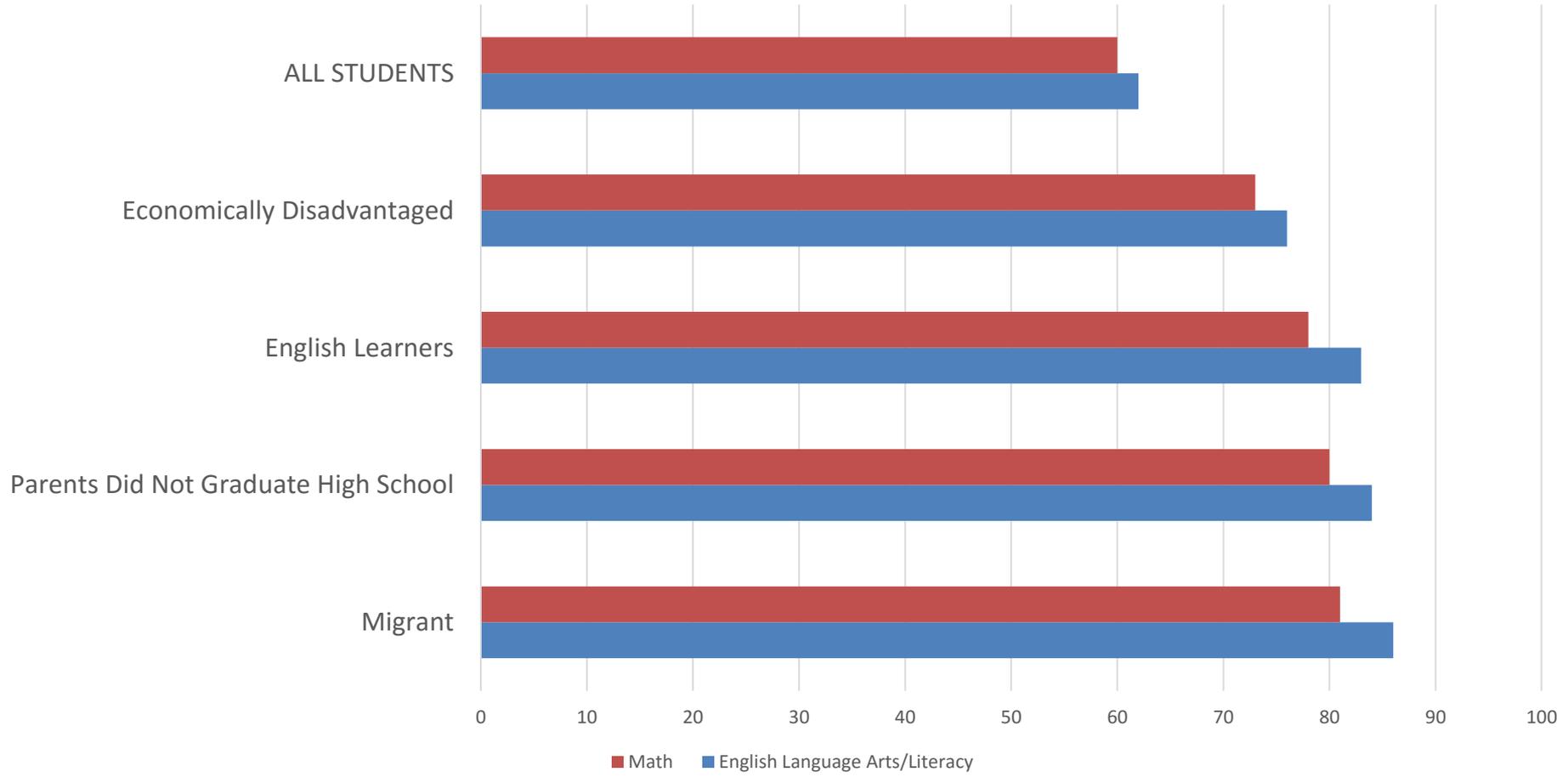
