

# Early Childhood and the Importance of Quality Early Education

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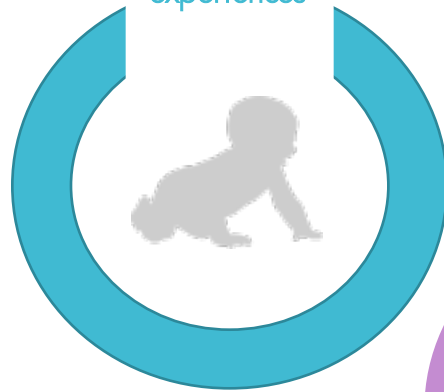
University of Toronto



# Presentation Outline

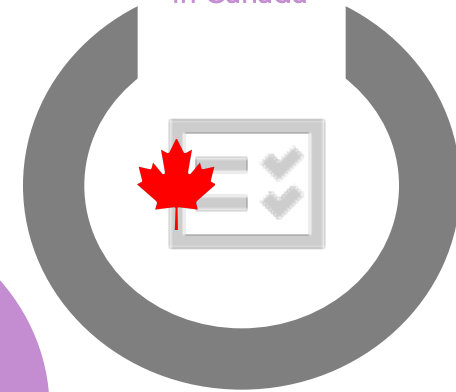
01

Negative effects of  
adverse childhood  
experiences



03

The Status of Early  
Childhood Education  
in Canada

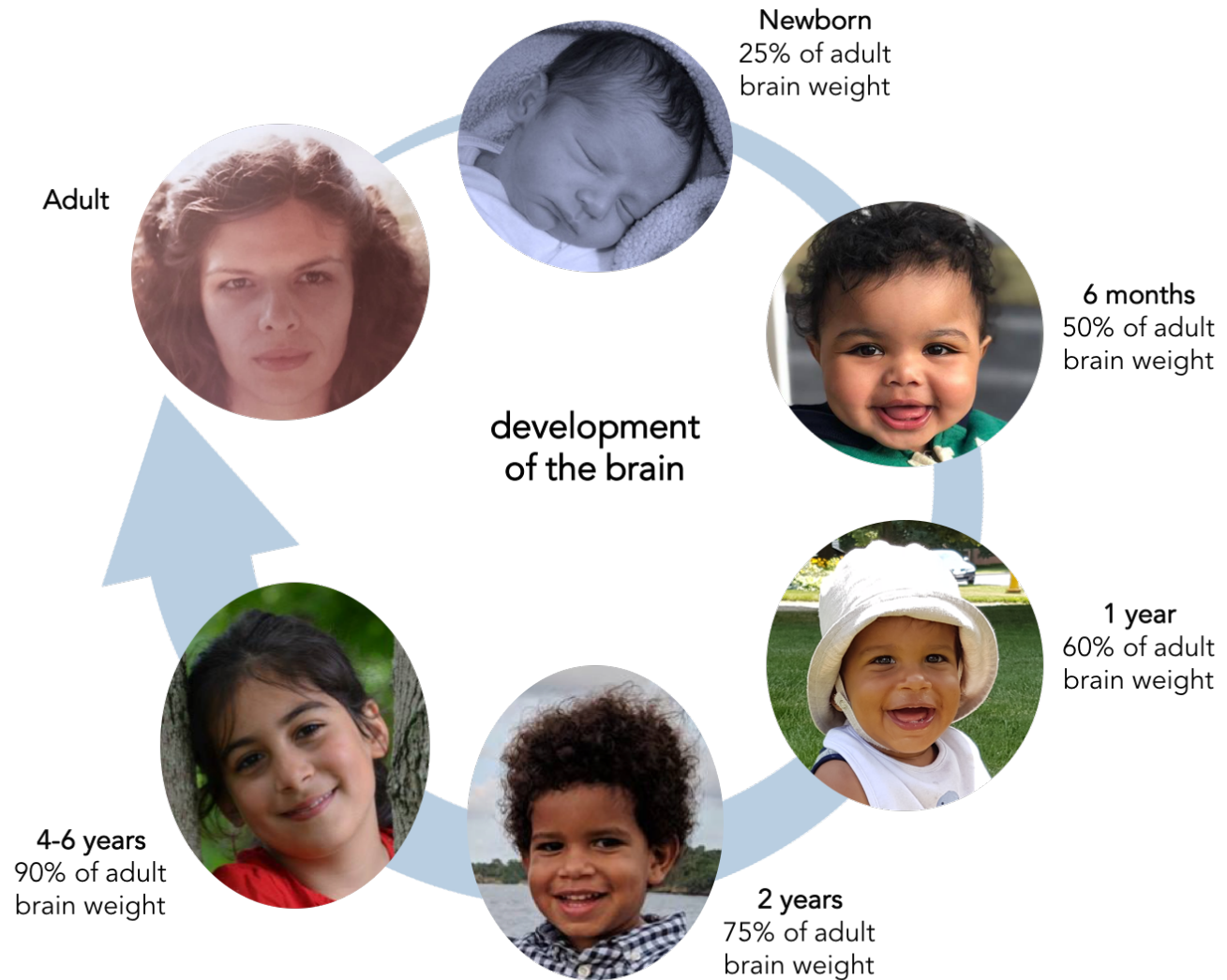


02

Benefits of Quality  
Early Education



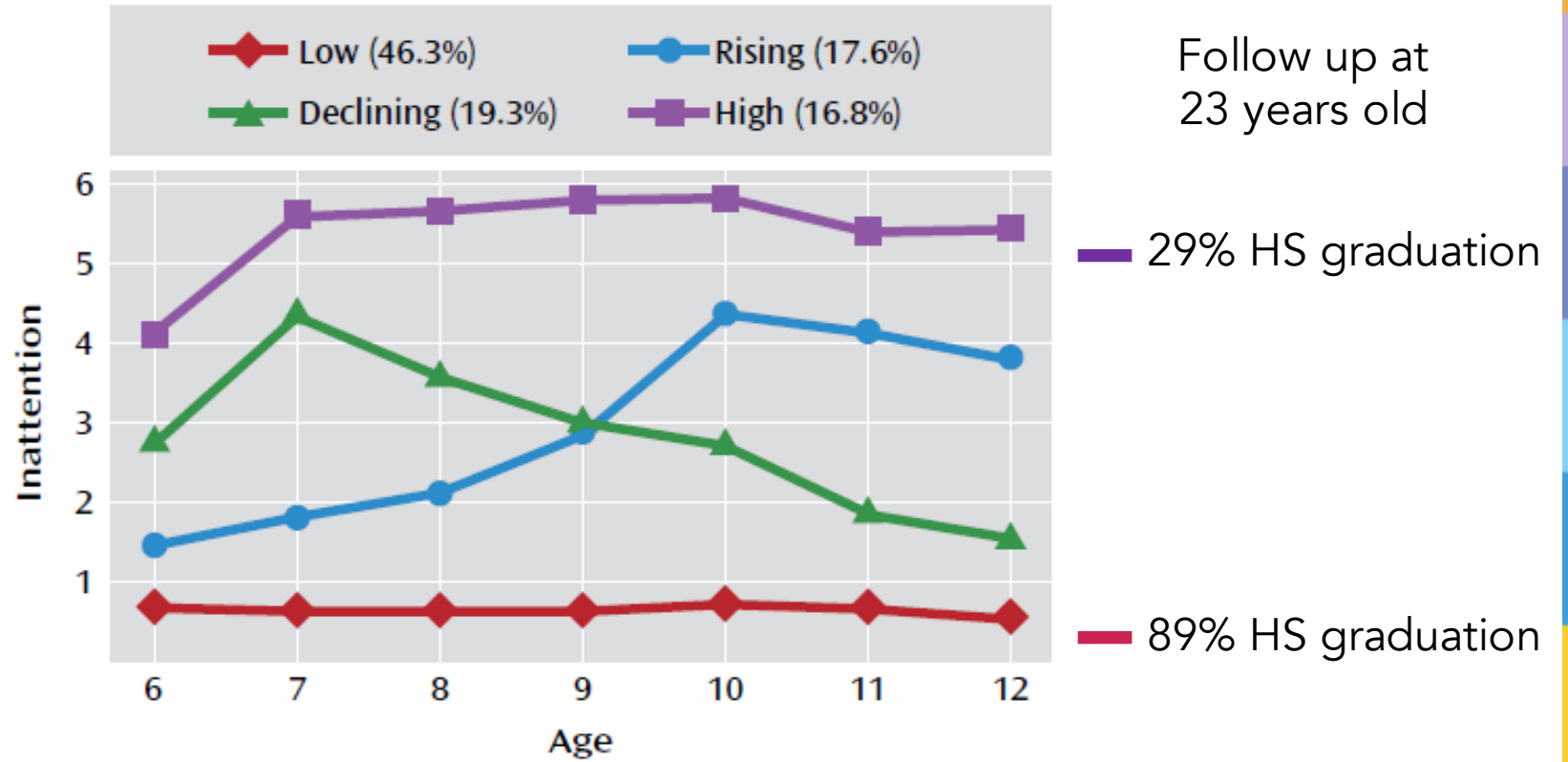
# Why Care About Early Childhood?



