



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

The Importance of a Birth – Grade 3 SYSTEM

May 23, 2013

Bette Hyde, PhD

*Director, Department of Early Learning (DEL)
State of Washington*



Early Learning Really Matters



Early learning really matters because...

- Longitudinal studies show **long-term positive benefits** for kids and families in terms of:
 - ✓ Increased reading and math skills
 - ✓ Social competence
 - ✓ Staying in school
 - ✓ College attendance
 - ✓ Full-time employment in adulthood
- Economists maintain early learning is the best return on investment
- The brain's neurological architecture is sculpted the most during the first 5 years of life
- BUT, ONLY IF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

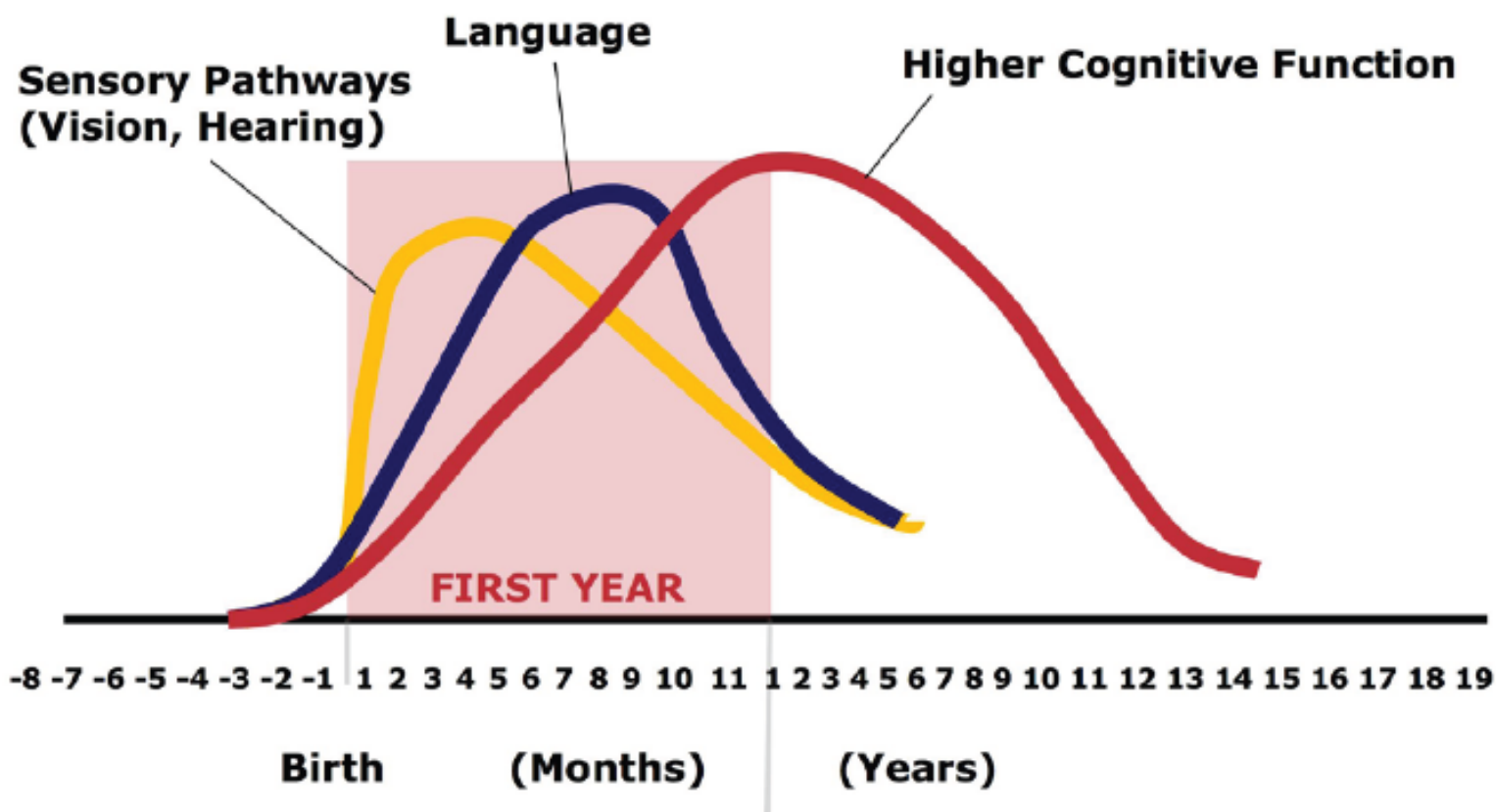




Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Human Brain Development

Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially





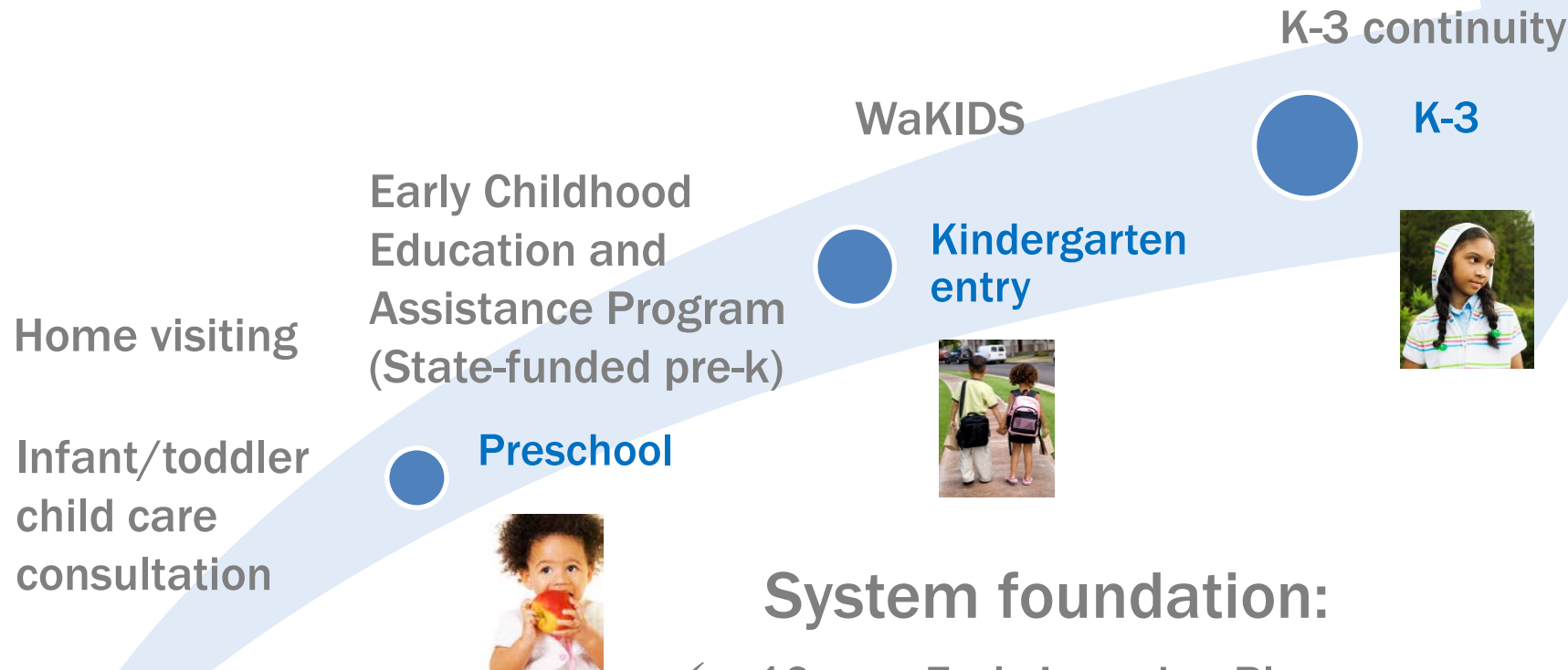
Washington State Department of

Early Learning

**Washington State Department of Early Learning
programs and services:**

A continuum of voluntary supports for children, families and caregivers

- ✓ Family medical home
- ✓ Child care subsidies
- ✓ Early Achievers (QRIS)
- ✓ Family information and support (Strengthening Families WA)
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Licensed child care
- ✓ Early intervention/special education



System foundation:

- ✓ 10-year Early Learning Plan
- ✓ Early Learning and Development Guidelines
- ✓ Career lattice and core competencies
- ✓ Governance (state/local coordination)
- ✓ Longitudinal data system

