

Early Childhood Trauma

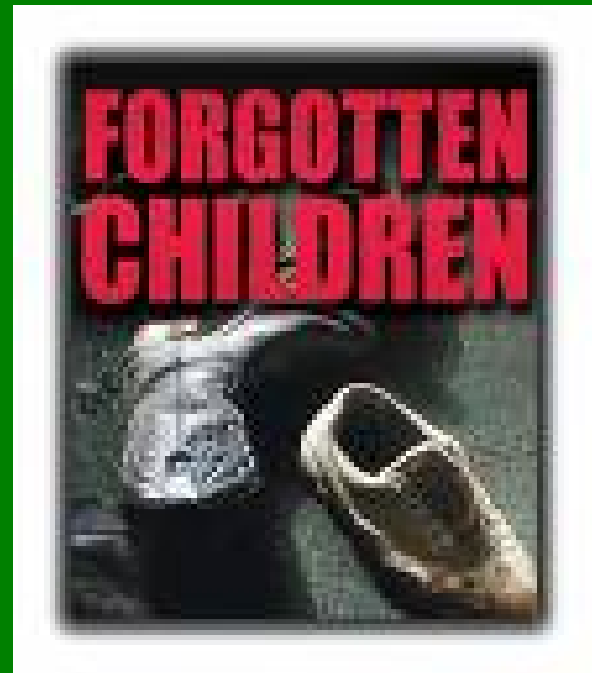
A Call for Foster Care Reform



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Epidemiology of Toddlers in Foster Care

- ❖ 500,000 children in foster care in 2006
- ❖ 25,000 are 3 years old or younger
- ❖ Foster care children are often sicker than homeless children due to the high levels of trauma and a range of risk factors

