

A Decade of the Healthy Child Manitoba Strategy

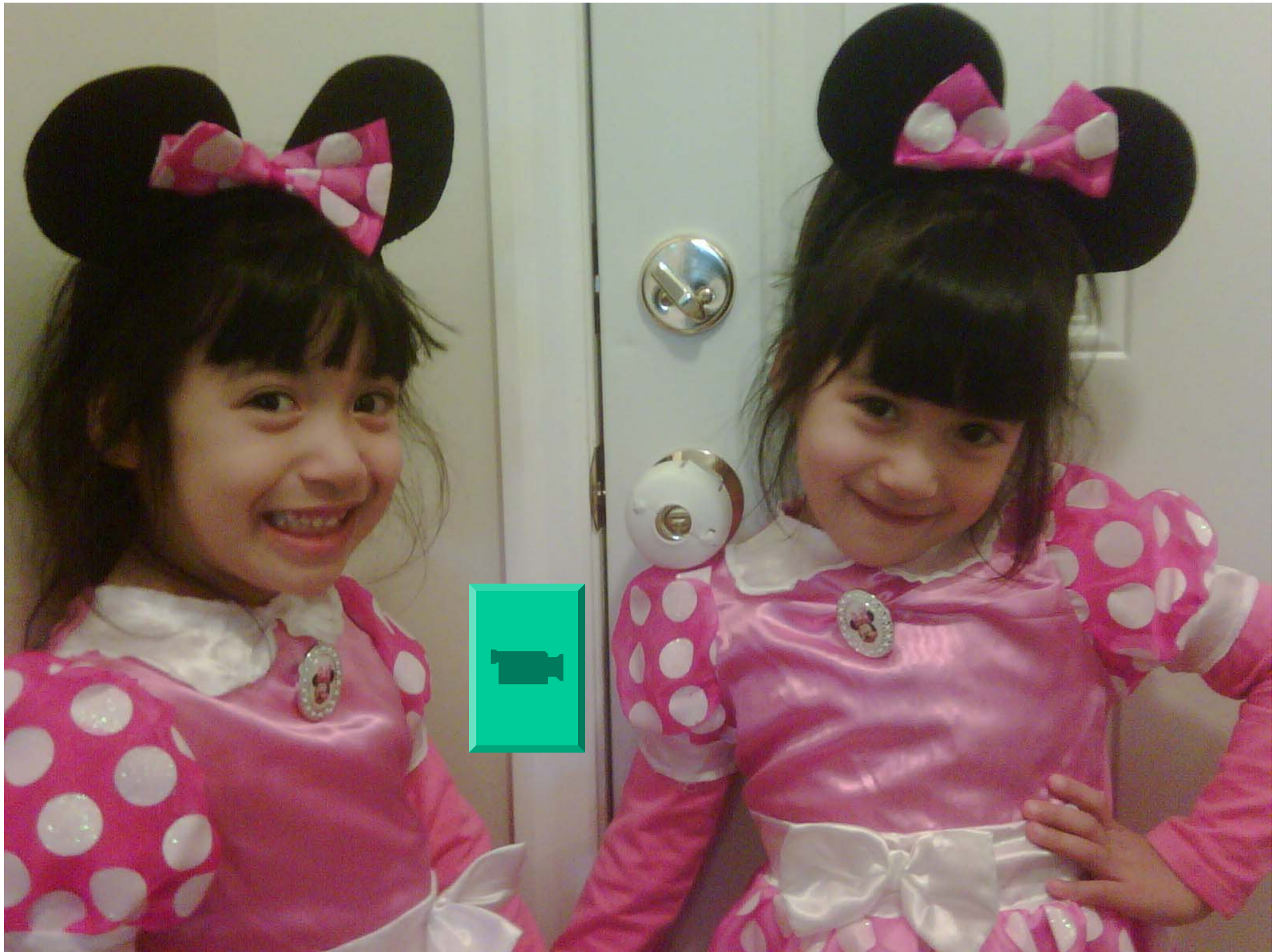
*What We've Learned from Evidence and
Experience (So Far)*



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Celebrating 10 Years of Community Partnerships**
November 16-17, 2010 – Fort Garry Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Presentation Overview

- **Top 10 Lessons From the Past 10 Years Plus**



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“Words are our life. We are human because we use language. So I think we are less human when we use less language.”

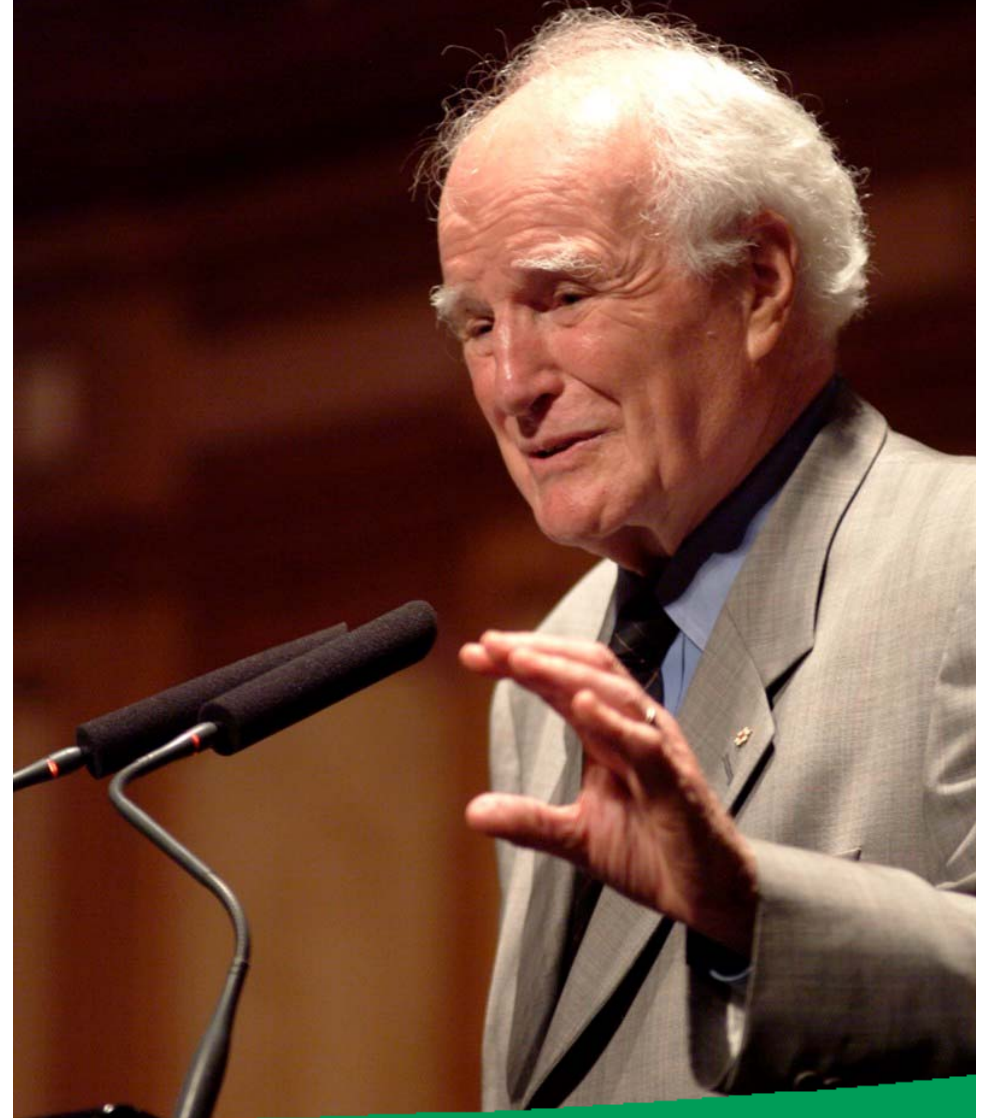
– *Carol Shield*
(1935-2003), Canadian author

