



Investments in Early Learning

Harriet Meyer

President: Ounce of Prevention Fund

4/6/2009

Keynote for Rhode Island
Kids Count Factbook
Release Breakfast



The Ounce of Prevention Fund

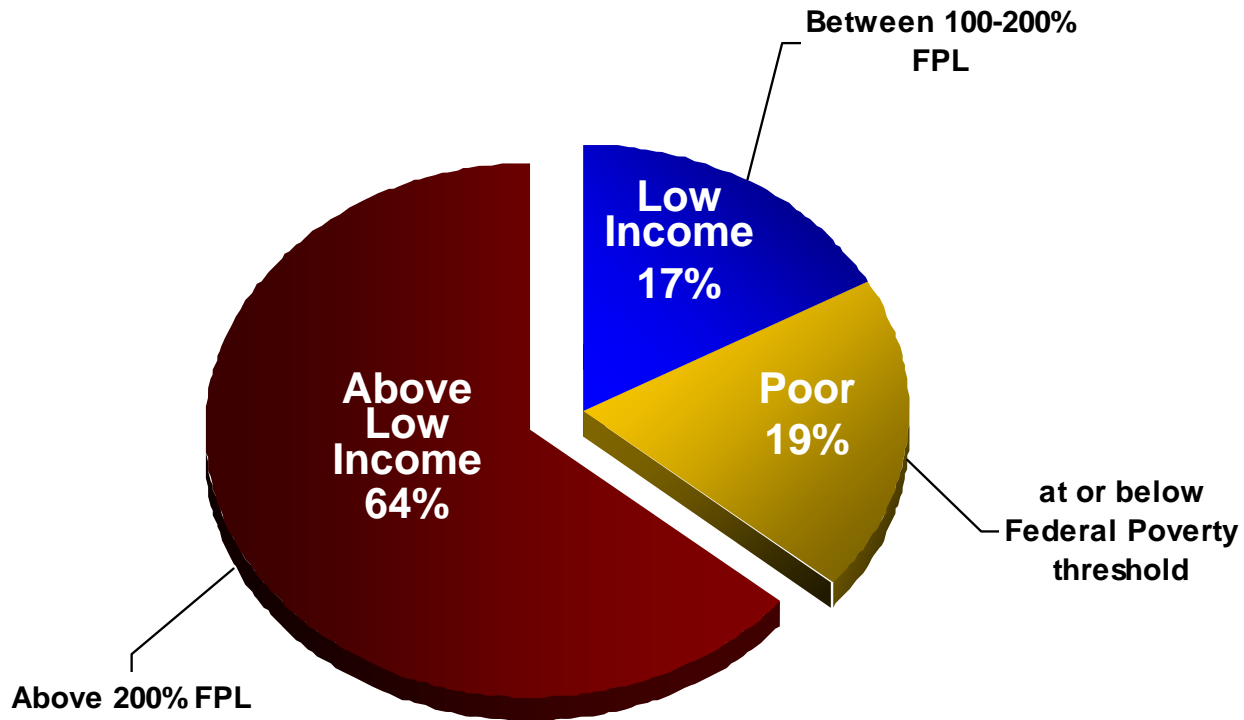
The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age five.

**“We know that the achievement gap
is an opportunity and access gap.”**

*Dr. Douglas D. Christensen
Former Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education*

