Ready to Read Build Early Literacy Foundations

2 CU Early Literacy Course
Brazos Valley Literacy Coalition

Early Literacy

Before a child enters kindergarten the foundation is laid for reading!

Early literacy is the foundation.

Lay the foundation of early literacy skills and:

The child will be able to focus on learning when he or she starts school.

The child will more likely read at or above reading level by 3rd grade- (resulting in a successful future!)

http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-Early_Warning_Full_Report-2010.pdf

http://gradelevelreading.net/about-us/campaign-overview

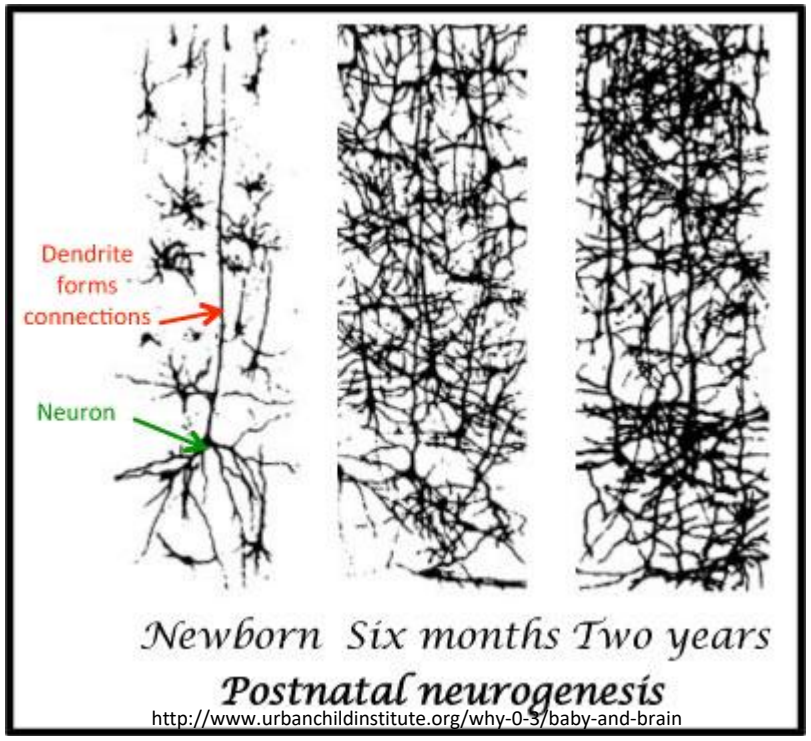
“There may be nothing more important to children’s school and work success than early language development...” (Bardige 2005)

Brain Development

"During infancy, brain development is occurring at a faster pace than at any other time in a human being's development. The networks within the infant's brain are transformed into an increasingly complex web of visual, motor, language, and social/emotional connections that are essential for later literacy learning." http://www.zerotothree.org/early-care-education/early-language-literacy/why-begin-with-infants.html