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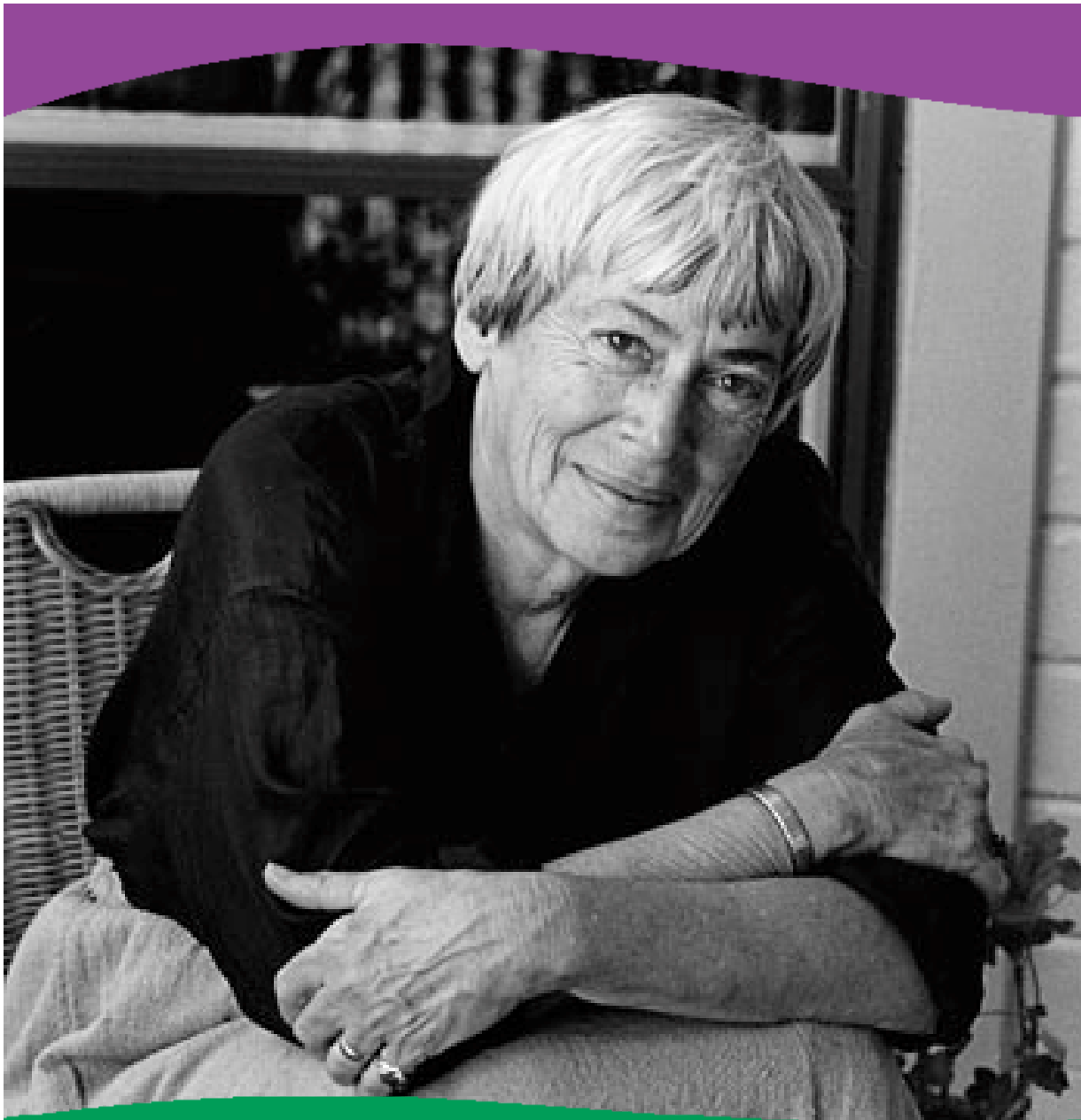
"The challenge for all societies is to close the gap between what we know about the determinants of and what we do. ... In our continuing experiments in civilisation, we face the challenges of the 21st century – population growth, ageing populations in many countries, resource constraints, the need for sustainable development, and equity and equality of opportunity in societies. We have to work out strategies for free market capitalism with social accountability. The health, well being, and competence of populations will influence whether humans can achieve prosperous, stable, non-violent, equitable communities in the 21st century."

*– Dr. Fraser Mustard
(1927 -), Canadian physician and
scientist, and a "Founding Father" of
the Healthy Child Manitoba Strategy*



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“The children of the revolution are always ungrateful, and the revolution must be grateful that it is so.”