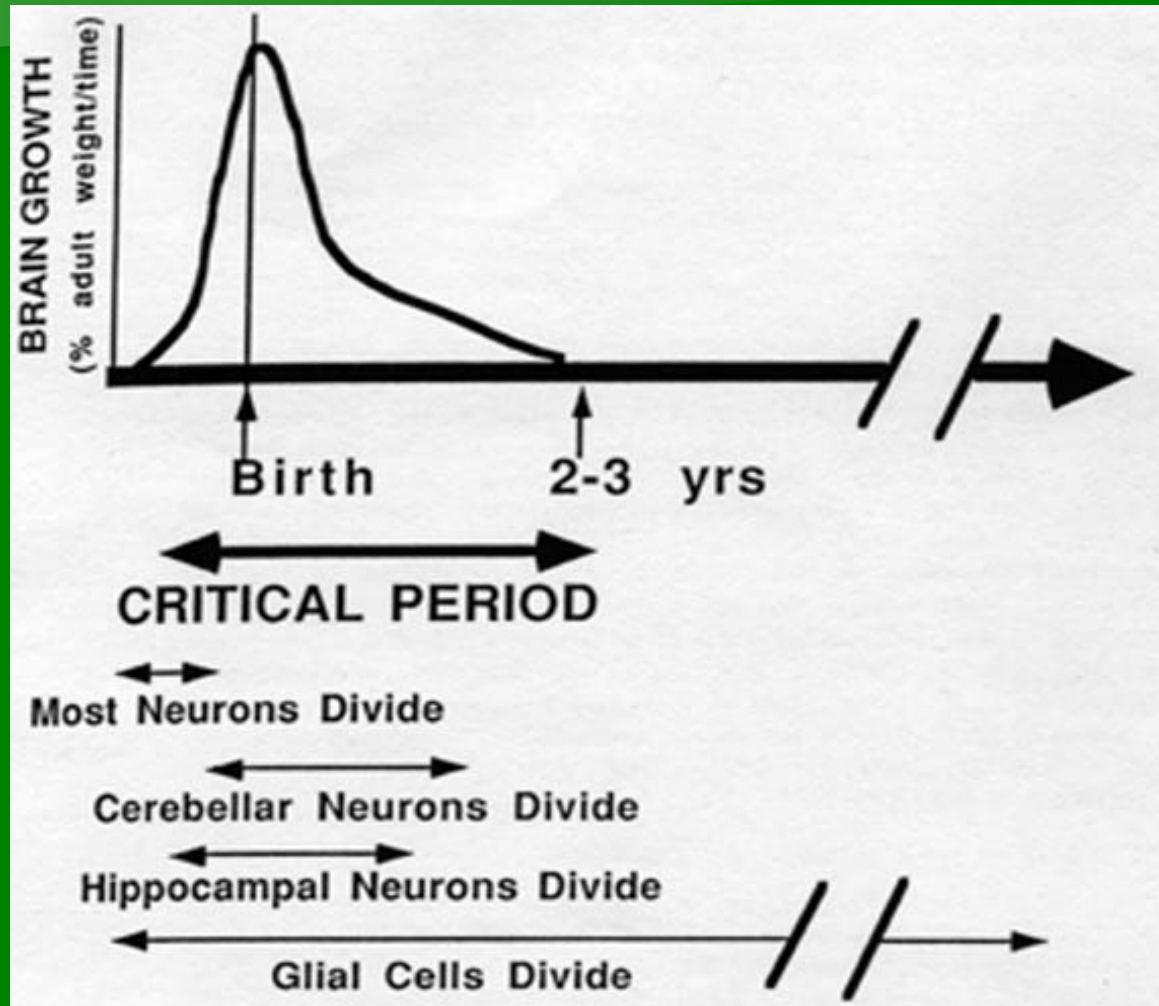


"Foster Care: Health Needs of Many Young Children are Unknown and Unmet" GAO, 1995