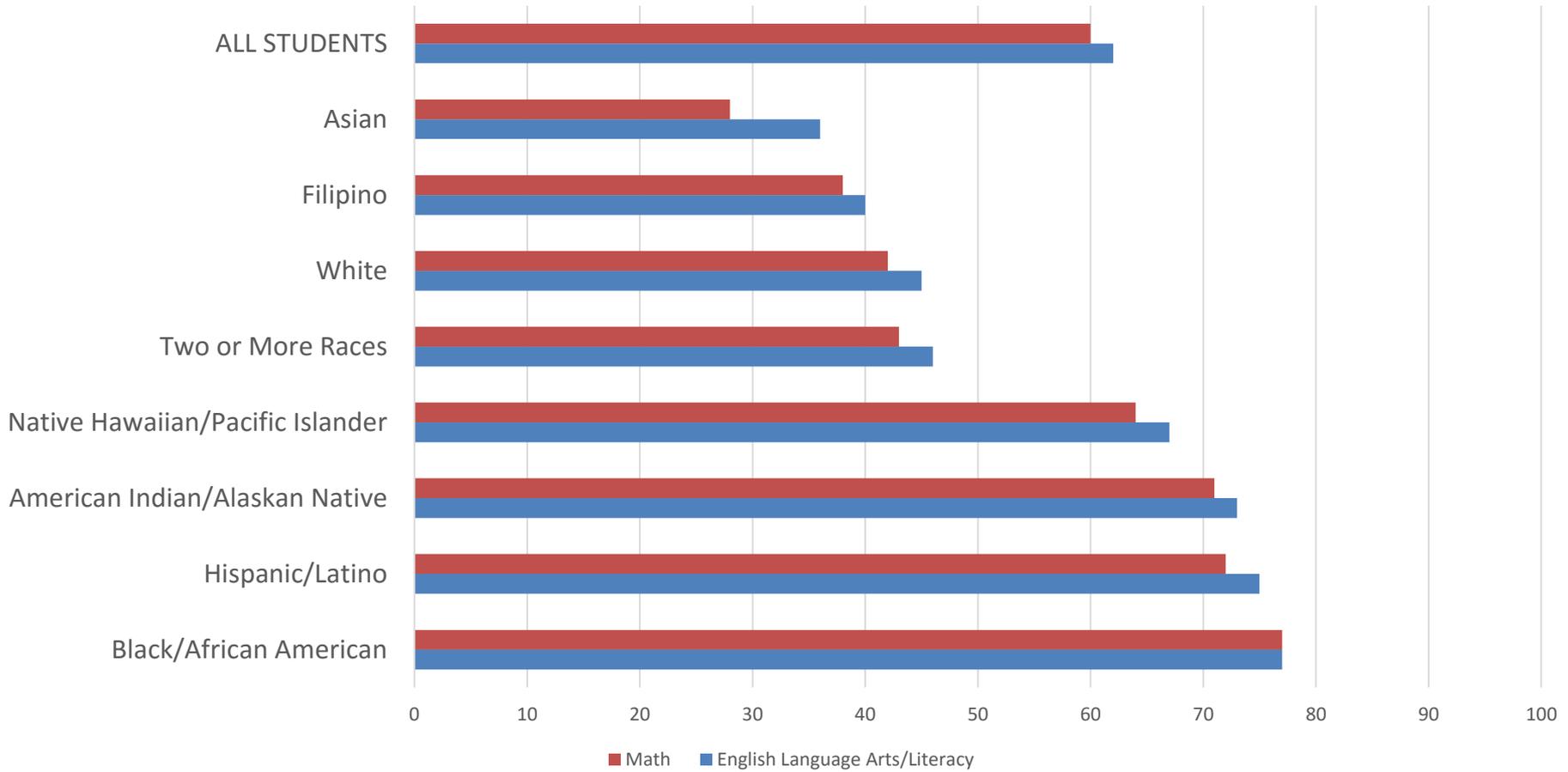