Poverty and School Readiness

36% of children under 6 in Rhode Island live in low income families

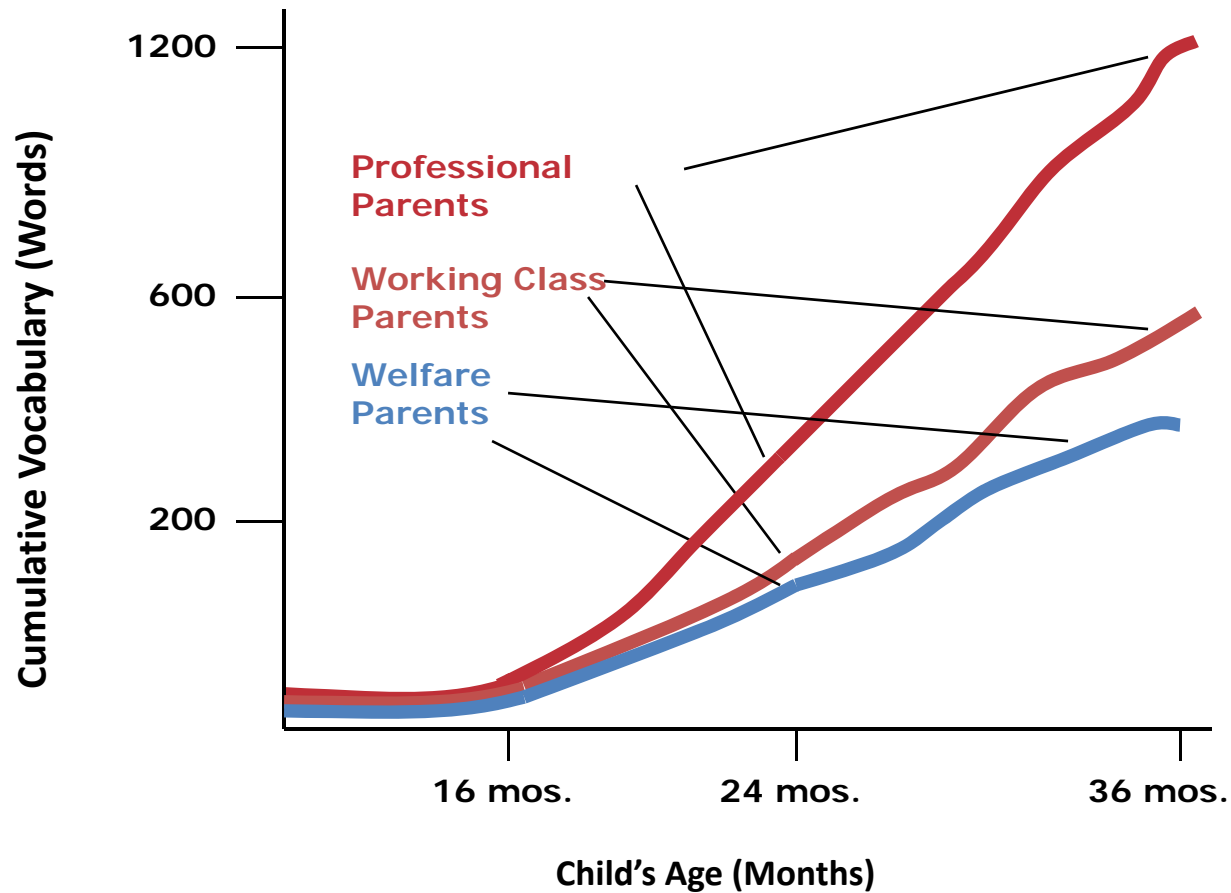


Source: National Center for Children in Poverty

The Achievement Gap: Non-Cognitive Skills

Emotion → Attention → Learning

The Achievement Gap: Vocabulary



Source: Hart & Risley (1995)

