

"Early Childhood Development to build a healthier, happier more peaceful world: why and how to do so?"



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4 December 2016
Tokyo, Japan

unite for
children

unicef 

Early Childhood Development in the SDGs



“The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that early childhood development can help drive the transformation we hope to achieve over the next 15 years”

Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General, United Nations

22 September, 2015 at the UNGA side event “Meeting of the Minds”

ECD Global Movement: “why” and “how”?

- a) Multi-sectoral Programme Packages for all children to thrive
- b) Data to frame and support an ECD Revolution
- c) Educate a workforce to make it possible
- d) Resources to smartly provide quality services
- e) Advocacy and awareness raising to change the world

WHY?

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THE LANCET

October, 2016

www.thelancet.com

Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale

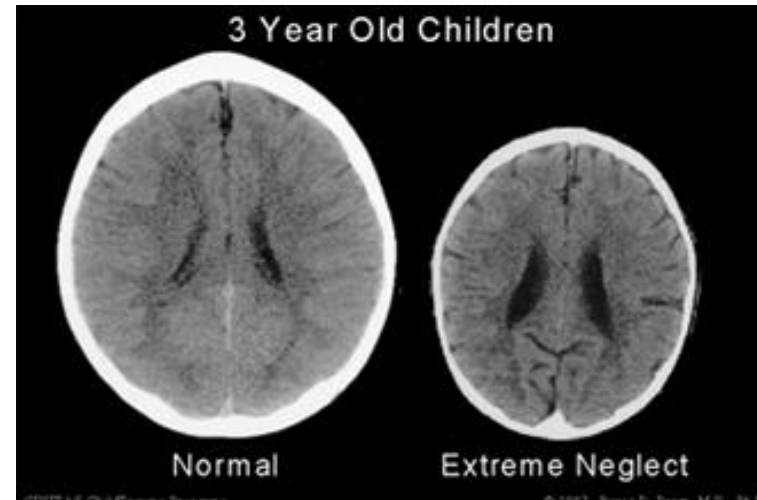
An Executive Summary for *The Lancet's* Series



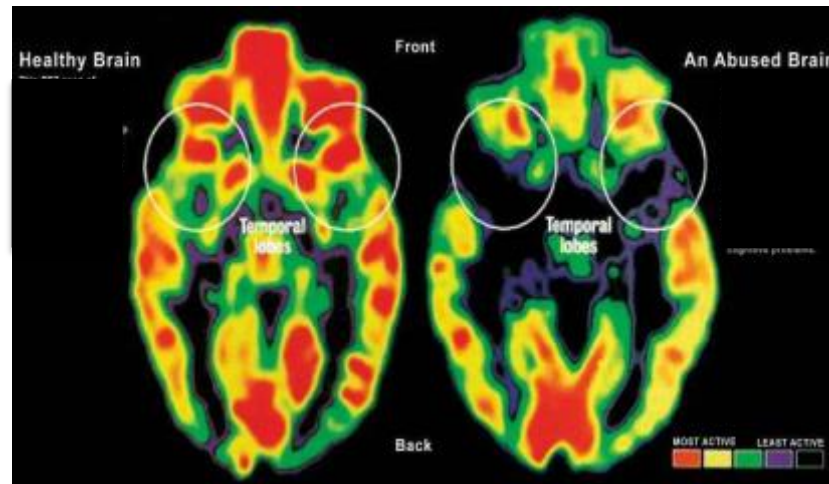
"Young children's healthy development depends on nurturing care—care which ensures health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, safety and security, and early learning."

The Developing Brain Needs Nutrition, Enrichment and Protection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNNsN9IJkws>