**A Science-Based Framework for
Addressing the
Early Childhood Opportunity
Gap and Preventing the
Achievement Gap**

Percent of Third Grade Students Below Proficiency Level, by Category (2015)



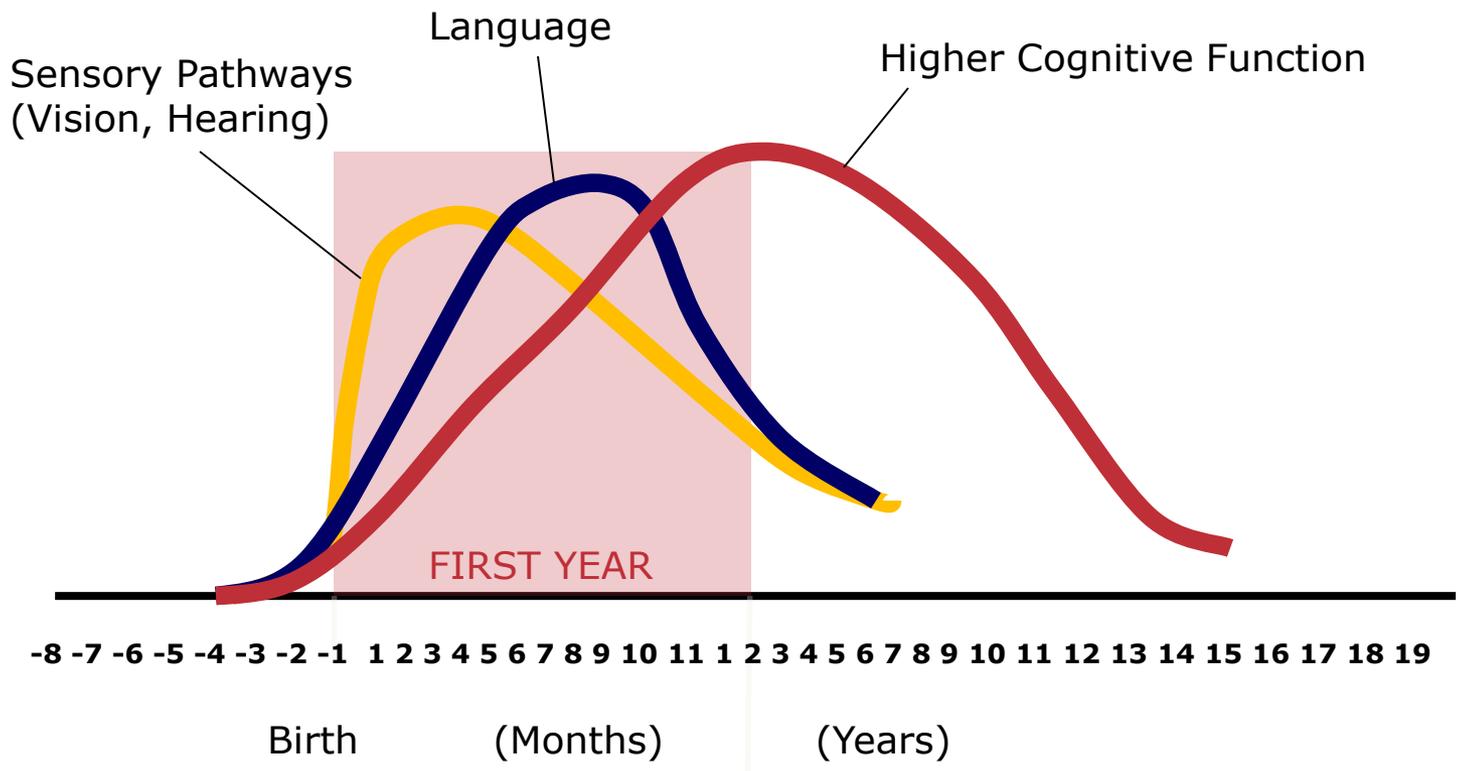
Percent of Third Grade Students Below Proficiency Level, by Ethnicity (2015)



