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What Everyone Needs To Know About The Early Years Of Every Child's Life

The earliest years of childhood are critical. Experiences during this time literally shape the structure of the brain. Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive. Smart Start brings together all the people involved in a young child's life – families, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers and many others ---to ensure every child has all they need for healthy growth and development.

- Brains develop over time
- Experiences wire the brain
- Children develop within an environment of nurturing, emotionally responsive relationships.
- Cognitive, emotional and social competence are inextricably intertwined
- Getting it right early is less costly to society and individuals than trying to fix it later
- Children's development as a foundation for community development and economic development: the building blocks of society
- Toxic stress damages the developing brain