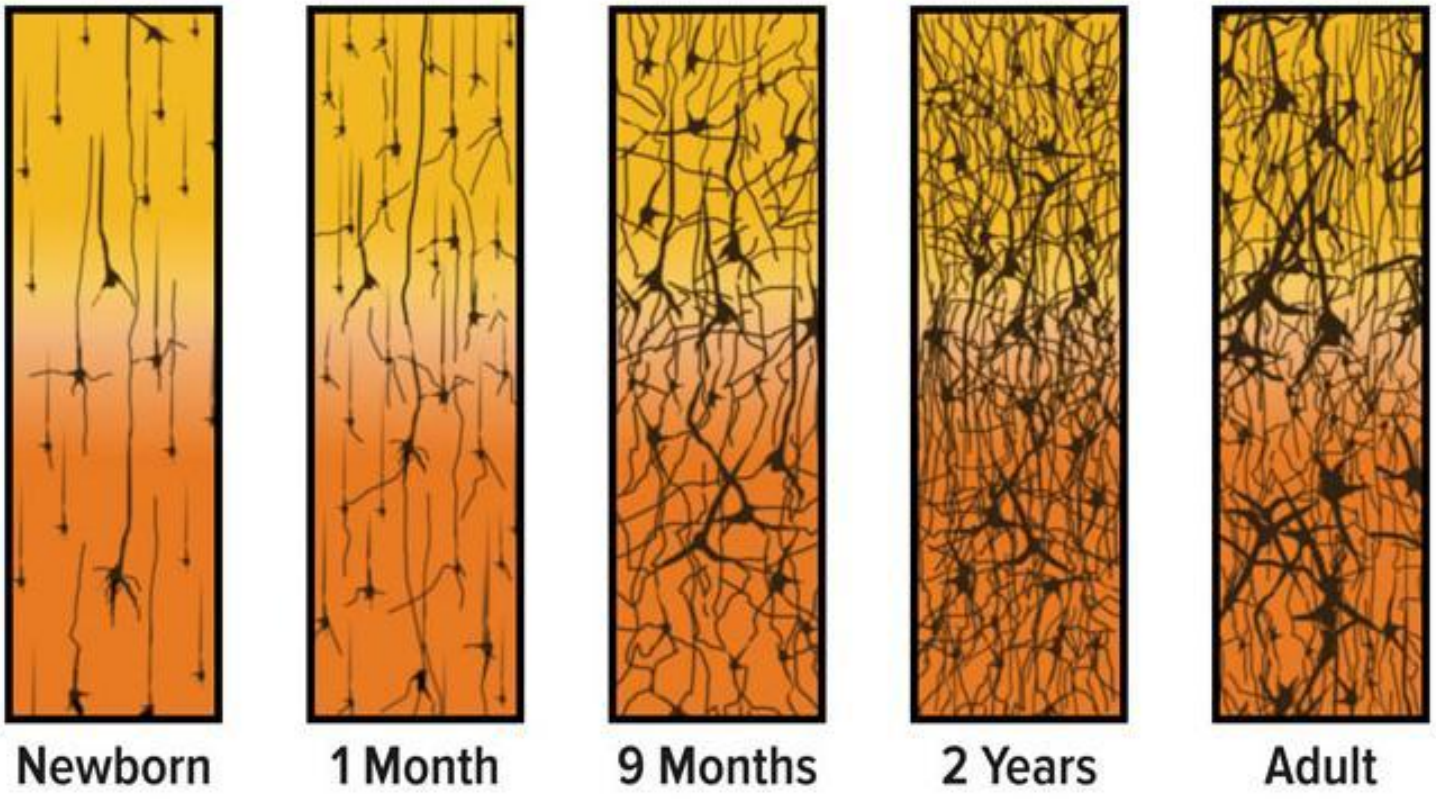
Brain Development

- Birth – 25%
- 1 year- 75%
- Age 3 – 80%
- Age 5 – 90%



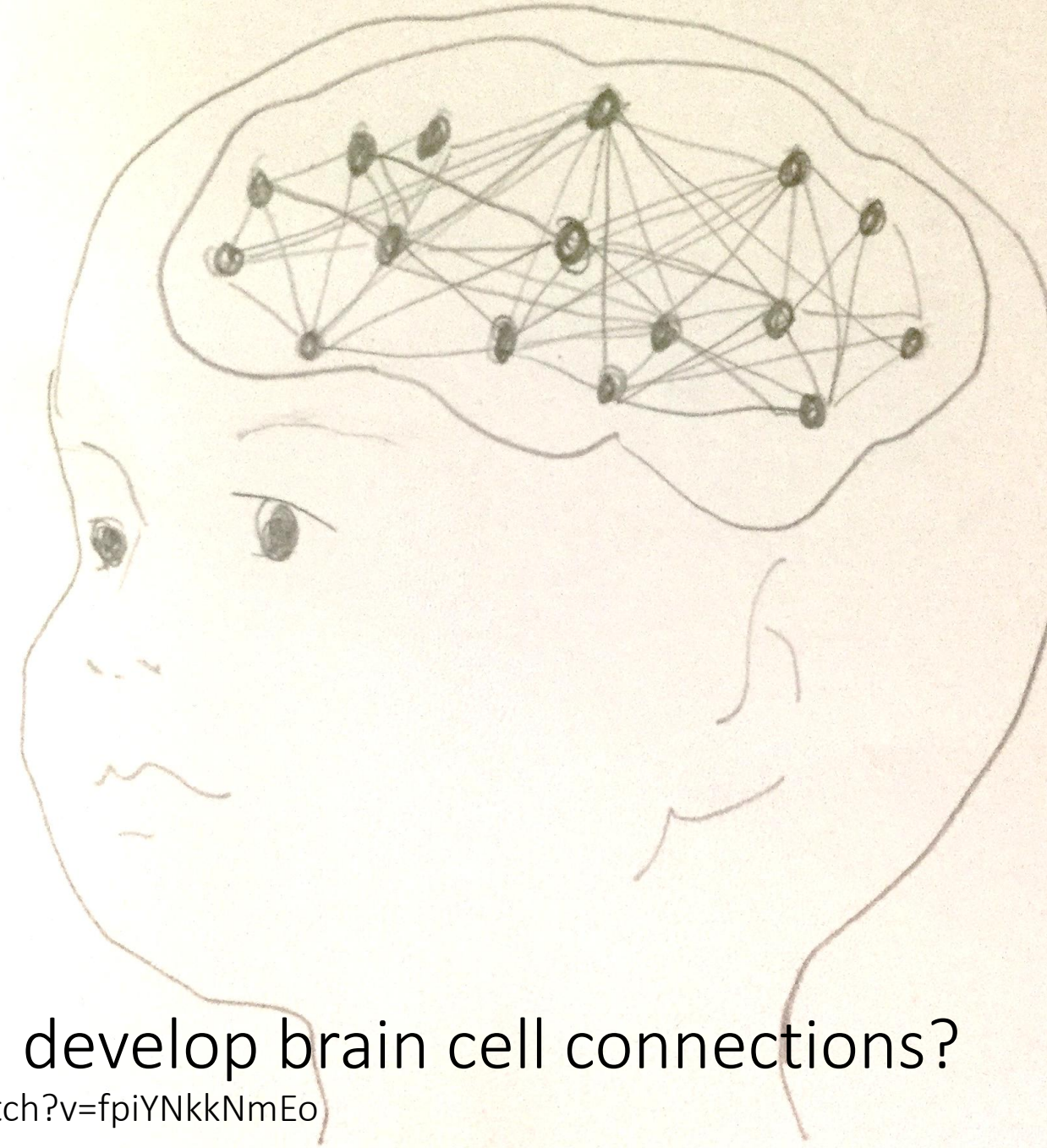
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=SpqLzFew9bs

