



GREAT BEGINNINGS: KINDERGARTEN READY = COLLEGE READY

July 19, 2012

KASA Conference

Today's Presenters



Terry Tolan

- Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood

Brigitte Blom Ramsey

- Strategic Resources and Public Policy, United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- Kentucky Board of Education Member
- Early Childhood Advisory Council Member

**Quality early
care and
education
programs
improve
outcomes for
a lifetime**



Benefits of high quality early childhood programs



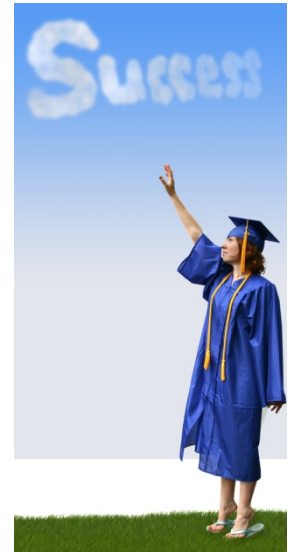
- ❖ Promotes positive brain development
- ❖ Promotes school readiness
- ❖ Saves tax dollars
- ❖ Contributes to long-term economic growth
- ❖ Prepares today's children for tomorrow's competitive workforce

High Scope/Perry Preschool Project Findings:



At age 40, those who participated in the quality preschool program:

- **Had higher earnings**
- **Were more likely to hold a job**
- **Had committed fewer crimes**
- **Were more likely to have graduated from high school**



Chicago Child-Parent Centers



- ❖ **Half-day, large-scale program in Chicago public schools**
- ❖ **Comparison group was a random sample of eligible nonparticipants**
- ❖ **Comparable to Kentucky's preschool program**

Chicago Child-Parent Centers Results



At age 21 the former preschool participants:

- ✓ **29% higher HS graduation rate**
- ✓ **33% lower rate of juvenile arrest**
- ✓ **42% lower rate of arrest for a violent offense**
- ✓ **40% reduction in grade retention**
- ✓ **51% reduction child maltreatment**