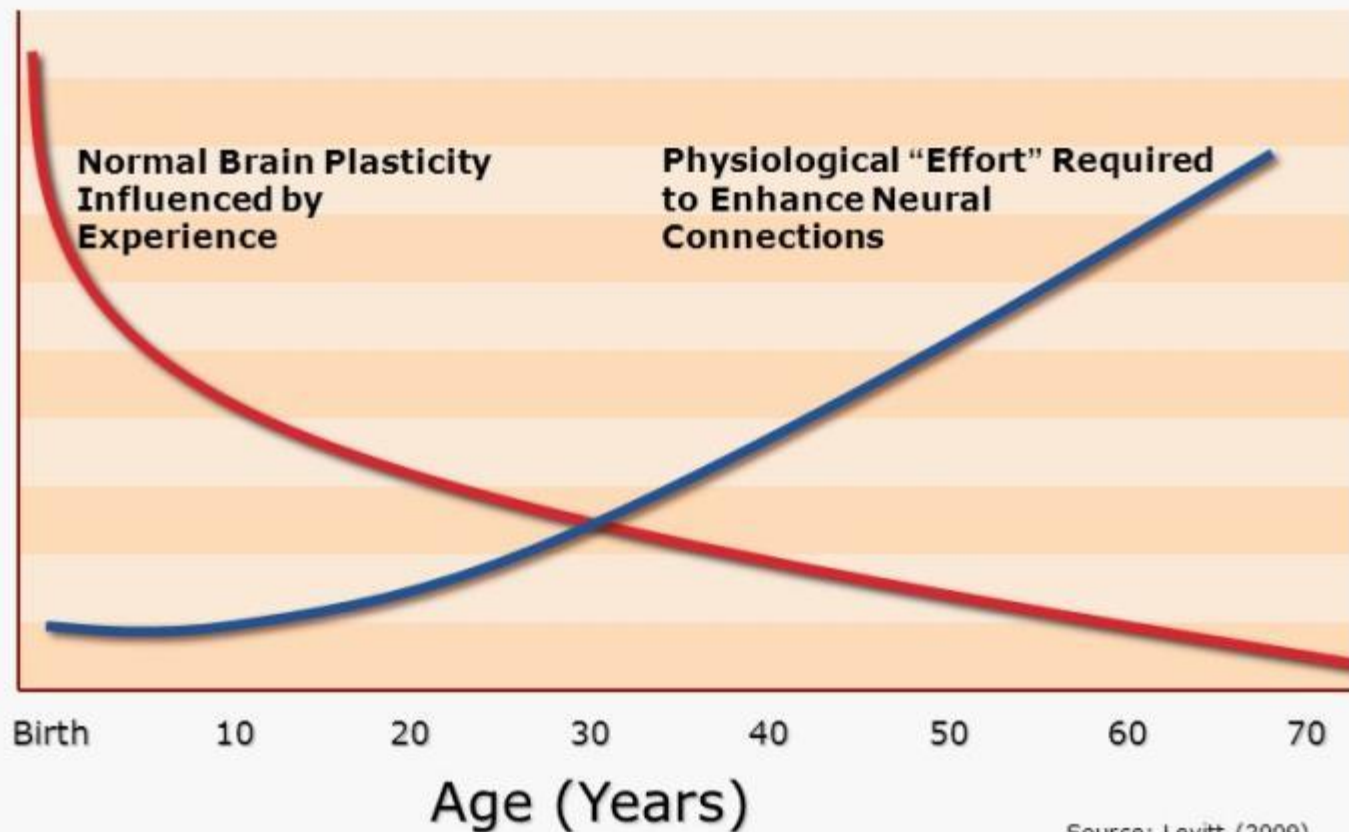
Bruce Perry



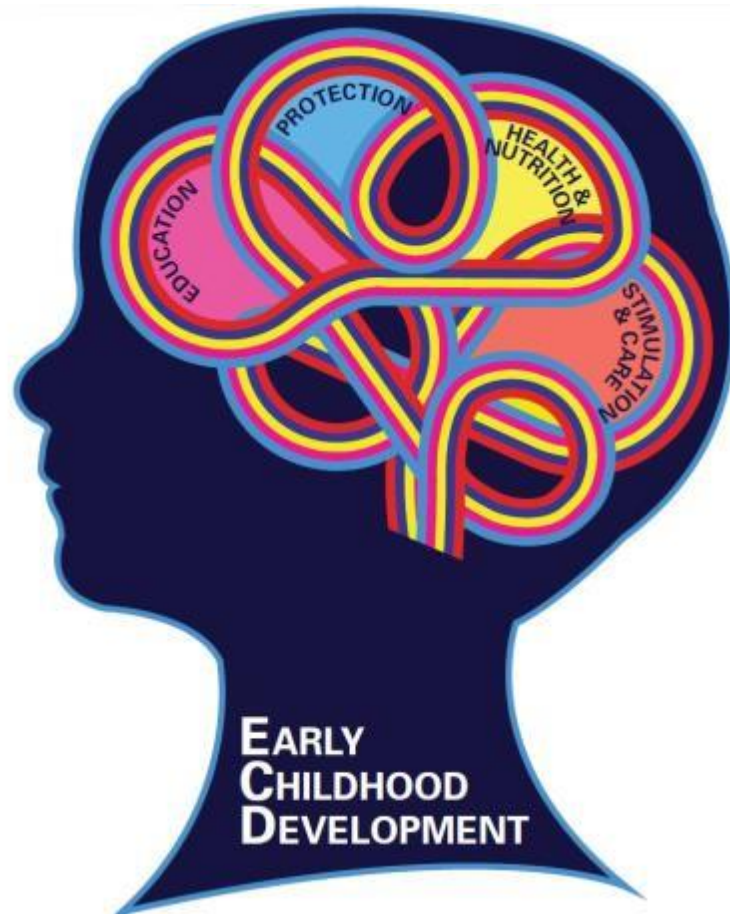
Chugani et al NeuroImage 14, 1290–1301 (2001)

