The Transformative Power of Responsive Parenting

Founding Forum of the Arab Network for Early Childhood

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FROM GENERATION

Arab Resource Collective



On behalf of the Yale team:

- *Thank you* for the efforts of the ARC team to support the development of children and families living in highly vulnerable settings!
- *Thank you* for your commitment to evidence-based research and our ongoing partnership with the Yale Team
- *Thank you* for your efforts to develop comprehensive early child development programs for the Arab World
- *Thank you* for your leadership in organizing the Arab Network for Early Childhood













We Need to Work Together

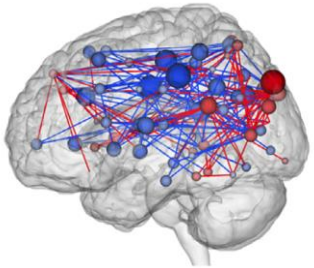
To take action to make our world a better place for our children and for future generations

Multi-sectorial partnerships are needed to implement in a sustainable fashion Early Child Development Programs of proven value.

A Better Brain and Body



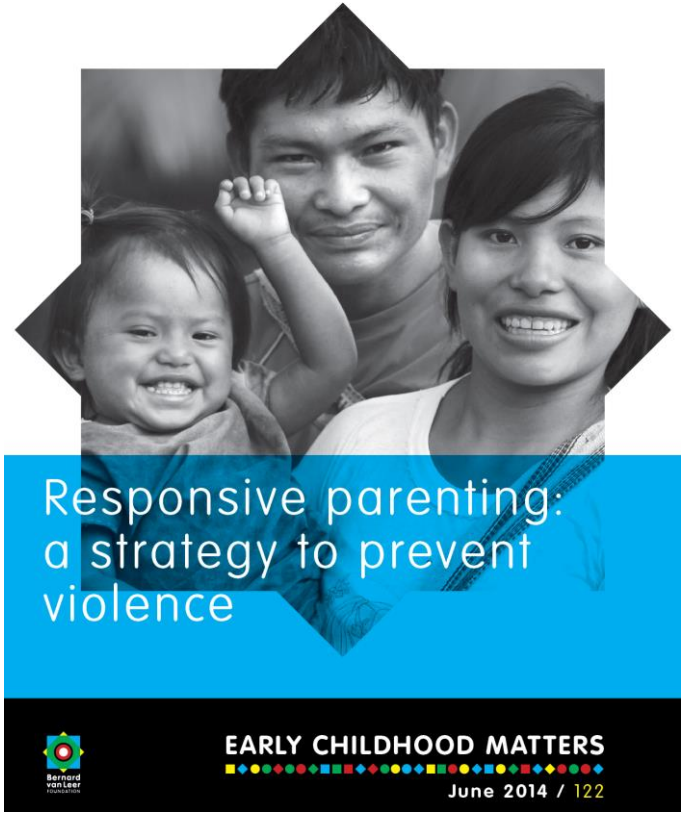
15 August 2014



- The bio-behavioral systems that underlie the development of social bonds in families and communities are ancient and deeply rooted in mammalian evolution.
- Parenting provides a legacy that transcends *genes*
- *Responsive parenting* has a direct impact on *brain structure and function* (epigenetics, interconnectedness of brain regions), *bodily health* (metabolism, microbiome) and *economic well-being*

Responsive Parenting

Responsive Parenting occurs when parents (Mothers and Fathers and other caregivers) do their best to invest in their children and meet their emotional, cognitive, nutritional, and physical needs during gestation and the early years.