Healthy Brain Development



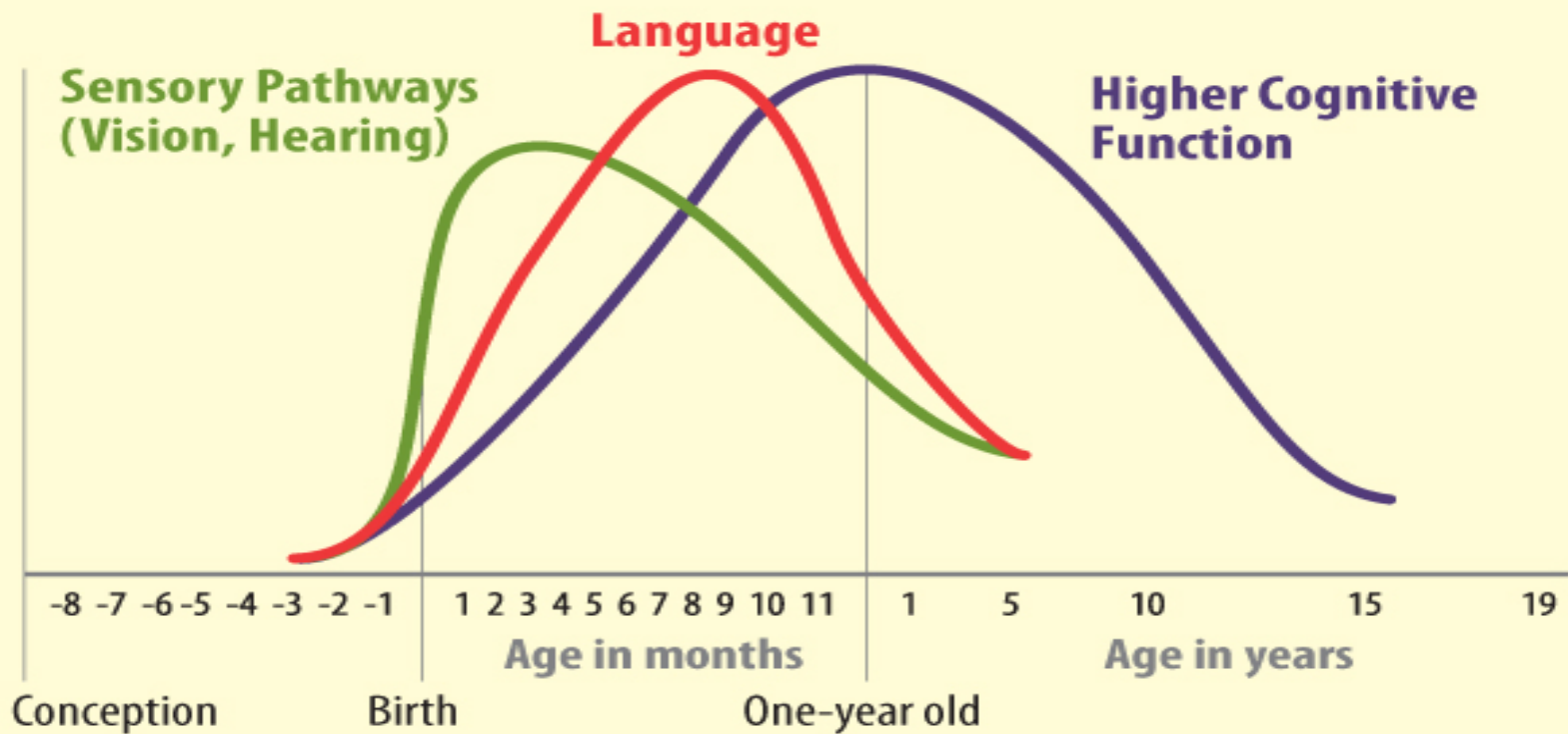
By enhancing early childhood development we actually improve a child's ability to learn at later stages.

❖ The foundation for all future learning is developed during the early years.