Oakes, L.M., & Rakison, D.H. (forthcoming). Developmental Cascades. Oxford University Press

# Why Care About Early Childhood?

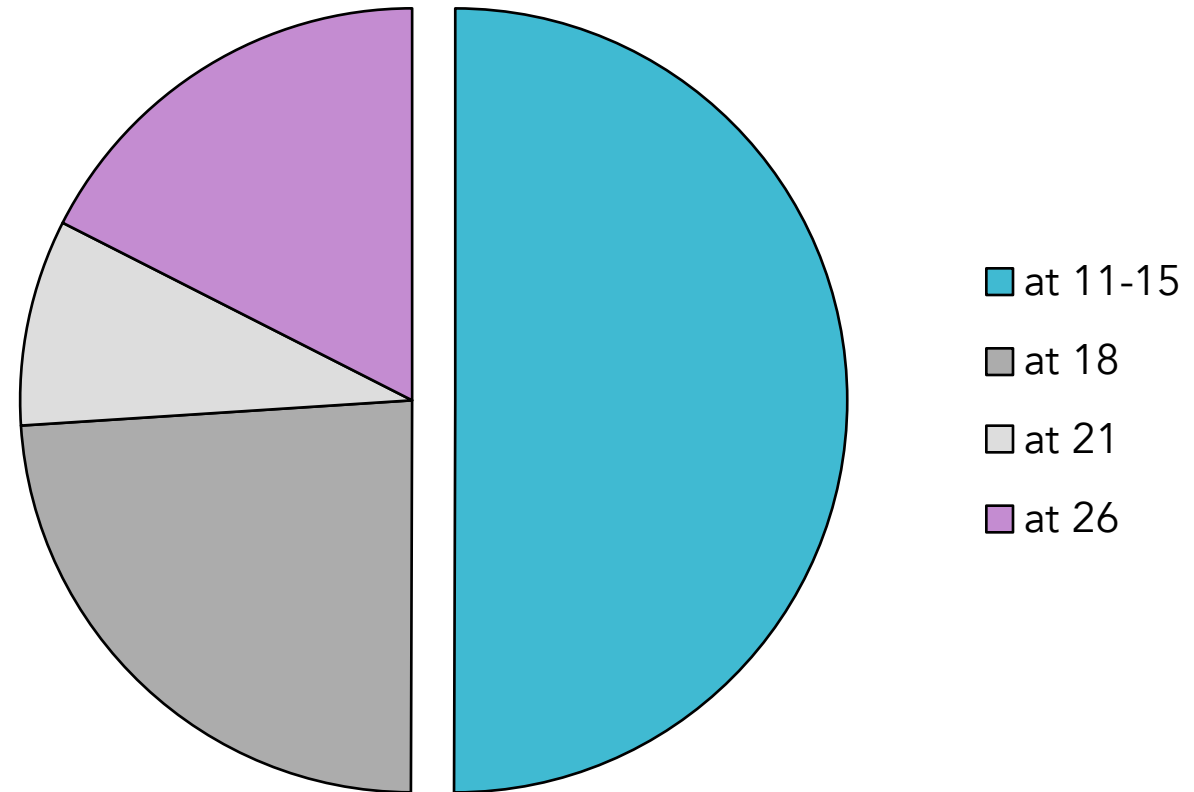
High stable trajectories found for all aspects of mental health and learning



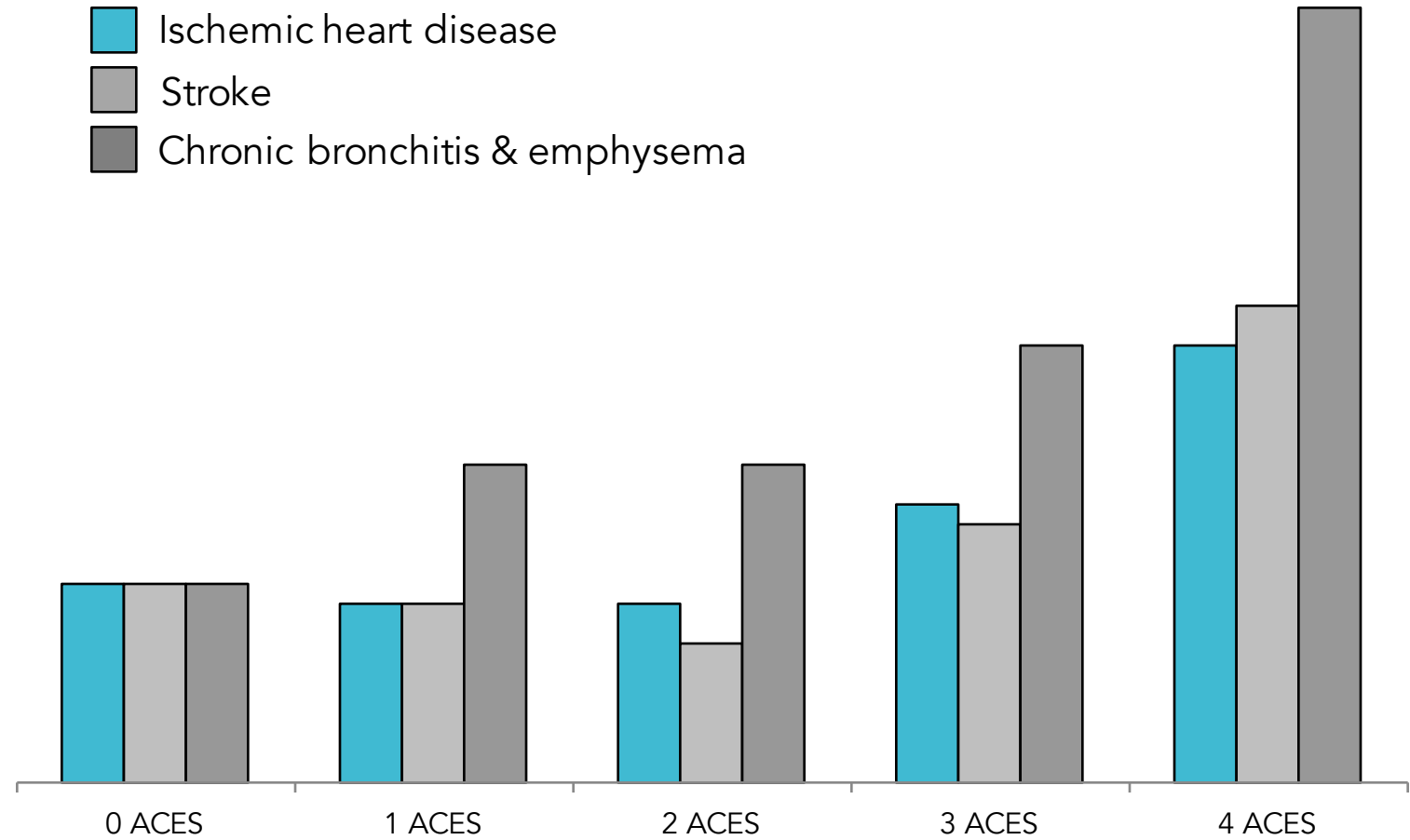
ADHD Symptom Trajectories From Ages 6 to 12

## Why Care About Early Childhood?

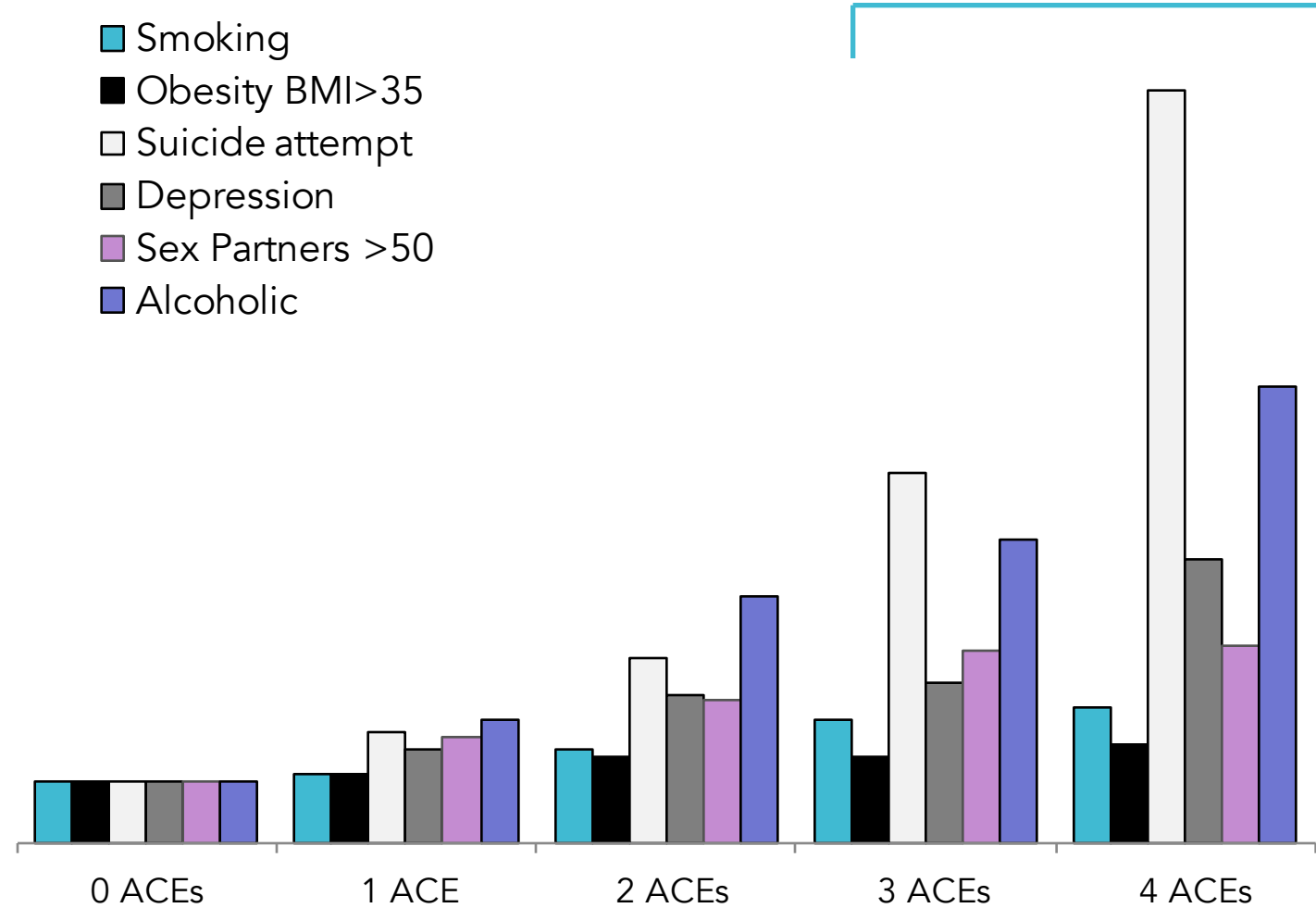
Half of all mental health problems at age 26 have been diagnosed in childhood and adolescence.



