



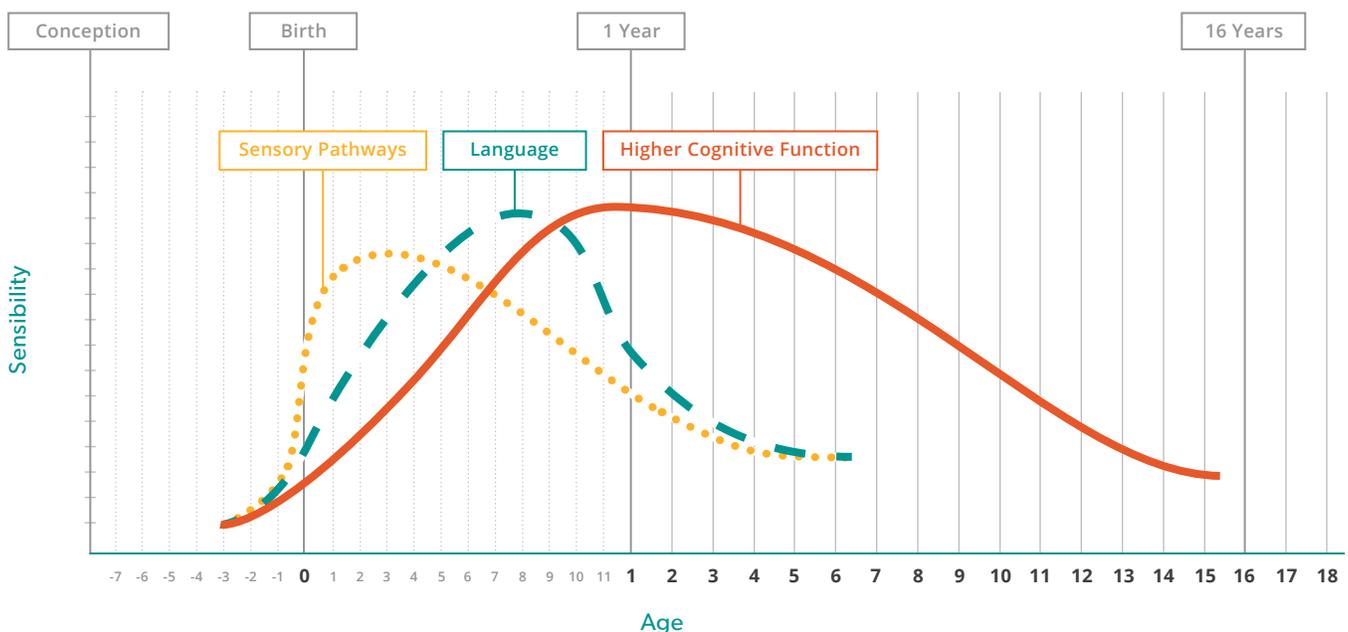
What is safe, nurturing and family based care and why is it so important?

Relationships Matter.

In the first few years of a child's life 700 new brain connections are formed every second. These connections evolve in response to a wide range of early experiences and support the child's rapid acquisition of language, cognitive skills, and socio-emotional

competencies. These early brain developments have lifelong benefits for children, including an increased ability to learn, greater achievement in school and later life, citizenship, involvement in community activities, and overall quality of life.

