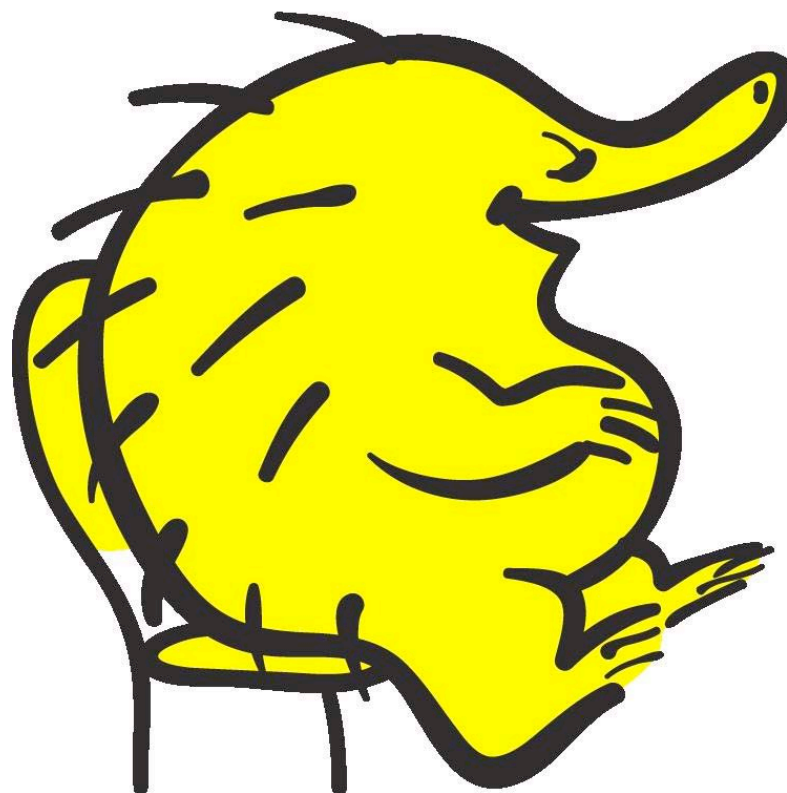




Early Words Early Literacy Forum May 2009





early
Words



familiesnsw
supporting families to raise children



childrenfirst
growing potential



What is Early Words?

- An Early Literacy Project in 9 community languages and an adapted Aboriginal resource
- Blacktown, Baulkham Hills, Holroyd, Auburn & Parramatta LGAs
- Commenced November 2004
- A Children First Project
- Funded by Families NSW
- Targets families with children 0-5 years
- Every family can receive our resources free
- Partners can receive training and support
- Website and broadcast





Early Words Resources



- Print material : 10 languages
- Book bag and book from local libraries
- Website: all print material downloadable
- Universal access points
- Aboriginal, small and emerging and CALD groups
- 289,872 resources distributed to Oct 08



Tip sheets languages



Arabic
Turkish
Chinese
Vietnamese
Tamil
Dari
Urdu
Hindi
Korean

Use the 5 Top Tips each day


Prepare your child from birth for reading and writing.

5 top tips for the first 5 years

Spend time together

1. looking and listening
2. talking
3. singing and rhyming
4. reading
5. drawing and writing

Early Words is a service of childrenfirst Inc, funded by Families First, a NSW Government initiative. www.earlywords.asn.au



Early Words gives parents information and easy activities from birth to five years

Survey of Aspects of Literacy

- High numbers of children leaving school with poor literacy ability
- Greater Western area Census 2006 indicated 49.9% have no qualifications
- A high percentage of Australians have below adequate literacy skills



46% - Poor prose literacy skills (15-74 years)

60% - Poor health literacy skills (15-74 years)

52% prose / 47% document / 57% numeracy (poor):
15-19 year olds (lower than 20-24 age group)



What does the Research Say?

47% vs 3% - No alphabet books
in the home

McCormick and Mason (1998)