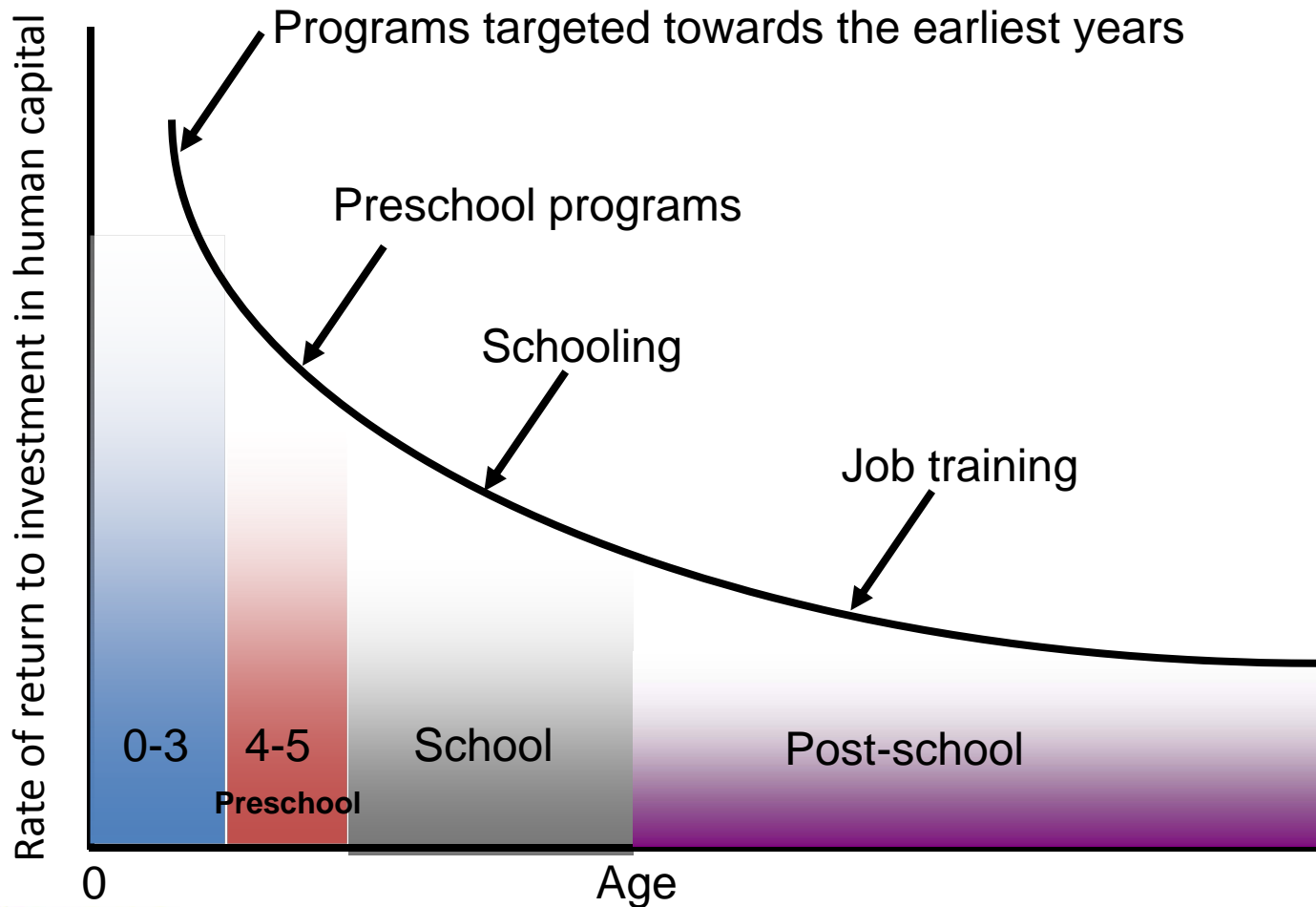
What Works: Effective Interventions

- A Balanced Approach
- Quality Learning Experiences
- Positive Relationships

Video on Mother-Child Relationship (Still Face Experiment)