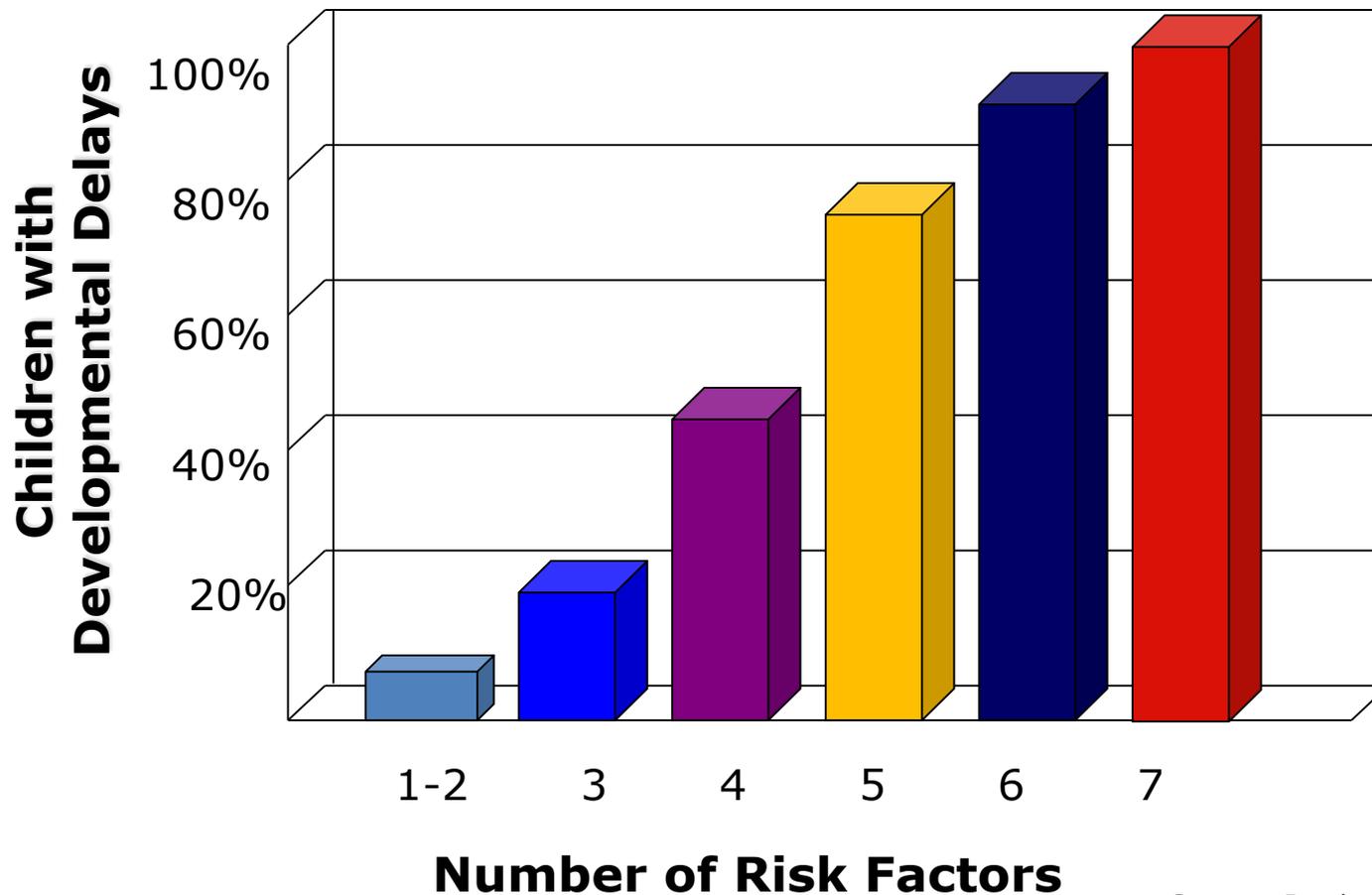
Decades of Science from Many Disciplines All Point to the Same Conclusion

The healthy development of children provides a strong foundation for healthy and competent adulthood, responsible citizenship, economic productivity, strong communities, and a sustainable society.