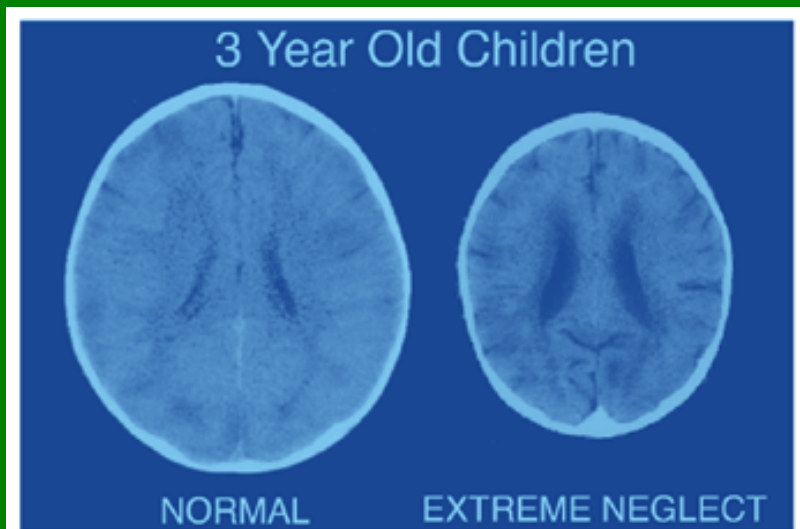
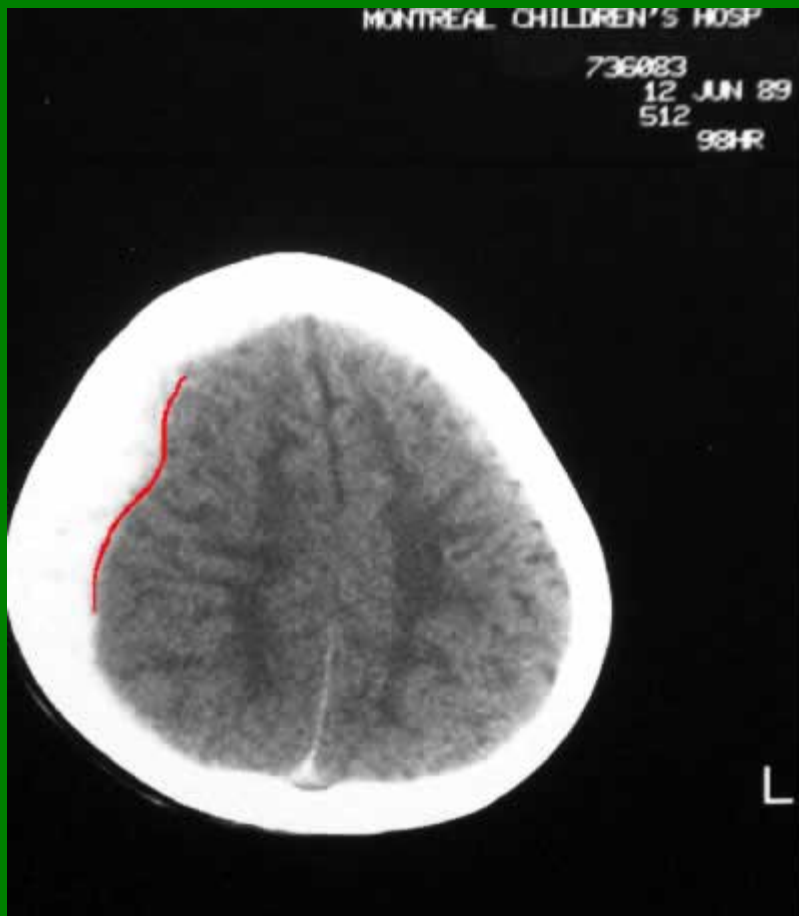
Objectives