First 1000 days of life: the foundation of life!

The Ability to Change Brains Decreases Over Time



Translating the Science into Practice



- Good **nutrition** to feed and nourish the brain during the sensitive periods of development.
- **Stimulation** and enrichment to spark neural connections to increase the brain's capacity and function.
- **Safety and protection** to buffer against toxic stress.

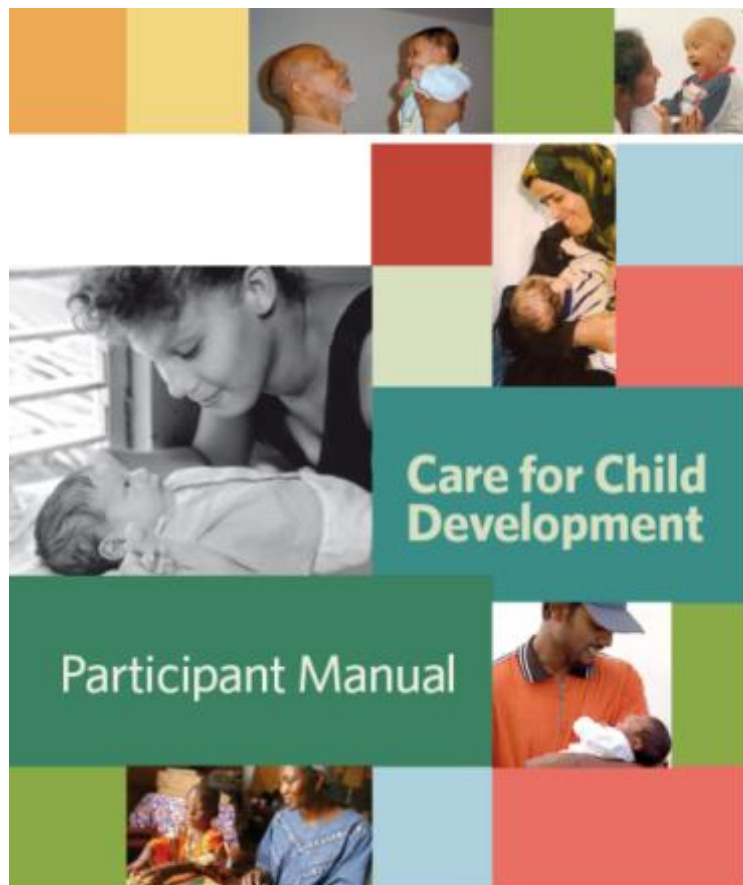
HOW?



- *ECD Action Network is to advance progress toward Sustainable Development Targets for young children (April 2016).*
- The Action Network **engages** diverse global partners **committed** to action, with the capacity to **invest** and measurably improve the lives of young children and their families.