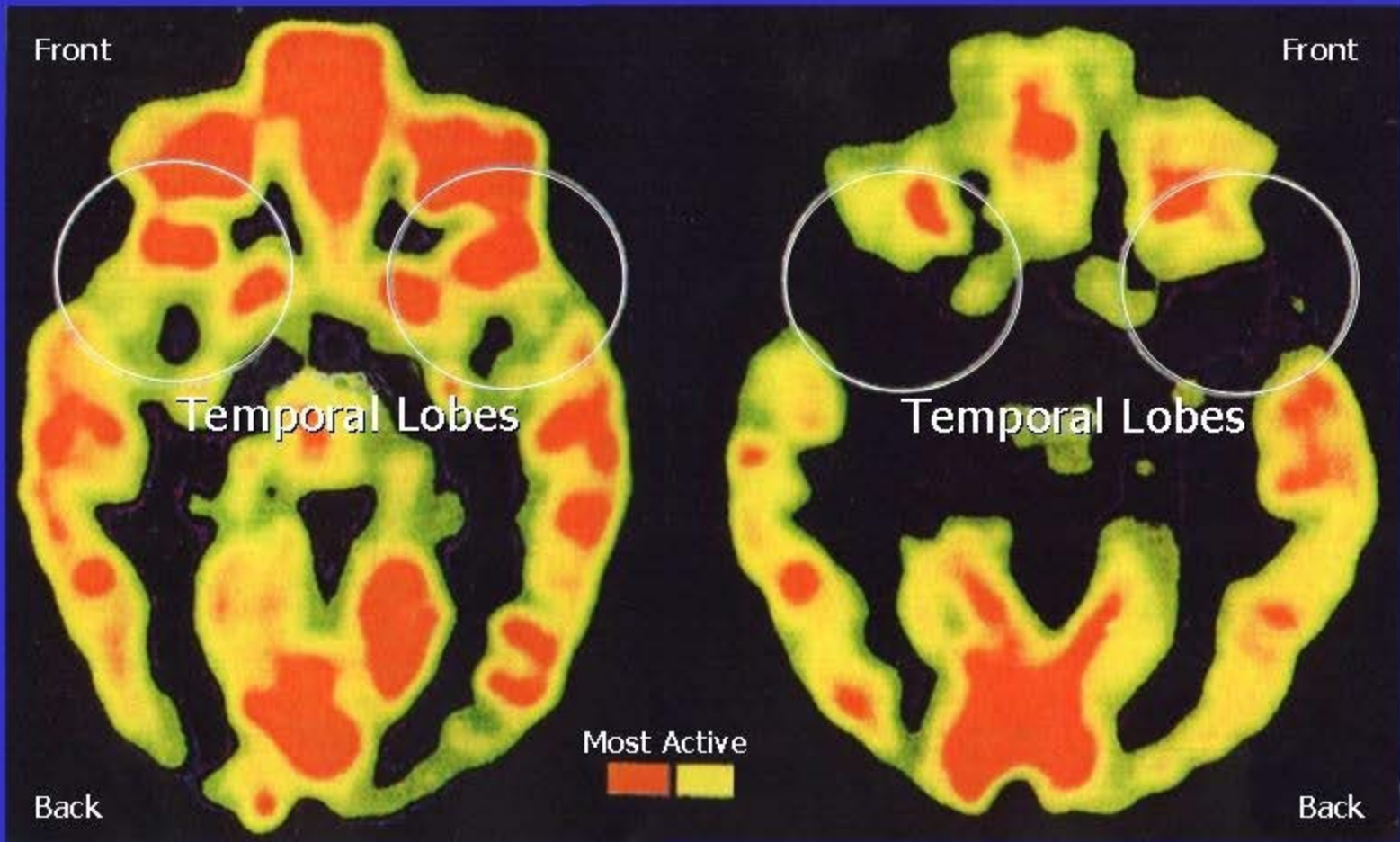
❖ Cognitive, emotional and social skills are intertwined.

HUMAN BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IS GREATEST AT VERY YOUNG AGES

Synapse Formation and Retraction



SOURCE: C. A. Nelson in From Neurons to Neighborhoods, 2000



Positive
Stimulation

Negative
Stimulation

Why are the early years so important?



