

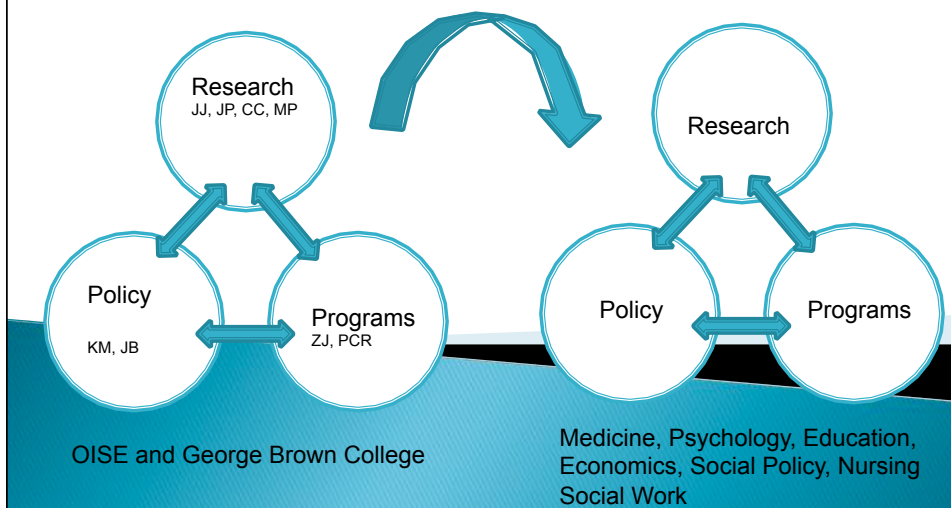
Collaborative structures to support families and children

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Why is this collaboration across research, policy and programs so important?

- ▶ Human development is enormously complex occurring across biological, cognitive and social systems
- ▶ Very strong continuities are evident: the seeds of adult mental and physical health problems are in childhood

Why is this collaboration across research, policy and programs so important?

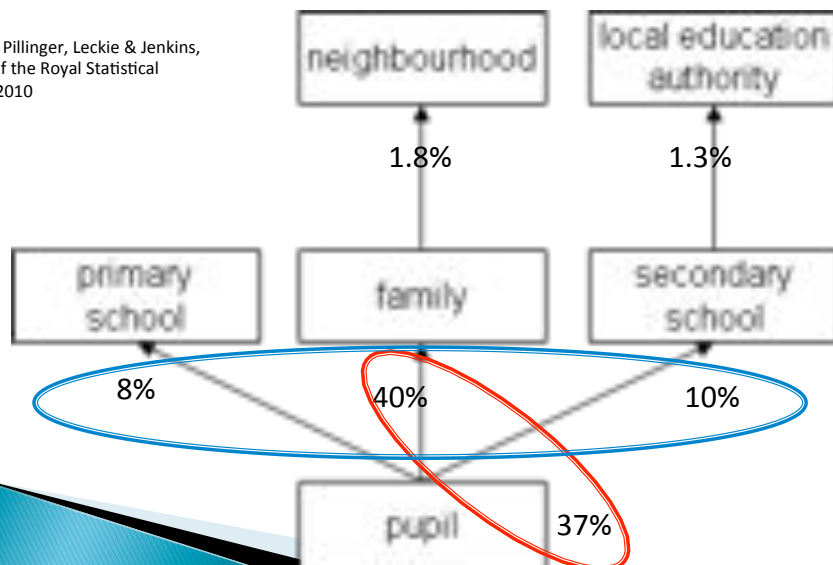
- ▶ We need to decide amongst the many environmental influences that affect children what to prioritize, what we can change
- ▶ Knowledge mobilization experts who work across the boundaries of academic research, the development of programs and with government to make that science come alive.

Where do we put our efforts?