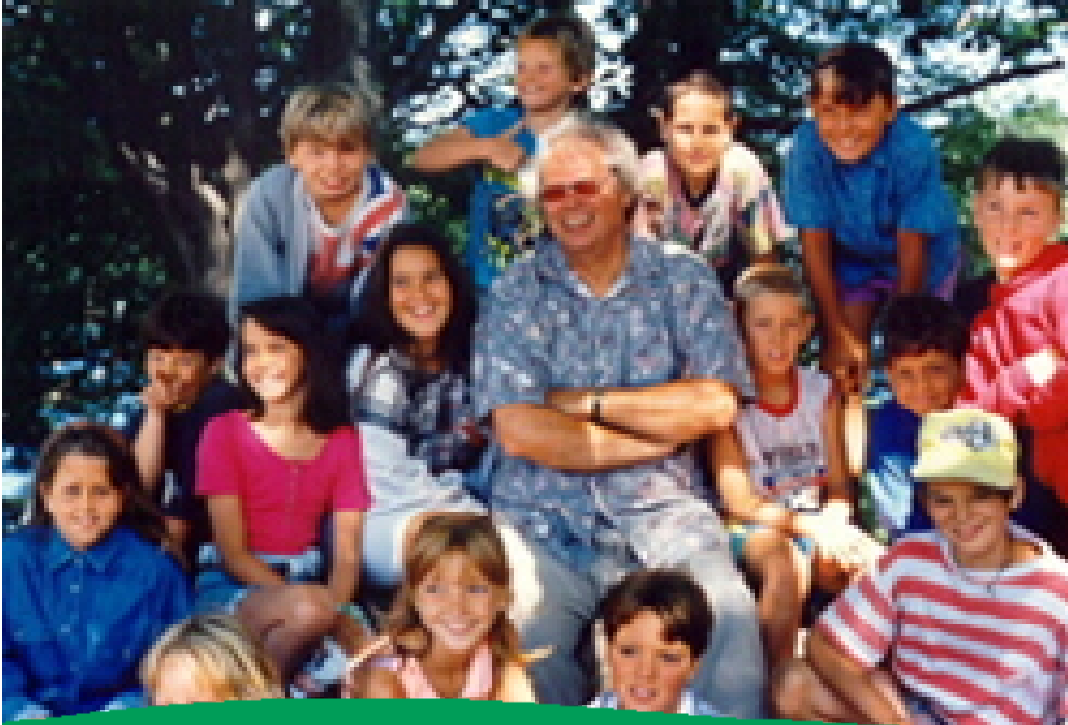
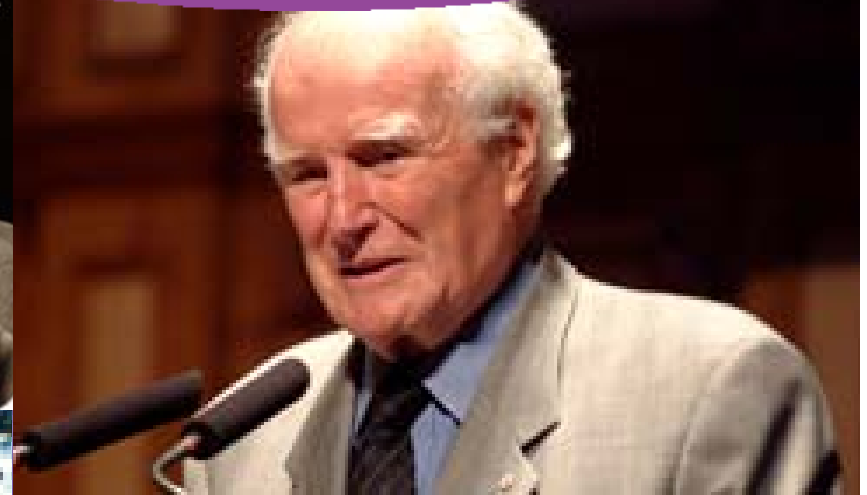
– *Ursula K. Le Guin*
(1929 -), American novelist

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Our Promise to Children (1997)



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Our Promise to Children (1997)



“We live with the irony that, while children are Canada's most precious resource, they are also our most vulnerable citizens. It is time, as we approach the next century, that Canadians turn their attention to developing a plan of action that will assure each of our children security, optimal development and full participation in our nation's life.”

—Carol Shields



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10. We've Learned that Investing in Children Can Last a Lifetime



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“Investing in [children] is not a national luxury or a national choice. It's a national necessity. If the foundation of your house is crumbling, you don't say you can't afford to fix it while you're building astronomically expensive fences to protect it from outside enemies. The issue is not are we going to pay -- it's are we going to pay now, up front, or are we going to pay a whole lot more later on.”

– *Marian Wright Edelman*
(1939 -), *Founder and President, U.S. Children's Defense Fund*

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9. We've Learned that Investing in Children Brings Many Happy Returns