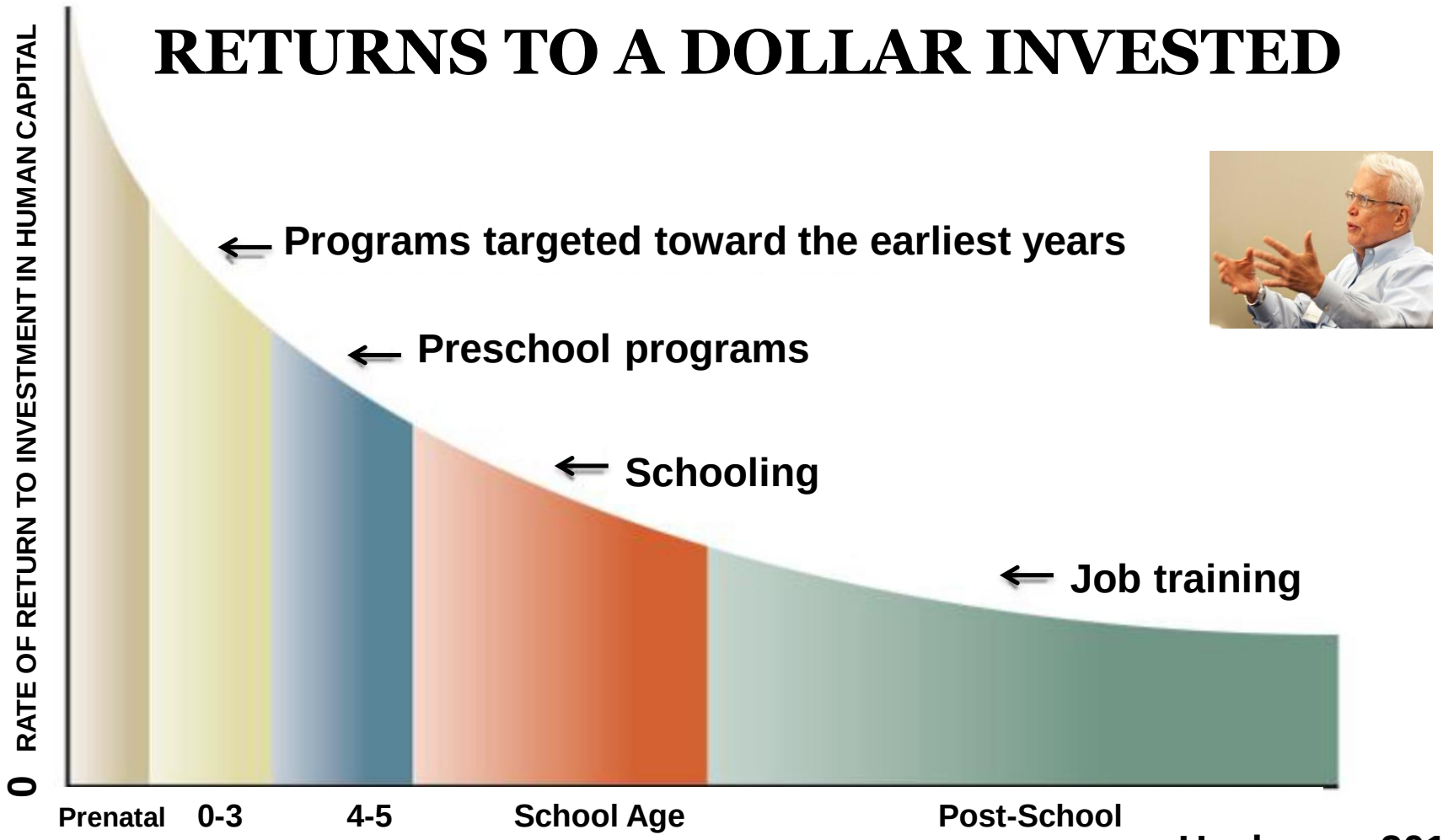


Responsive Parenting

Programs designed to help parents become more responsive can lead to *Opportunities for Transformational Change* :

- *A better brain and a more peaceful mind*
- *A more healthy body*
- *Prevention of Violence*
- *A more peaceful family and community*
- *A more successful adult*
- *A positive economic impact in society*

Heckman Equation



Heckman, 2013

Next Steps - Brazil







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Yale Global Health Leadership Institute