A Simple System Structure



ALL

SOME

FEW



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

PK: Preschool Programming

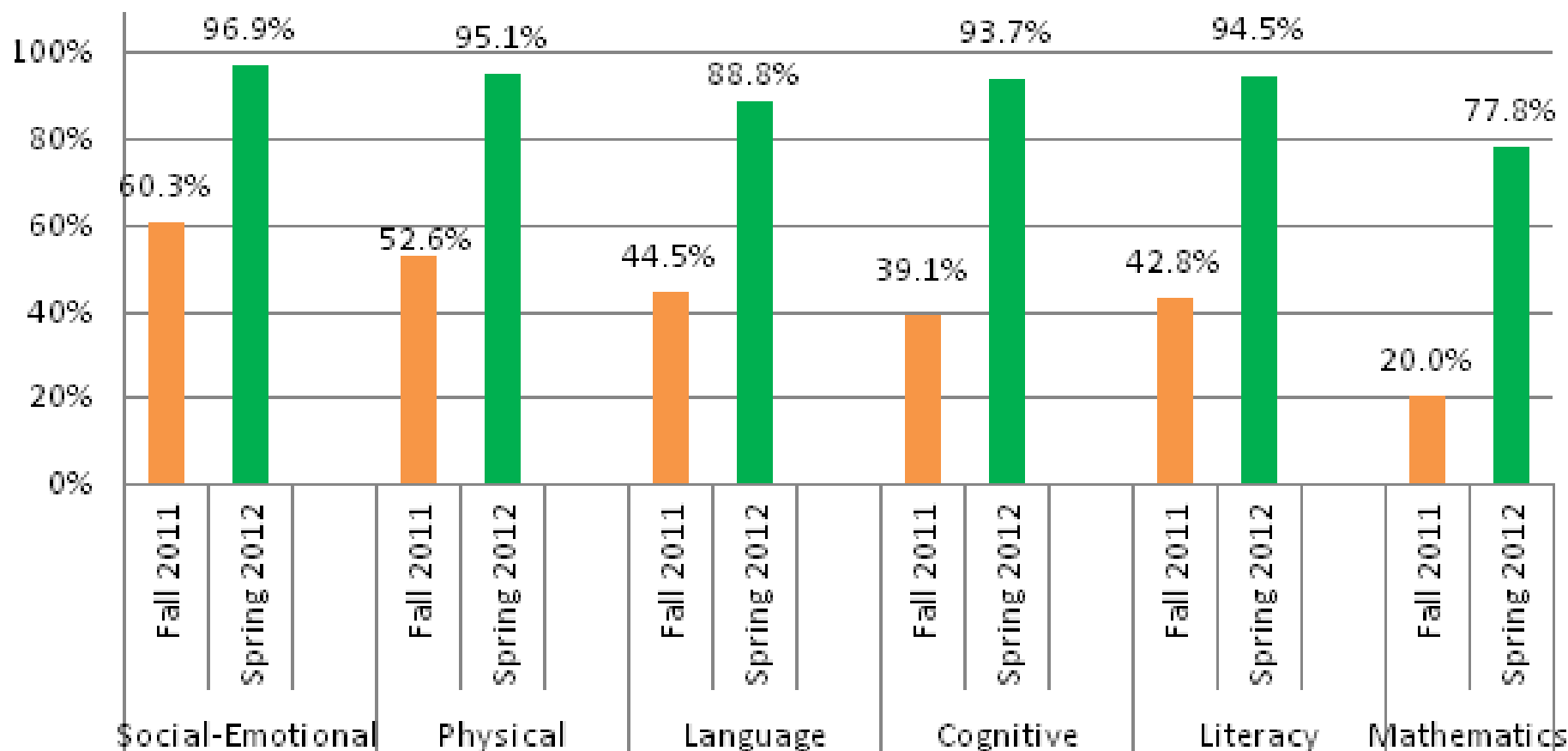
Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

FACTS:

- Serves 3 and 4 year olds of 110% poverty
- Also prioritizes special needs/special education serves, homeless, foster care, child protective services
- Provides whole child education, health services and support for families
- Ranked 7th in the nation in state per-child funding
- In place for 26 years
- Slated to become a legislative entitlement in 2018-19

Developmental Assessment

Percent of children who were at or above age level for each developmental domain in fall 2011 and in spring 2012.



Teaching Strategies GOLD Online assessment results, June 30, 2012

WaKIDS: A Process with Three Components

Family Connection

Teachers welcome families and students individually to school as partners in their children's education