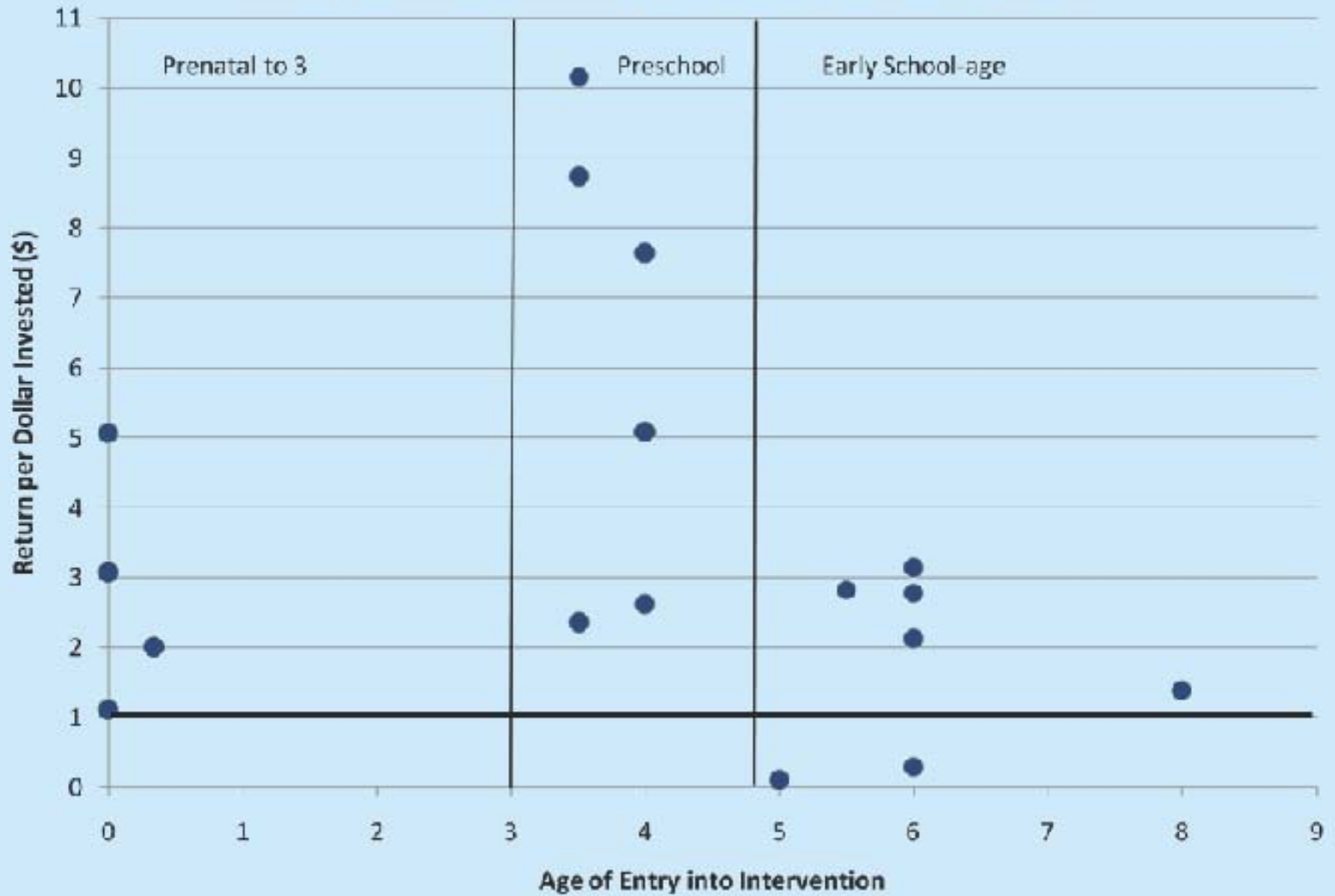


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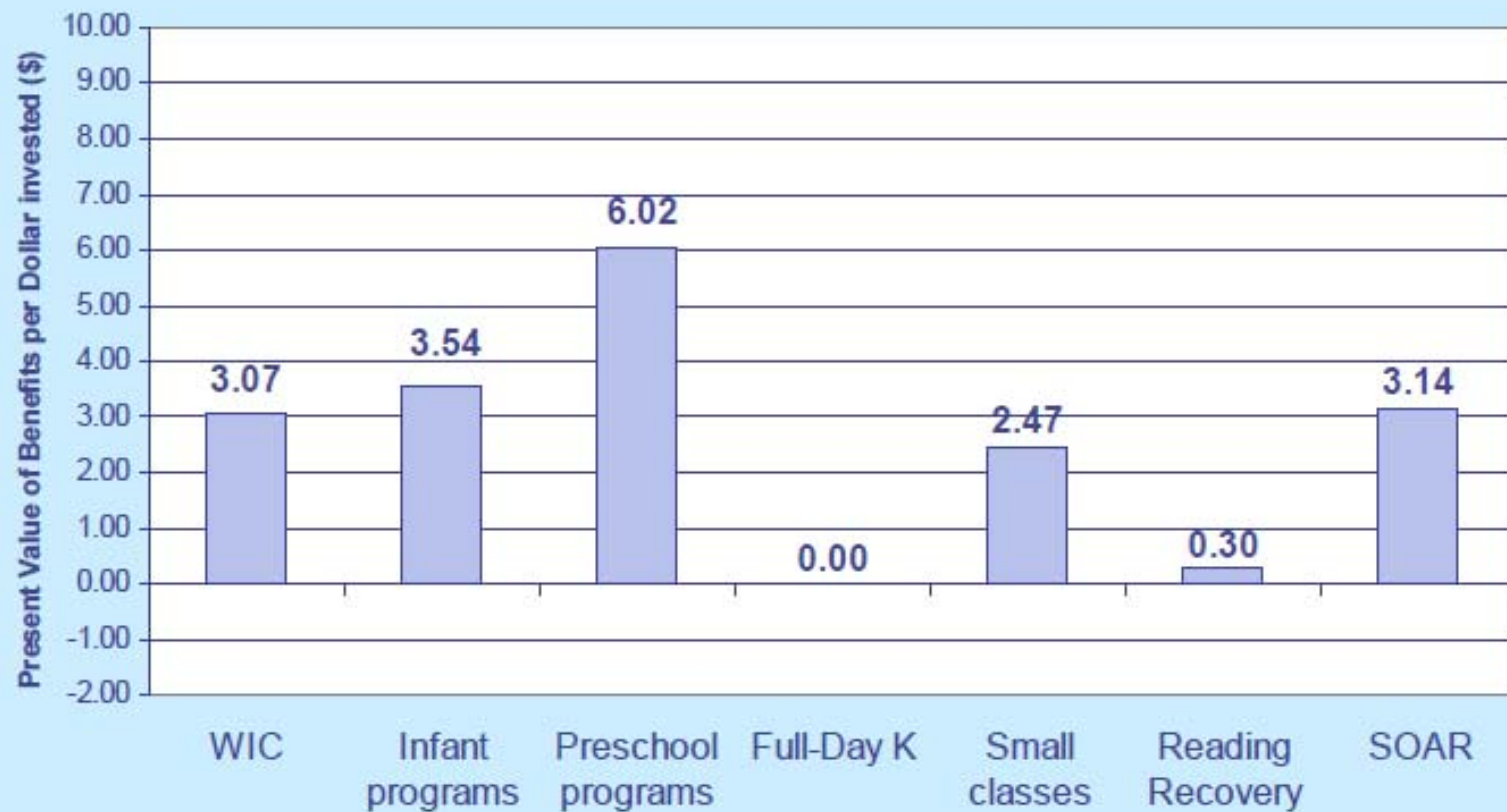
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Return per Dollar Invested by Age of Entry into Intervention