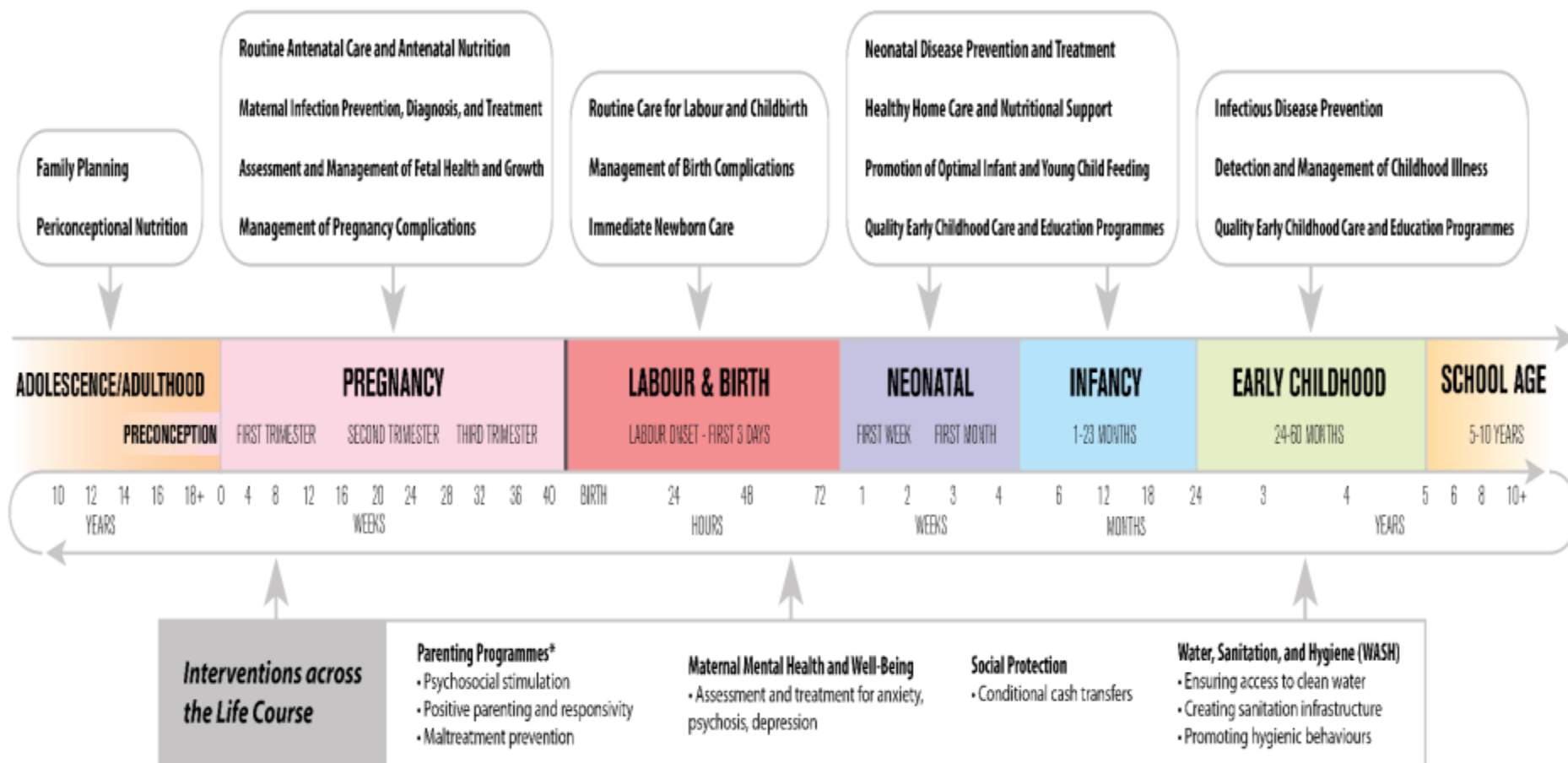
1. ECD Multisectoral Packages

Health, Care and Nutrition... to feed and nourish the architecture of the body, including the brain, during sensitive periods of development.



- Higher-quality mother-child interaction.
- Increased support for maternal psychosocial wellbeing.
- Better quality of the home environment for child rearing.
- Increased knowledge and practices pertaining to care for health, feeding and development.
- Better cognitive, language and motor development outcomes for children.

Evidence-based interventions that affect aspects of *Nurturing Care*



From Interventions to Packages and Platforms



Interventions are
Implemented by single sectors



Interventions need to
be packaged taking into
consideration the
to the unique set of risks and
adversities that define
complex environments & nurturing care



Delivery Platforms need to be
Identified for services

Family Support and Strengthening Package

3Ss:

- (i) access to quality **S**ervices (e.g., antenatal care, immunization, nutrition);
- (ii) **S**kills building (e.g., positive and responsive parenting to reduce harsh discipline and promote stimulation); and
- (iii) **S**upport (e.g., social protection, safety networks, family support policies)

Increase the likelihood that families are better able to provide nurturing care for their children.

