



Universal Home Visiting Informational Session

Oregon House Early Childhood Committee

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**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action



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A baby's future
starts now.



The Core Story of Child Development

- Early experiences in life build “brain architecture”
- Children develop in an **environment of relationships**
- Genes and environments interact to shape the architecture of the brain
- Cognitive, emotional and social capacities are inextricably intertwined
- “Toxic stress” and adverse experiences derail healthy child development
- Brain plasticity and the ability to change behavior decrease over time

National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2015



Early Relational Health

Early relationships shape the health and wellbeing of both the child and the caregiver and are a key driver for social-emotional development.



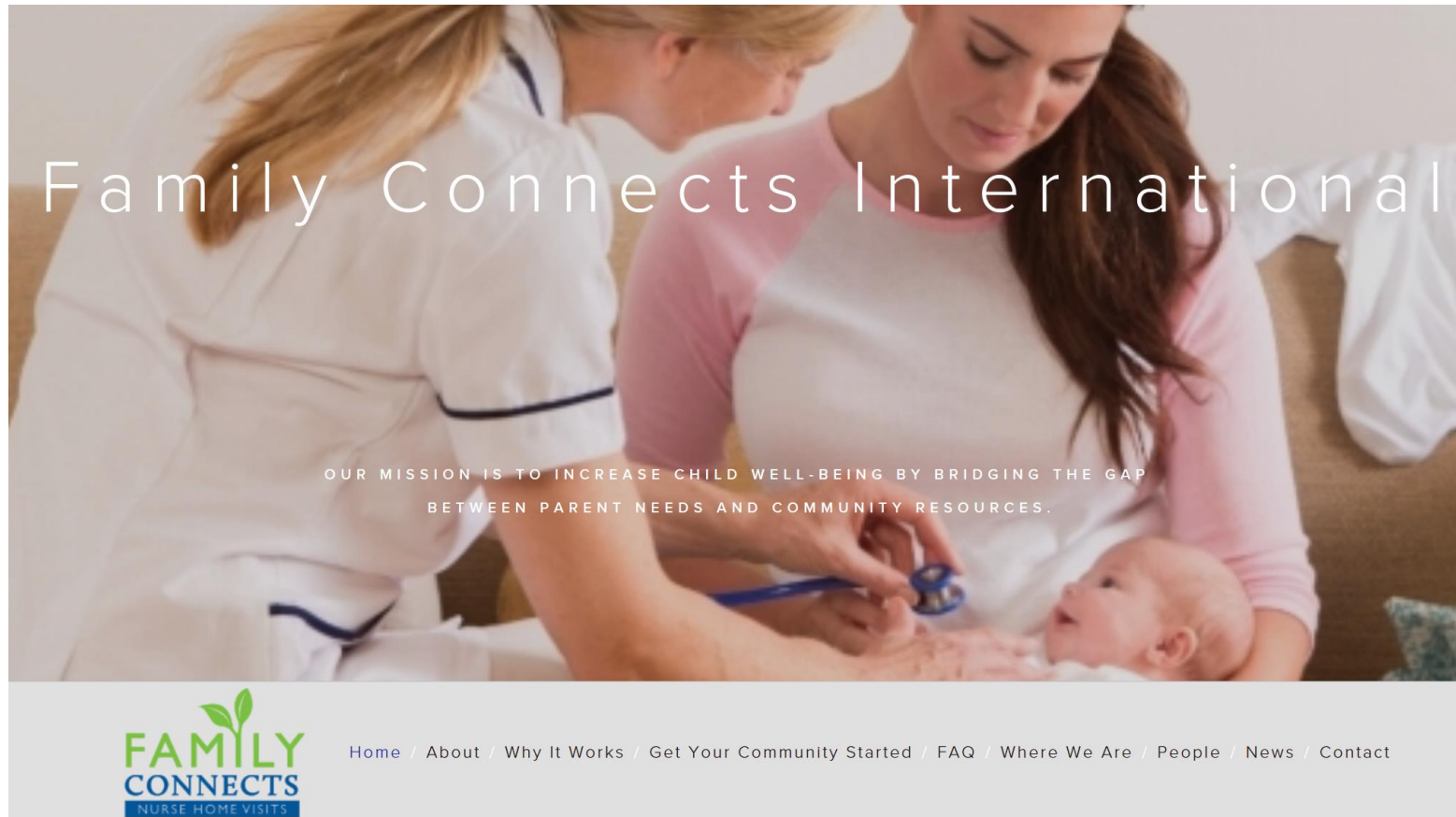
Early relational health:

- *A new term*
- *Does not designate a new field nor a series of new discoveries.*
- *Builds upon decades of research from the fields of :*
 - *child development*
 - *infant mental health*
 - *neurodevelopment*
- *Focuses on the centrality of relationships between caregivers and very young children for future health, development and social-emotional wellbeing*

Frameworks Institute, 2020



Family Connects





**A baby's future
starts with her
mother's
wellbeing**



A well-functioning early childhood system

....is a system of care

- Reaches families with the help they need
- Improves the coordination of services and supports
- Promotes the climate of support for early childhood
- Increases parent engagement and equity

1 Reach

2 Coordination

3 Commitment

4 Equity

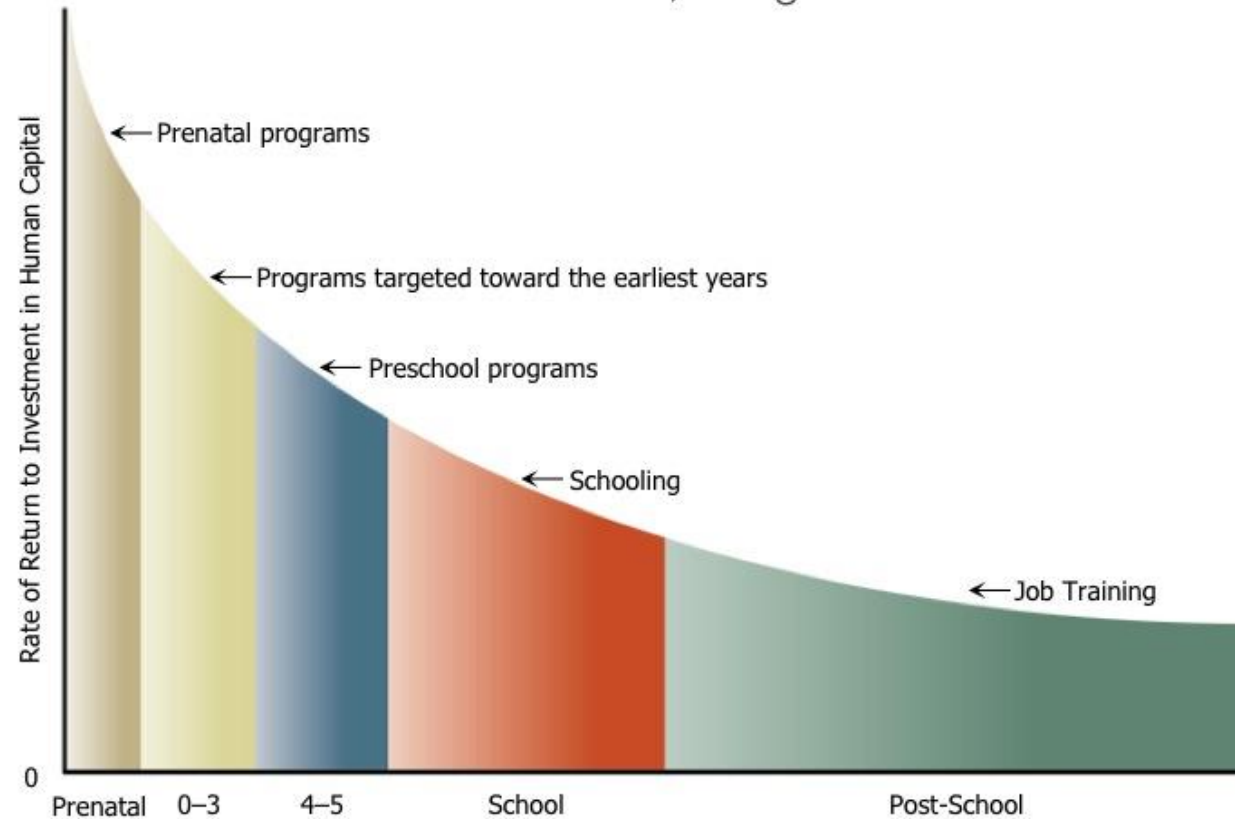
**Early Childhood System
Performance Assessment Toolkit**





EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A **SMART INVESTMENT**

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics



Take Home Points

Family Connects in Oregon

- First state to roll-out **home visiting, universally offered for families**
- Adds a universal, state-of-the-science prevention element to Oregon's early childhood system of care
- Further expands a continuum of home visiting and family support
- Elevates a universal commitment to the health foundations of early learning
- Advances a commitment to early relational health
- Adds to the vision of *"Oregon to be the best state for children to grow up in."*