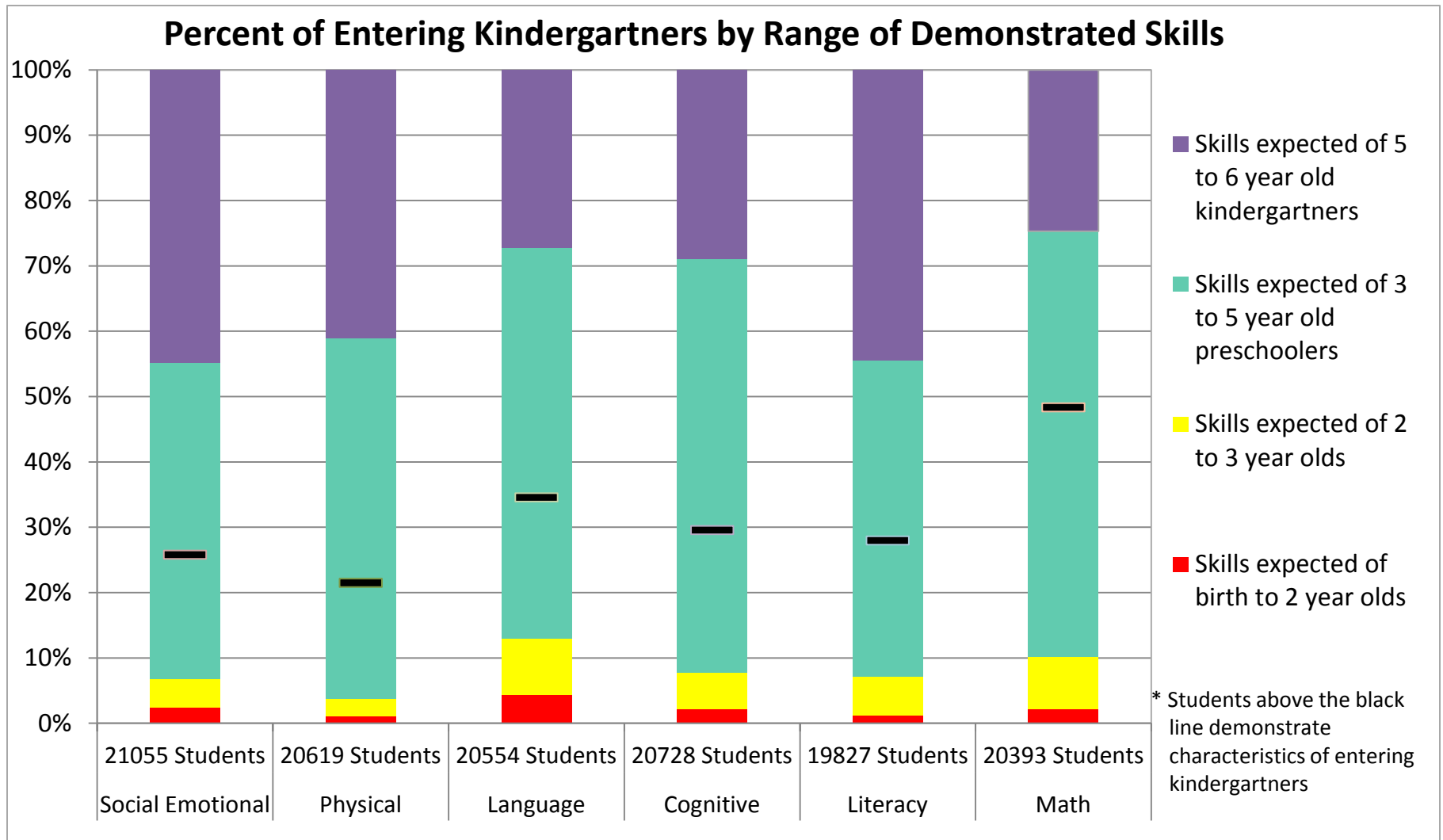
"Whole Child" Assessment

Teaching Strategies GOLD
measures six areas of development
and learning

Early Learning Collaboration

Kindergarten teachers and early
learning professionals share
information and expertise

Fall 2012 WaKIDS Students Show a Wide Range of Skills in the First Weeks of Kindergarten



K-Grade 3 Continuity

- Maintain the focus on:
 - ✓ The whole child
 - ✓ Family engagement
 - ✓ Active learning
 - ✓ Cultural inclusiveness
- Build on children's skills already there (higher level materials/activities)
- Intentional quality instruction and monitoring ("hand off")



Federal Proposal - Preschool Expansion

- Like
 - ✓ Quality criteria for participation (class size, standards, data system)
 - ✓ Serving poorest first and up to 200% Poverty and “middle class” option
 - ✓ Recent NIEER report indicates need

cont...Preschool Expansion

- Tweaks

- ✓ Quality criteria for participation (CDA, not necessarily a BA)
- ✓ Serving 200%, plus special needs criteria
- ✓ Serving 3 year olds too



About Both Proposals

- Like

- ✓ Emphasis on quality
- ✓ Support for a mixed delivery, integrated system
- ✓ Federal phase down 90% financial support/state phase down up 10% financial support
- ✓ Federal partnership

- Tweaks

- ✓ Tie to other components of early learning (eg. CCDF Funding)
- ✓ Apply quality measure across all early learning programs

