

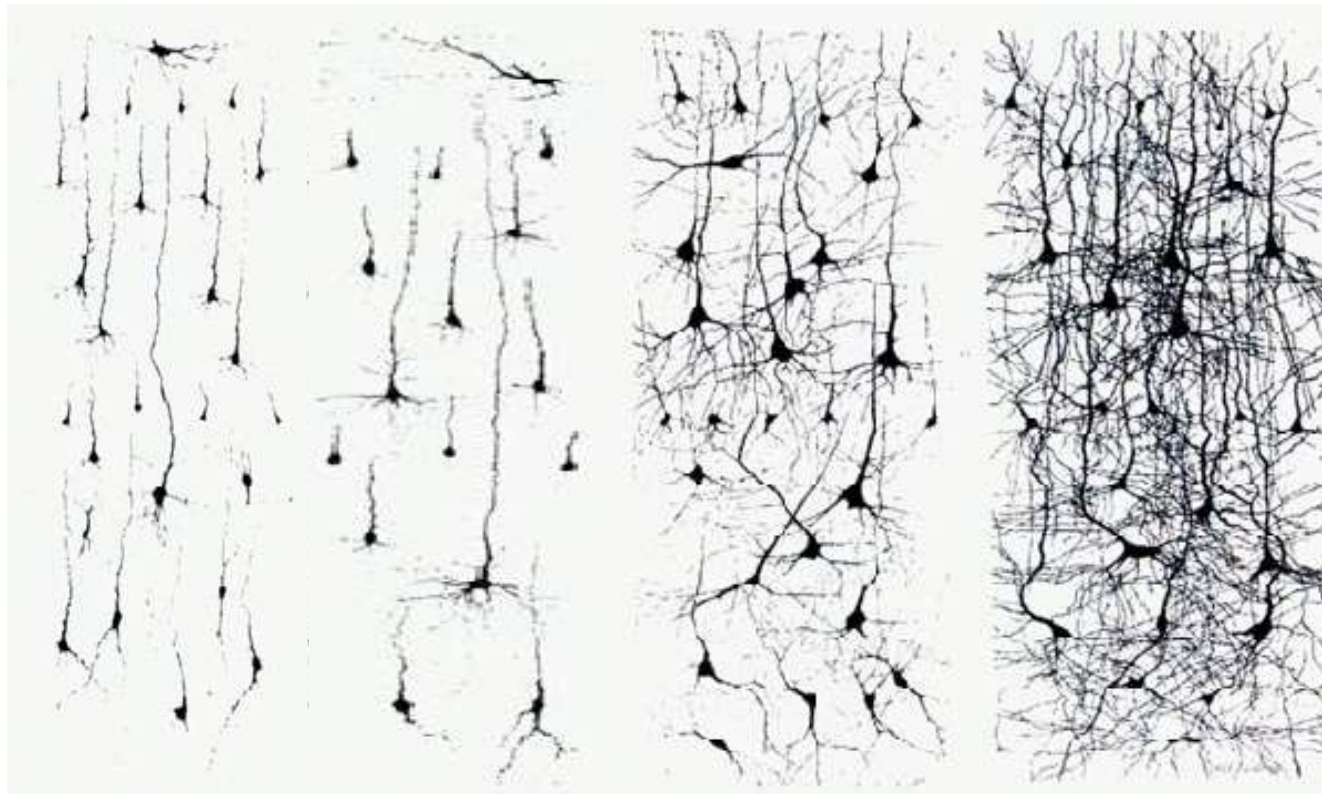


Roundtable Dialogue:
Early Care and Education Across the Aisle

Katharine Stevens, Resident Scholar

August 28, 2018 | NCSL Early Learning Fellows

Development of brain connections (“synapses”) from birth to age 2



Newborn

1 month

6 months

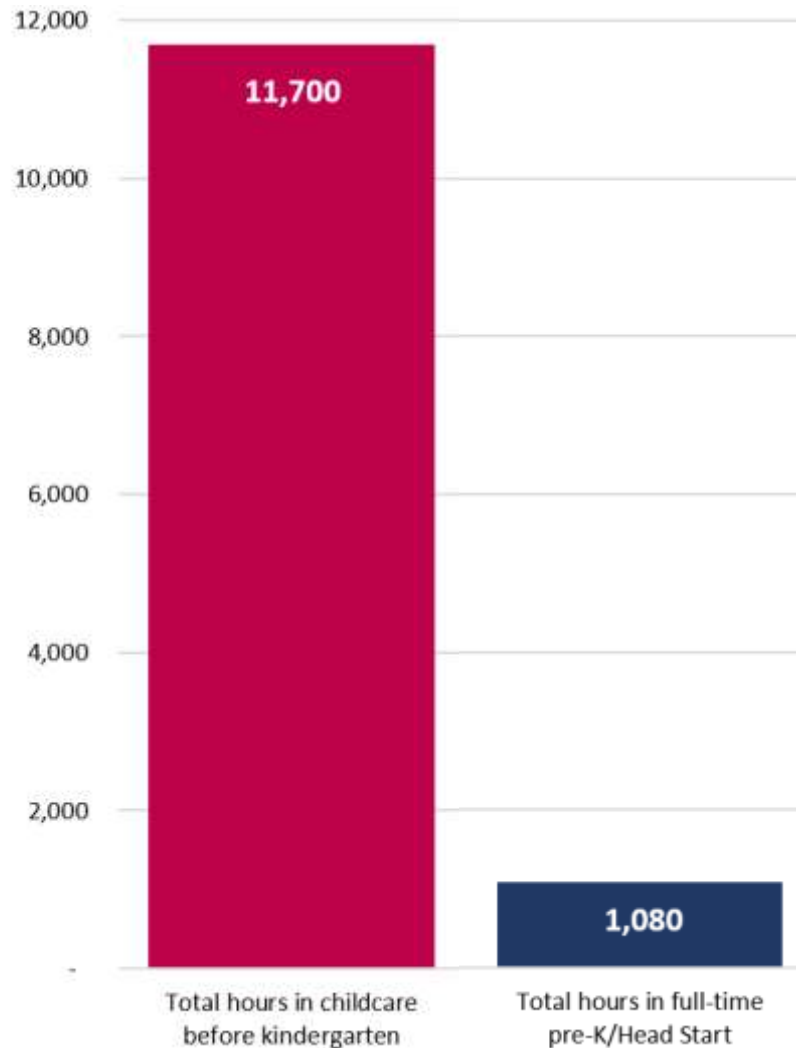
2 years

Source: Keller, David. "The Pediatrician's Role in Addressing Child Poverty," 2014.