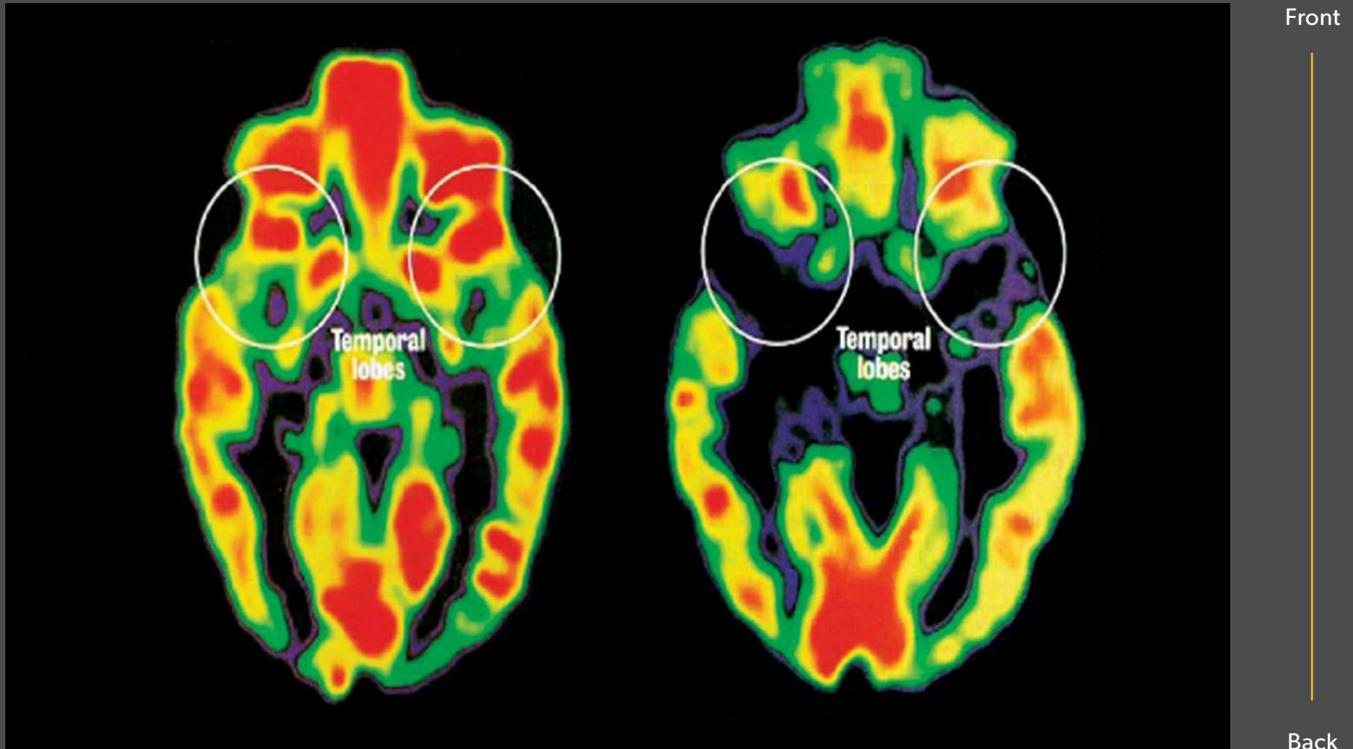
Human Brain Development



Rate of synapse formation by age. Source: Nelson, 2000.

PET Scan of Brain of Neglected Child

Most Active ——— Least Active
[Red] [Yellow] [Green] [Purple] [Black]



PET Scans of healthy and abused brains. Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html>

A Healthy Brain (left)

This PET scan of the brain of a normal child shows regions of high (red) and low (blue and black) activity. At birth, only primitive structures such as the brain stem (center) are fully functional; in regions like the temporal lobes (top), early childhood experiences wire the circuits.

An Abused Brain (right)

This PET scan of the brain of a Romanian orphan, who was institutionalized shortly after birth, shows the effect of extreme deprivation in infancy. The temporal lobes (top), which regulate emotions and receive input from the senses, are nearly quiescent. Such children suffer emotional and cognitive problems.

Brain science has confirmed that a major ingredient in the process of human brain development is a consistent, nurturing relationship between a child and their parent or caregiver. When such a relationship is absent or inadequate, a child's brain does not form properly, leading to lifelong deficits in learning and behavior. Scientists also have learned that chronic, unrelenting stress, caused by extreme poverty, abuse or neglect, can be toxic to a child's developing brain.



When Children Fail to Thrive, So Do Nations.

Society benefits socially and economically from providing parents with the support they need to raise healthy and thriving children (Károly et al., 2005; Lee et al., 2015). In short, when parents and other caregivers are able to support young children, children's lives are enriched, and society is advantaged by their contributions. But when children are deprived of a good start in life, the result is a lifetime of lost potential for both the child

and society. Without the brain development that comes from interaction with a nurturing caregiver, children can suffer from life long delays in learning; health deficits, stunted growth and emotional challenges. For individuals, such challenges can result in a loss of about a quarter of average adult income per year while countries may forfeit up to two times their current gross domestic product expenditure on health.



Nurturing Care: a stable environment that is sensitive to a child's health and nutritional needs, with protection from threats, opportunities for early learning, and interactions that are responsive, emotionally supportive, and developmentally stimulating.

The Time to Act is Now.

It is estimated that as many as 43% percent of the world's children under the age of 5 — a staggering 250 million — are at risk of not meeting their developmental potential. Tens of millions of these children are living without any form of parental care and are therefore lacking the kind of nurturing relationship that is needed for their brain to grow properly. For millions more, the relationship between caregiver and child is broken because of severe abuse, exploitation and chronic neglect, which leads to the same dire consequences for the developing brain.

An overview of 56 studies across 23 countries found that early childhood interventions have positive impacts on children's health, education, cognitive ability, and emotional development. A study by Nobel Laureate James Heckman found that participants in an early childhood program in Jamaica had 25% higher wages — 20 years later. Heckman says the return on investment in early childhood is even higher than the stock market from World War II through 2008.

To join the Alliance please call 202-618-3370 or email us at info@globalallianceforchildren.org