

# Promising Evidence Regarding the Benefits of Early Care & Education for Children in the Child Welfare System



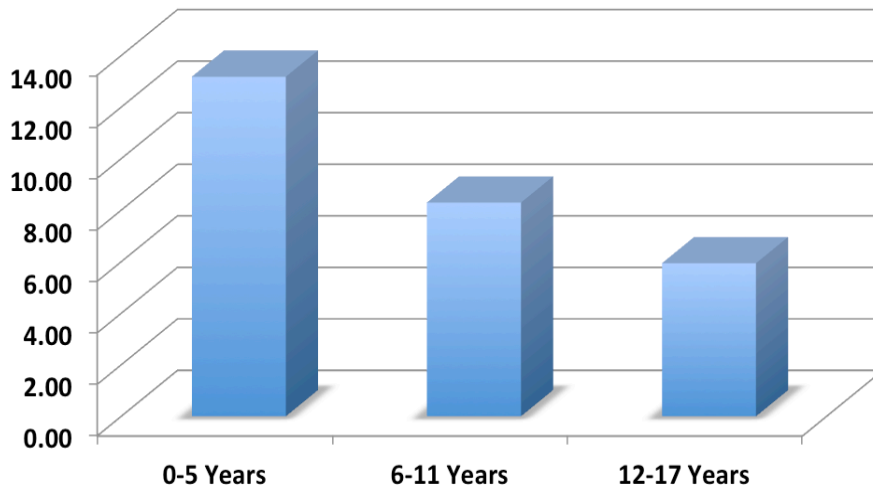
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In FY 2013, **40.5%** of confirmed child maltreatment victims & **34%** children placed in foster care in U.S. were birth to 5 yrs old

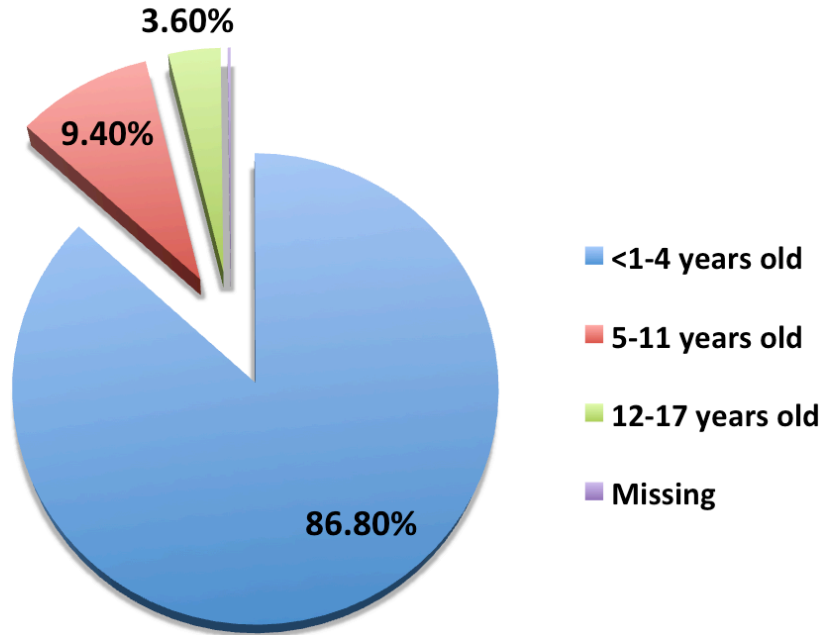


Child Maltreatment Victimization Rates by Age, 2013  
National Child Abuse & Neglect Data



“**Infantalization**” of U.S. child welfare system (Berrick et al, 1998)

Child Maltreatment Fatalities by Age, 2013  
National Child Abuse & Neglect Data



- More likely than older maltreated children to experience **developmental impairments, serious injury & death**
- Experience more comprehensive set of negative academic & behavioral outcomes (implications for **school readiness**)

In 2013, nearly 87% of all child **maltreatment fatalities** involved children < 5 years old