FIGURE 1: Neuron Growth & Connections Over Time



Source: Corel, JL. The postnatal development of the human cerebral cortex. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 1975

http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/why-0-3/baby-and-brain

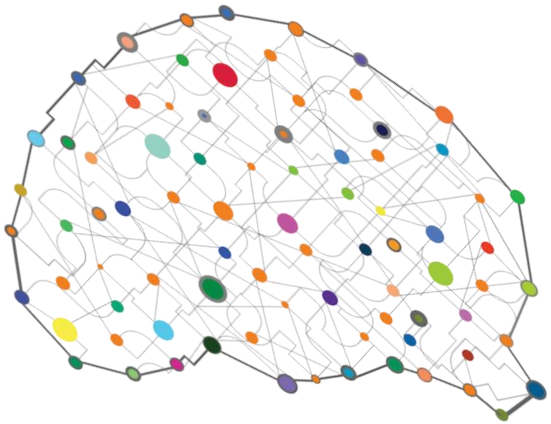


How does a child develop brain cell connections?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpiYNkkNmEo

NEURONS, SYNAPSES AND BRAIN WIRING:

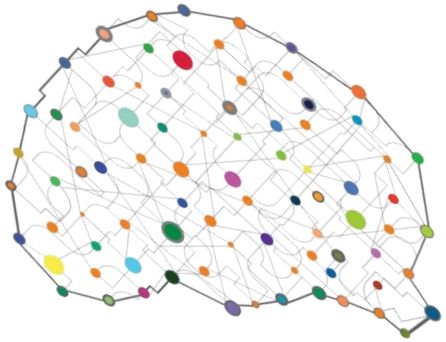
A neuron is a *brain nerve cell* with multiple dendrites branching from it and an axon . One neuron sends a message through it's axon to another neuron through connection called a synapse. Then the other neuron receives the message traveling up dendrites.



How does a child develop brain cell connections?

