

How are Brains Built?

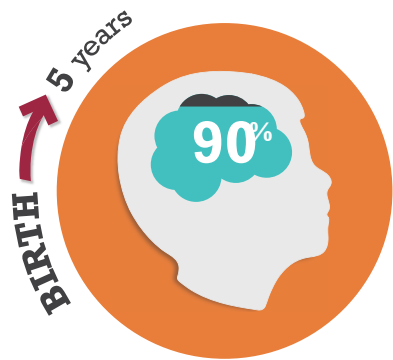
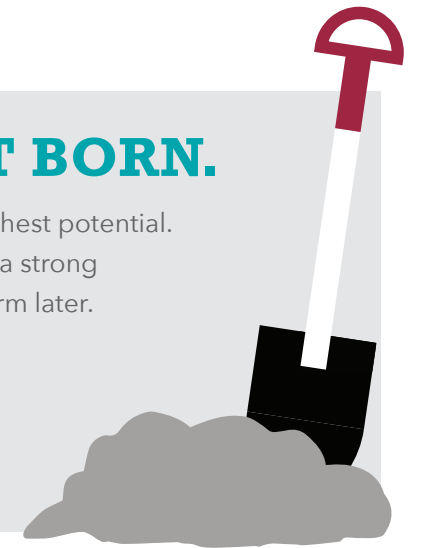
BRAINS ARE BUILT ON A
FOUNDATION
OF EARLY EXPERIENCES.



BRAINS ARE BUILT, NOT BORN.

All children are born with the ability to reach their highest potential. But, connections that form early provide either a strong or weak foundation for the connections that form later.

Unfortunately, not all children have access to early enriching experiences.



**90% OF
BRAIN
DEVELOPMENT
happens from
birth to 5 years old.**



In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second.

These neural connections, the brain's architecture, are formed through the interaction of baby and her environment and early, enriching experiences. These critical interactions with adults *lay the foundation* for all later learning, behavior, and health.



Without consistent and responsive caregiving, the brain architecture does not form as expected and will lead to disparities in learning and behavior.

Gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged children begin emerging as early as 9 months of age.



This is why, without intervention in the most critical early years of a child's brain development, we see gaps in disadvantaged children's health and educational achievement.

WHILE GENES PROVIDE A BLUEPRINT FOR BRAIN ARCHITECTURE, NEURAL CONNECTIONS MUST BE **REINFORCED BY REPEATED USE.**

THE GAPS WIDEN AS CHILDREN GROW OLDER, LEAVING DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN UP TO **2 YEARS BEHIND THEIR HIGHER INCOME PEERS BY AGE 5.**