The importance of early human development hasn't changed... *but the world has.*

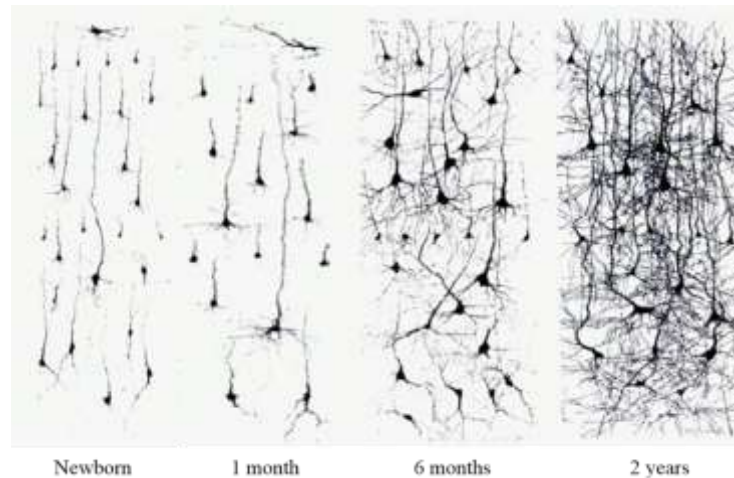
- In 1940, fewer than 1 in 10 mothers with children under age six were working outside the home...
Today, almost 7 in 10 are.
- Two-thirds of children from birth to age five now have all residential parents in the workforce.
- **Over half of American children under age five are in out-of-home care, for an average of 36 hours a week, often starting in infancy.**