What Works: Investing In the First Five Years

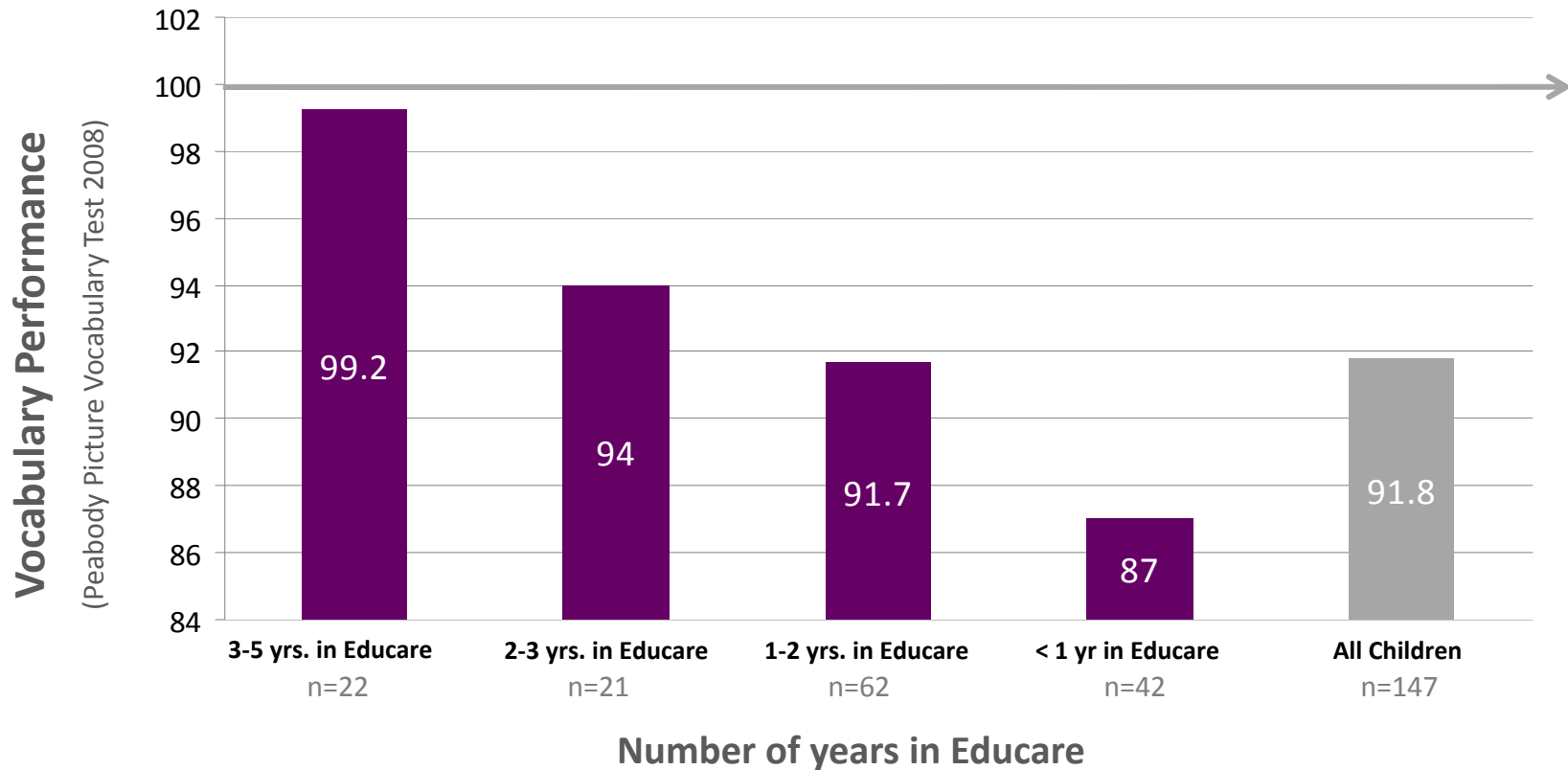
Human Capital Investment: Return to an Extra Dollar



Dr. James Heckman
University of Chicago

What Works: Investing Over Time

Vocabulary: Children who spend more years in Educare emerge better prepared for kindergarten



5-Site 2008 Data – Adjusted Means. Source: Yazejian, N. & Bryant D.M. (2009). Promising early returns: Educare implementation study data, March 2009. Chapel Hill: FPG Child Development Institute. Note: This sample includes English-speaking children only.

Guiding Principles

- Birth-to-five, high-quality, research-based program models
- Investments in service expansion and infrastructure to support high quality
- Prioritize serving at-risk children first
- Build on current diverse state early childhood delivery systems

Illinois Preschool for All

- Based on a blueprint from the Illinois Early Learning Council
- Expands Birth to Three while growing Preschool
- Builds on existing programs and diverse delivery system
- Research-Based Standards:
 - BA certified early childhood teachers in every preschool classroom
 - Curricula aligned with IL Early Learning Standards
 - Evidence-based 0-3 home- and center-based program models

Opportunities in Rhode Island

- Increased investments in high-quality birth-to-five early learning services: simultaneous growth in the first five years
- Focus on the most vulnerable children
- Investments in quality
- Federal funding opportunities

The Road Ahead