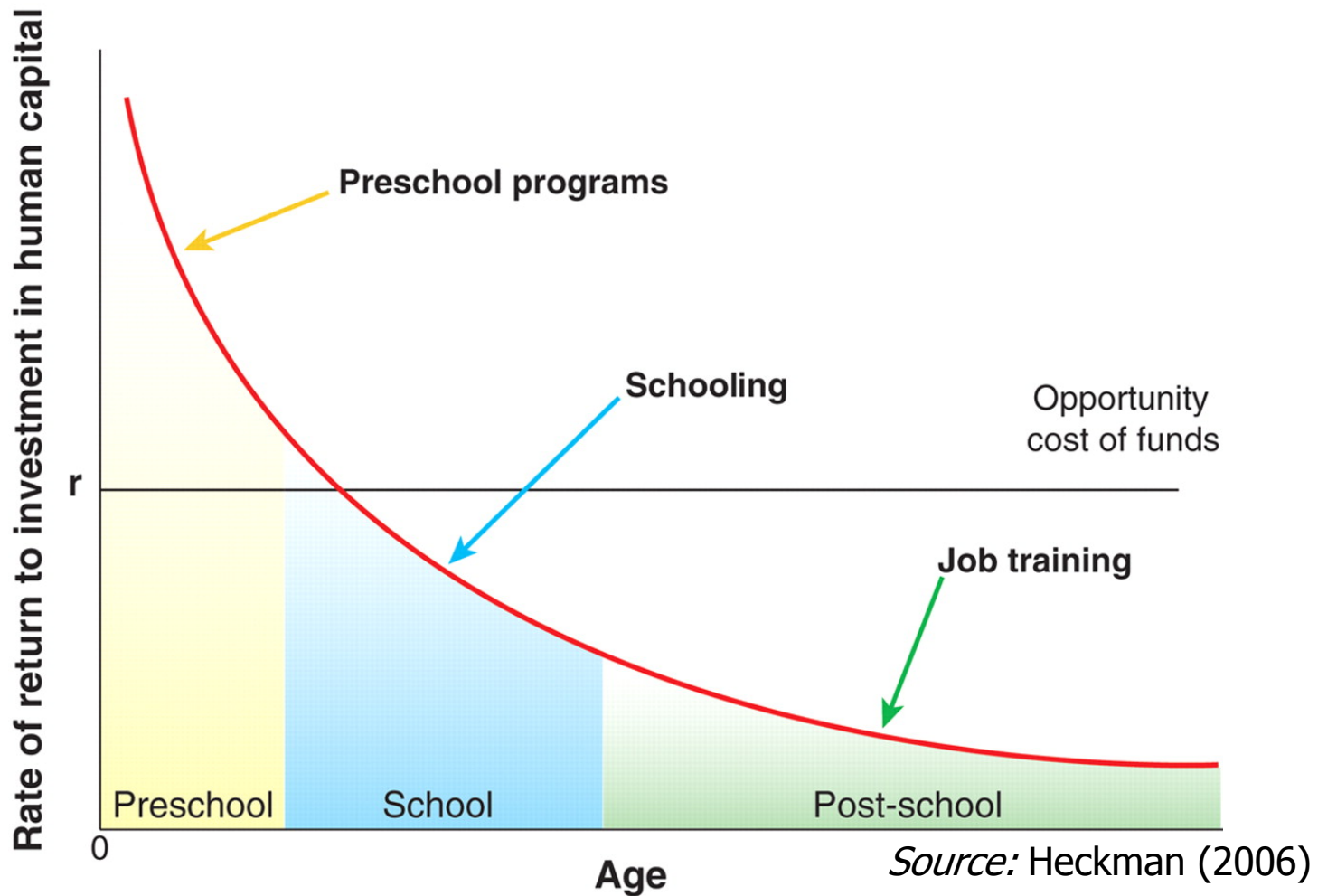
Source: Reynolds & Temple (2008)

Benefit-Cost Ratios for Child Programs



Source: Reynolds (2008)

Rates of return to human capital investment



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The Cost of Second Chances

"[We are] a second chance society. Our educational policy is based on a fundamental optimism about the possibility of human change. The dynamics of skill formation reveal that later compensation for deficient early family environments is very costly. If society waits too long to compensate, it is economically inefficient to invest in the skills of the disadvantaged. A serious trade-off exists between equity and efficiency for adolescent and young adult skill policies. There is no such trade-off for policies targeted toward disadvantaged young children."

*James J. Heckman, PhD
2000 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences*

Source: Heckman (2006, p. 1901)

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8. We've Learned More About Doing More Harm than Good



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7. We've Learned About the Importance of Strong Evidence



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“Unless we are honestly [evidence-based], we greatly imperil the future, and leave the great questions of society to the ignorant advocates of change on the one hand, and the ignorant opponents of change on the other.”

– *Walter Lippman*
(1899-1974), American journalist

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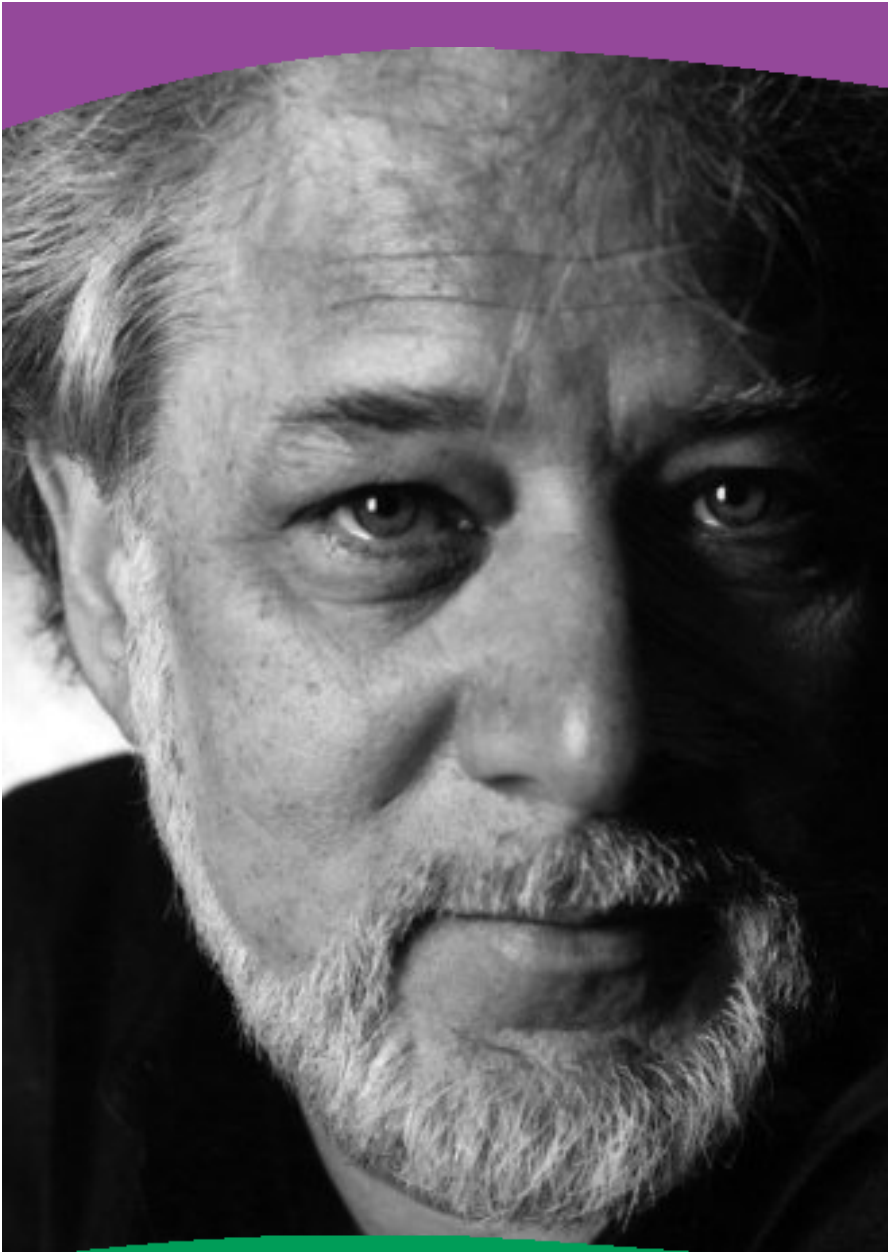
6. We've Learned that Our Experiences Embed in Ourselves, Our Biology