Early Childhood Peace Consortium

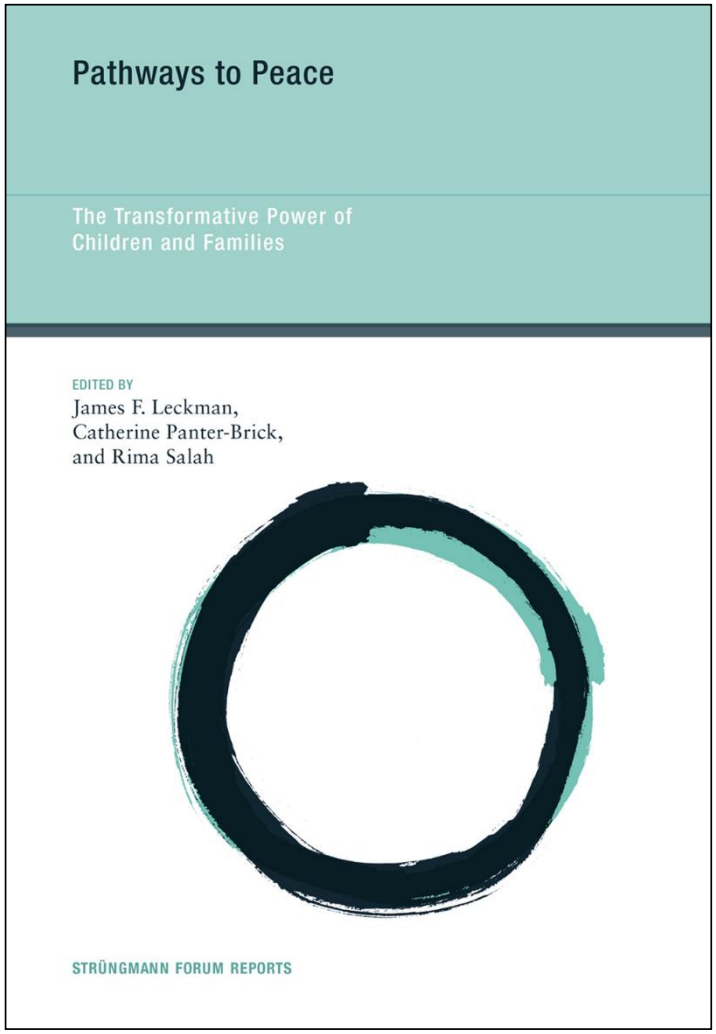


The Launch of the Peace Consortium was in September 2013 at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York City

Fetzer Institute

ACEV
MOTHER CHILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ernst Strüngmann Forum



41 scientists from diverse backgrounds (basic sciences, early child development, cross-cultural psychology, interfaith dialogue, and peace building) from 15 countries: South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, Canada, US and the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, Israel and Palestine, and Australia met in Frankfurt in October 2013. This volume was just published in November 2014.



Challenges & Opportunities

- There are so many programs – how can we work together to bring to scale a program of proven value across the Arab World?
- *How can we work together to establish a strong evidence-base including randomized clinical trials and prospective longitudinal follow-up studies??*
- Strategic partnerships with policymakers, local government officials, academic scholars, NGOs, and funding sources are needed as are public awareness campaigns – *How can our Network make this happen as soon as possible?*

Perspective

"In a real sense all life is inter-related. All persons are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the inter-related structure of reality."