Total hours in childcare before age 5 *vs. a year in full-time pre-K/Head Start*



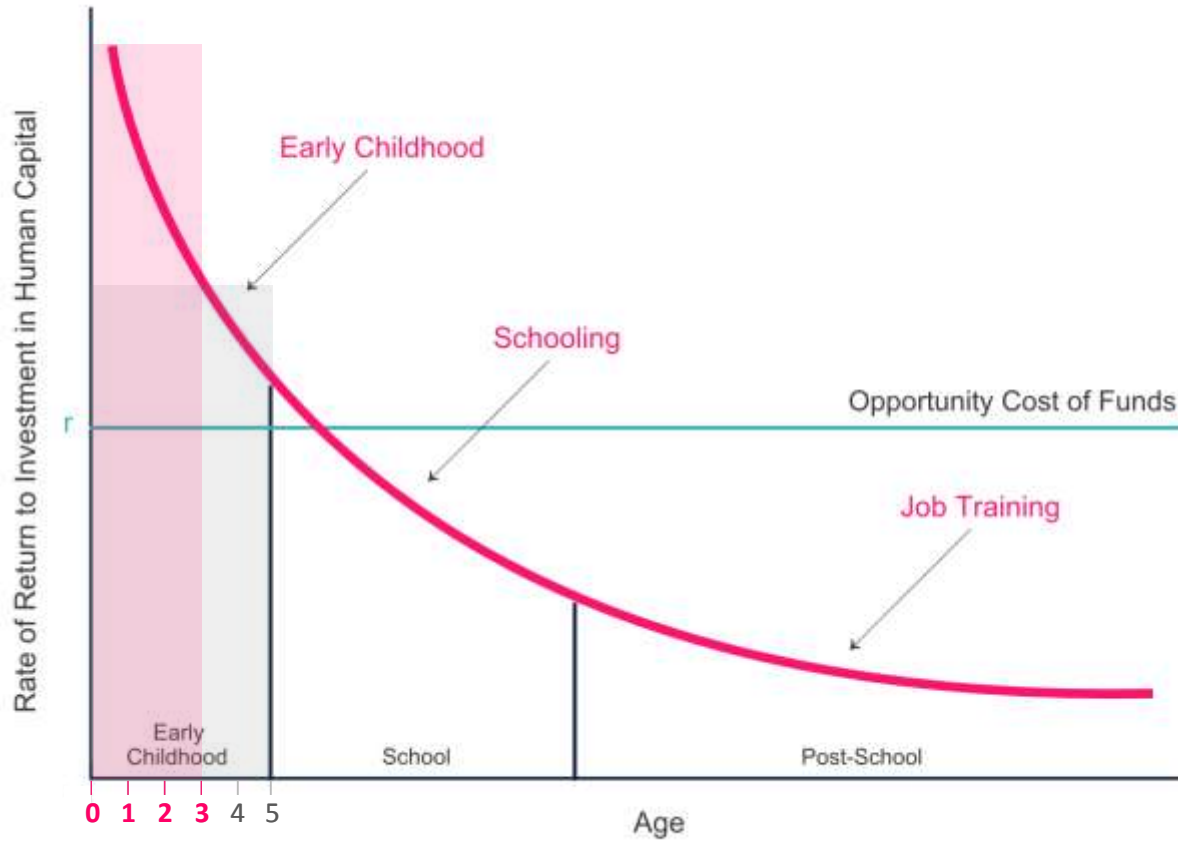
Young children learn ***wherever they are***

- Every environment is a learning environment for young children



- Common distinction between “childcare” and “preschool” is false
- ***Childcare is America’s most important early education program***

Rates of Return to Human Capital Investment



Source: Carneiro and Heckman, 2003