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"We die containing a richness of lovers and tribes, tastes we have swallowed, bodies we have plunged into and swum up as if rivers of wisdom, characters we have climbed into as if trees, fears we have hidden in as if caves. I wish for all this to be marked on my body when I am dead. I believe in such cartography – to be marked by nature, not just to label ourselves on a map like the names of rich men and women on buildings. We are communal histories, communal books. We are not owned or monogamous in our taste or experience. All I desired was to walk upon such an earth that had no maps."

The English Patient (1992)

*– Michael Ondaatje
(1943 -), Canadian novelist*

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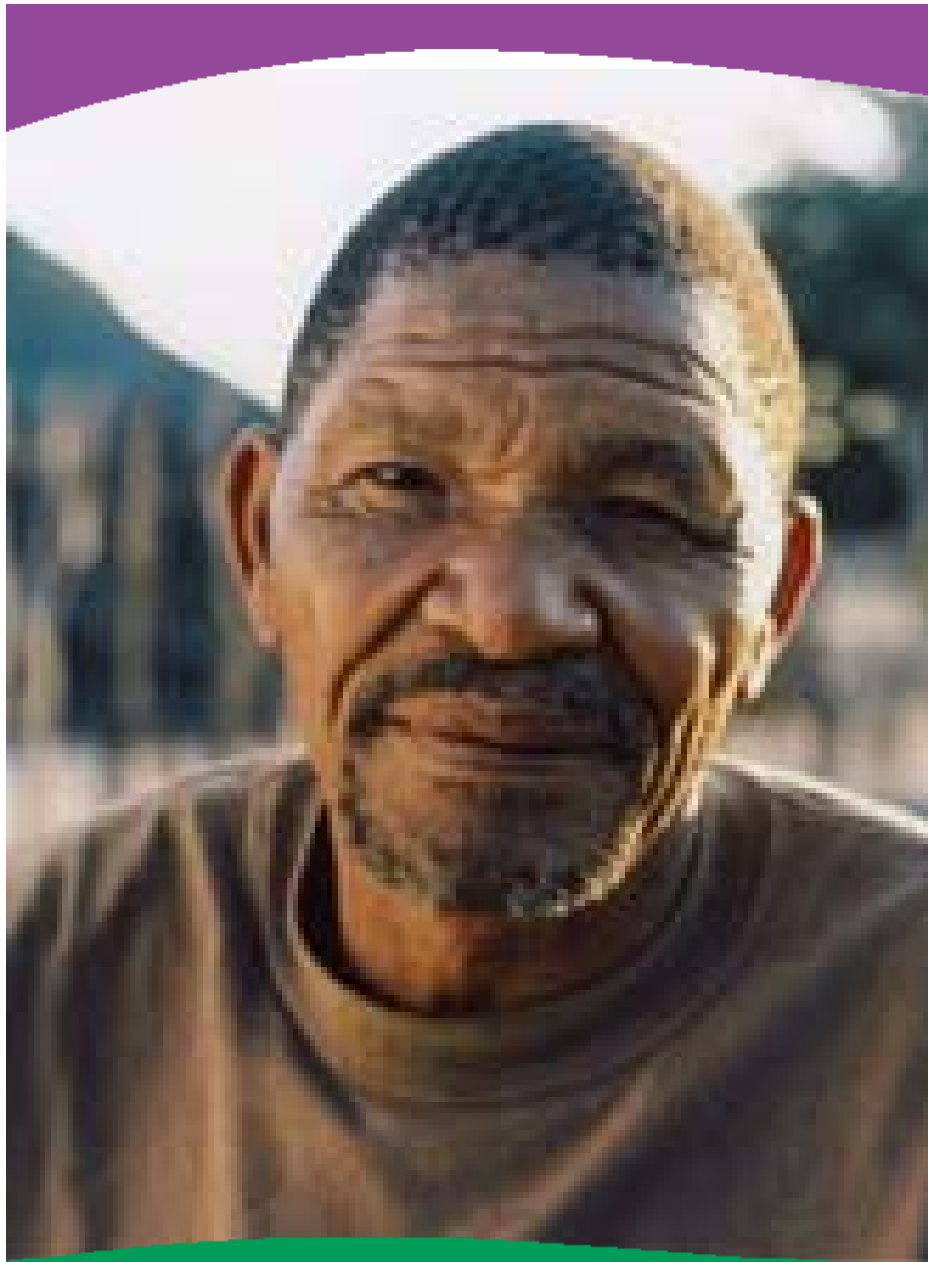
5. We've (Re-)Learned that Relationships Matter Most of All



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“We are the ancestors of our grandchildren's children. We look after them, just as our ancestors look after us. We aren't here for ourselves. We are here for each other and for the children of our grandchildren.”


– *Roy Sesana (Tobee Tcori)*
(1950? -), Leader of the Gana, Gwi, and Bakgalagadi 'Bushmen' and co-founder, First People of the Kalahari