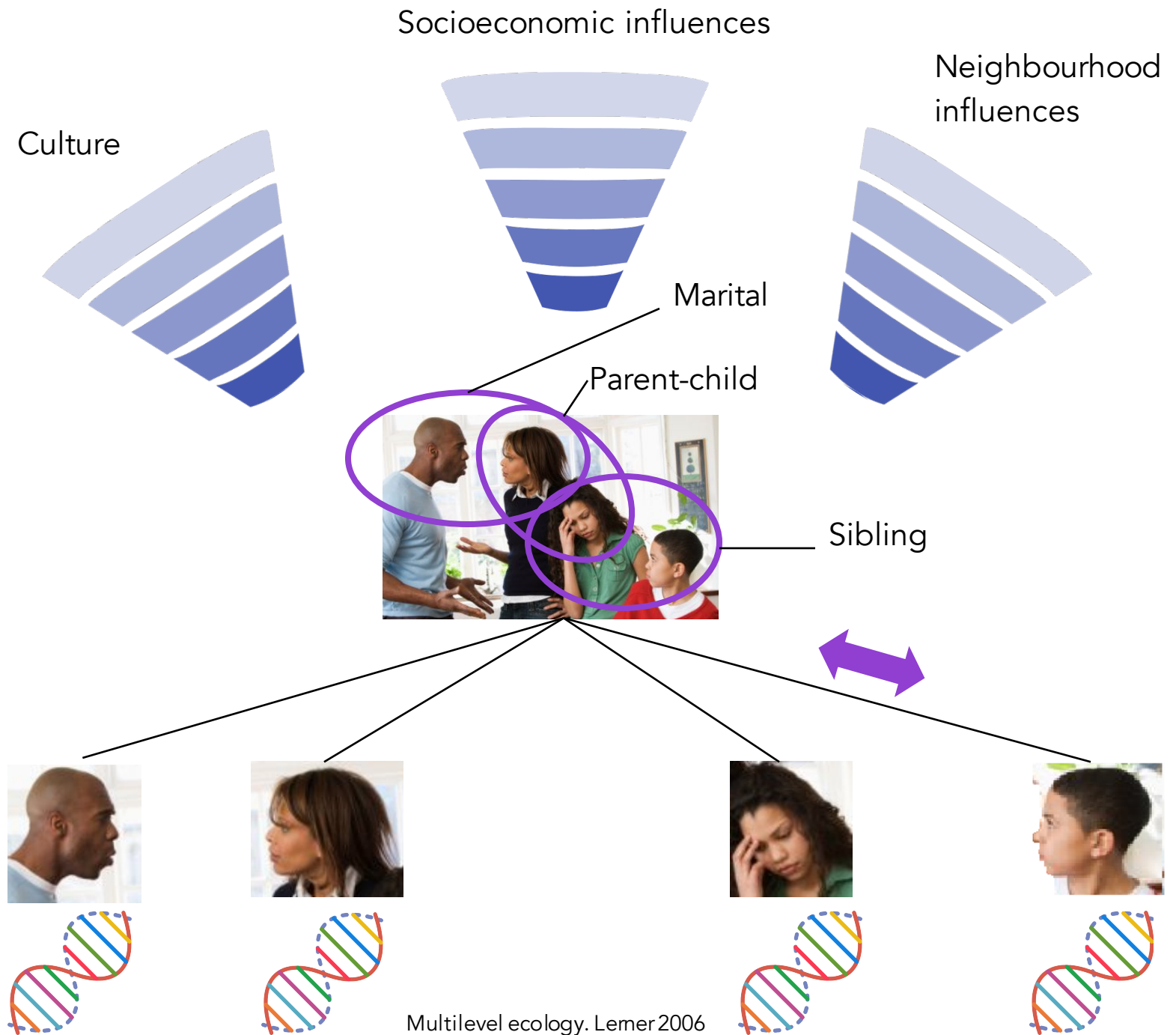
# Health Outcomes as a Function of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



# Risky Health Behaviors as a Function of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

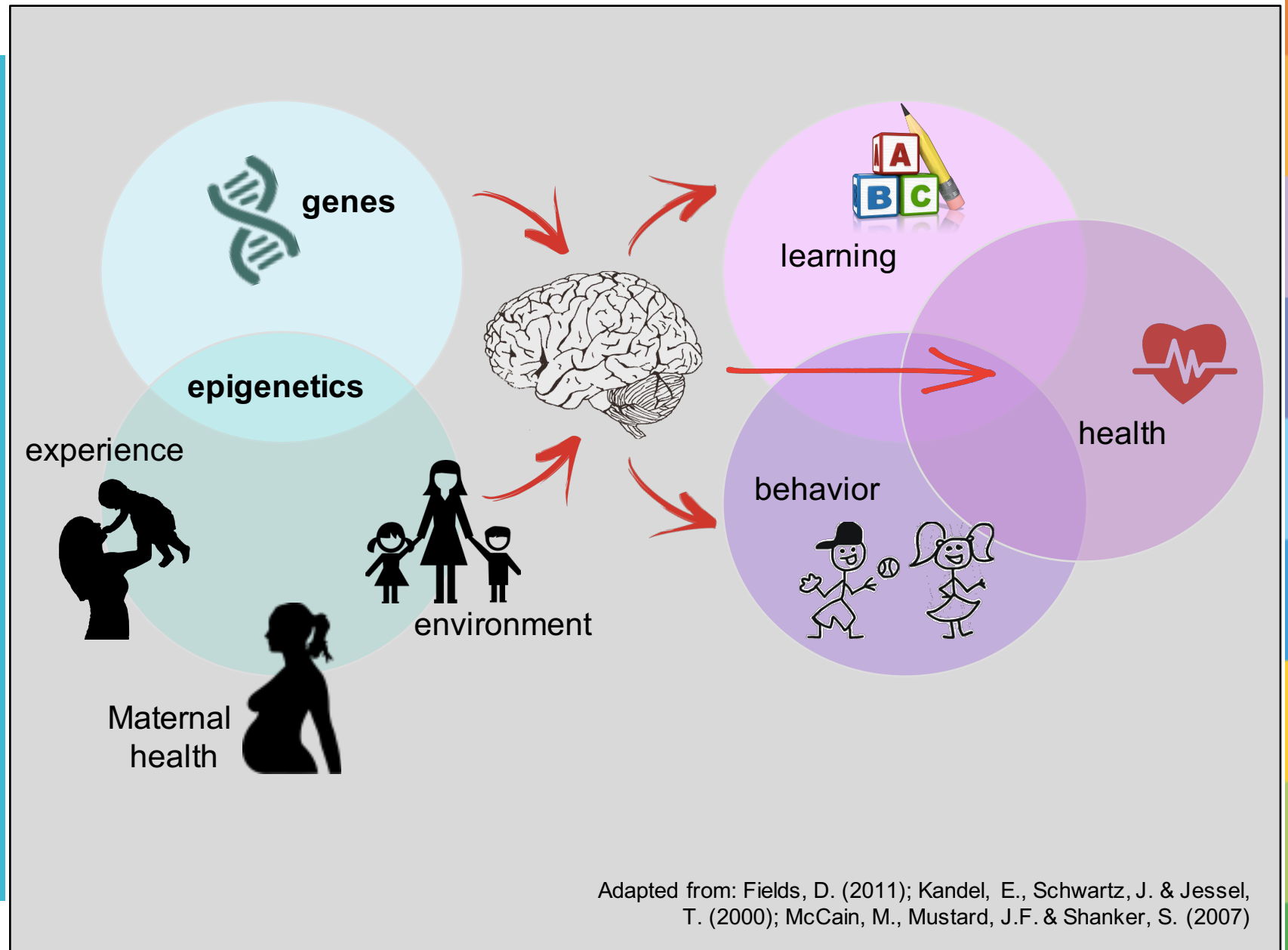


# Ecological Model of Child Development





# Ecological Model of Child Development



Adapted from: Fields, D. (2011); Kandel, E., Schwartz, J. & Jessel, T. (2000); McCain, M., Mustard, J.F. & Shanker, S. (2007)