Working Together  
for Safety, Permanency  
& Well-Being



## 1. Safety

- Protection from abuse & neglect
- Children safely maintained in their homes whenever possible & appropriate

## 2. Permanency

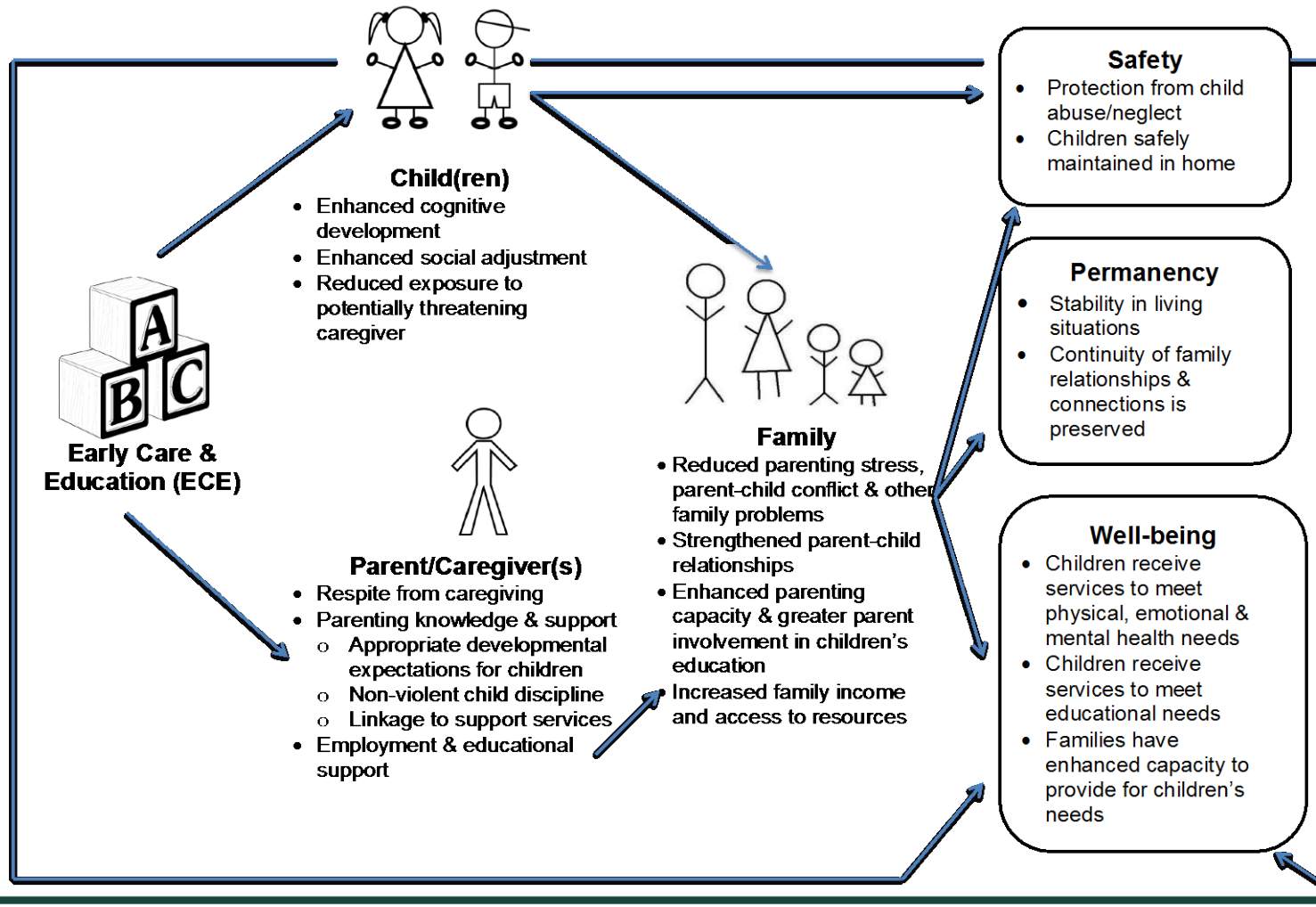
- Stability in living situations
- Continuity of family relationships & connections is preserved