NEURONS, SYNAPSES AND BRAIN WIRING:

neuron
axon
synapse
dendrite

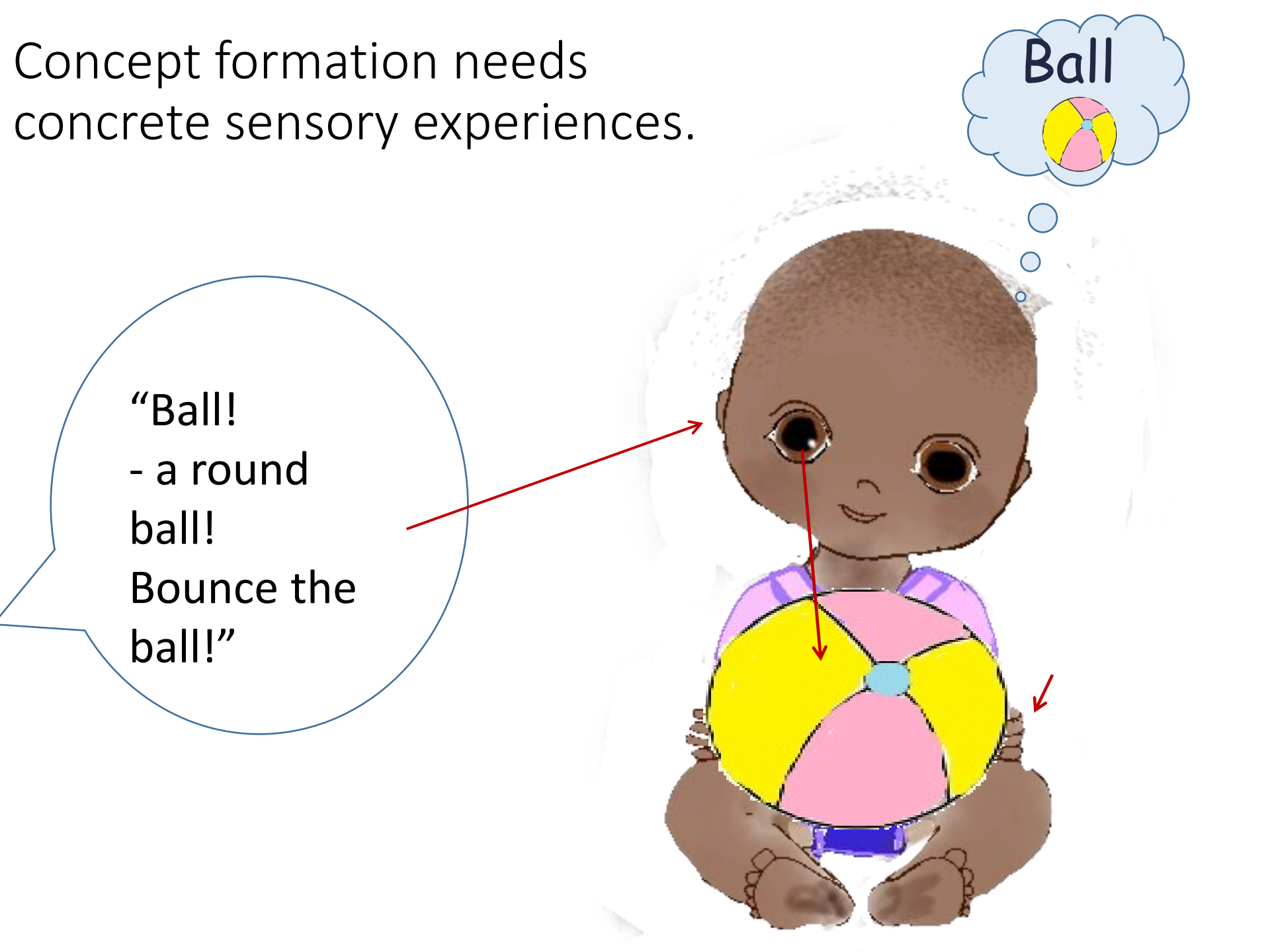


The more a synapse is used, the stronger it gets!

Did you know…
Children ages 0-3 years have **2x** as many synapses as an adult!
Synapses are formed at a faster rate during the ages of 0-3 than at any other stage of life!

Did you know…
A child between ages 0 and 3 needs the fat from their diet, i.e. breast milk, full fat milk, butter, etc. in order to build a special insulated coating around the axons called a "myelin sheath"?
A myelin sheath helps the axons transfer messages efficiently.

Concept formation needs concrete sensory experiences.



Concept formation----
concrete sensory experience

bear

Bear!
Teddy bear.

