

Why are the early years important to a child's healthy development?

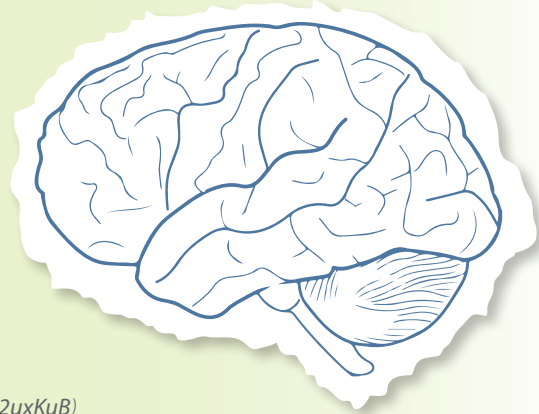
The evidence

is starting to stack up. It says that a child's **FIRST SIX YEARS** can have a major impact on their personality, **BRAIN**, and **FUTURE** prospects.



The brain is the only organ not fully developed at birth.

(Karen Kearns, goo.gl/2uxKuB)



During a child's first years, important synapse connections are made that form the **BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE** that the rest of their brain development will rely on.

In fact, evidence suggests:

90%

OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS IN THE **FIRST 6 YEARS** OF A CHILD'S LIFE.

(Arkin, Braveman, Egerter, & Williams, goo.gl/E7snxM)

Early experiences

impact many aspects of an individual's **DEVELOPMENT**.

These are sometimes classified as:

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT,
which refers to a child's ability to solve problems and learn

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
which includes the ability to interact with others, to help oneself, and to use self-control

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT,
which means using and understanding language

FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS,
which allow children to use small and large muscles

(HealthLink BC. Milestones for 5-year-olds. goo.gl/b9gPqL)

If a child enters kindergarten without a foundation of healthy development, they may struggle to catch up throughout their school years and beyond. **FORTUNATELY, WE CAN ALL HELP** create opportunities for children to grow and learn so that every child starts out with a healthy foundation.



Provincial Office
for the Early Years