2. Educated workshop

UNICEF, government and non-government partners lead and manage multi-sectoral programmatic interventions, staff need to be supported and their capacities built as ECD leaders

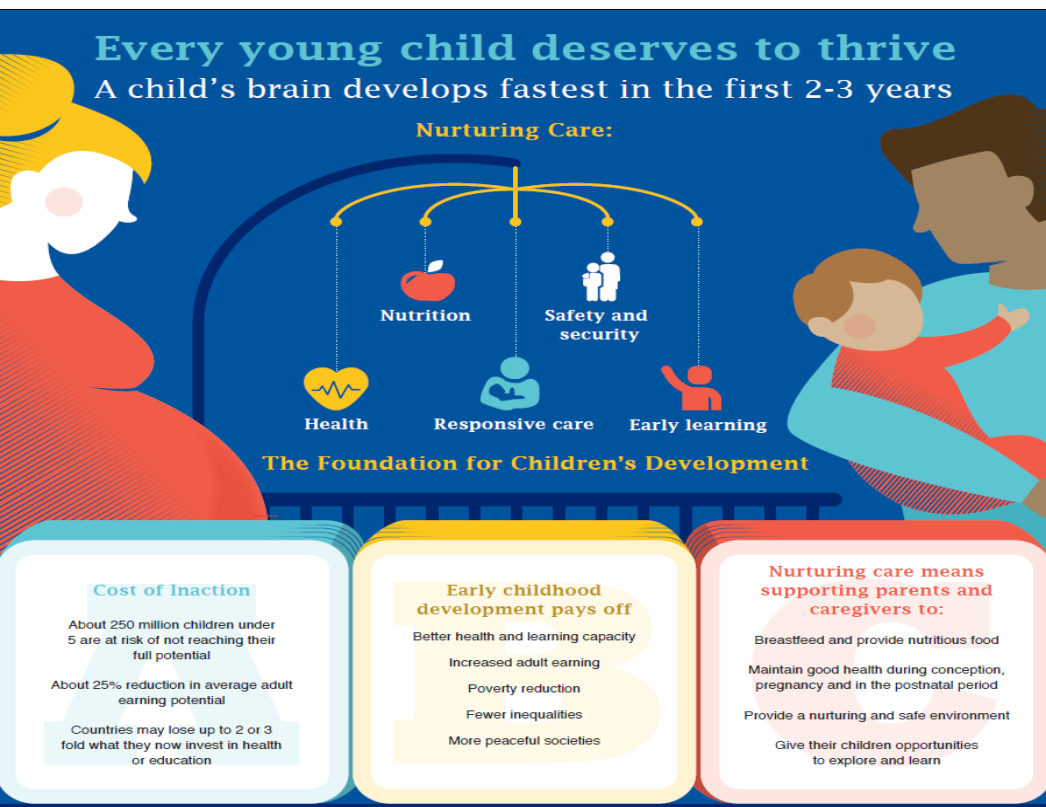
Complex challenges of advancing an ECD agenda and working across sectors, government ministries, donors and private sector call for skilled leadership and social force

3. ECD Measurement: Early Childhood Development Index

→ Using data for the innovative ECD revolution: 58 countries with available data:

- *Are children aged 3 and 4 years developmentally on track? (literacy-numeracy, physical development, social-emotional development and learning)*
- *Are children appropriately nourished?*
- *Do parents stimulate their children? Do they play with them and respond to their needs?*
- *Are children exposed to violence? Do they live in peaceful, development-conducive environments?*


4. Resources to build the innovative revolution of ECD



The Cost of inaction is too high:
Lowered 25% earnings

The Cost-effectiveness of action:
Cost effective .50\$

5. ECD Advocacy



THESE ARE ARMS

A SEAT
A SHIELD
SWINGS
A VEHICLE
SAFETY

Biology is not destiny.
A young child's experiences
affect the way her
brain develops.

Protection and love in
a child's earliest years
lay the foundations for
her future health,
education, and wellbeing.

#EarlyMomentsMatter

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ECD Glocal Campaign

- January 2017, we will launch **1,000 Ways in 1,000 Days**. This is a crowdsourced digital activation in which UNICEF (Country Offices, National Committees, Headquarters and partners) to share one photo and one word about how they help their children to thrive. The digital manifestation of that would be **#1WayaDay**.

Innovation towards Early Childhood Revolution



“What we are learning should ignite a revolution in how we think about and act on early childhood development”

On 7 October, 2015. Retrieved from “A Revolution in Early Childhood Development,
<https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/a-revolution-in-early-childhood-development>

THANKS