- ▶ Families: conception to 3 years as the family context explains so much about life long development
- ▶ Schools and families, 3 years+

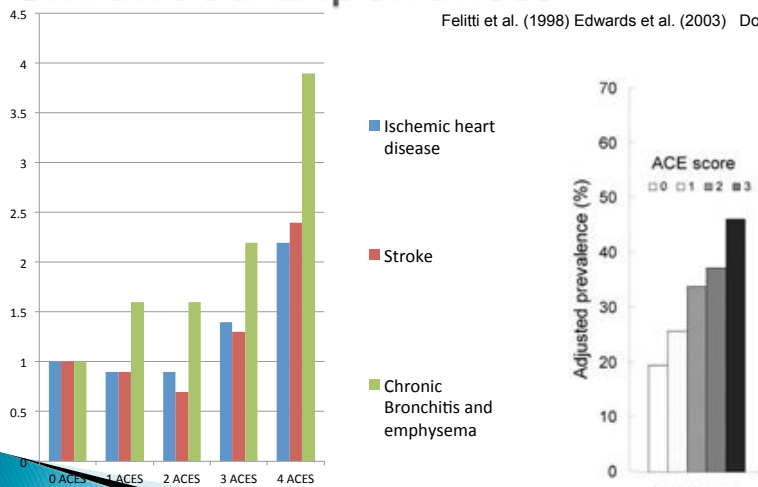
Change in Academic Achievement from 11 years old to school leaving

Rasbash, Pillinger, Leckie & Jenkins,
Journal of the Royal Statistical
Society, 2010



Health Outcomes as a function of poor family experiences: Adverse Childhood Experiences

Felitti et al. (1998) Edwards et al. (2003) Dong et al. (2004).



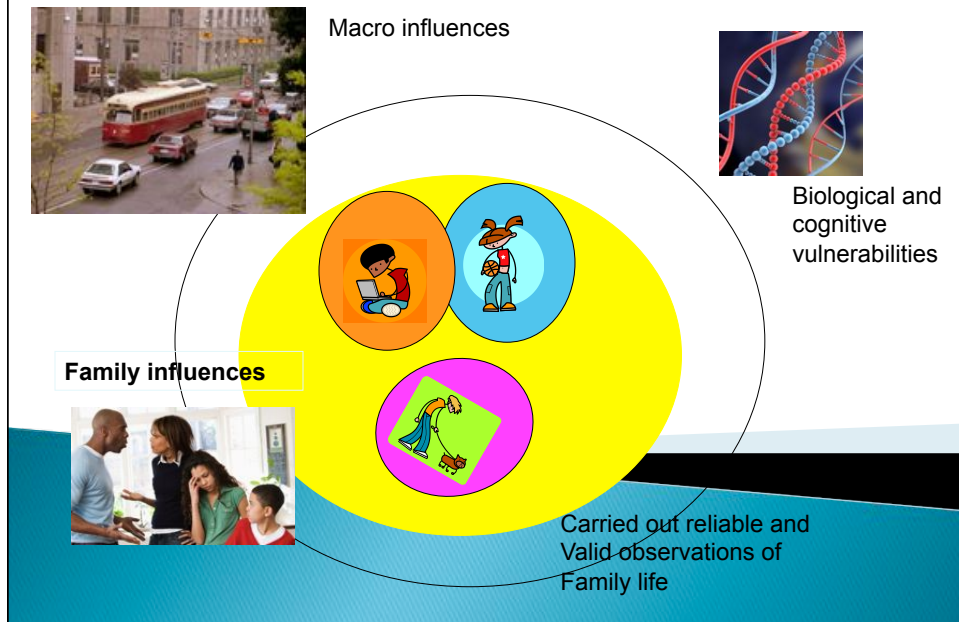
KIDS, FAMILIES
& PLACES
STUDY

Focus on Families

501 families with a newborn, and older siblings, followed up 4 times: newborn to school entry

- Thanks TPH and HPH
- Thanks CIHR, SSHRC. Connaught

The multilevel structure of experience



Cumulative social disadvantage gets inside family relationships which gets embedded in children's behavior and cognition by 18 months

