



Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Leveraging Science for a New Era in Early Childhood Policy and Practice

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ECD: Leveraging Evidence for Policy and Practice in Vietnam
Hanoi, Vietnam | 23 May 2023

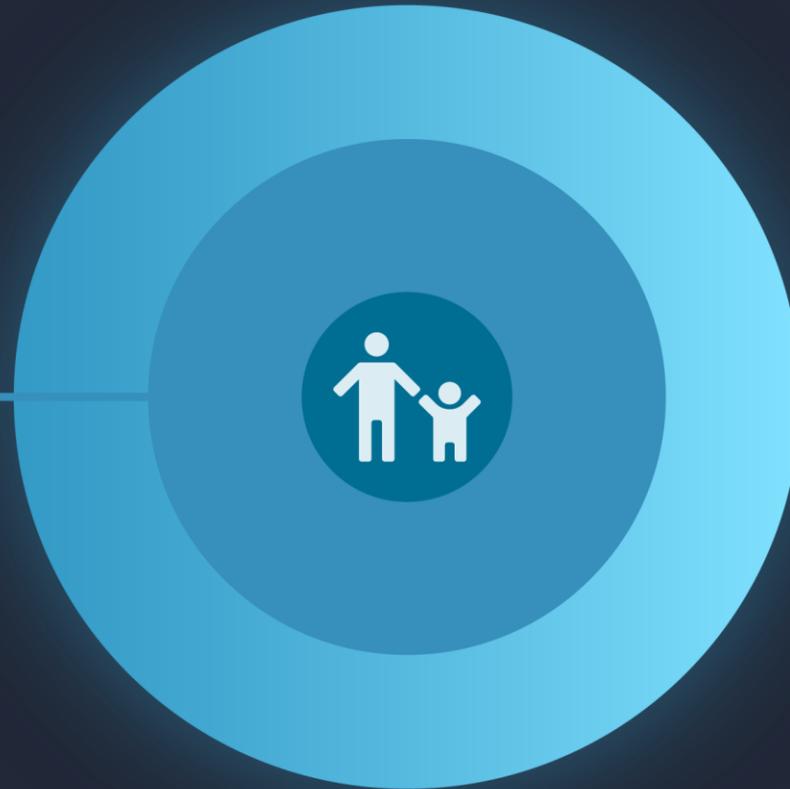
Find Us: Center on the Developing Child at Harvard



The time is ripe for a **mindset shift** in science-informed policy and practice.

ECD 1.0

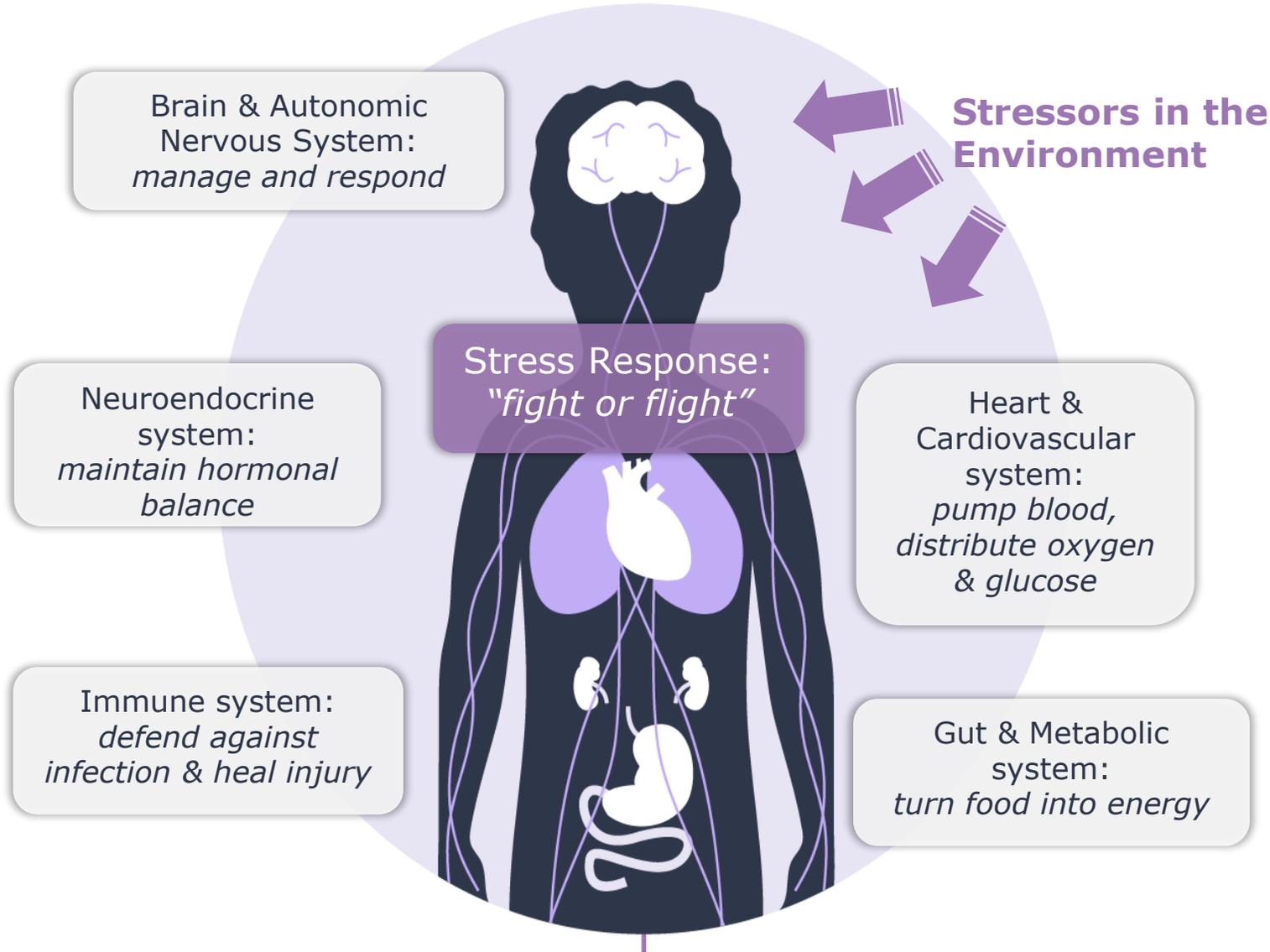
**Early brain development
in an environment of
relationships**



