



## **Debating Key Issues on Inclusive Education**

**Early Childhood Intervention: Why this area  
is crucial and which are the benefits**

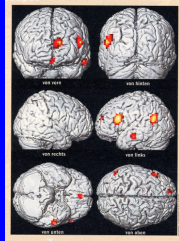
**Round Table at the European Parliament**

**Brussels  
April 24 , 2012**

F. Peterander Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich Department of Psychology - Early Childhood Intervention

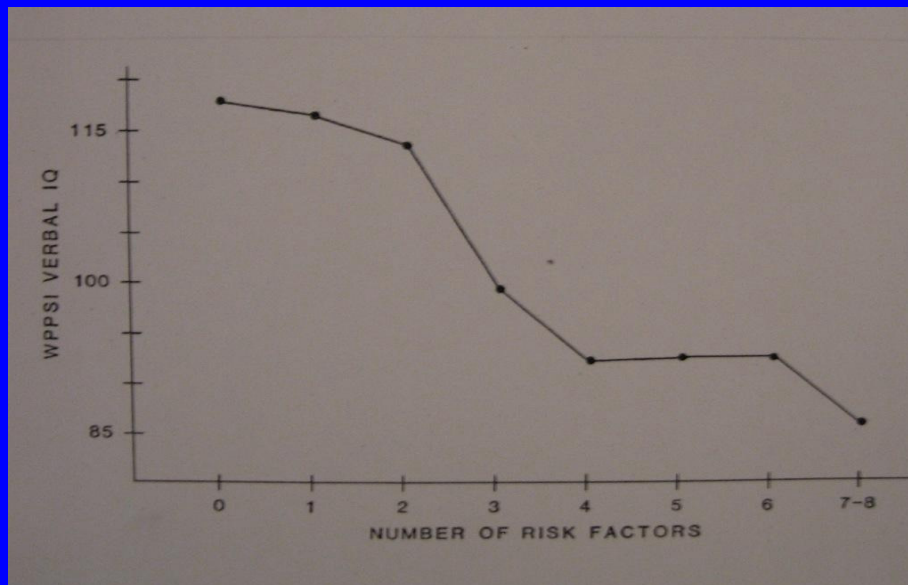
## **Nature and nurture**

**The genetic potential of a child can  
only develop in the interaction with  
an enhancing environment - family,  
childcare (Bronfenbrenner 2006).**



## Brain research - sensitive periods

Results of brain research show that neuronal networks will develop, if neurons are stimulated in an early stage - neuronal networks diminish if there is no early stimulation / intervention (Child Development 2010).



Children with seven risk factors have an average IQ 30 points lower than children with less risk factors (Sameroff 2009).

## **Effective Intervention design - Balance between risk and protection**

ECI is an attempt to shift the balance from vulnerability to protection, either by decreasing risk factors or by increasing the number of available protective factors in vulnerable children's lives.

## **Effectiveness**

**Research Results:** Interdisciplinary and family centered ECI has a great impact for

- a healthy brain architecture of the child
- strengthening a positive parent-child relationship to enhance child development
- developing supportive family networks

(Guralnick 2008) .

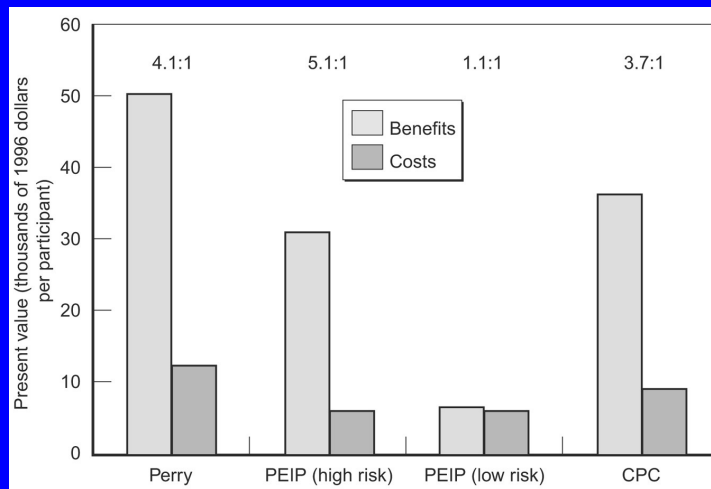
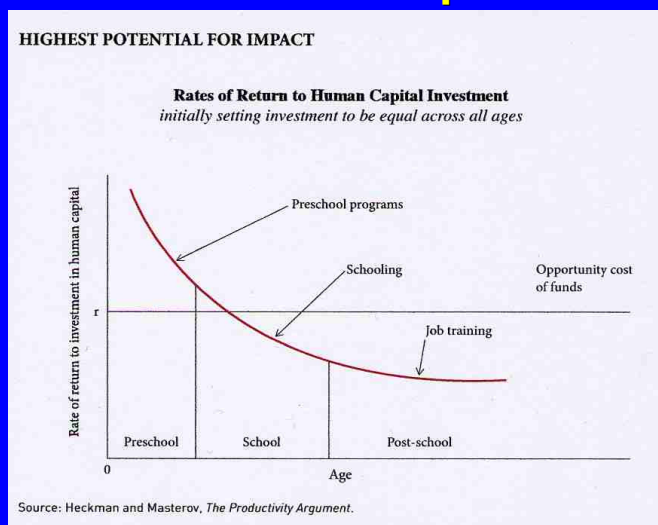


Figure S.1 Some Early Childhood Interventions Have Been Shown to Have High Benefit-Cost Ratios

**Perry:** Perry Preschool Program (Ypsilanti, Michigan)  
**PEIP:** Prenatal Early Infancy Project (Elmira, New York)  
**CPC:** Chicago Parent-Child Program

## Economical Value Preschool - school - post school



(Heckman & Masterov 2008)