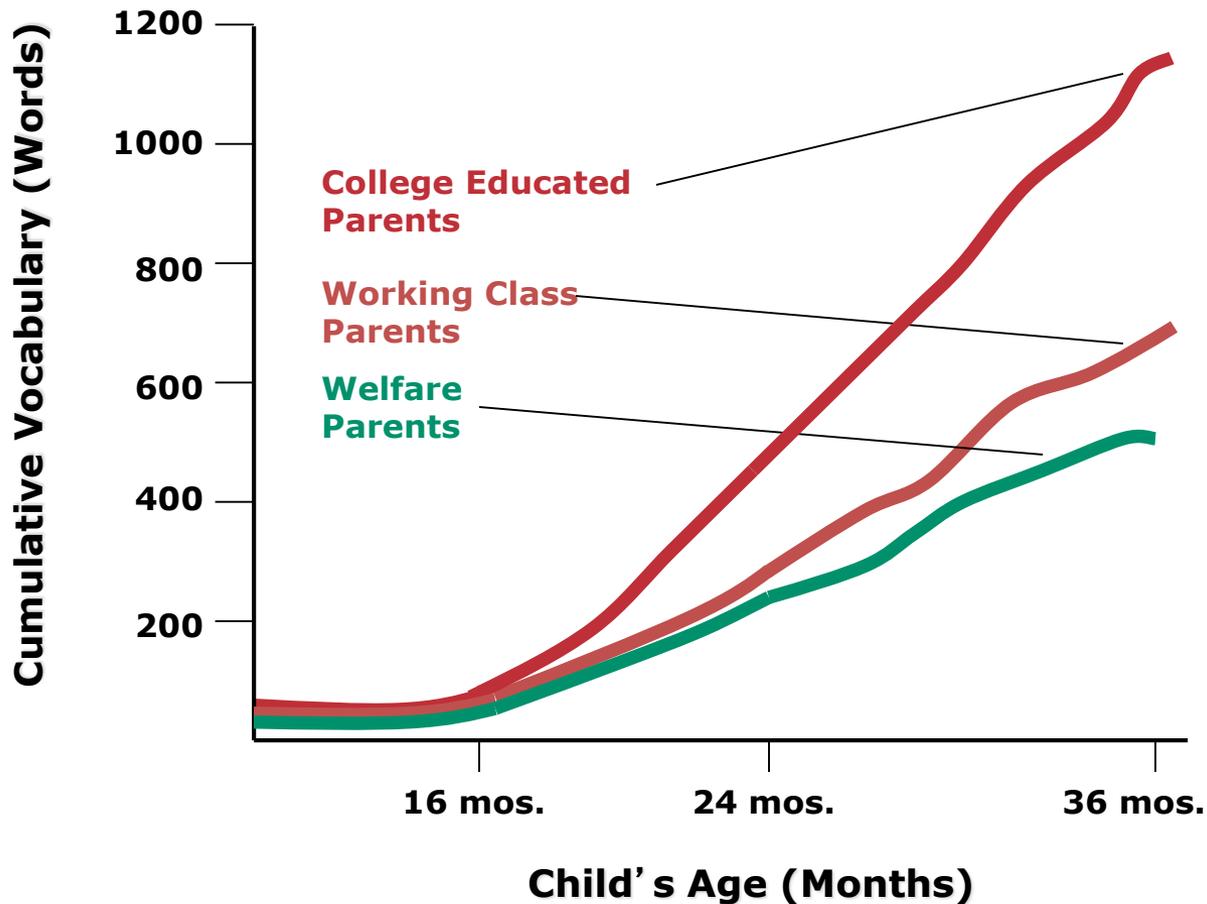
Neural Circuits are Wired in a Bottom-Up Sequence (700 synapses per second in the early years)



Early Experiences Work Both Ways Significant Adversity Impairs Development



Barriers to Educational Achievement Emerge at a Very Young Age



Science Points Toward a 3-Tiered Approach to Ensure Healthy Development

Narrowly targeted, specialized services for children experiencing tolerable or toxic stress.