Concept formation----
concrete sensory experience

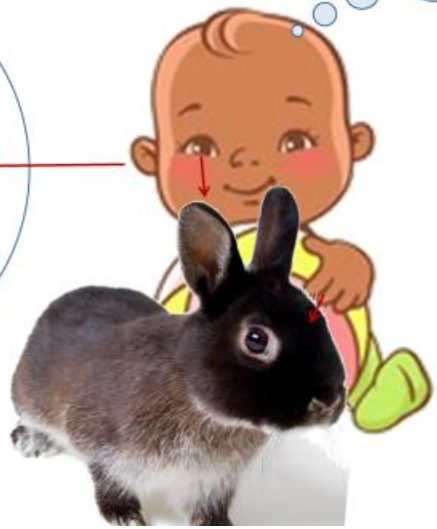
dog

Dog!
Soft puppy dog.

Concept formation----
concrete sensory experience

bunny

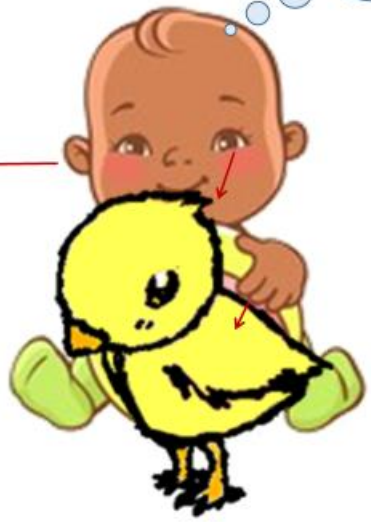
Bunny!
Grey bunny!



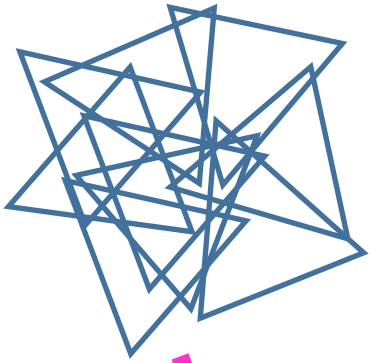
Concept formation----
concrete sensory experience

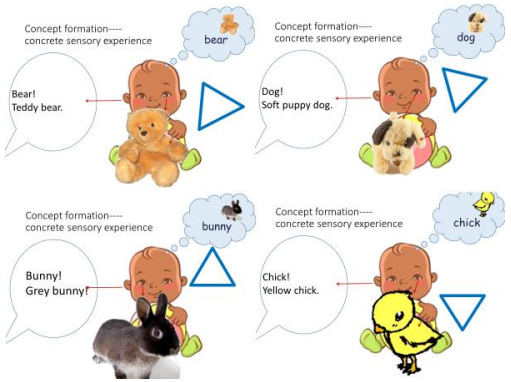
chick

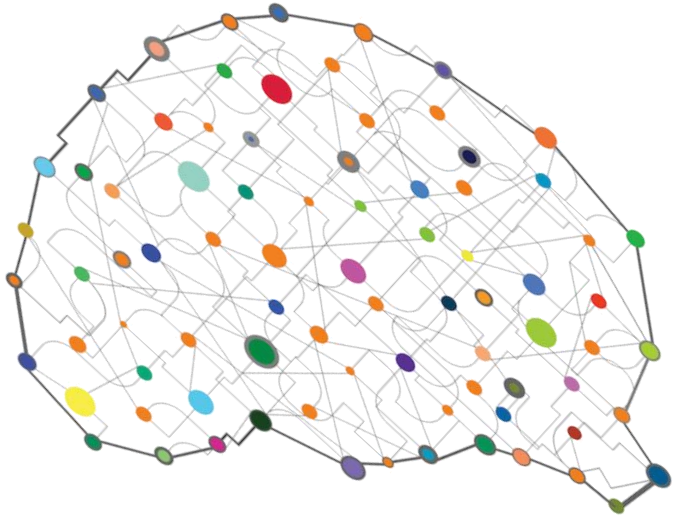
Chick!
Yellow chick.