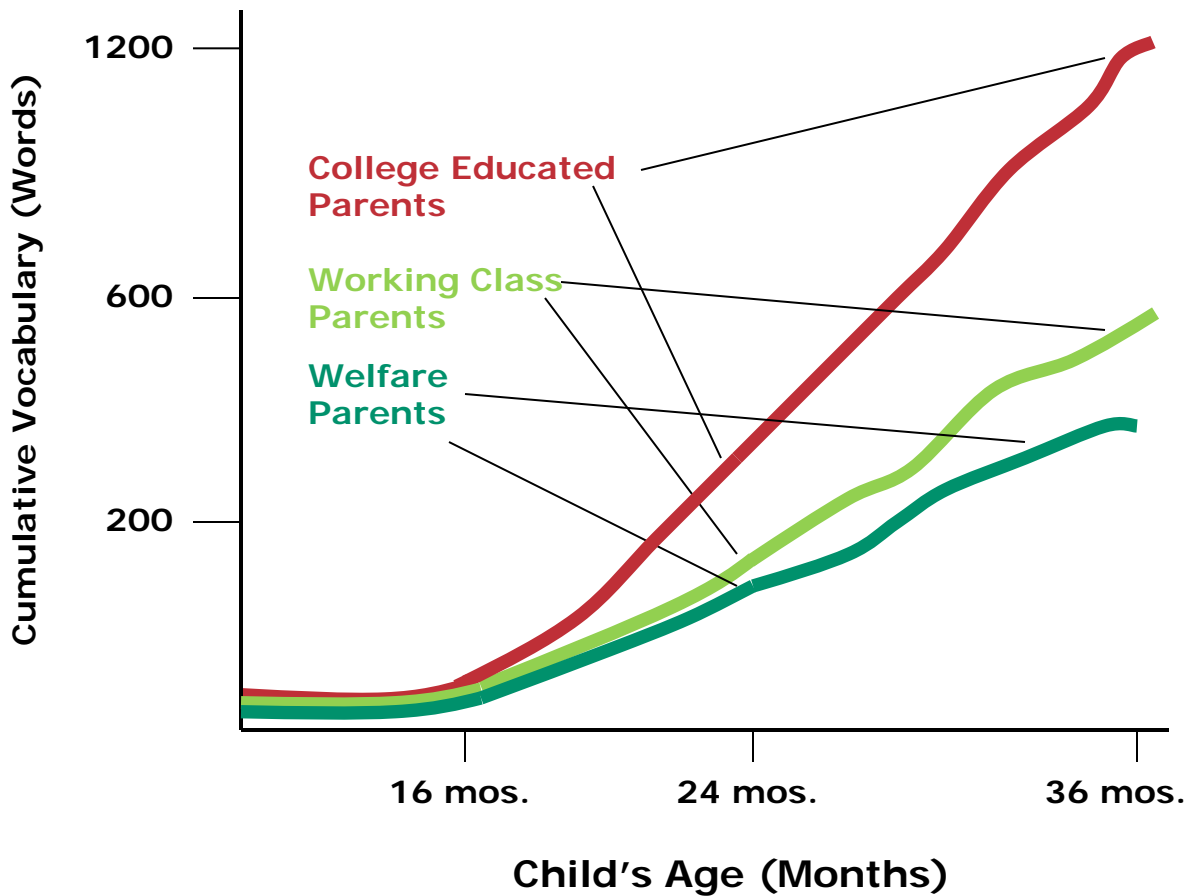
Language Heard

■ Number of words heard by age 4

Child whose parents are:

❖ <i>on public assistance</i>	13 million
❖ <i>working class</i>	26 million
❖ <i>professionals</i>	45 million

Disparities in Early Vocabulary



Source: Hart & Risley (1995)

Why are the early years so important?