- ❖ Describe the neurological consequences of trauma among foster care infants & toddlers
- ❖ Understand and define long-term developmental implications for foster care infants and toddlers
- ❖ Design appropriate research – policy - service delivery

Neurocognitive Consequences of Childhood Trauma

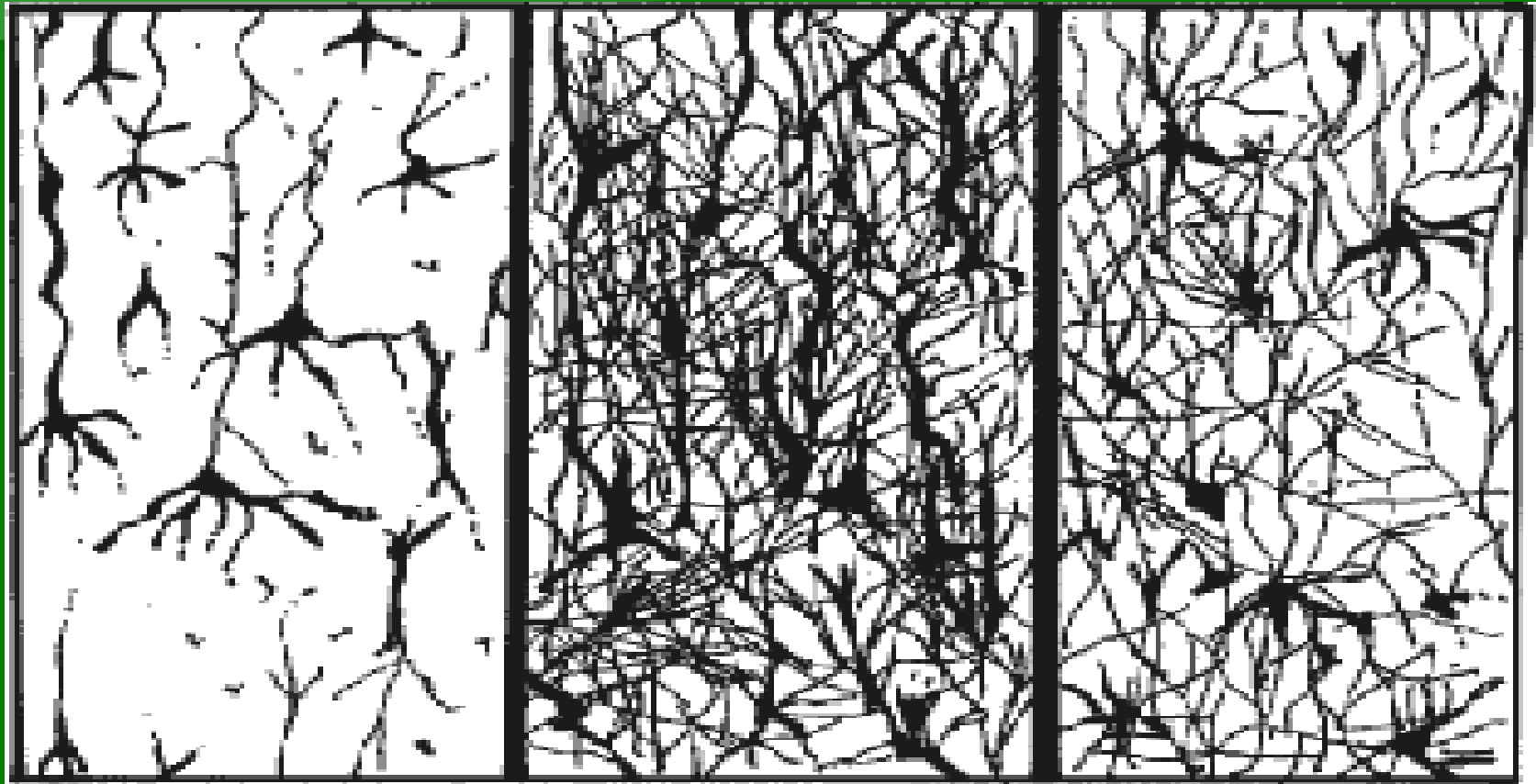


Normal Infant Brain Development vs. Traumatic Brain Injury or Neglect



These images illustrate the negative impact of neglect on the developing brain. The CT scan on the left is from a healthy three-year-old with an average head size. The image on the right is from a three year old child suffering from severe sensory-deprivation neglect. This child's brain is significantly smaller and has abnormal development of cortex.