# Empowering the Future: Best Evidence for Investing in Early Childhood Education



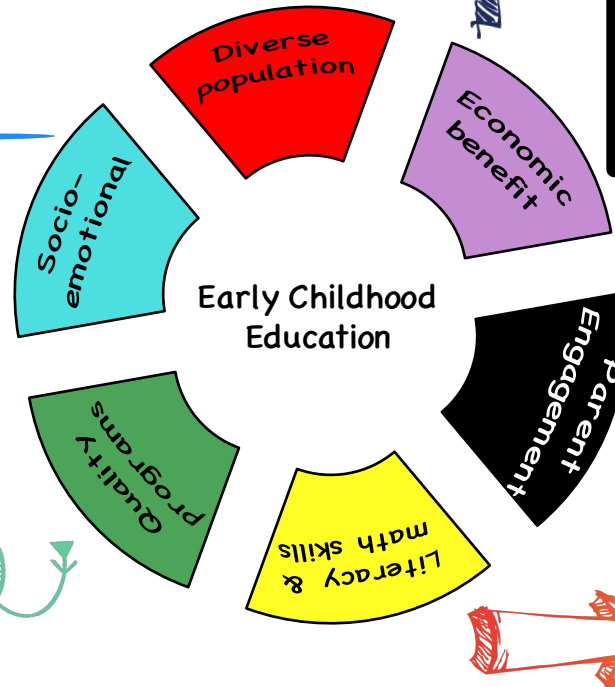
Positive benefits of high-quality preschool are seen in children from both low- and middle-socioeconomic environments, with stronger effects for children in low socio-economic circumstances, dual-language children, and children from immigrant families

Benefits of preschool outweigh the costs, through decreases in expenditures on programs such as social assistance, special education, family transfers; and a rise in economic production from increased adult earnings and tax transfers; indicating a prudent economic investment.



Preschool programs with a focus on social development result in important long-term benefits including reduced substance abuse, lower rates of school dropout, juvenile delinquency and adult criminality, and higher levels of employment and income.

Early education programs with the best long-term effects on reading, math, and social behaviour also include a parenting component focused on optimizing parent-child interaction.



Positive child development impacts are more likely to endure when programs incorporate effective elements being positive and stimulating interactions in to their practice.

High quality ECE enhances a child's early language, literacy, and math skills with socio-economically disadvantaged children being likely to benefit most, reducing socio-economic related disparities in school achievement.



# Early Childhood Education Report

The Status of Early Childhood Education in Canada

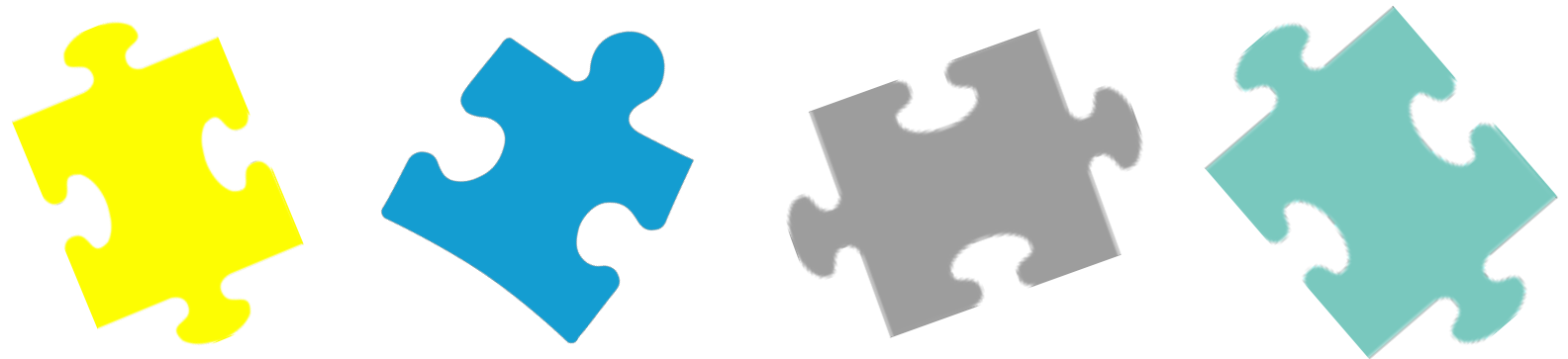


# The Early Childhood Education Report

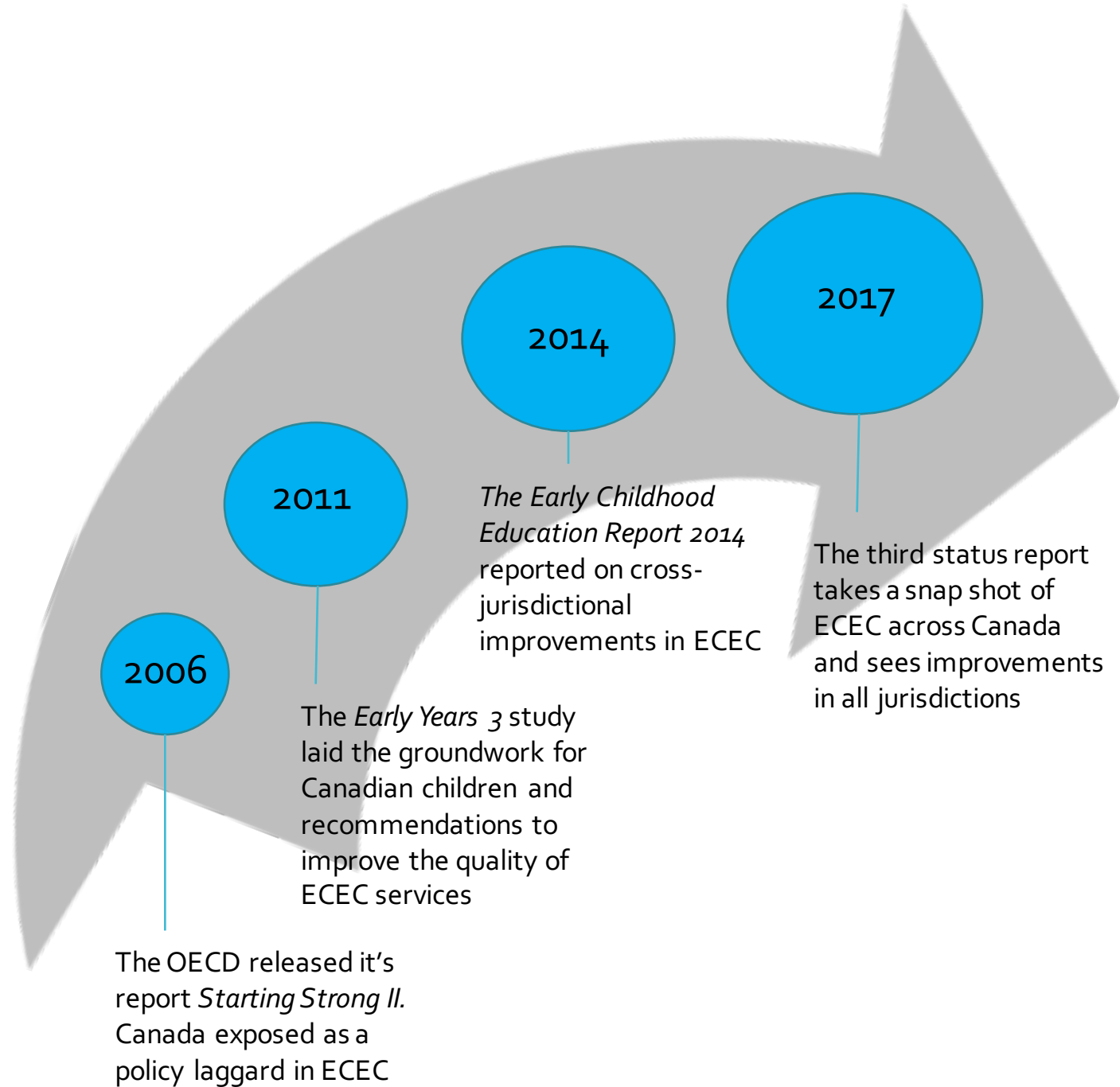
2017



Established in 2011, the Early Childhood Education Report is released every three years to evaluate the quality of provincial/territorial early years services in Canada against a 15-point-scale. Results are populated from detailed profiles of each jurisdiction. The report is organized around 5 categories with 19 benchmarks forming a common set of minimum criteria contributing to the delivery of quality programming.