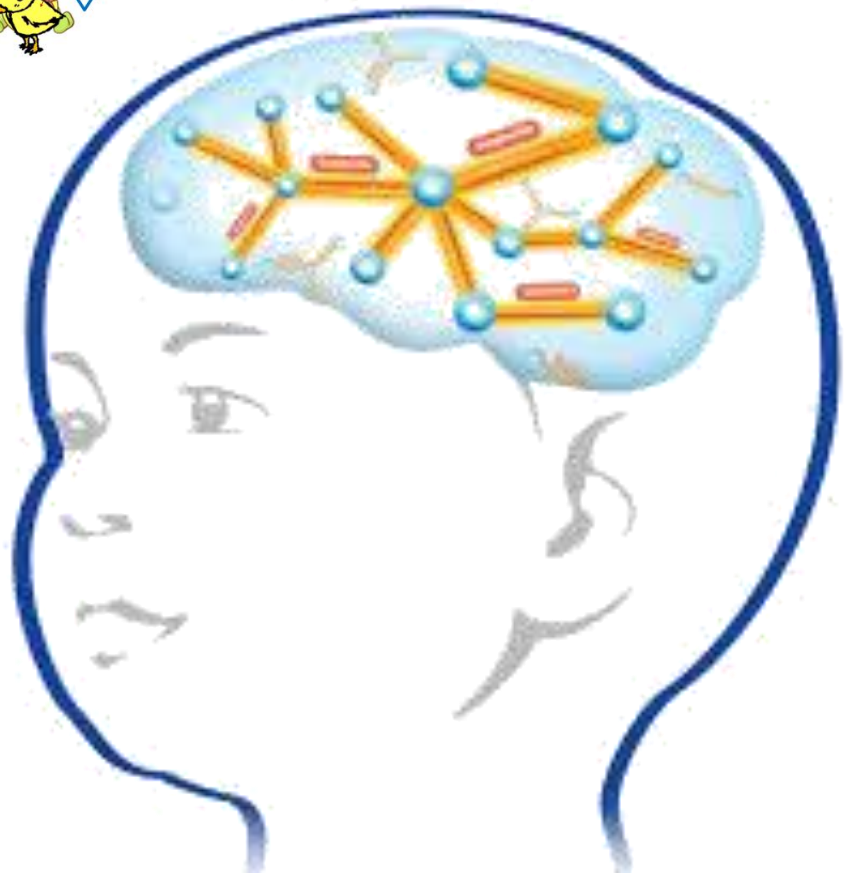


A constellation of concepts results in a “vocabulary explosion” and a toddler’s vocabulary quadruples! (Urban Child Institute, 2019)