Synaptic Development



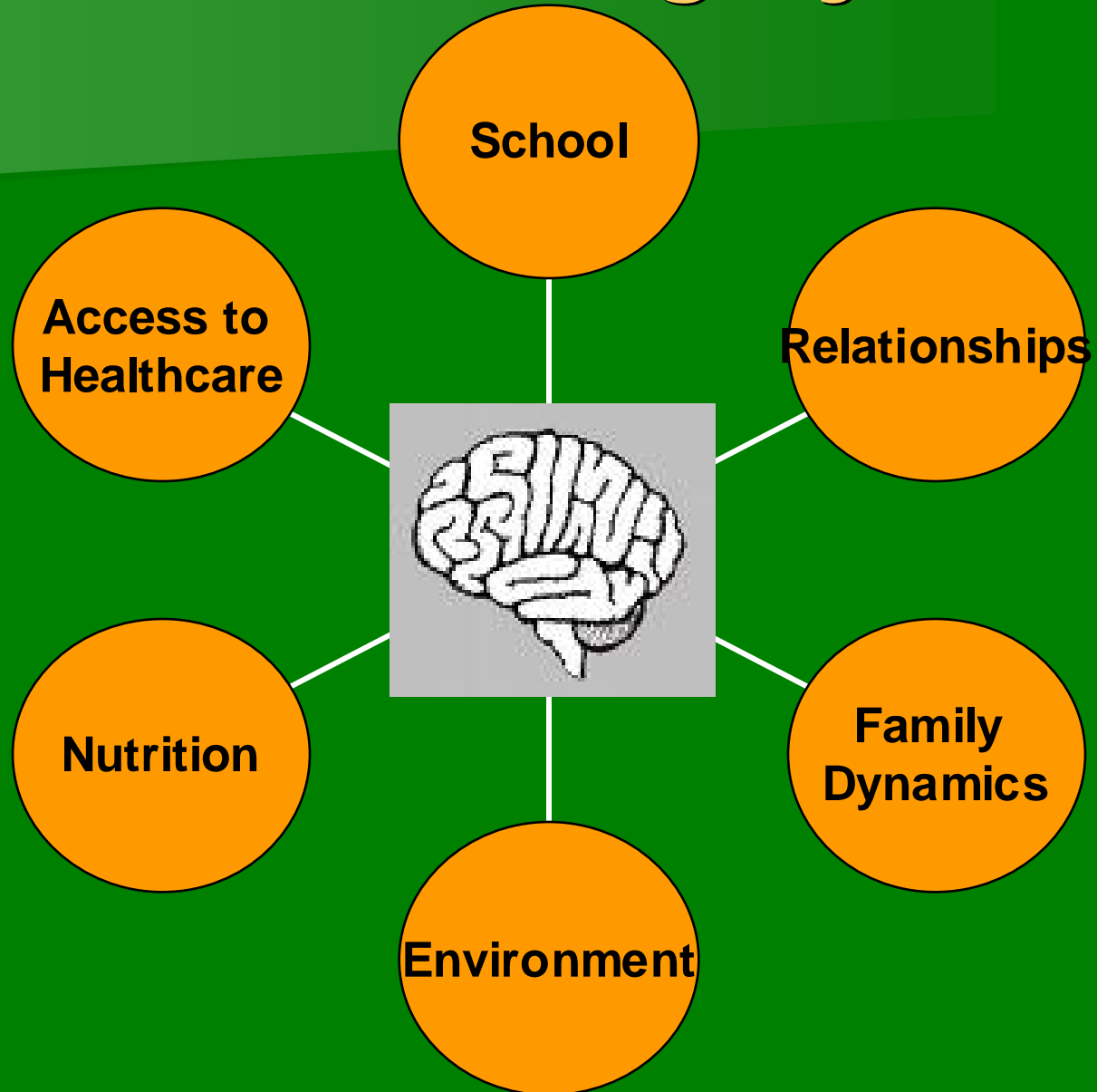
AT BIRTH

AT SEVEN YEARS

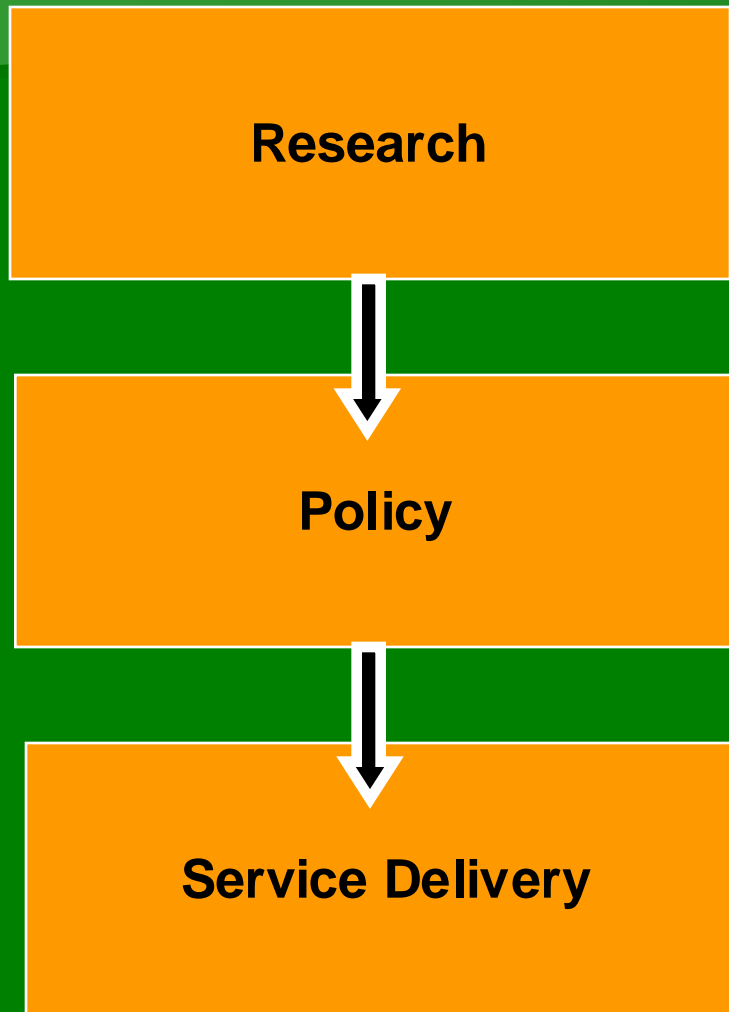
AT 15 YEARS

Sean Brotherson (2005)
Understanding Brain Development in Young Children

Child Rearing System



Evolving Early Childhood Trauma Research





“There is little systematic research examining the effectiveness of clinical interventions with young children.”