The transition from primary grades to intermediate grades

Learn to Read 

Pre-K to third grade

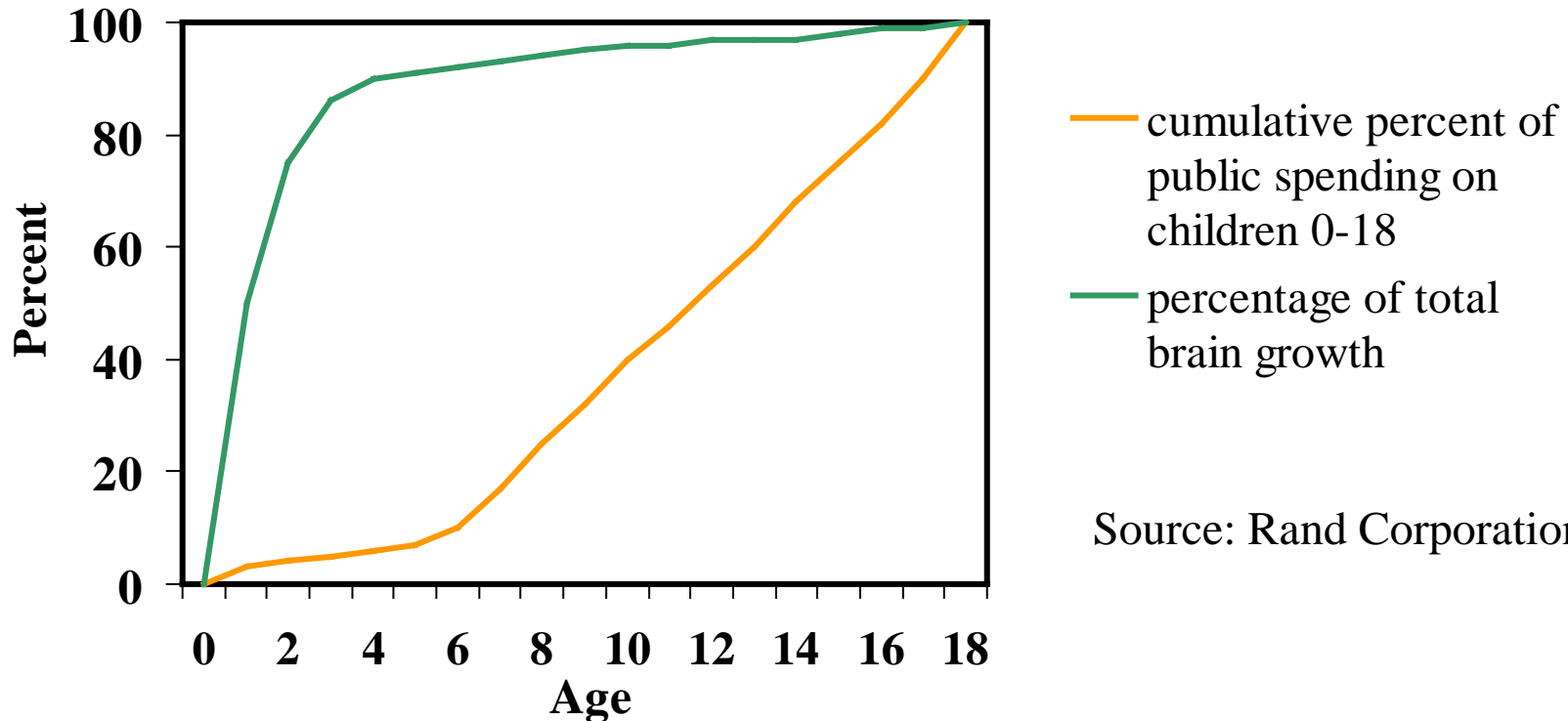
Read to Learn

4th grade and up

“Learning to read by the end of third grade is the most important predictor of success for children. If children have not learned to read by that time, they will be *unable to read to learn* in the upper elementary and secondary grades.”