3

**NARROWLY
TARGETED**

Broadly targeted interventions for children in poverty (e.g., income supports and early enrichment).

2

**BROADLY
TARGETED**

Basic health and early care services to help all children build and sustain strong brains and bodies.

1

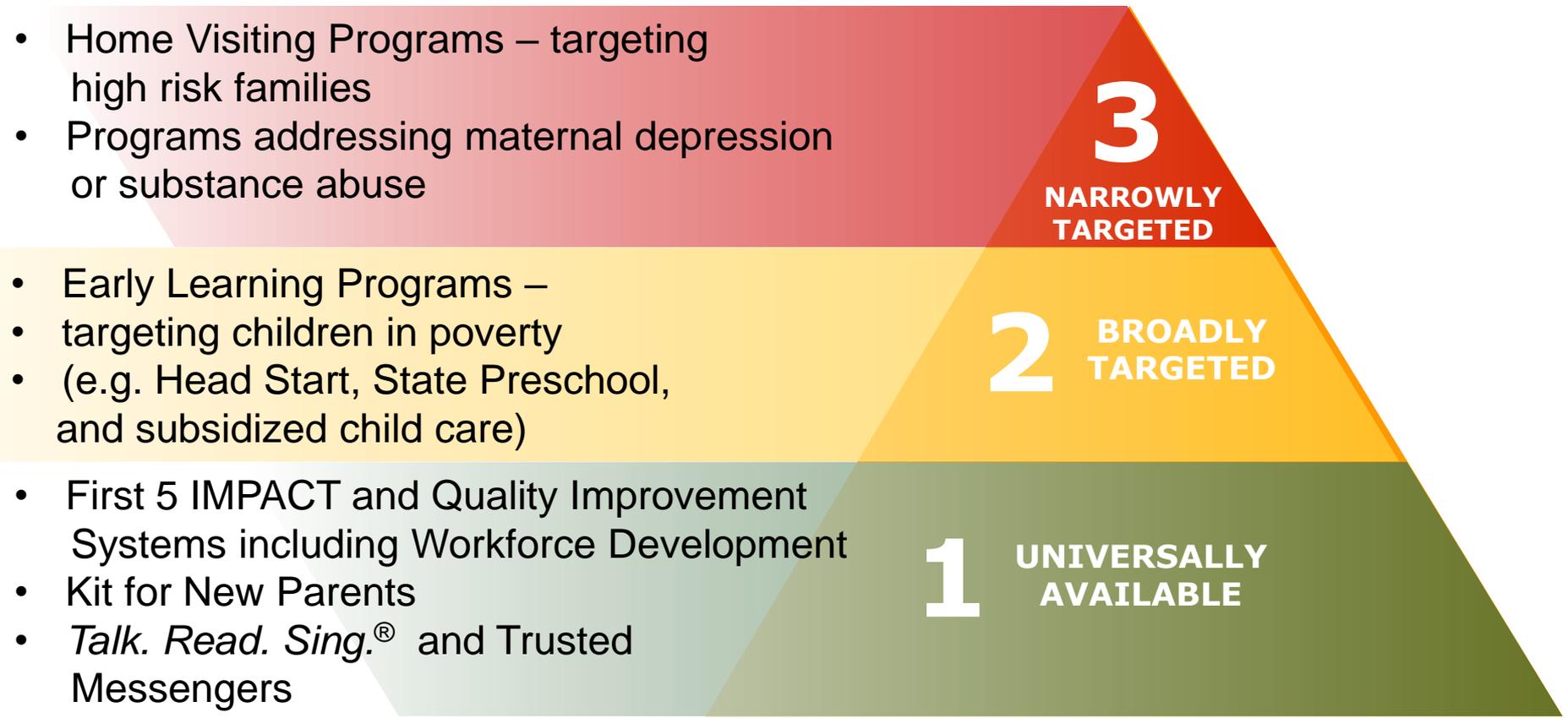
**UNIVERSALLY
AVAILABLE**

- Positive relationships and emotional, social, cognitive, and language learning experiences can be promoted both at home and through a range of **evidence-based** parent education, family support, early care and education, and intervention services.
- **Program Evaluation Research Helps Identify Effectiveness Factors**
 - Not all programs are effective.
 - **Effectiveness factors** are key to distinguishing those programs that work from those that do not