1,000 - 1,700 hours picture book
reading vs 25 hours

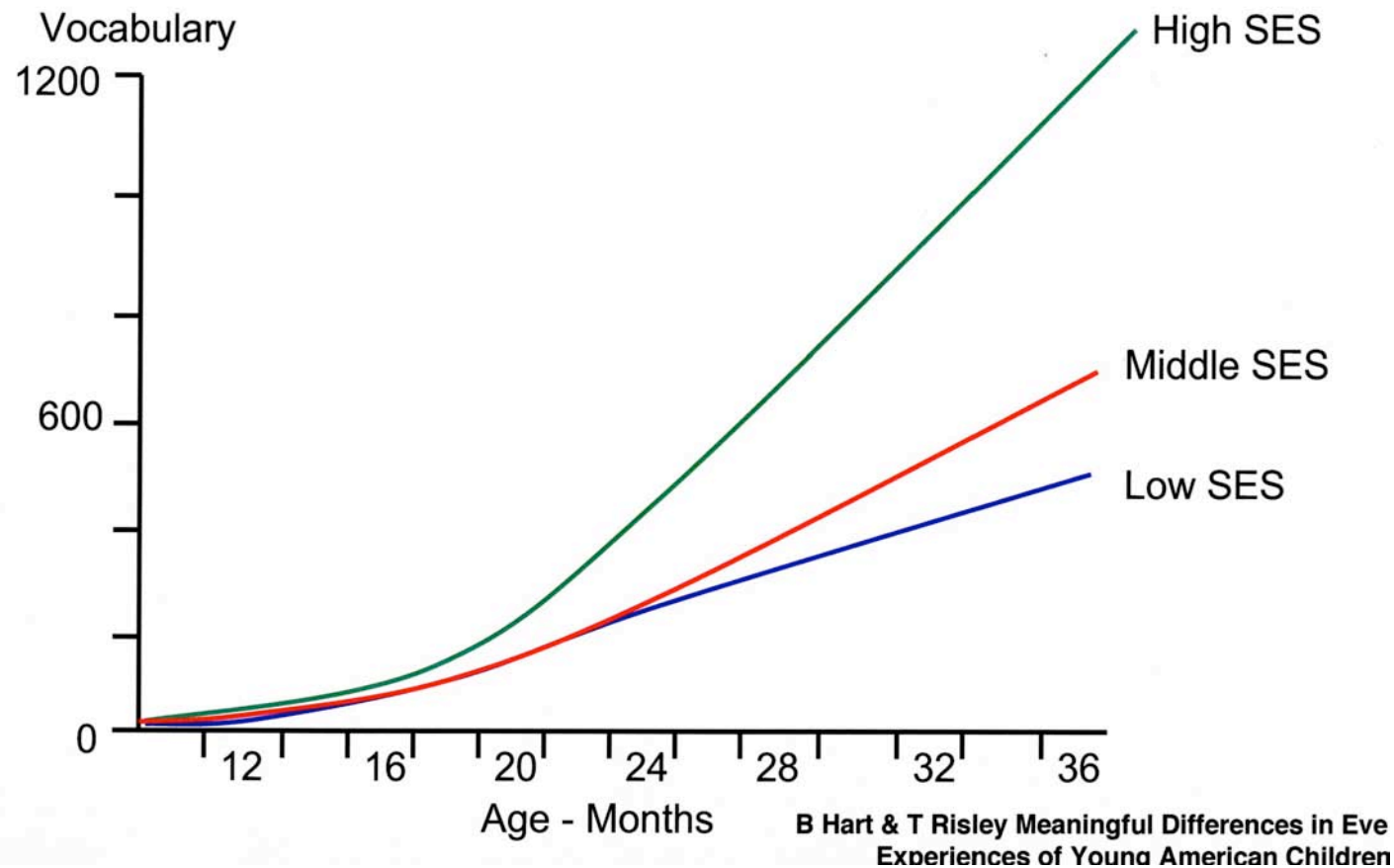
Adams (1990)