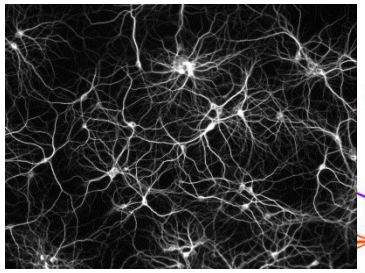
Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 –1968)

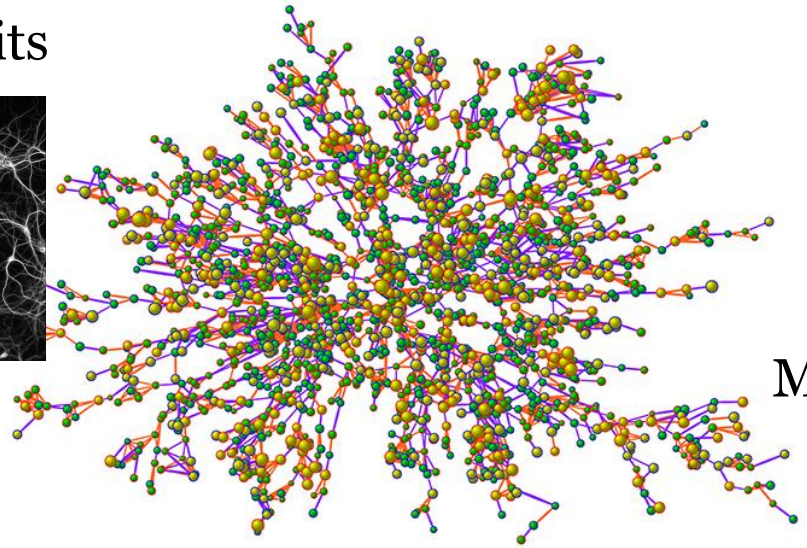


Perspective

We are All Interconnected and our World is Constantly Changing

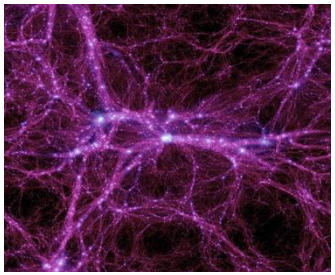
Neural Circuits





Social Networks

Cosmic Dark Matter & Energy







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Thank you

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Control Variables: Micro, Meso, Macro variables

Cultural Context
- Nativity - mother and child
- Language - mother and child
- Time living in Beirut – mother and child

Maternal characteristics
- Age, marital status, relation to child, education/ profession, literacy

Paternal characteristics
- Education, occupation

Child characteristics
- Age
- Presence of disability
- Enrolment in early childhood education

Family Context
- Crowding index
- Standard of living
- Food security
- Child care arrangements/primary caregiving
- Palestinian Quality of Life
- Distress Scale
- Human Insecurity

Community context
- Participation in community activities – mother and child
- Utilization of other community services

Participation in MOCEP with fidelity*

Program Content:

1. Child Development and the Role of the Family
2. Physical Development in Children
3. Cognitive Development in Children
4. Social Development in Children
5. Emotional Development in Children
6. The Importance of Play and its Contribution to Development
7. Negative Methods in Child Discipline
8. Factors That Determine Whether We Accept Certain Actions or Not
9. Active Listening
10. How Mothers Can Make Their Children Hear Them
11. Positive Methods of Child Rearing (I)
12. Positive Methods of Child Rearing (II)
13. Conflict and Conflict Resolution Methods
14. Applying the Learned Methods with Different People
15. Toilet Training
16. Sexual Education
17. A Healthy Diet
18. Health and Healthcare
19. Accident Prevention
20. Problematic Behavior
21. Study Habits
22. School-Parent Collaboration for Children's Academic Success
23. How Women Can Use Their Time Effectively and Generate an Income From Handicrafts
24. Women Within the Family, Civil Rights
25. Reproductive Health and Family Planning Methods

Outcomes of Interest

Child cognitive development (Executive

Prof. Elena Grigorenko
Prof. Abdullah Aljughaiman
Prof. Maha Al-Muneef

Child biomarkers

Mother-Child Interactions
Videotaped dyadic interactions

Maternal wellbeing and Biomarkers

Maternal knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP):

Prof. Sula Al-Hassan
Prof. Jennifer Lansford

Female empowerment

Paternal attitudes and engagement
Maternal reports of paternal attitudes

Community cohesion
Perceived social support