Terry Holliday, KY Education Commissioner

Brain growth versus public expenditures on children ages 0-18



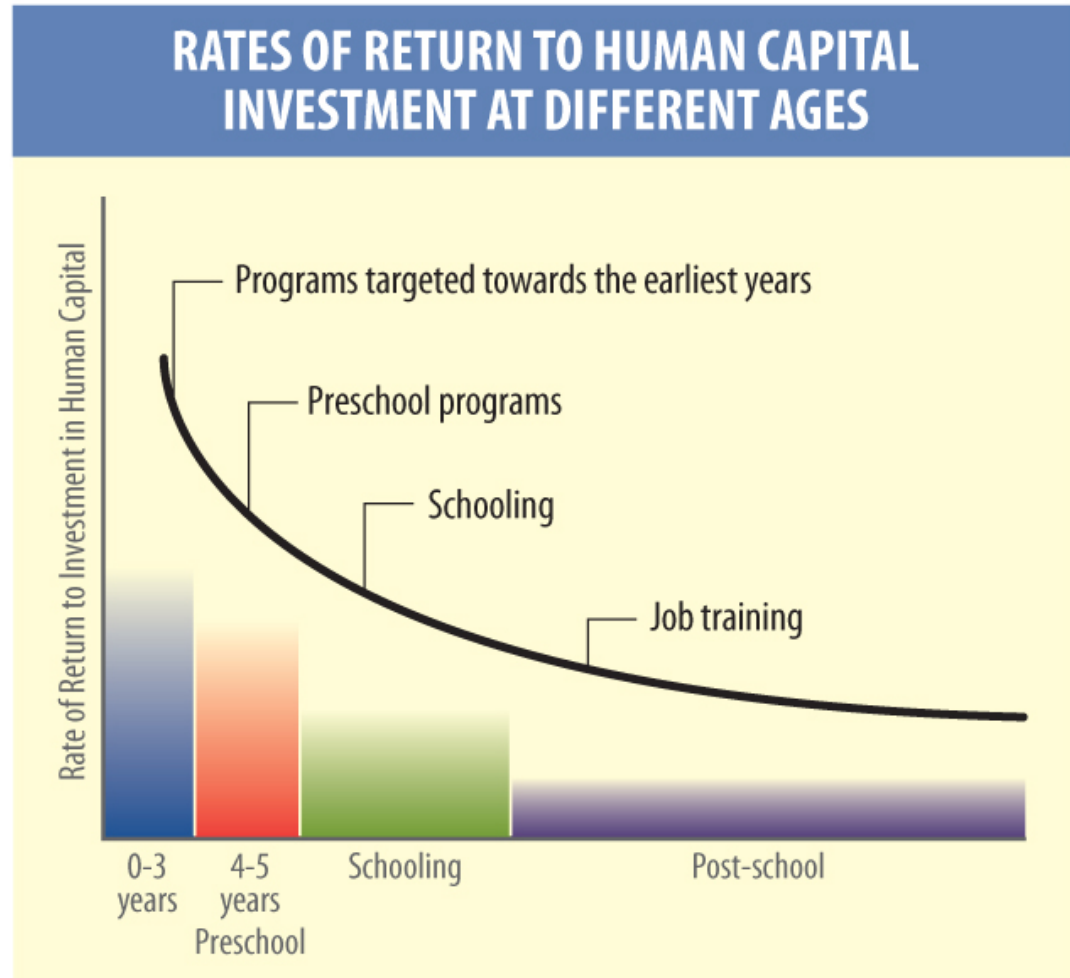
Source: Rand Corporation

90 percent of public expenditures occur after age five, after 90% of brain development has occurred.

Return on Investment is Strong



Schools should invest in young children, where the return on investment is stronger than in K-12



SOURCE: Dr. James Heckman, University of Chicago

School readiness =



Ready to Grow...Ready to Learn...Ready to Succeed

The five developmental areas for school readiness are:

- Approaches to learning
- Social and emotional development
- Health and physical well being
- Cognitive and general knowledge
- Language and communication development

