

**Business Leaders for Early
Education Breakfast**
Tucson, Arizona

Jessie Rasmussen

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

June 26, 2011

Why Early Childhood?

Early Childhood is the driver for successful outcomes in:

➤ Education 

➤ Economy 

➤ Health 

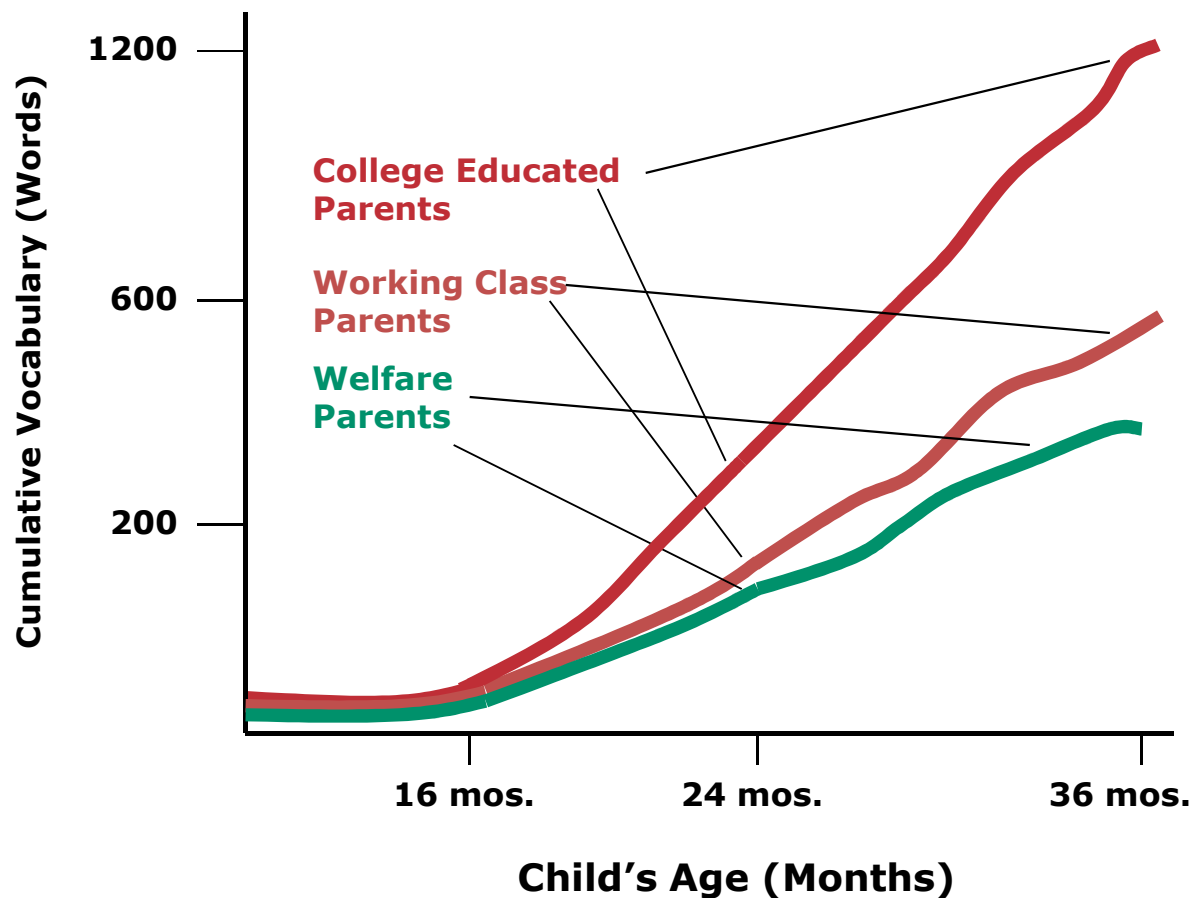
Early Childhood Education Builds a Smarter U.S.

