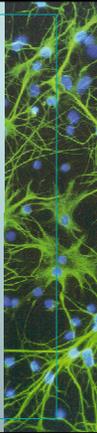
* We are **social animals**. We have no natural body armor to protect us. Our connections with other people is our protection.

* **The brain is created...the product of learning.** We don't just learn geography, we learn how to read the context...how close to stand to someone, how long to maintain eye contact, etc.



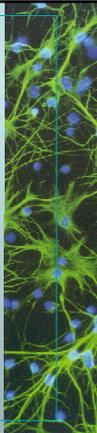
Notes from Bruce Perry

- * The **brain is not fully functional at birth**; it is tremendously malleable. The experiences of childhood determine its potential.
- * **Consistent relationships** are necessary. The child who has never been loved will not know how to love.
- * Healthy children are not just bright; they are **attached, productive** members of society.

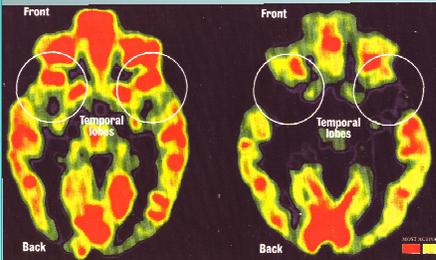


Social/Emotional Development

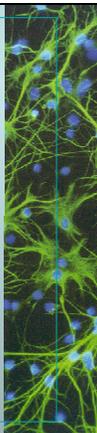
- Young children need to **form loving attachments** to parents and care givers.
- They need to be held, cuddled, talked to, sung to, and provided a **safe, happy environment**.
- **You are a model** for these children; they will copy your social and emotional behaviors.



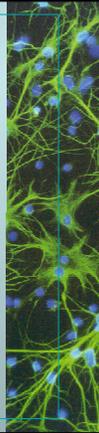
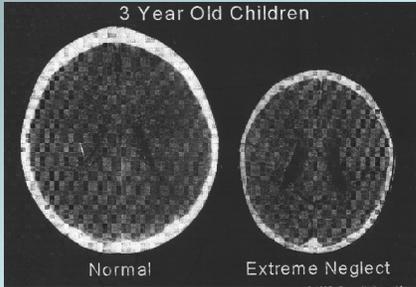
The Impact of Neuroplasticity can be Negative



Romanian Orphan Brain & Normal Brain at 3

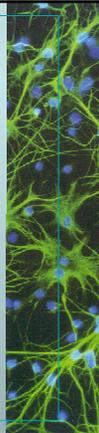


Normal & Neglected Brains



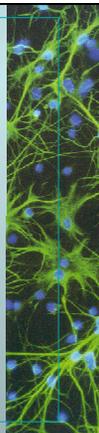
Additional Factors Affecting Early Brain Development

- **Exercise** - Research shows that exercise increases oxygen to the brain. It also releases a growth hormone (BDNF). BDNF is sometimes called Miracle Gro for the brain.
- **Sleep** - Consolidation of learning takes place when we are sleeping. Young children need 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night.
- **Nutrition** - A quality diet enhances the working of the brain. It should include fruits, vegetables, milk, fish and nuts.



Aside from parents,
teachers
have more influence on our
culture than any
other group.

Dr. Bruce Perry



The better we understand the brain,
the better we'll be able to educate it.