Social understanding at 18 months: Tasks with the experimenter

Empathy



Cooperation



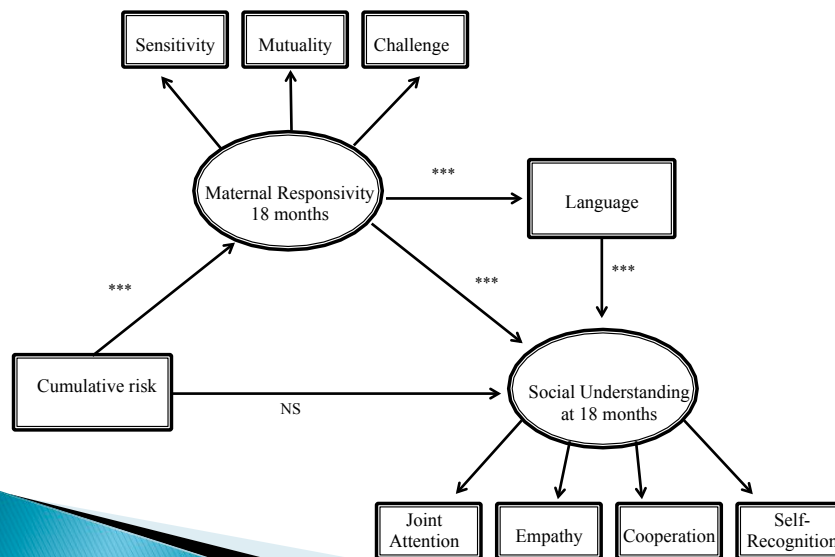
Joint attention



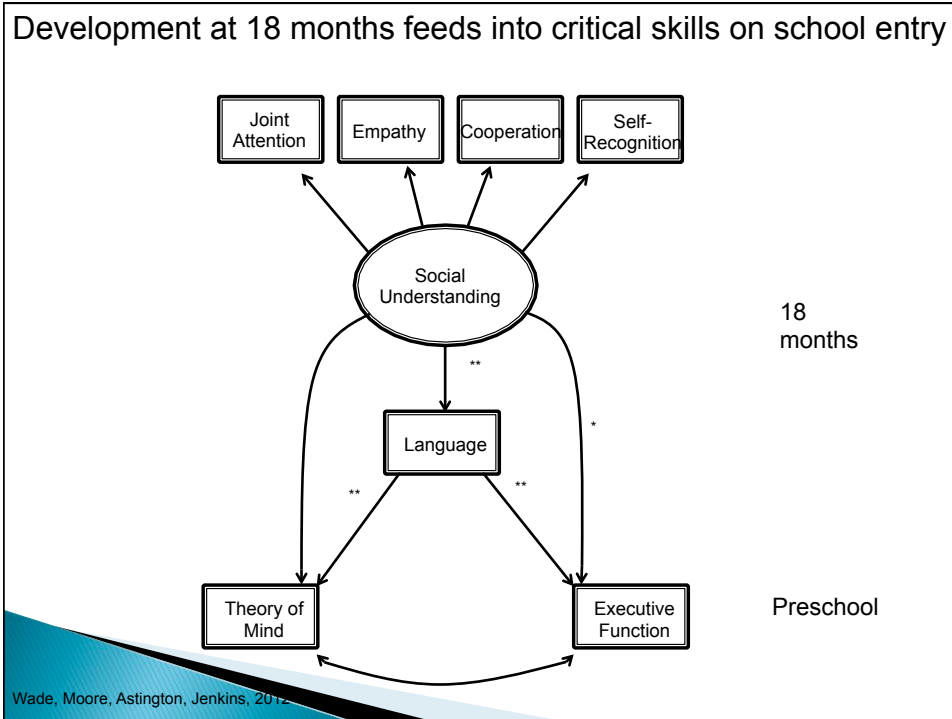
Mirror self recognition



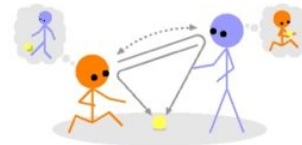
Effects of cumulative risk on 18 month old social understanding: Operates through responsivity



Wade, Moore, Astington, Jenkins, 2012



Parental responsivity is critical for brain development.