ECD 2.0

**Connecting the brain to
the rest of the body in a
broader ecosystem**

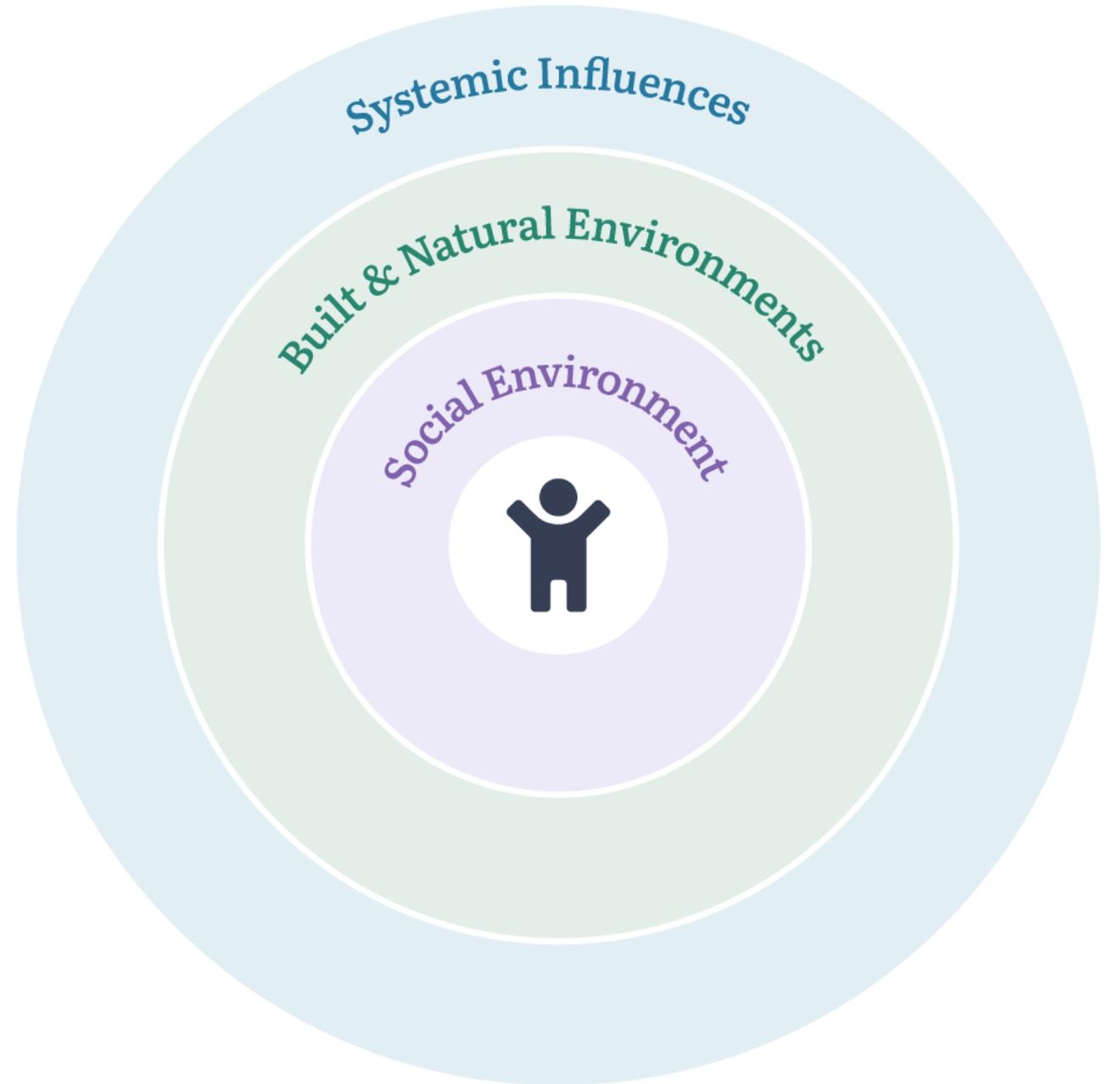
Interactive Development of Multiple Biological Systems