# Developing the Report



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT BENCHMARKS OF QUALITY

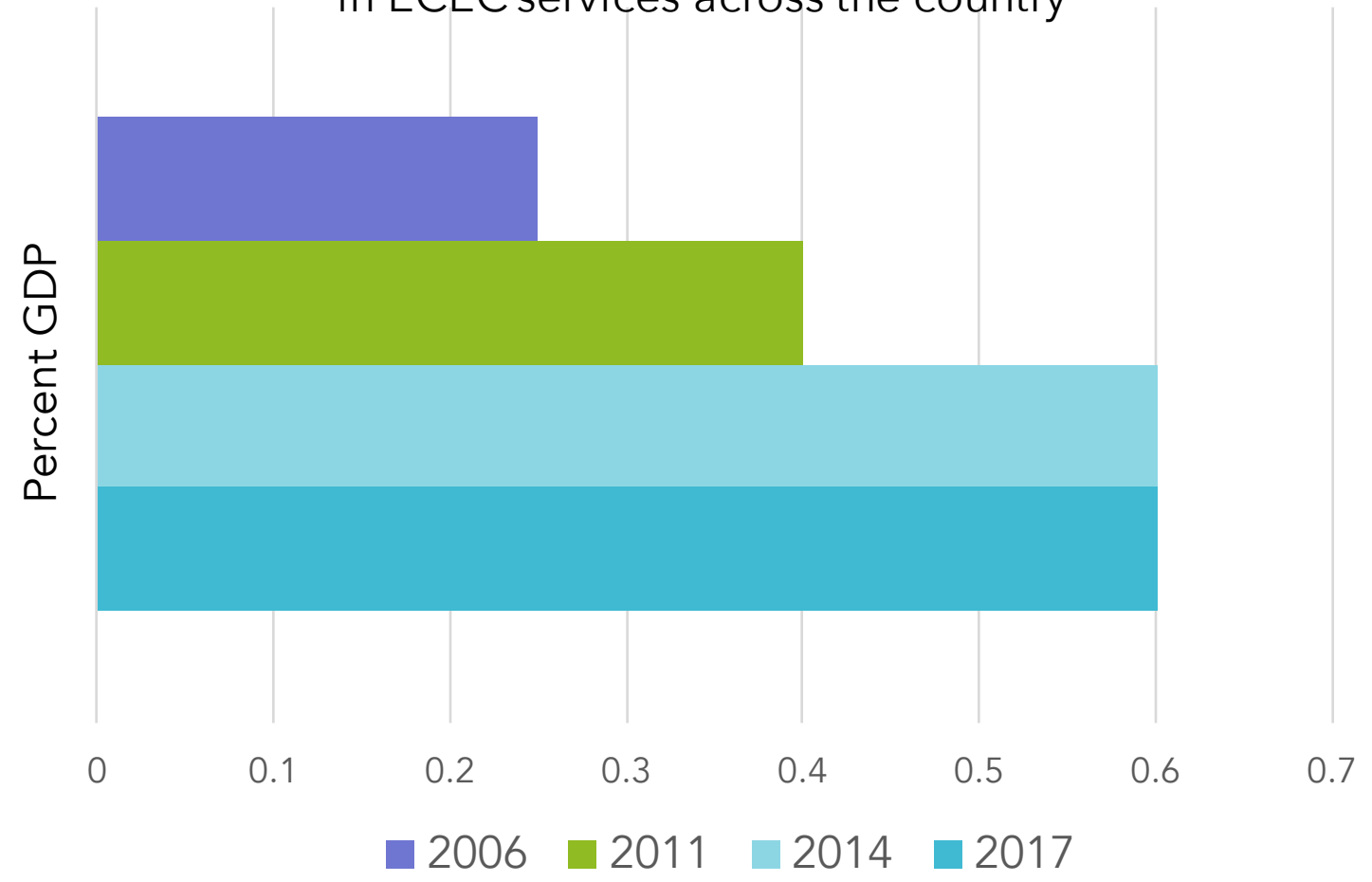
## Benchmarks of Quality

| 5 CATEGORIES  | 1<br>INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE  | 2<br>FUNDING  | 3<br>ACCESS   | 4<br>LEARNING ENVIRONMENT   | 5<br>ACCOUNTABILITY  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 19 BENCHMARKS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 ECE under common department/ministry</li> <li>0.5 Common ECE supervisory unit</li> <li>1 Common ECE policy framework</li> <li>1 Common local authority for ECE administration and delivery</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 At least 2/3 of child care funding goes to program operations</li> <li>1 Mandated salary and fee scale in licensed child care</li> <li>1 At least 3% of overall budget devoted to ECE</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Full day kindergarten offered</li> <li>1 50% of 2 to 4 year olds regularly attend an ECE program</li> <li>1 Funding conditional on including children with special needs in licensed child care</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 ECE curriculum framework</li> <li>0.5 Alignment of ECE programs with kindergarten</li> <li>0.5 At least 2/3 of staff in programs for 2 to 4 years olds are qualified</li> <li>0.5 Kindergarten educators require ECE qualifications</li> <li>0.5 Salaries of ECEs are at least 2/3 of teachers</li> <li>0.5 ECE professional certification/ professional development required</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Annual progress reports (2014 or later)</li> <li>1 Standards for ECE programs include kindergarten</li> <li>1 Population measures for preschool collected and reported</li> </ul> |
| 15 POINTS     | <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span> + <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span> + <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span> + <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span> + <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span> |   |   |   |  |

# Funding

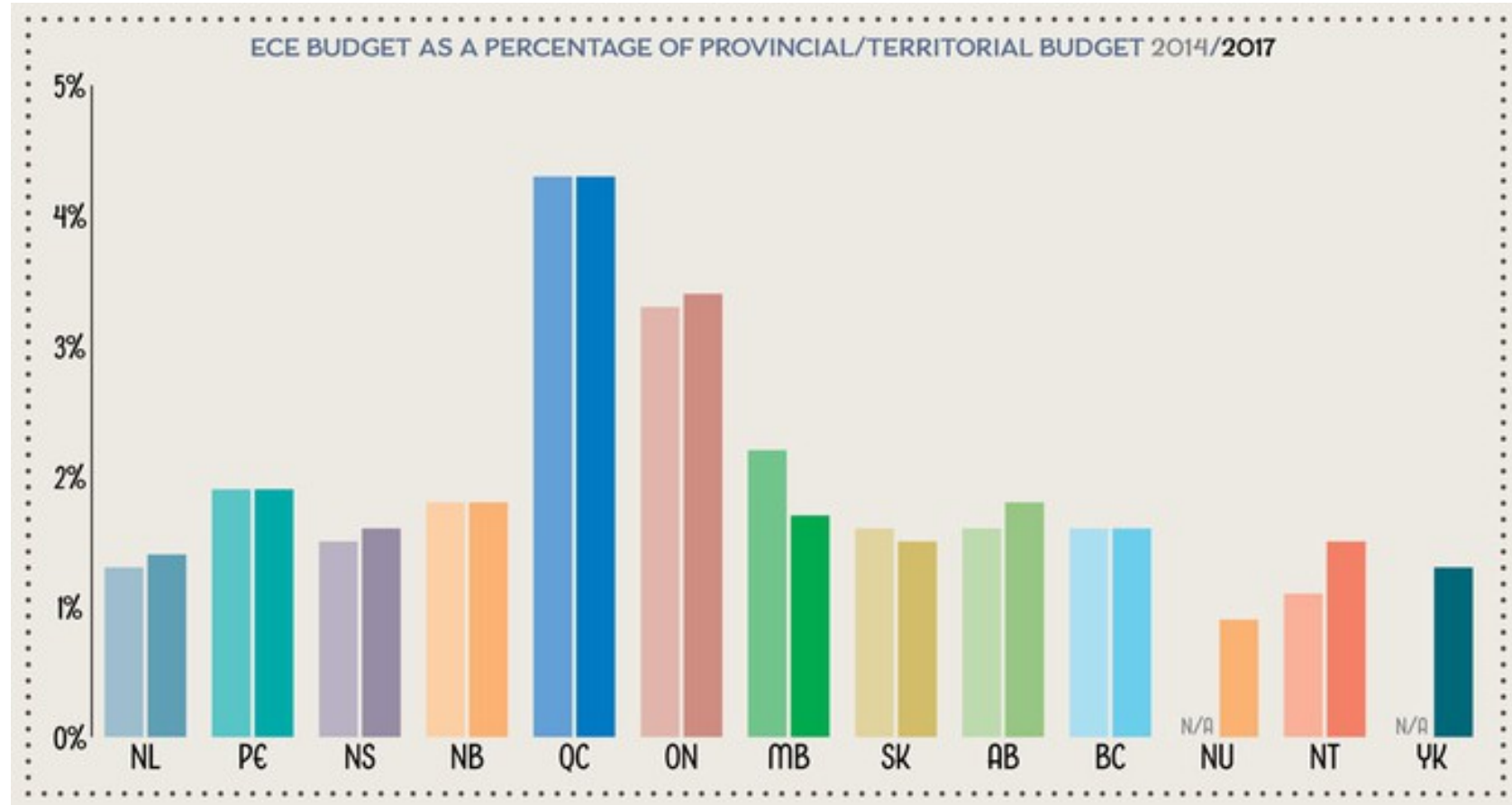
% GDP

In recent years, we have seen a steady investment in ECEC services across the country