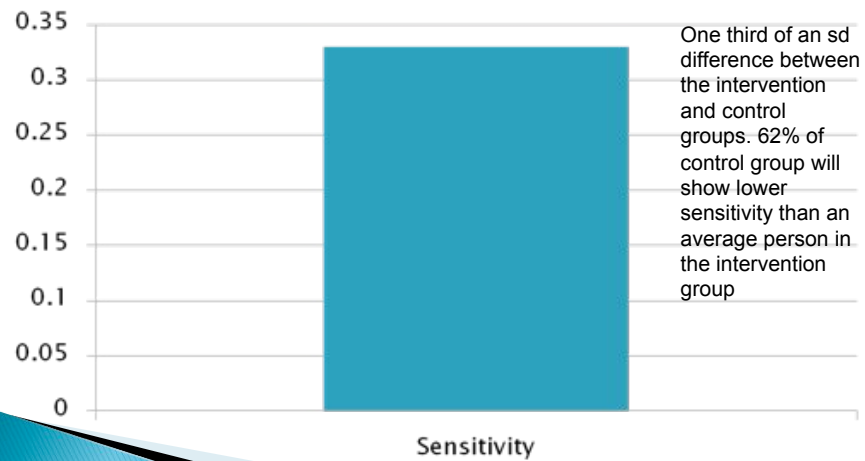
- ▶ What is responsivity?
- ▶ Paying attention to what the child is interested in and building on that.
- ▶ Getting into other person's mind
- ▶ Parents to children; sibling to sibling
- ▶ Sibling similarity. Over 50% of the variability in sibling responsivity occurs between families. Siblings are similar to one another and different from other families

Older sibling responsivity when younger is 3 years old predicts younger children's language and theory of mind on school entry.

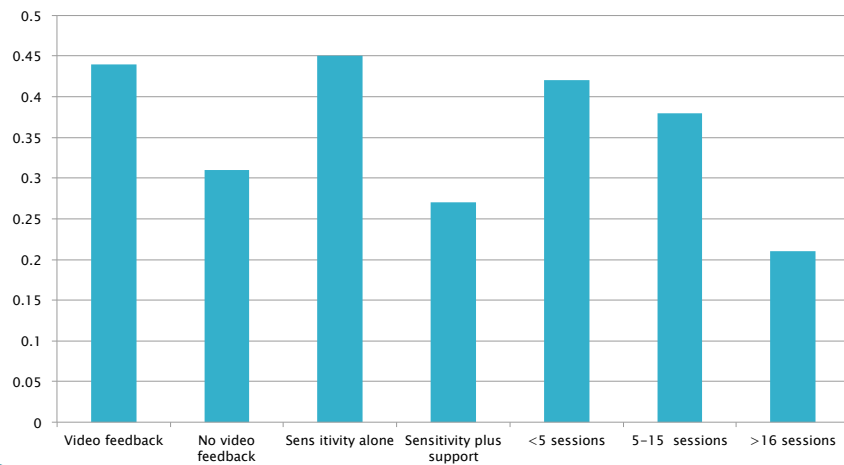
Prime, Perlman, Jenkins et al., 2012

- ▶ Social disadvantage makes it harder for parents to build the good relationships with their children that influence children's ability to learn at school entry.

Meta-analysis of RCTs (N=50) to change parental sensitivity (responsivity)



What are the components that work?



Bakermans-Kranenburg et al.,
Psychological Bulletin, 2003

Family check-up Dishion; Morris

- ▶ In the first year of life
- ▶ Cognitive development of child including language, pointing, cooperation
- ▶ Observation of sensitivity: its role in building cognition: language, reading, social cognition