Take-Home:
Supporting families with young children is as much about building a strong foundation for lifelong health as it is about early learning, social-emotional development, and school readiness.

Place Matters: What Surrounds Us Shapes Us

How the environment we create
shapes the foundations of early
childhood development





Social Environment

The presence or absence of key influences in a child's social environment plays an important role in their development.



Responsive relationships



Significant stress and adversity



Caregiver well-being



Social connectedness



Community supports



Faith and cultural traditions



Built & Natural Environments

The accessibility and exposure to various influences in a child’s built and natural environments shape their development directly, by influencing their developing biological systems, and indirectly, by interacting with their environment of relationships.



Air quality and temperature



Clean water supply



Safe green space



Safe, healthy housing



Exposure to toxins and hazards



Economic opportunities

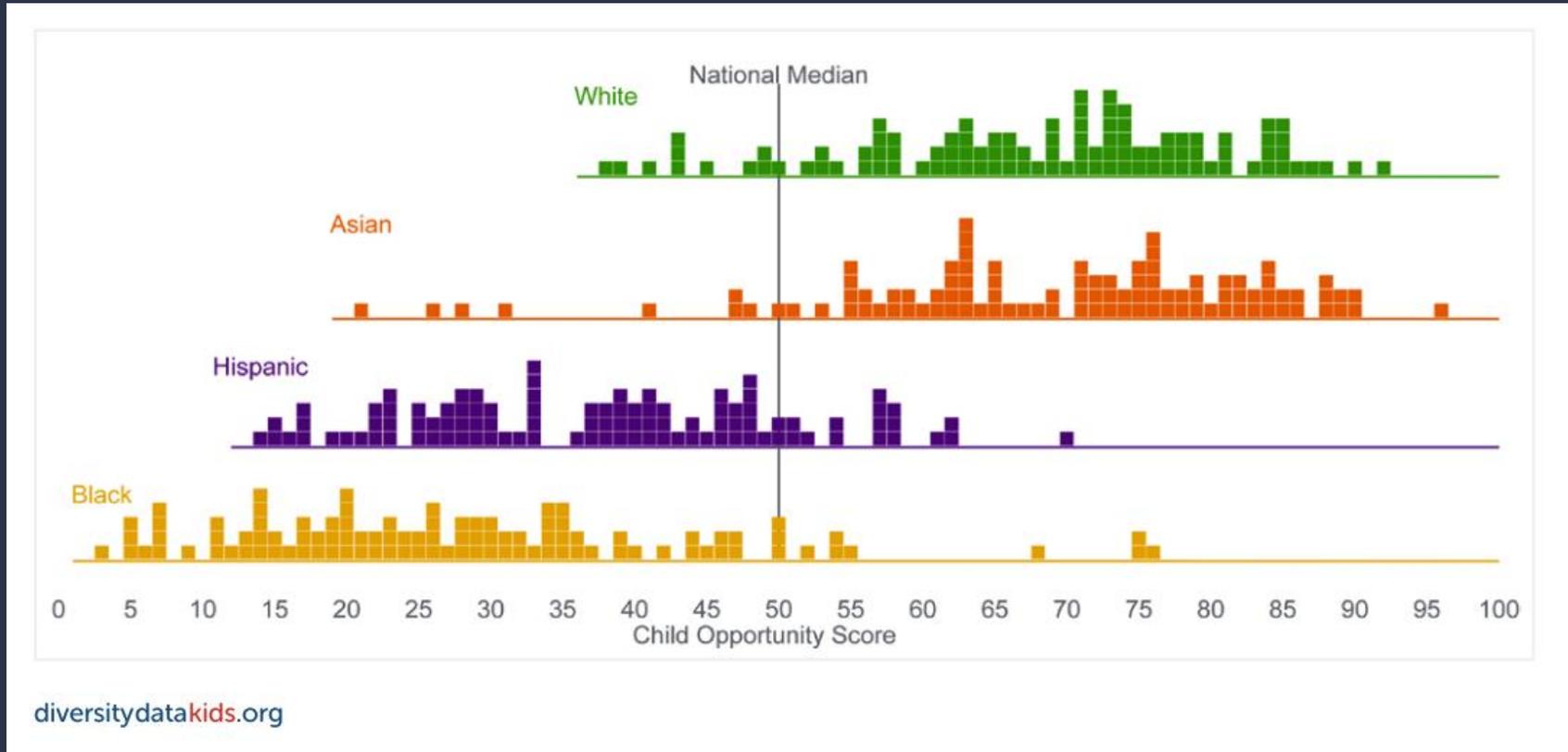


Nutritious food



Neighborhood infrastructure

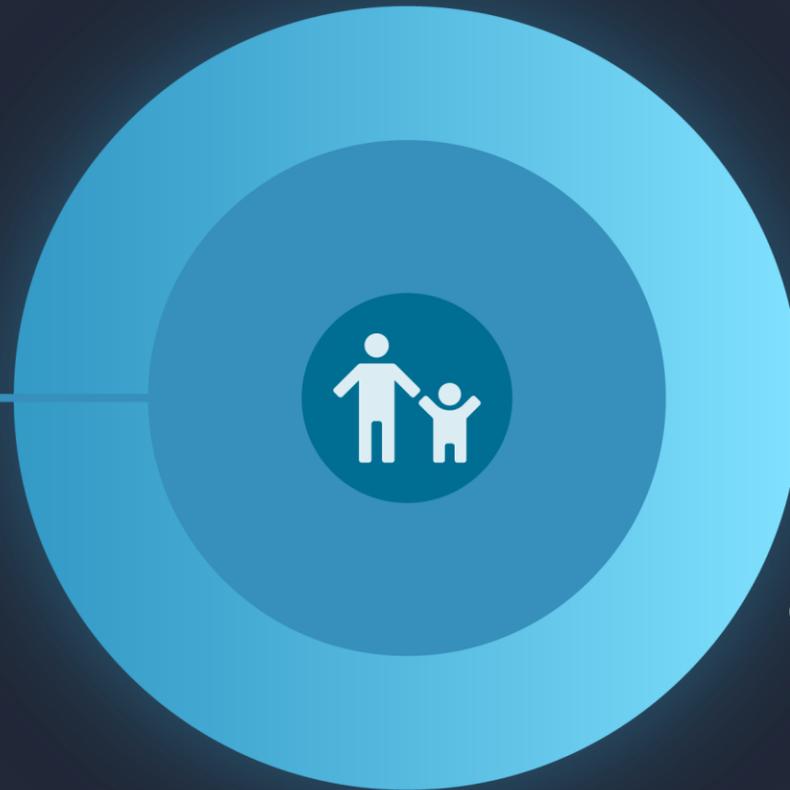
There is an Unequal Distribution of Positive & Negative Influences



Envisioning a Bold Early Childhood Agenda in a World of Inequality and Uncertainty

ECD 1.0

IT'S STILL ABOUT
Caregiver-child
relationships



ECD 2.0

AND IT'S ALSO ABOUT
Communities, business, and
government working together to
assure a supportive and healthy
environment for **all** families
raising young children



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The collage features three distinct content pieces:

- Left:** A report cover from the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. The title is "Connecting the Brain to the Rest of the Body: Early Childhood Development and Lifelong Health Are Deeply Intertwined". It is labeled as "WORKING PAPER 15" and features a large number "15". The footer includes the Center on the Developing Child logo and "HARVARD UNIVERSITY".
- Middle:** An infographic titled "HOW RACE AFFECTS CHILDREN'S BRAINS". The text explains that years of scientific study show that when children's stress response systems remain activated at high levels for long periods, it can have a significant wear-and-tear effect on their developing brains and other biological systems. This can have lifelong effects on learning, behavior, and both physical and mental health. The infographic includes a lightning bolt icon, a stylized human figure, and a helicopter icon.
- Right:** A website banner for the Center on the Developing Child. The title is "CALL TO ACTION: Re-Envisioning Early Childhood Policy and Practice in a World of Striking Inequality and Uncertainty". The text states: "The early childhood field is at a critical inflection point in a changing world. The opportunity to align new science and the lived experiences of families and decision makers across a diversity of sectors, cultures, and political values offers a powerful pathway forward. The need for shared leadership along that path is urgent." A button labeled "Read the Call to Action" is visible. The banner also features a search bar and navigation links: "About", "Science", "Innovation & Application", "Collective Change", and "Resource Library".

www.developingchild.harvard.edu