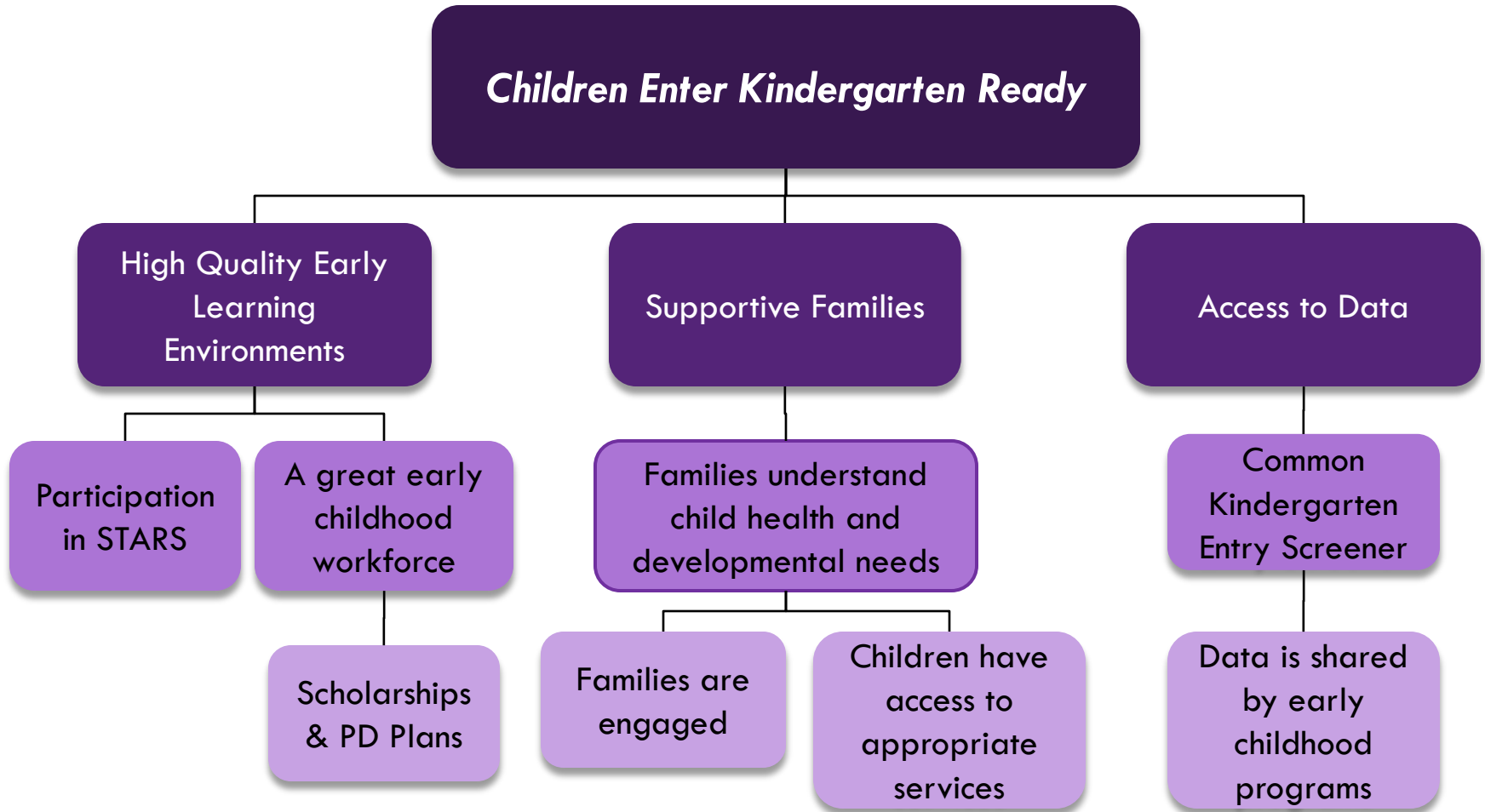
Common Kindergarten Screener



- ❑ BRIGANCE® Kindergarten Screener will be used by all Kindergartens
- ❑ 107 districts will implement the screen in 2012 voluntarily
- ❑ Participation will be required beginning in the 2013 school year
- ❑ 704 KAR 5:070 provides guidance in the administration and use of data
- ❑ Administered within 15 calendar days before the first instructional day and no later than the thirtieth instructional day

Our Business Model

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)



Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs) make it happen at the local level!

- School District
- Family Resource Centers
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Resource & Referral Agency
- Early Intervention
- Cooperative Extension
- United Way/Success by 6
- Child Care
- Public Library
- Regional Training Centers
- Community Action Agency
- Health care professionals/
health department
- College or tech schools
- Parents/Foster parents
- Government
- Early childhood advocates

What do CECCs do?



- ❑ Teacher Training
- ❑ Mini-Grants for Providers
- ❑ Community Awareness
- ❑ STARS Promotion
- ❑ Assessment
- ❑ Parent Training
- ❑ Child Well-Being
- ❑ Camp Kindergarten



How Schools should get involved:



- Get to know and partner with your Community Early Childhood Council
- Promote Kindergarten Readiness Screening
- Collect and share data
- Consider collaborative delivery of preschool
- Support quality early childhood programs with training and partnerships
- Encourage unregulated providers to get licensed
- Increase parent awareness about STARS



**Great Beginnings:
Kindergarten Ready = College Ready**