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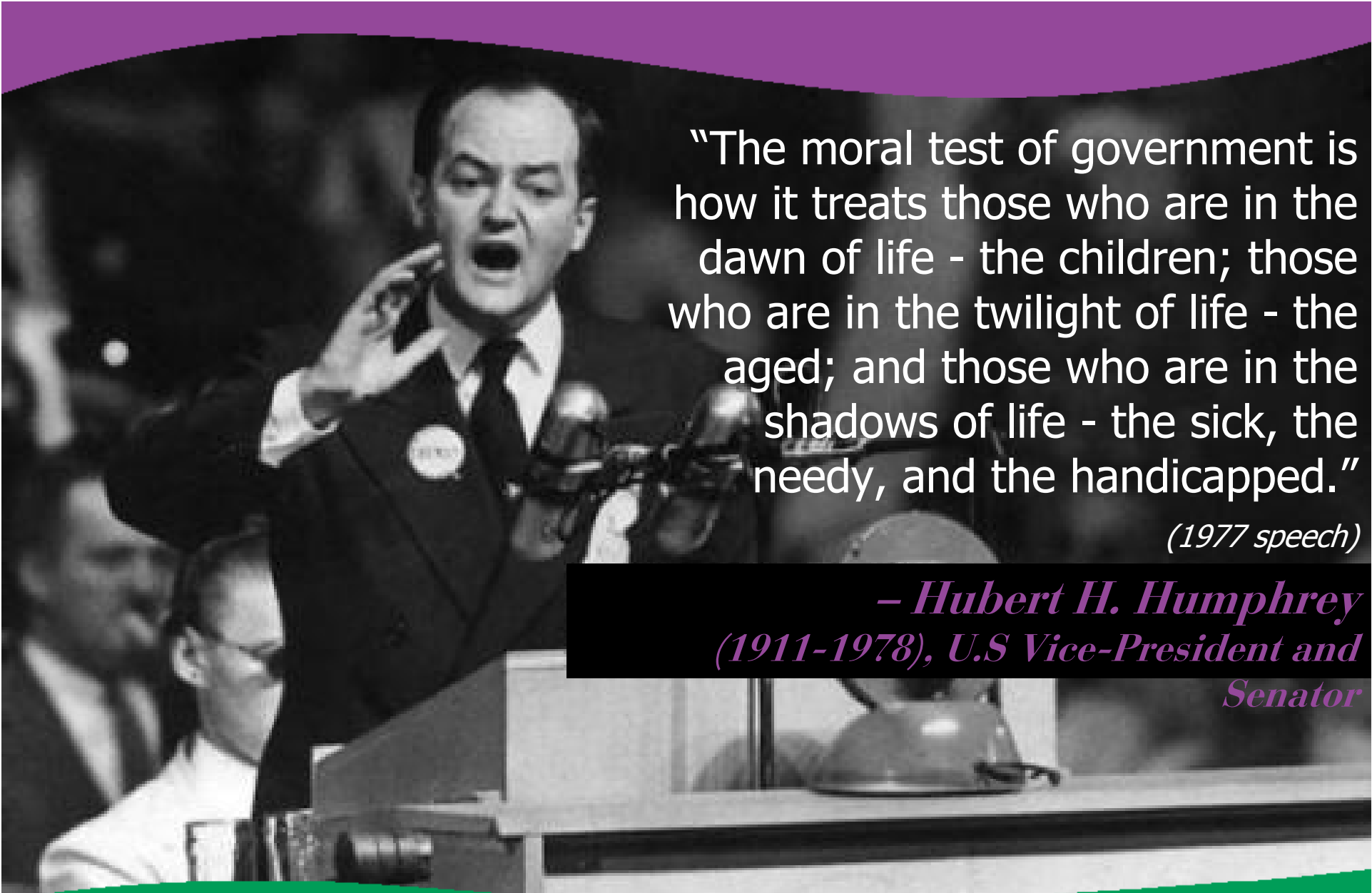


4. We've Learned that Racism, Social Injustice, and Inequality are Hazardous to Our Health

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"The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life - the children; those who are in the twilight of life - the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life - the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."

(1977 speech)

*– Hubert H. Humphrey
(1911-1978), U.S Vice-President and
Senator*

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3. We've Learned that Changing the Lives of Children is About Changing Their Everyday Lives



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"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world ... Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."

*– Eleanor Roosevelt
(1884-1962), U.S First Lady,
First President and Chair, U.N.
Commission on Human Rights*



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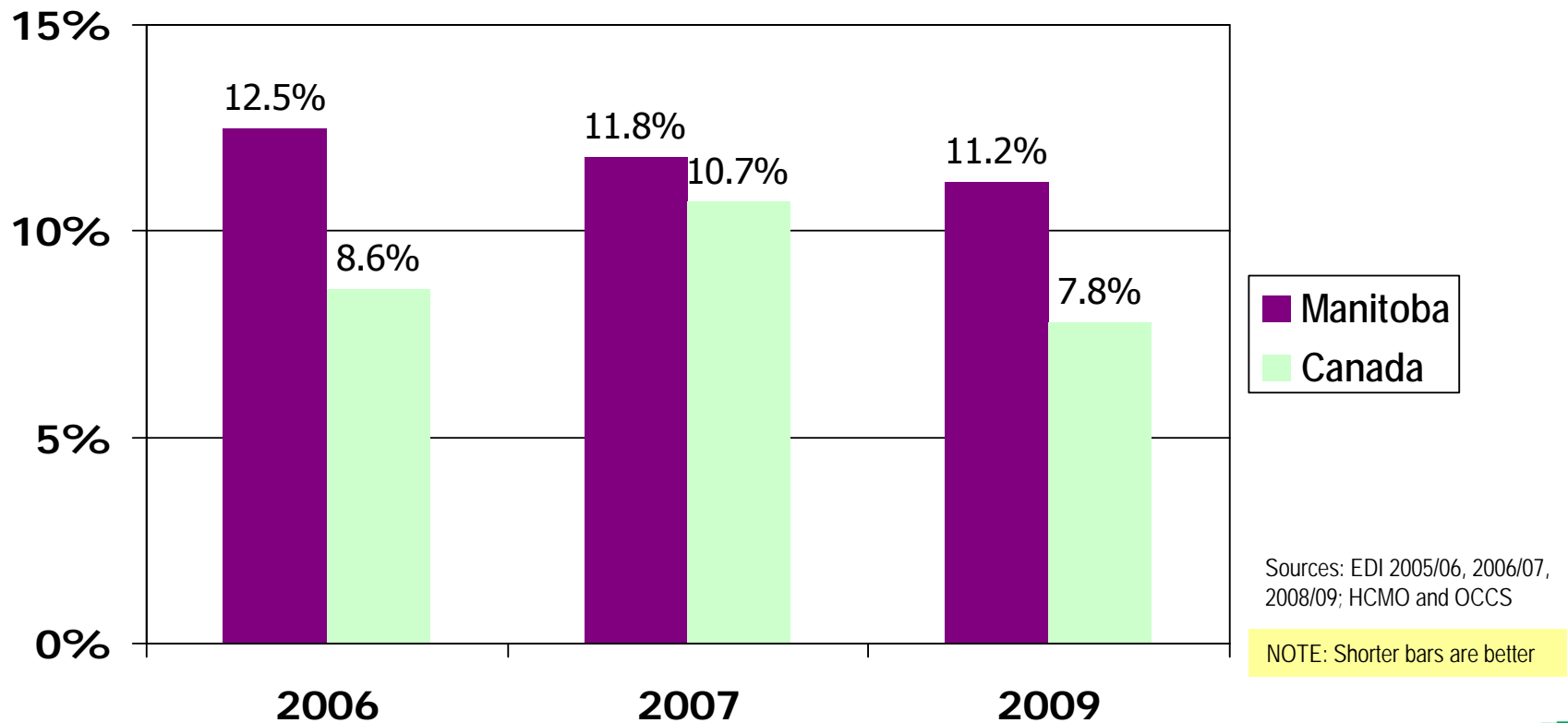
2. We've Learned that Manitoba Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Our Children and Youth



