

Families in Poverty

Impacts on Early Learning, Summer Learning and Family Engagement

Amy Schofield, Community Outreach Manager | Richland Library

Lori Cook, Childhood Education Coordinator | Richland Library

Shinelle Polite, Outreach Librarian | Richland Library

Mayte Velasco Nicolas, Bilingual Coordinator | Richland Library

Objectives

- Summer Learning + Grade-Level Reading
- Family Engagement
- Early Learning
- Additional Thoughts + Tips
- Questions + Resources

Summer Learning + Grade Level Reading

“For the more than 25 million low-income public school students in America, summer is often anything but a vacation. Instead of a relaxing break to explore new interests and places, it’s often a time when children, youth and families struggle to find and afford food to eat and a safe place to be.

Summer learning loss, the phenomenon where young people lose academic skills over the summer, is one of the most significant causes of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth and one of the strongest contributors to the high school dropout rate.”

www.summerlearning.org



Summer Slide

What we know about it

- Income Driven
- Cumulative
- Easy to Overcome



62% of first-graders living below the poverty level **did not have library cards**, and only 36% of children with the lowest socioeconomic status visited libraries in their kindergarten year.

"Public Partners for Early Literacy: Library-School Partnerships Closing Opportunity Gaps"
By Urban Libraries Council (2017)

In middle-income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is **1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children.**

Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006, p. 31

Summer Slide

What we tried

- Break down barriers
- Access to Books
- Interactions

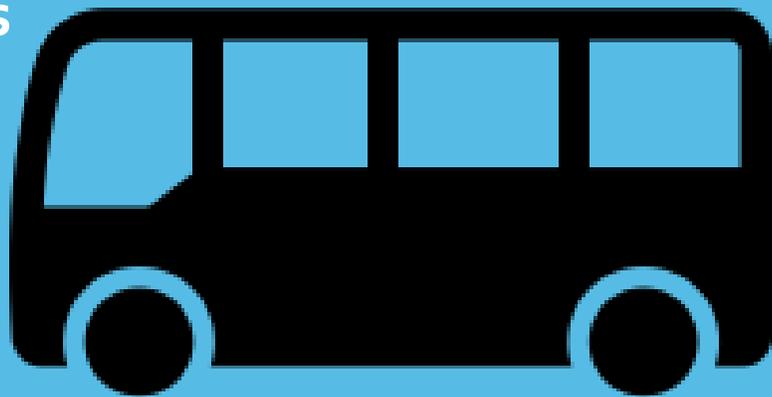


Learn Freely Bus

62 Programs

1,072 Attendance

23 Partners



Play Freely Van

62 Programs

2,350 Attendance

22 Partners

Summer 2017!



In Person

37 Programs

767 Attendance

11 Partners



Family Engagement



“Children from families on welfare heard about **616** words per hour, while those from working class families heard around **1,251** words per hour, and those from professional families heard roughly **2,153** words per hour.”

“Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3”
by University of Kansas researchers Betty Hart
and Todd R. Risley. (2003).

Family Engagement

Why they Might Not Come to You...

- Working
- Transportation
- Depression

Low income and minority women are disproportionately likely to be affected by maternal depression with rates as high as 40%.