# Funding

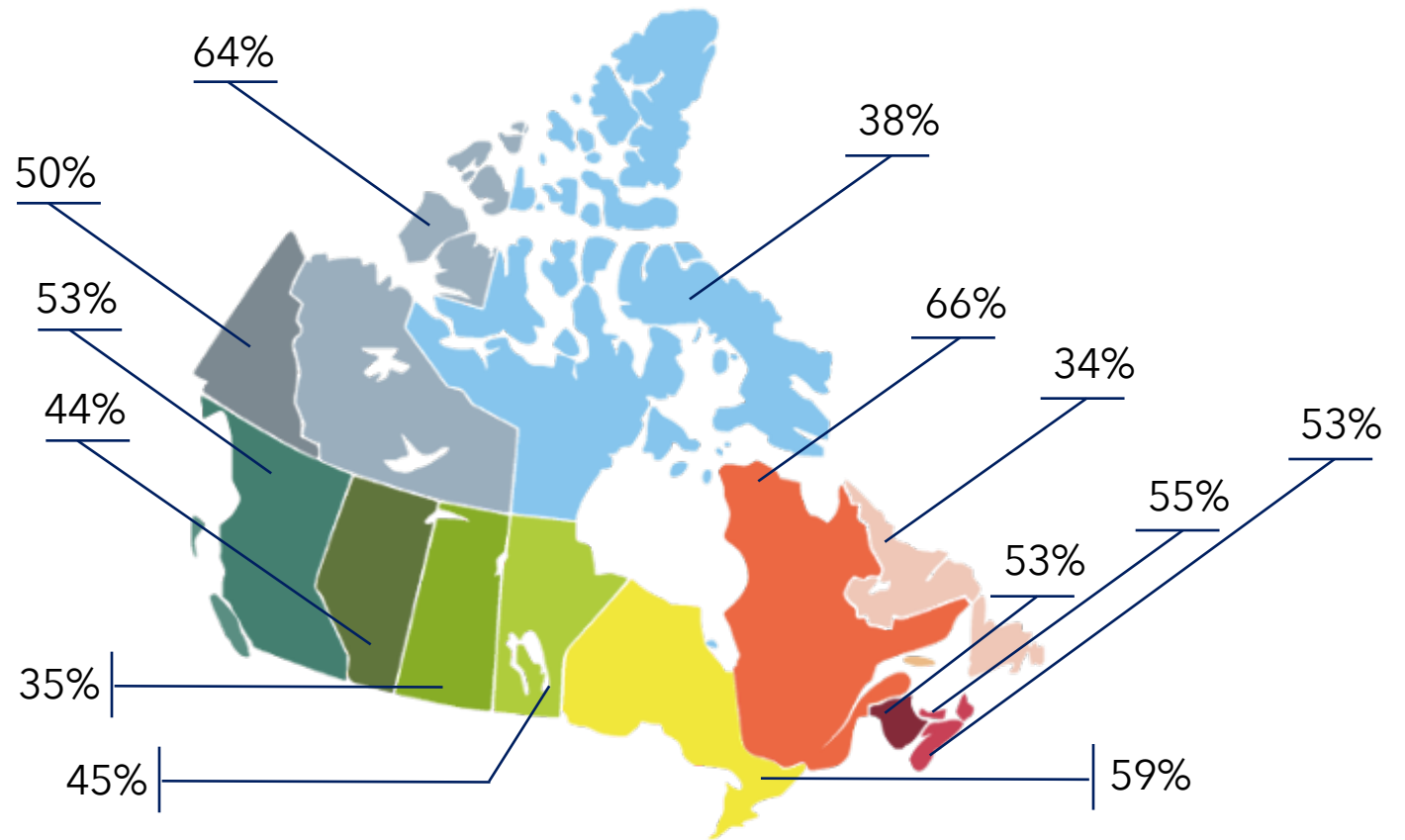
overall funding





# Access

% 2-4 year olds in ECE

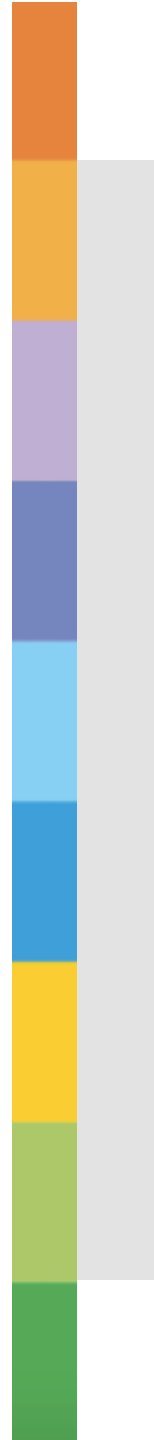
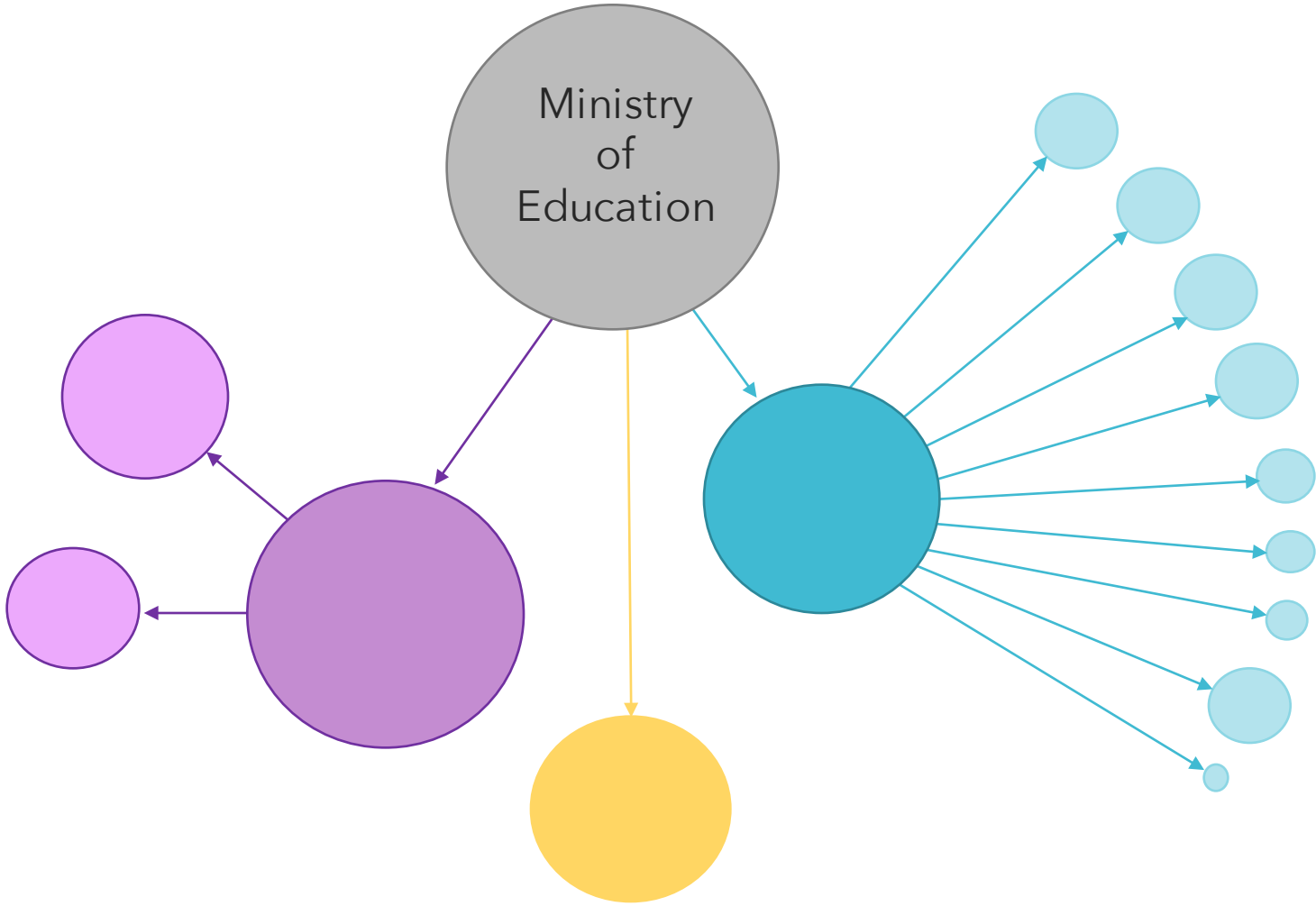


Access   
funding conditional on  
including children with  
special needs

Only **three** jurisdictions have funding that is conditional on including children with special needs