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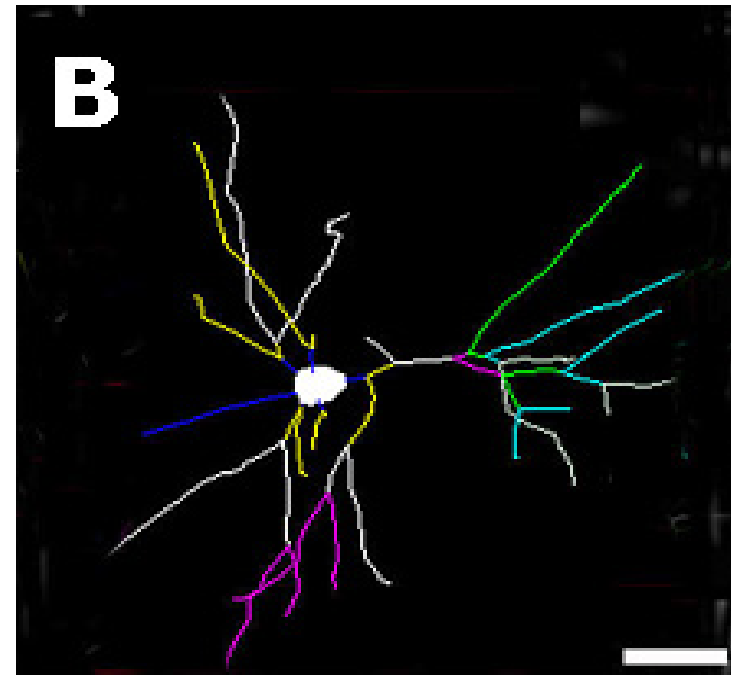
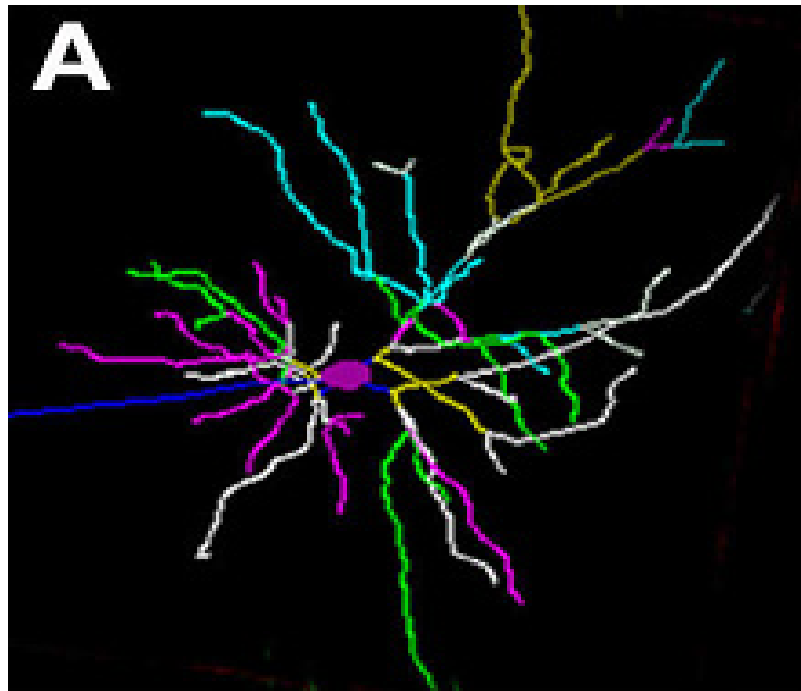
Achievement Gap Starts Early

Disparities in Early Vocabulary Growth



Source: Hart & Risley (1995)

Brain Research- picture tells the story!



Mrs. Peatrow



Mrs. Peatrow



Mrs. Peatrow



Mrs. Peatrow



Mrs. Peatrow



A Staggering Challenge



- Opportunity gap



- Achievement gap



- Productivity gap

The Economist's Takeaway

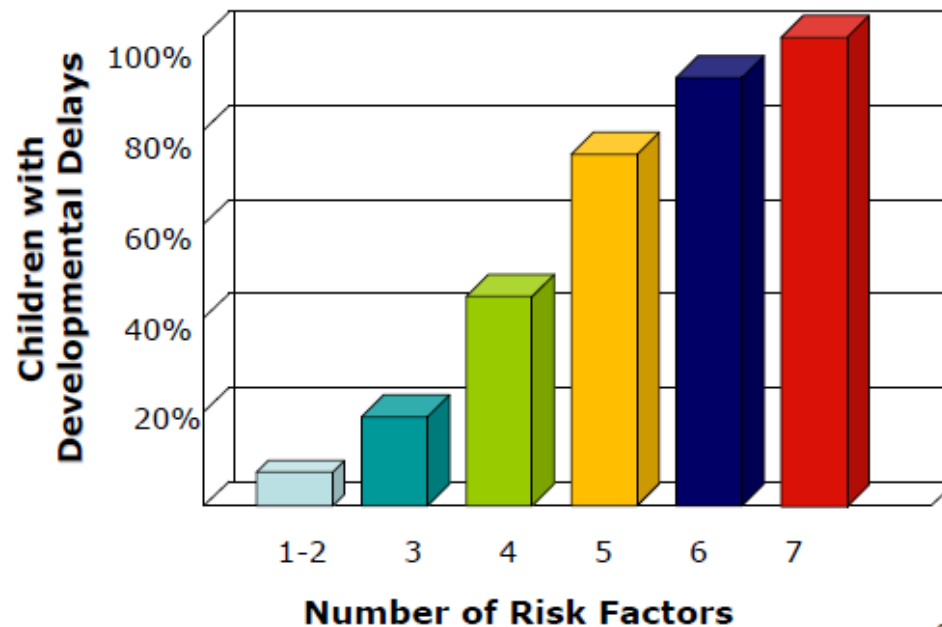
“Policy makers should invest in young children, where the return on the investment is stronger than in low-skill adults. The real question is how to use available funds wisely. The best evidence supports the policy prescription: invest in the very young.”