- Fear/judgment
- Personal history

Early Learning



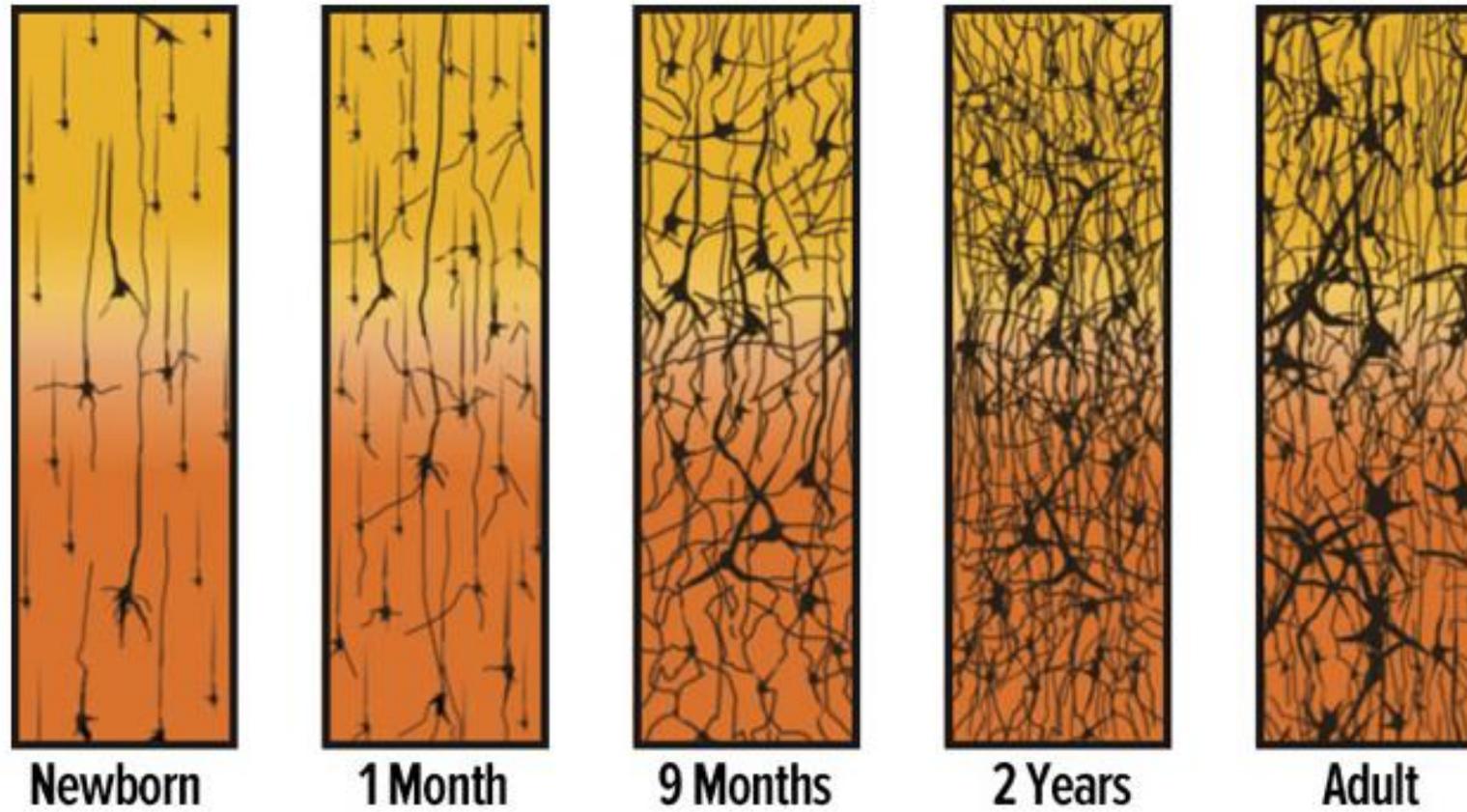
"Brain development is the most significant from birth to age 3.

The brain's capacity develops **90%** before a child reaches age 5."¹

"**1 in 4** children from low-income families enters kindergarten not ready to learn."²

¹Early Childhood Education Degrees, The Milestones of Your Little Rocket Scientist's Development, 2013