# Integrated Governance

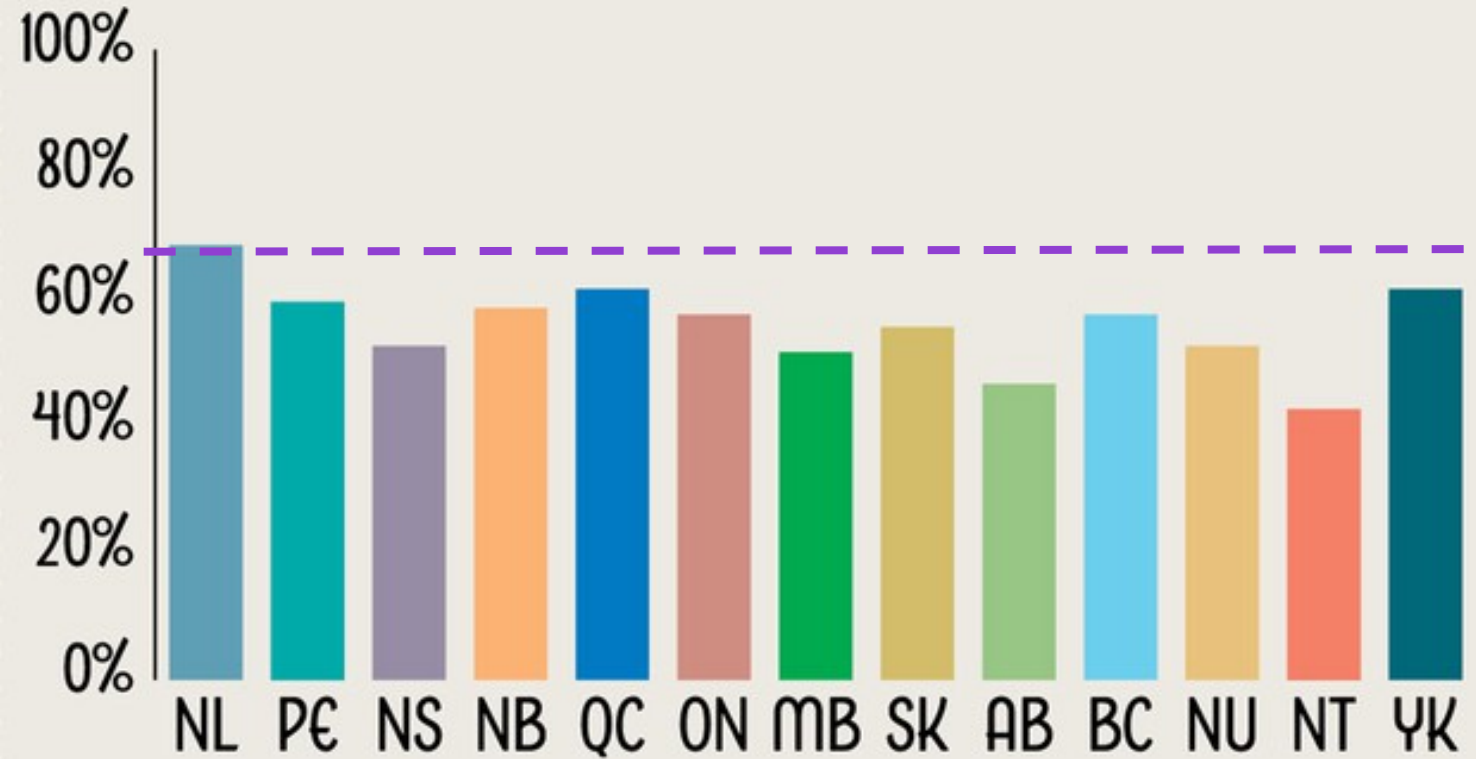



# Learning Environment

Educator Salaries



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR SALARIES AS  
A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES BY  
PROVINCE / TERRITORY

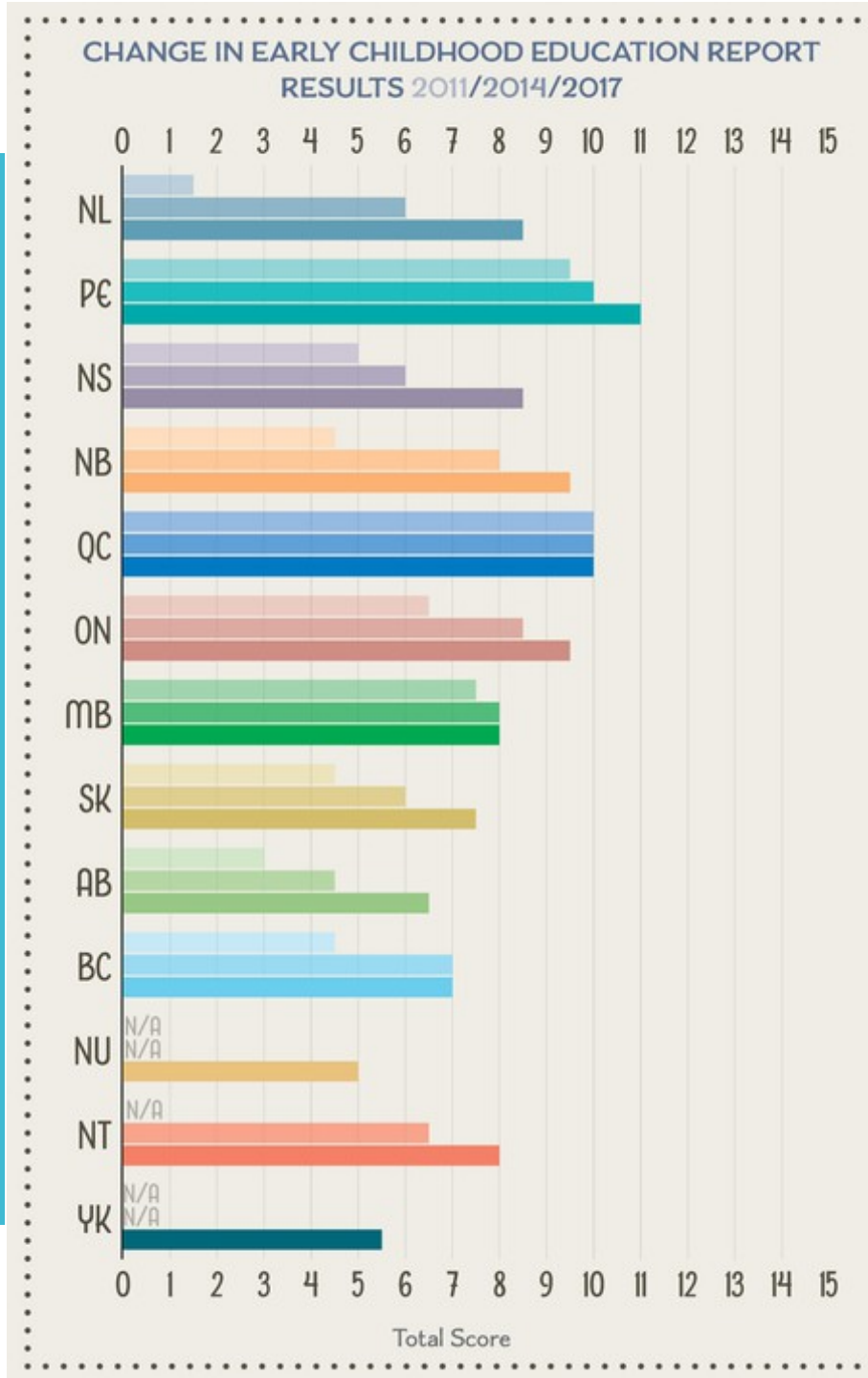


Learning   
Environment  
Curriculum Framework

All provinces now have an early learning curriculum



# Results

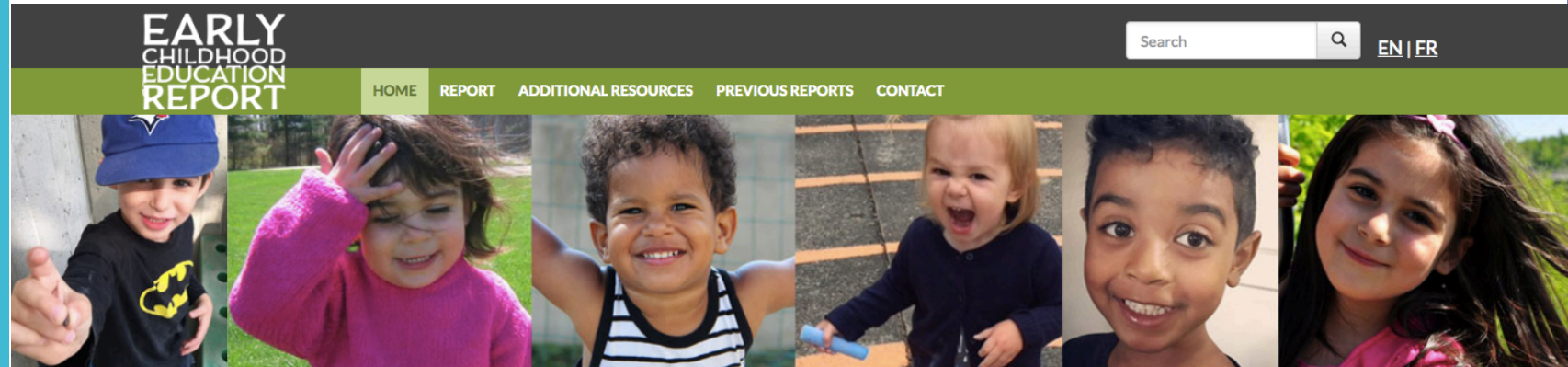


Canada has come a long way since the OECD's report in 2006

Our results showcase the improvements made across the country, with some jurisdictions making leaps forward in their investments in ECE

For more information and detailed provincial and territorial profiles log on at [ECEReport.ca](http://ECEReport.ca)

Log in at:  
ECEReport.ca



### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2017

Established in 2011 the Early Childhood Education Report is released every [three years](#) to evaluate the quality of provincial/territorial early years services against a [15-point scale](#). Results are populated from [detailed profiles](#) of each jurisdiction. The report is organized around [five categories](#) with 19 benchmarks forming a common set of minimum criteria contributing to the delivery of quality programming.



| EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2017                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Benchmarks   | NS  | NL  | PE  | NS  | NB  | QC  | ON  | MB  | SK  | AB  | BC  | NT  | YT  |
| ECE under common department or ministry                      | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Common ECE regulatory act                                    | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Common ECE policy framework                                  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| Common fiscal authority for ECE administration and delivery  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| At least 75% of child care funding goes to program operation | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| Standard safety and fee scale in licensed child care         | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |

**ECER 2017 RESULTS**

# The Abecedarian Approach in Manitoba's Early Childhood Community

## Intervention in Early Childhood

- **Abecedarian** is an intervention that focuses on children with multiple risk factors in their lives, recognizing that these risk factors can be barriers to learning
- **Language Focus** – Abecedarian sees language as the core of early learning; strong language skills allow for greater cognitive and social/emotional development
- Language grows best in respectful, responsive, reciprocal relationships



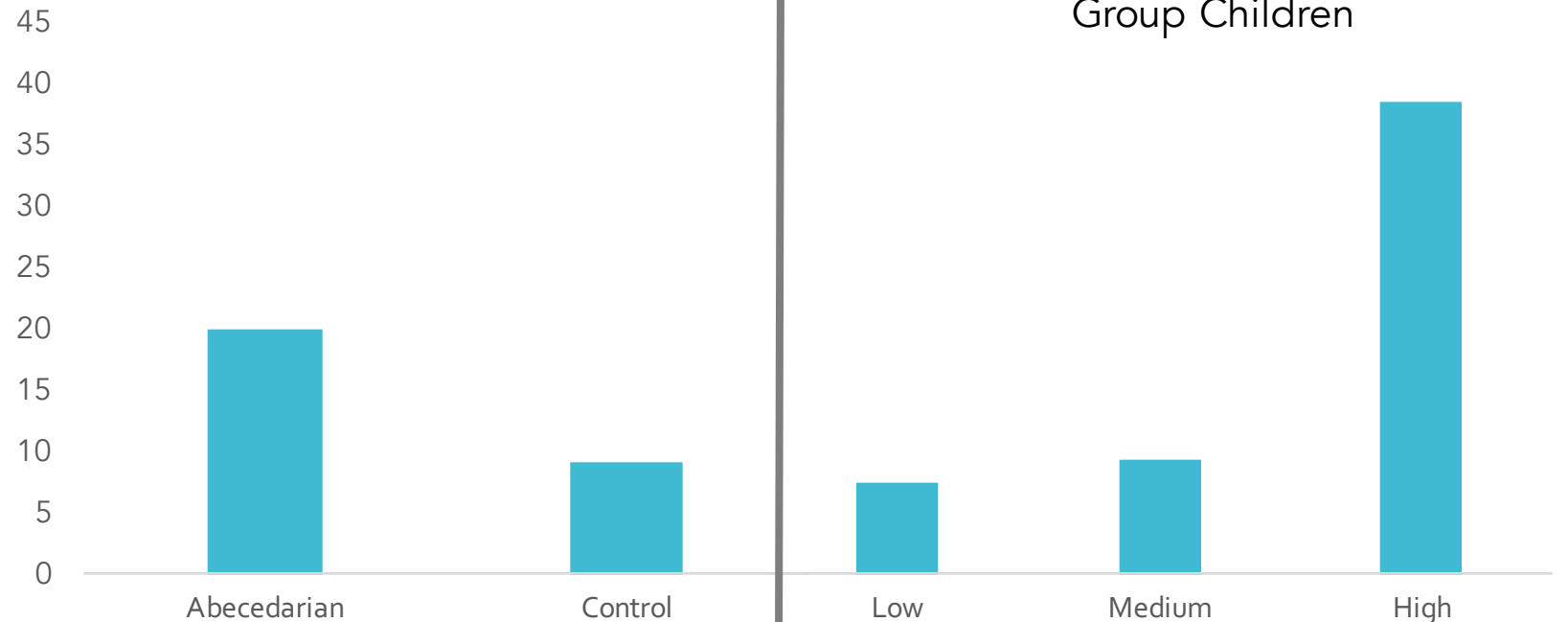
# The Abecedarian Approach in Manitoba's Early Childhood Community

- High quality, individualized, relationship based care
- Playful interactions between adult and child
- Language focus
- Specific attention to individual children's development
- Strength based approach to families

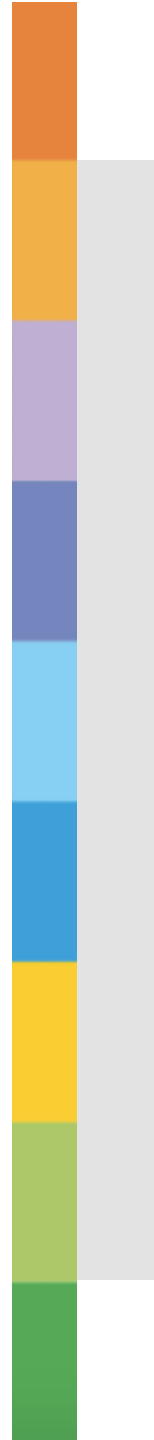
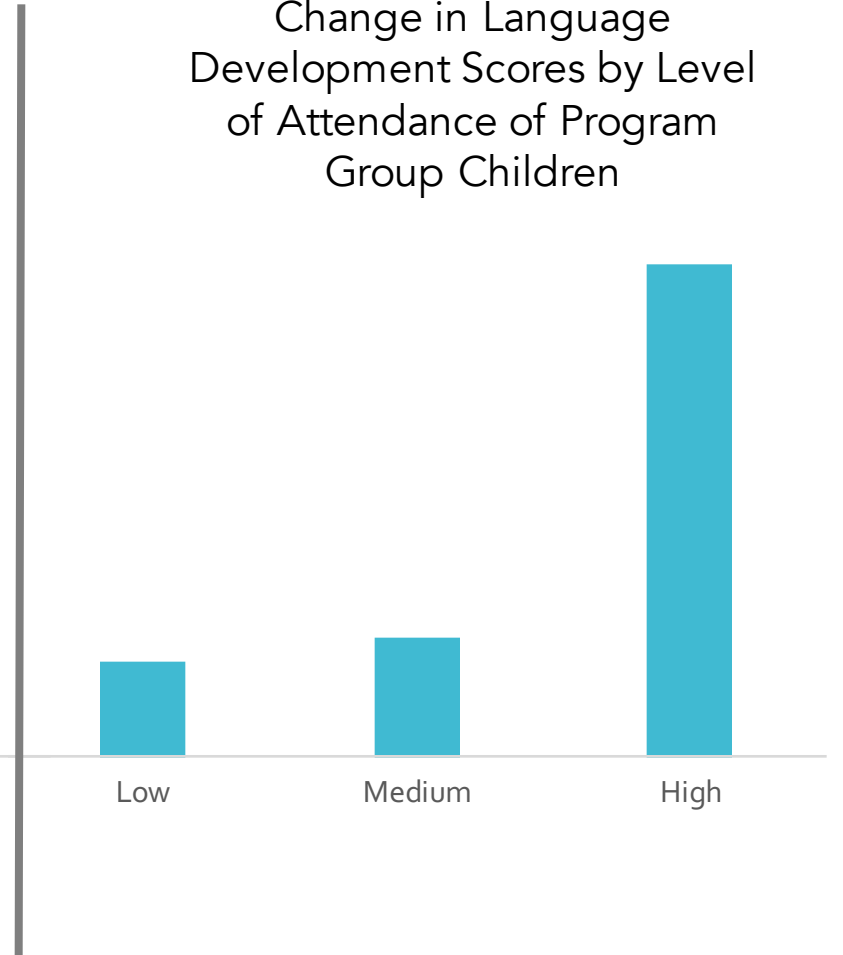


# The Abecedarian Approach in Manitoba's Early Childhood Community

Average Percentage Point Change in Language Development Scores by Evaluation Group Status



Average Percentage Point Change in Language Development Scores by Level of Attendance of Program Group Children



# Ontario's Vision for Early Learning and Care (FDK)

## Full-Day Kindergarten in Ontario

- In 2010 in Ontario: full-day kindergarten (FDK) became a universally available program for all 4- and 5- year-olds, moving early childhood education firmly into the realm of public education.
- Rollout over five years, with 260,000 children enrolled by September 2014. Created 10,000 new public sector jobs for ECEs.
- Unique to the Ontario model was the “seamless day,” an extension of the school day to accommodate child care needs, and the educator team, where teachers and early childhood educators share responsibility for the planning and delivery of the program.
- Original model was school board operated before and after school early learning. Currently one district follows this model with another with a modified model.

Pascal, 2009

# Ontario's Vision for Early Learning and Care (FDK)

## Effects on Children

FDK has lasting benefits for children's behaviour as well as their learning. Children in this program scored higher on reading, writing and number knowledge than those in a half-day program and remained ahead until the end of Grade 2.

Children also scored higher on [self-regulation](#), which is the capacity to respond to life's stresses and return to a calm and alert state. Self-regulation in early childhood is especially important. Existing research shows that self-control, an aspect of self-regulation, predicts long-term health, wealth and even a reduction in crime.

Pelletier, 2017  
Janmohamed, McCuaig, Akbari, & Gananathan, 2014

Thank you!

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