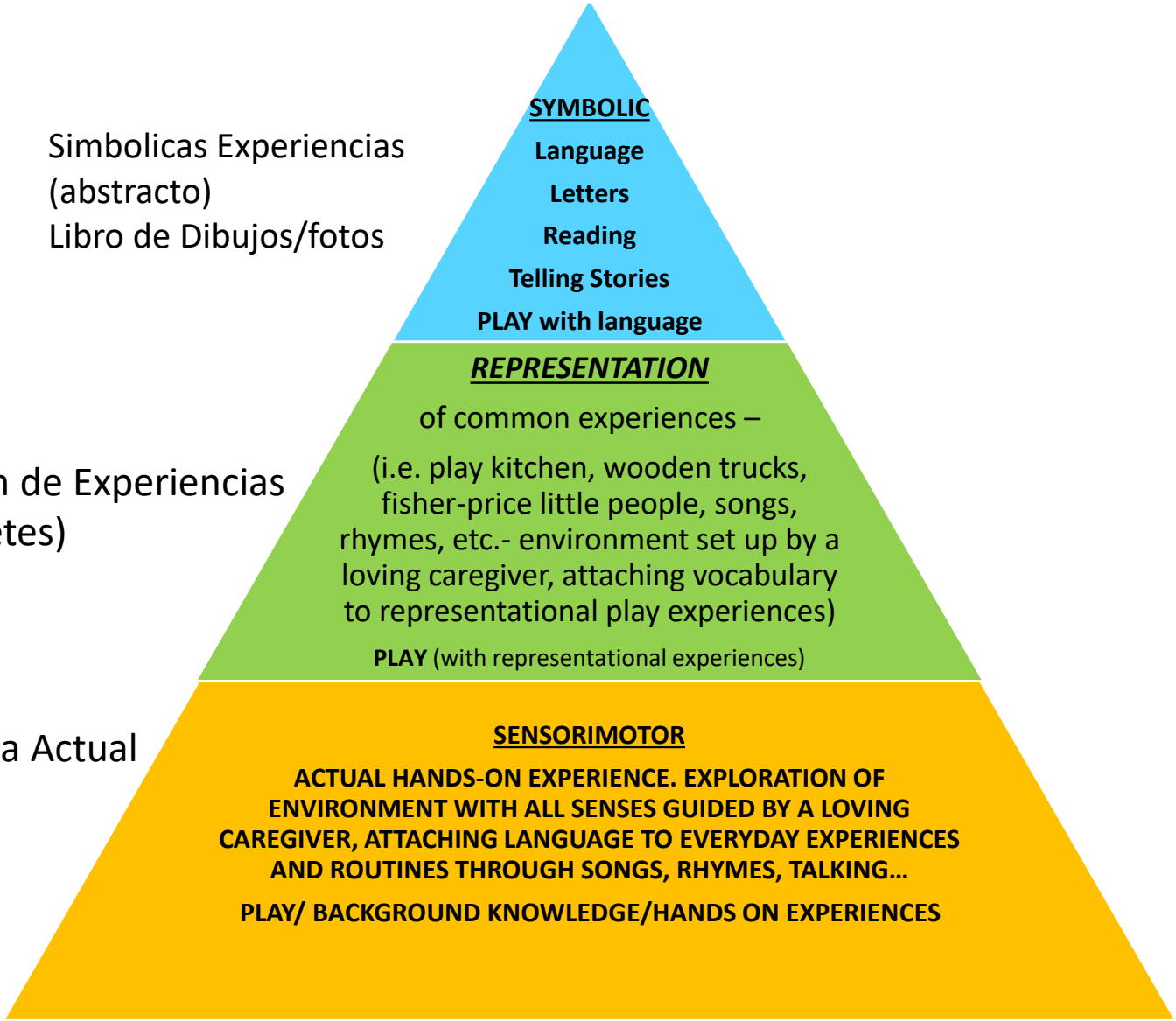








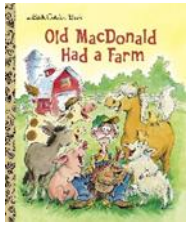
READING is SYMBOLIC:
The child's understanding of these symbols must be built upon a foundation of CONCRETE EXPERIENCE.



Representaciones Simbolicas de experiencias

(abstracto)

Libro de dibujos/fotos



Simulacion de experiencias

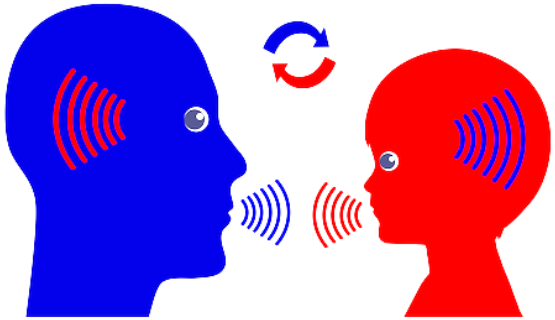
(con juguetes)

Experiencia Actual

Reading is based on the child's hands-on experiences!

Brain Development & Oral Language Development

Listening & speaking…



You are the bridge!

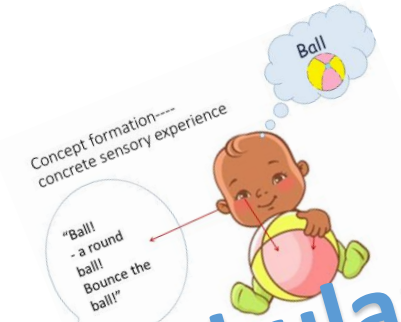
Develop into reading and writing.

A child needs six early literacy skills to get ready to read and succeed!

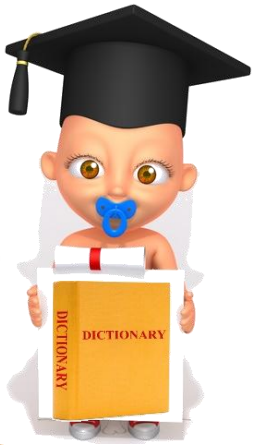
Letter Knowledge

Print Awareness

Print Motivation



Vocabulary



Phoneme Awareness

quack!

woof!

vrooom!

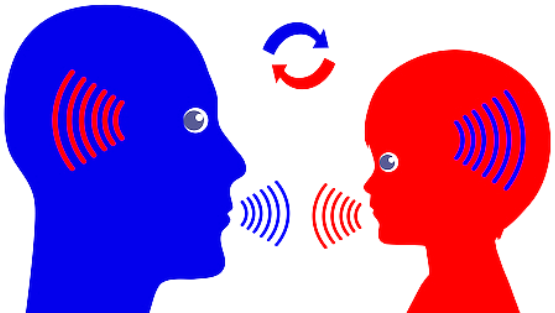
Here are five ways to get those skills:

Singing

Playing

Writing

Talking



Reading