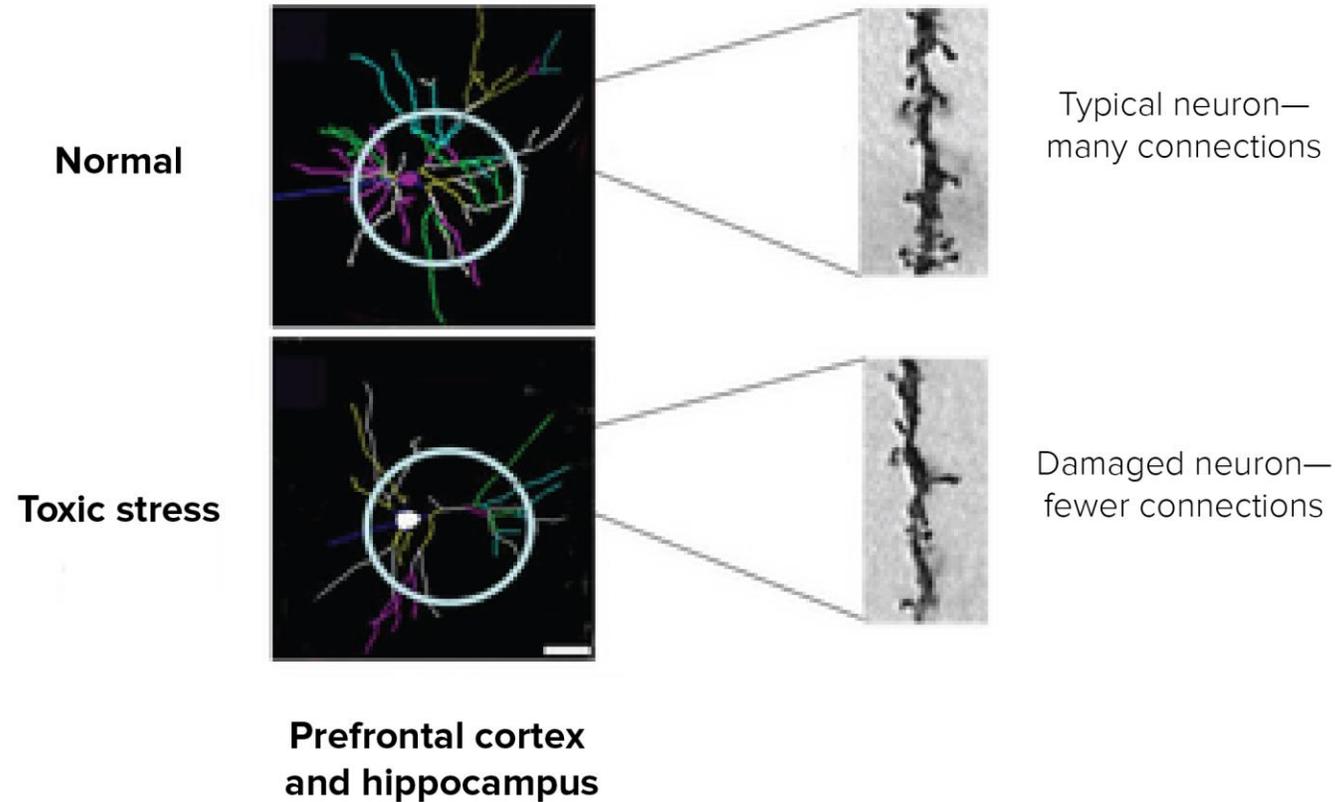
² J. B. Pritzker, Jeffrey L. Bradach, and Katherine Kaufmann, Achieving Kindergarten Readiness for All Our Children: A Funder's Guide to Early Childhood Development for Birth to Five (Chicago: Pritzger Family Foundation 2015)



Synapse Density Over Time FIGURE 3

Source: Corel, J.L. The postnatal development of the human cerebral cortex. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 1975.

PERSISTENT STRESS CHANGES BRAIN ARCHITECTURE



Source: Harvard University Center for the Developing Child, Radley et al. (2004), Bock et al. (2005)

A Parent is a Child's First and Best Teacher.

Young children need healthy environments in which to learn and grow.

What We Have Tried:

- Two generational learning
- Child Development Information
- Access



Additional Thoughts + Tips

FOCUS!

BE FLEXIBLE! TAILOR TO YOUR POPULATION!

GO WHERE THEY ARE!

USE WHAT YOU HAVE!

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY!

Thank You!

Amy Schofield, Community Outreach Manager | aschofield@RichlandLibrary.com

Lori Cook, Childhood Education Coordinator | lcCook@RichlandLibrary.com

Shinelle Polite, Outreach Librarian | Richland spolite@RichlandLibrary.com

Mayte Velasco Nicolas, Bilingual Coordinator | mnicolas@RichlandLibrary.com

Resources

An interactive experience in poverty: www.playspent.org

Information about Early Childhood Education, Brain Development and more: [Harvard Center on the Developing Child](#)

All things Summer Learning: www.summerlearning.org

County by County Fact Sheets about Poverty: [Children's Trust of SC \(KIDS COUNT South Carolina Data by County\)](#)

County by County Fact Sheets about Literacy: SC State Library Literacy 2030

Inexpensive Books and more: www.firstbook.org

LINKS TO THESE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SCLA APP:

PDF ARTICLES UPLOADED TO SCLA SITE

Urban Libraries Council: Public Partners for Early Literacy: Library-School Partnerships Closing Opportunity Gaps
30 Million Word Gap Article

Harvard Center on the Developing Child: 8-Things-to-Remember-About-Child-Development

National Center for Children in Poverty: Child Poverty and Family Hardship

National Summer Learning Association: Achievement Gap Infographic

Reading is Fundamental: Literacy Facts Stats

PICTURES OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Comparison of Developing Brain

Changes in Brain Architecture