Lets Read Literature Review 2004

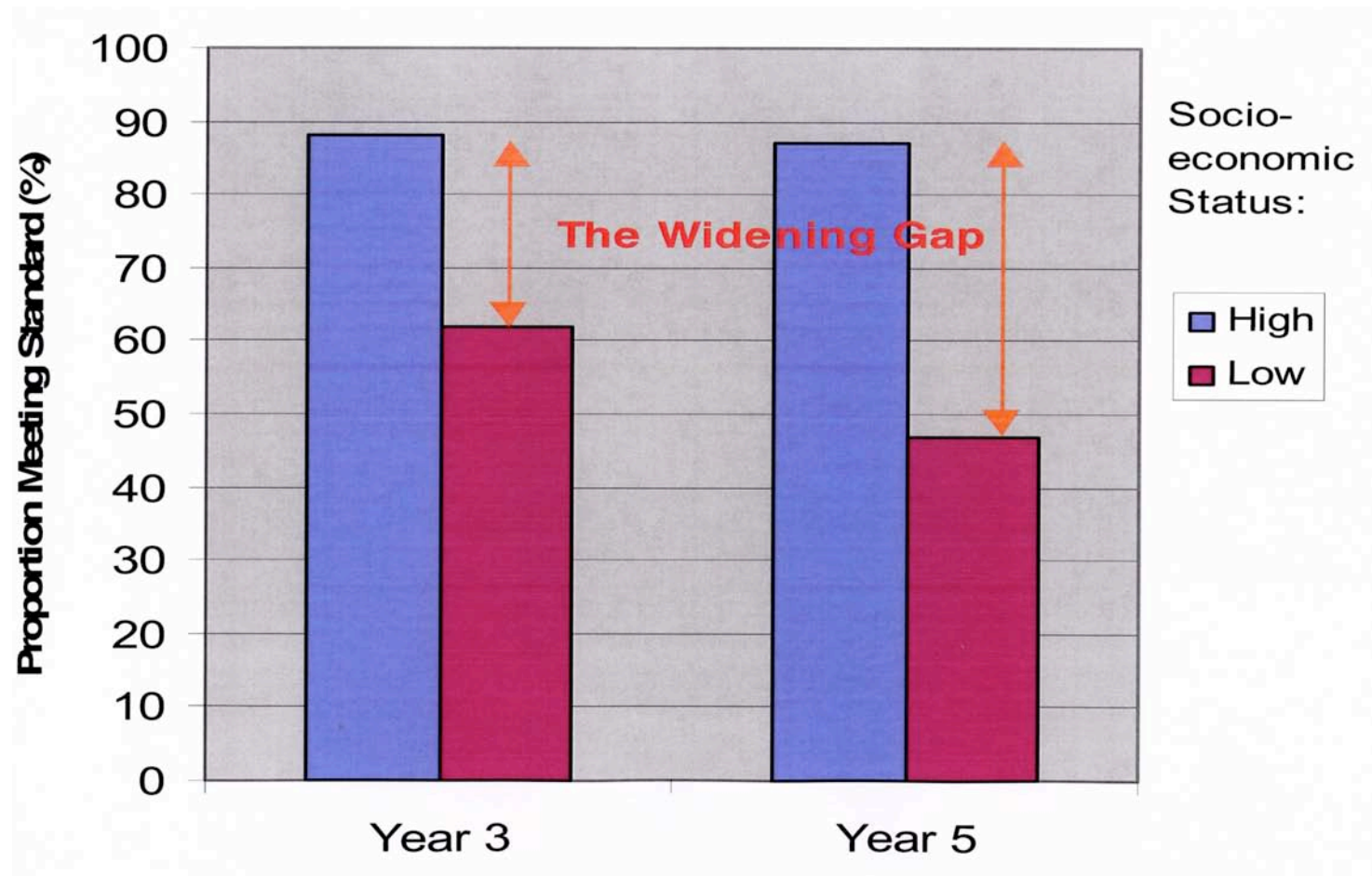
What does the Research Say?

Vocabulary Growth - First 3 years



What does the Research Say?

The gap can continue and widen from Kindergarten





Access points:

- **0-2 years DVD**
 - All Western Sydney hospitals
 - All Community Health clinics
 - Some GPs, Schools as Community Centres, all FNSW projects
 - Migrant Resource Centres
- **0-5 years tipsheets and magnets**
 - All of the above excluding hospitals
 - All libraries
 - Tipsheets and A4 magnets: www.earlywords.info
- **3 to 5 years DVD: distribution at 3 years**
 - Child Care Centres, Family Day Care, Occasional Care registered with Early Words
 - All of the above excluding hospitals, GPs and libraries, Community Health can request.
- **Aboriginal 0 to 5 resources**
 - AMS
 - Blacktown Hospital
 - Some community health clinics
 - Many smaller Aboriginal organisations, incl FNSW projects
 - Child Care as above



Evaluation

- Direct feedback partners
- Reply paid sheet in 3 to 5 DVD
- Reference Group
- Training evaluations
- University of Newcastle Family Action Centre evaluation 0-2 years





Impact on children and families

- 71% learnt something new from using resource and had introduced/increased recommended activities
- Parent feedback on the resource was overwhelmingly positive

0-2 year evaluation, Partnerships through literacy, Family Action Centre, university of Newcastle, 2009.

“How to deal with children in their important early ages that has a big impact on their lives.”

“Did not realise that playing with sand etc is actually preparing their hands for writing”

Comments from 3-5 years survey with DVD 08-09





“Before I do not know that
the baby of 0-6 months
needs to read for them but
now I do for my baby boy”





Project duplication and costings

FNSW has access to all Early Words Resources

Costings for duplication would need to include:

- Staffing, organisational costings
- Resource production cost
- Distribution/ storage cost
- Early Words can indicate broad costings that relate to the Cumberland Prospect area 12,000 births+ p/a.





early
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(all print material can be downloaded in 9 community languages
and Aboriginal English)

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