James Heckman, Nobel Laureate Economist
University of Chicago

Risk Factors Compound Delays



Significant Adversity Impairs Development in the First Three Years



Source: Barth et al. (2008)

Early Childhood Builds A Prosperous U.S.

- Competent workforce
- Productive & contributing to the community
- Smart investment- Big return!

Early Childhood Builds A Healthier U.S.

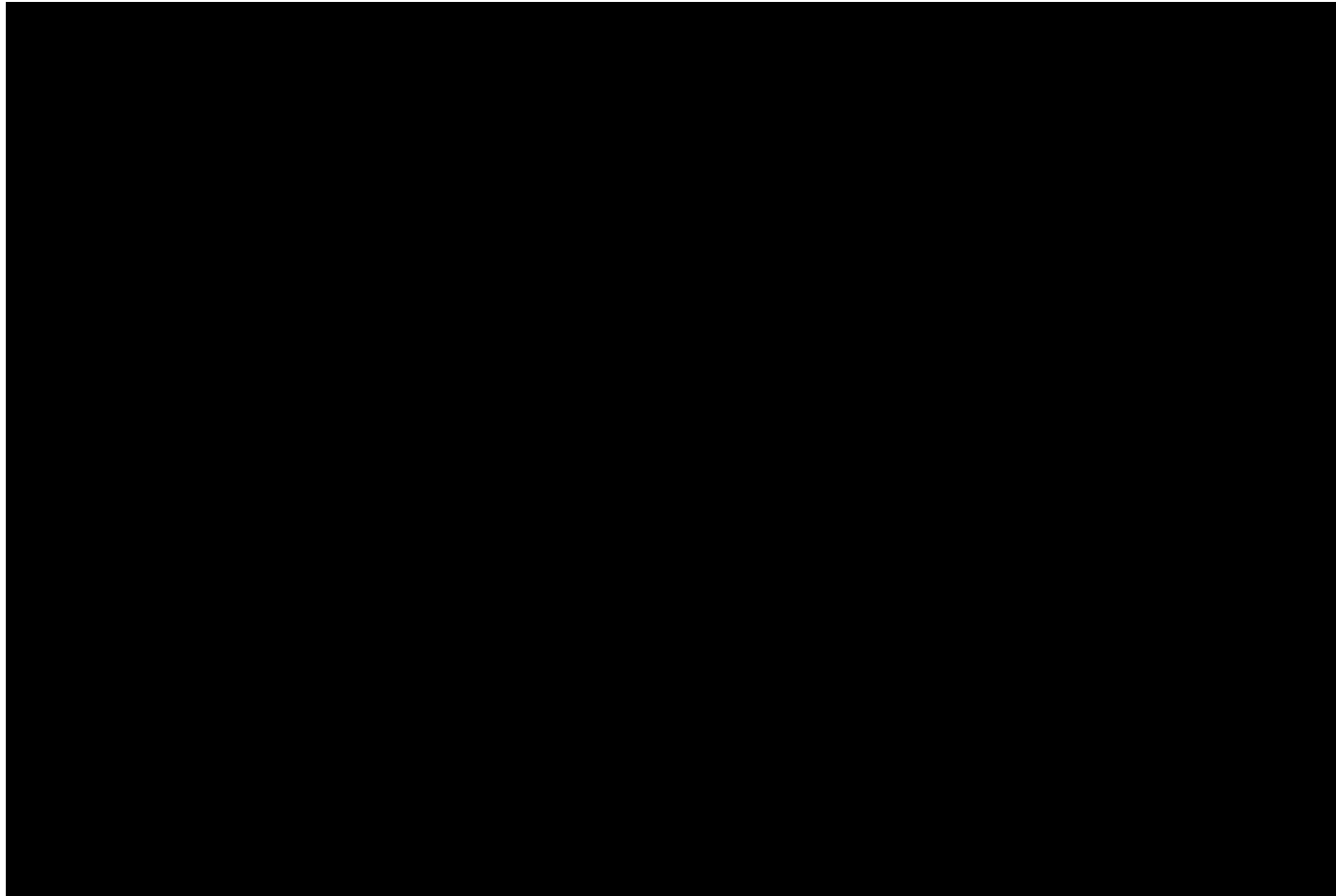
- Quality early childhood=
healthier adults
- Understand healthy lifestyles
and able to choose them
- Setting children on right path

What Needs to Be Done

- Focus on Parents
- Demand Quality
- Recognize Importance of First Three Years
- Attend to Workforce
- Support Smart Investments



What You Can Do: Educate



What You Can Do



- Educate
- Lead by example
- Influence
practice and
policy

Invest in **US!**