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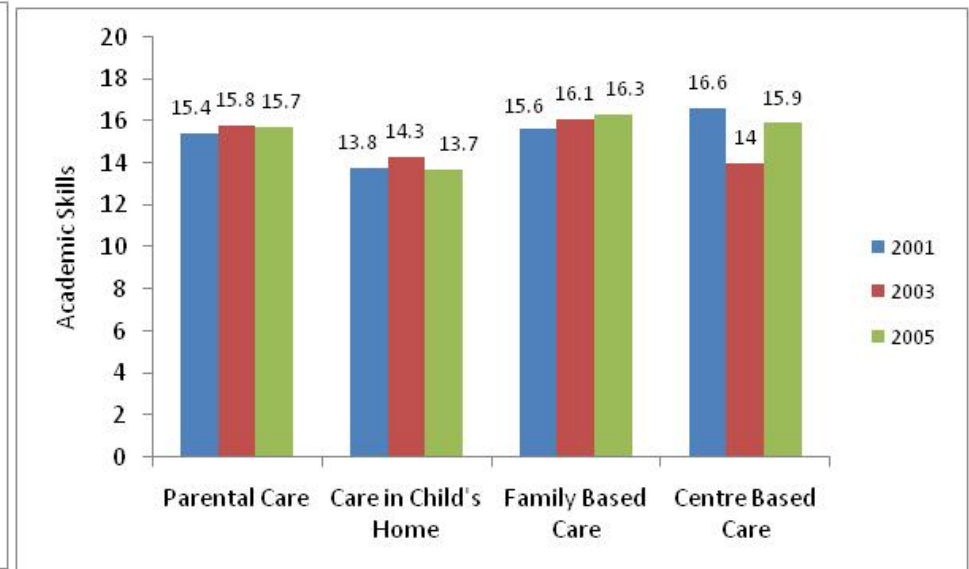
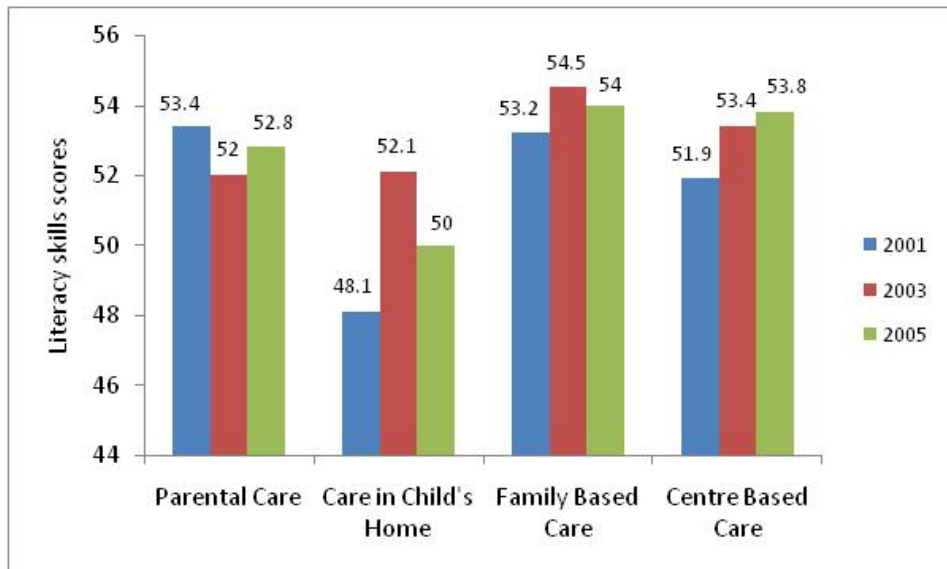


Kindergarten Children's Vulnerability Over Time: Not Ready for School in Language and Cognitive Development, Manitoba and Canada, 2006-2009



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1997 Manitoba Birth Cohort Study: Long-Term Outcomes of Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba



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The problems we face are not of incomprehensible complexity... Nothing in our current crisis is untouchable because of the great mystic forces of inevitability.

The most powerful force possessed by the individual citizen is her own government ... The individual has no other large organized mechanism that he can call his own ... Government is the only organized mechanism that makes possible that level of shared disinterest known as the public good. ... The individual's rights are guaranteed by law only to the extent that they are protected by the citizenry's exercise of their obligation to participate in society. Rights are a protection from society. But only by fulfilling their obligations to society can the individual give meaning to that protection.

-The Unconscious Civilization (1995)

*– John Ralston Saul
(1947-), Canadian essayist
and philosopher*



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1. We've Learned that Manitoba Has More to Do for Our Children and Youth



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“It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.”



*– Mother Teresa
(1910-1997), Albanian Catholic
nun in India*



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"...just a fraction of what is extended so obscenely on defense budgets would make a real difference in enabling God's children to fill their stomachs, be educated, and be given the chance to lead fulfilled and happy lives."



*– Desmond Tutu
(1931 -), South African
Anglican Archbishop*

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Shared Destiny:

Our Aboriginal Children and the Future of Manitoba



*“Manitoba
cannot
prosper if
Aboriginal
people do not
prosper.”*

*-Honourable Oscar Lathlin,
Minister of Aboriginal and
Northern Affairs
(1947-2008)*

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Conclusions and a Call to Action

- Our children's success is **an indicator of the success of our society and democracy**: equality of opportunity, fairness and justice, and social responsibility
- Our children's success is also a **forecast of our social and economic future** and is **the best economic investment**
- Communities, governments, business leaders, researchers, and practitioners must **establish new partnerships**, building on our collective accomplishments of the past decade to meet the most important challenge of the next decade: **Bridging the gap between knowledge and action to build a successful society for all of our children and youth**

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Thank You

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**National Child Day Forum 2010 - Pre-Conference Seminar:
Moving Child Health Data into Practice**
November 15, 2010 – Winnipeg, Manitoba