Effectiveness Factors for Early Learning Programs for Children From Birth to Age 5

- Skilled and well-compensated personnel
- Warm and responsive adult-child interactions
- Small group sizes and high adult-child ratios
- Language-rich environment
- Developmentally appropriate “curriculum”
- Safe physical setting

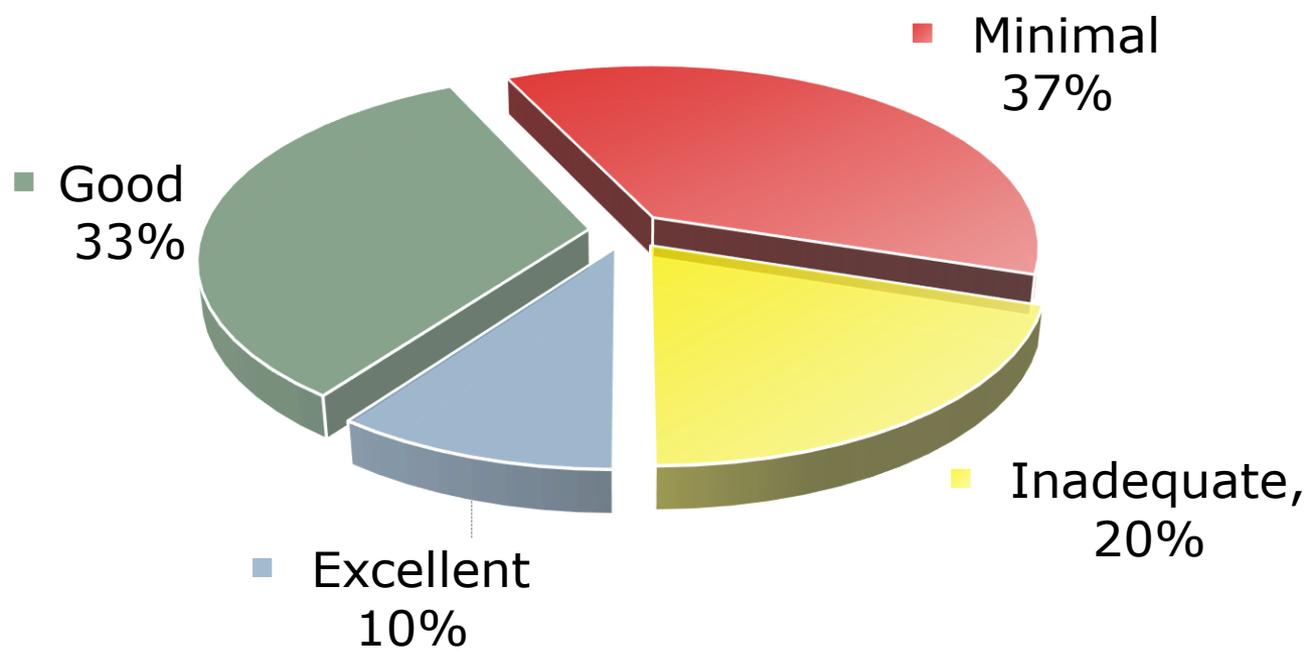
Science Points Toward a 3-Tiered Approach to Ensure Healthy Development



Where Do We Stand in California?

Key Gaps Remain

U.S. Child Care & Early Education Quality: Uneven at Best



Source: Rigby, Ryan & Brooks-Gunn (2006)

Large Gaps Remain in ALL Strategic Plan and Policy Agenda Areas:

- 9% of eligible infants and toddlers are in subsidized child care
- Less than 11% of at-risk families with infants and toddlers currently have access to a home-visiting program.
- 28% of young children receive developmental screens
- 37% of Medi-Cal eligible children, ages 0-5, access Denti-Cal services