## 3. Child & Family Well-being

- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical, emotional & mental health needs
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs



# Ways ECE May Contribute to CWS Goals



# Effects of Early Care & Education on Child Welfare Outcomes:

## RESEARCH EVIDENCE



## ***SAFETY: Evidence ECE may protect children from abuse & neglect***

- Chicago Parent-Child Centers participants **~half as likely to be abused/neglected by age 18 than controls** (Reynolds & Robertson, 2003).
- Early Head Start participants had **fewer CPS encounters btwn ages of 5 & 9 yrs than controls, were less likely to have multiple CWS encounters, & slowed rate of subsequent encounters**; also less likely to have substantiated physical or sexual abuse report (but more likely to have a substantiated neglect report) (Green et al., 2014).
- Low-income, urban children in Head Start were **less likely to have had a CWS encounter** at age 5 than children not receiving any ECE (Zhai, Waldfogel & Brooks-Gunn, 2013).
- Los Angeles County neighborhoods with higher rates of preschool enrollment & a greater supply of licensed child care relative to demand had **lower rates of early child maltreatment** (Klein, 2011).



## ***SAFETY: Evidence ECE may help children remain safely in their homes***

- CWS-supervised 0-5 year olds participating in center-based ECE had 65% **lower odds of being placed in out-of-home care ~18 months later** than those not in center-based ECE (Klein, Fries, Cohen & Emmons, unpublished).
- For every add'l hour per week of child care received by CWS-supervised 0-5 year olds living at home, their **odds of being placed in out-of-home care 18 months later decreased 4%**; children in full time child care were 84% less likely than children receiving no child care to be placed in out-of-home care 18 months later (Klein, Fries, Cohen & Emmons, unpublished).
- States with more 'accommodating' CCDF rules for children in CWS had, on average, **fewer child removals from their parent's care** than other states (Meloy, Lipscomb & Baron, 2015).
- CWS-supervised children in Oregon who **remained in their parents homes instead of being placed in foster care** were more likely to have received child care subsidies (Lipscomb et al., 2012).





## ***PERMANENCY: Evidence ECE may promote placement stability***

- Illinois children whose foster parents used child care subsidies experienced **fewer placement disruptions** (Meloy & Phillips, 2012).
- CWS-supervised children in Oregon who experienced higher **number of foster placement moves** had lower probability of receiving child care subsidies (Lipscomb et al., 2012).
- However, the **average # of placement changes** within a foster care removal episode was **higher** among states with more 'accommodating' CCDF rules for children in CWS (Meloy, Lipscomb & Baron, 2015).



## ***WELL-BEING: Quality ECE may promote school readiness for maltreated children***

- Among children in highly rated ECE programs in MN, both CPS children & matched controls experienced **↑ social competence & receptive vocabulary** over the course of their pre-K year (Kovan et al., 2014)
- Modest direct short-term & indirect longer-term impacts of Head Start on **school readiness** for children in nonparental care (**↑**pre-academic skills, **↑**positive teacher-child relationships & **↓** behavior problems (Lipscomb et al, 2013)
- B-5 year olds referred to CPS who had center-based ECE scored higher on **language development** outcomes than those w/o ECE; game changer for children reported for supervisory neglect (Merritt & Klein, 2015)



- **Training** staff & educating other stakeholders on benefits of ECE for children in the CWS, how to identify most appropriate providers & navigate ECE systems to refer
- **Regulatory & legislative changes** that make child care subsidy, state Pre-K, Head Start/Early Head Start policies more 'accommodating' for CWS-supervised children
  - Waiving fees & employment requirements for birth & foster parents
  - Prioritizing CWS-supervised children for enrollment
  - Eliminating geographic eligibility rules that disrupt continuity of care for children re/placed in foster care
- **ECE-child welfare cross-sector collaboratives** to monitor referrals/enrollment data & problem-solve barriers to CWS-supervised children's access to ECE