Joy Osofsky (2004)

Young Children and Trauma: Intervention and Treatment

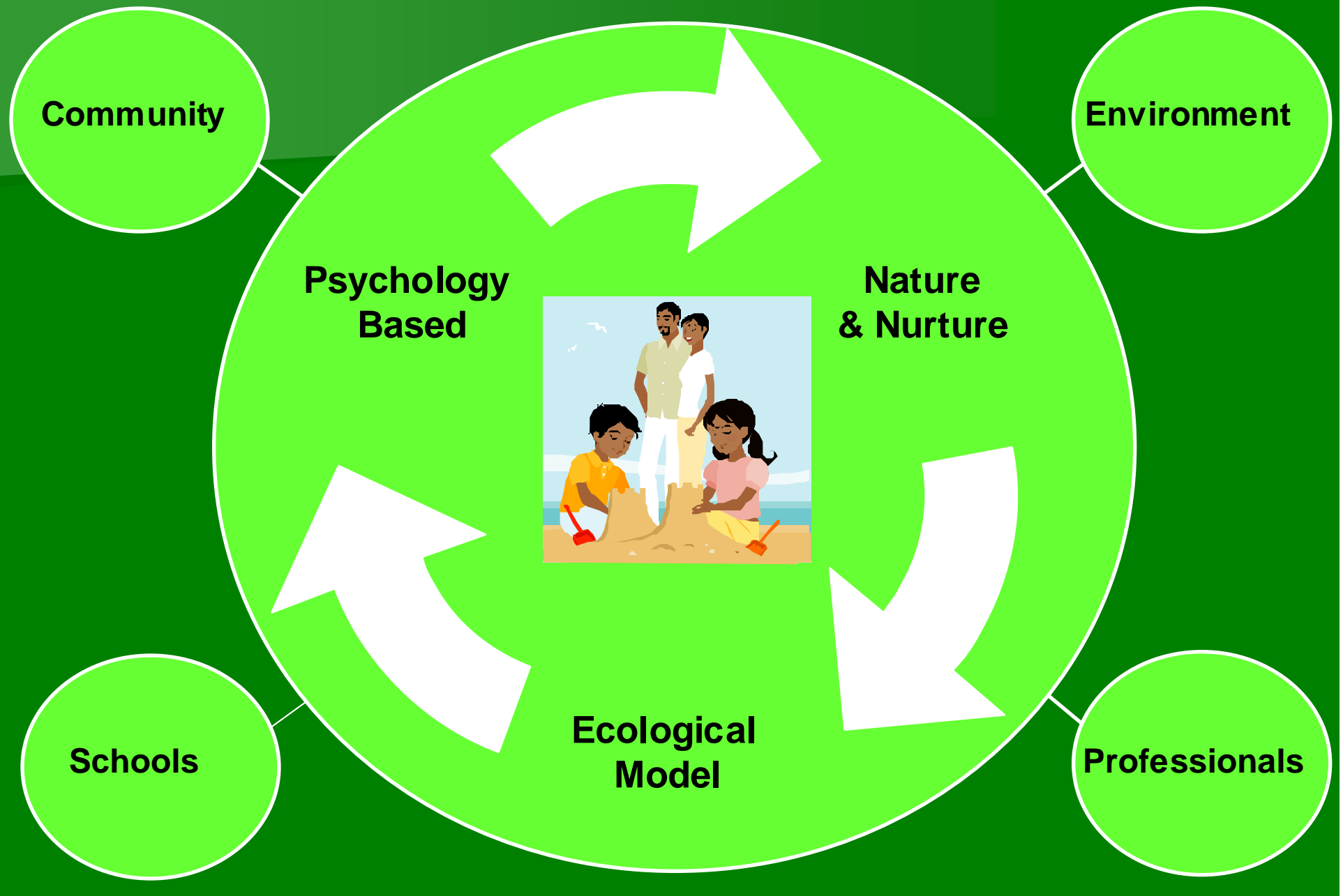
Transactional Method

- ❖ Applicable to several scientific domains
 - ❖ Academia
 - ❖ Clinical settings (translational research)
- ❖ Child  parent
- ❖ Child  environment
- ❖ Unique – the environment viewed as equally important to the development of the child

"Models of developmental regulations: The envirotype" Sameroff, 1989

"Reproductive risk and the continuum of caretaking casualty" Sameroff & Chandler, 1975

Transactional Method



Remediate

Redefine



Reeducate

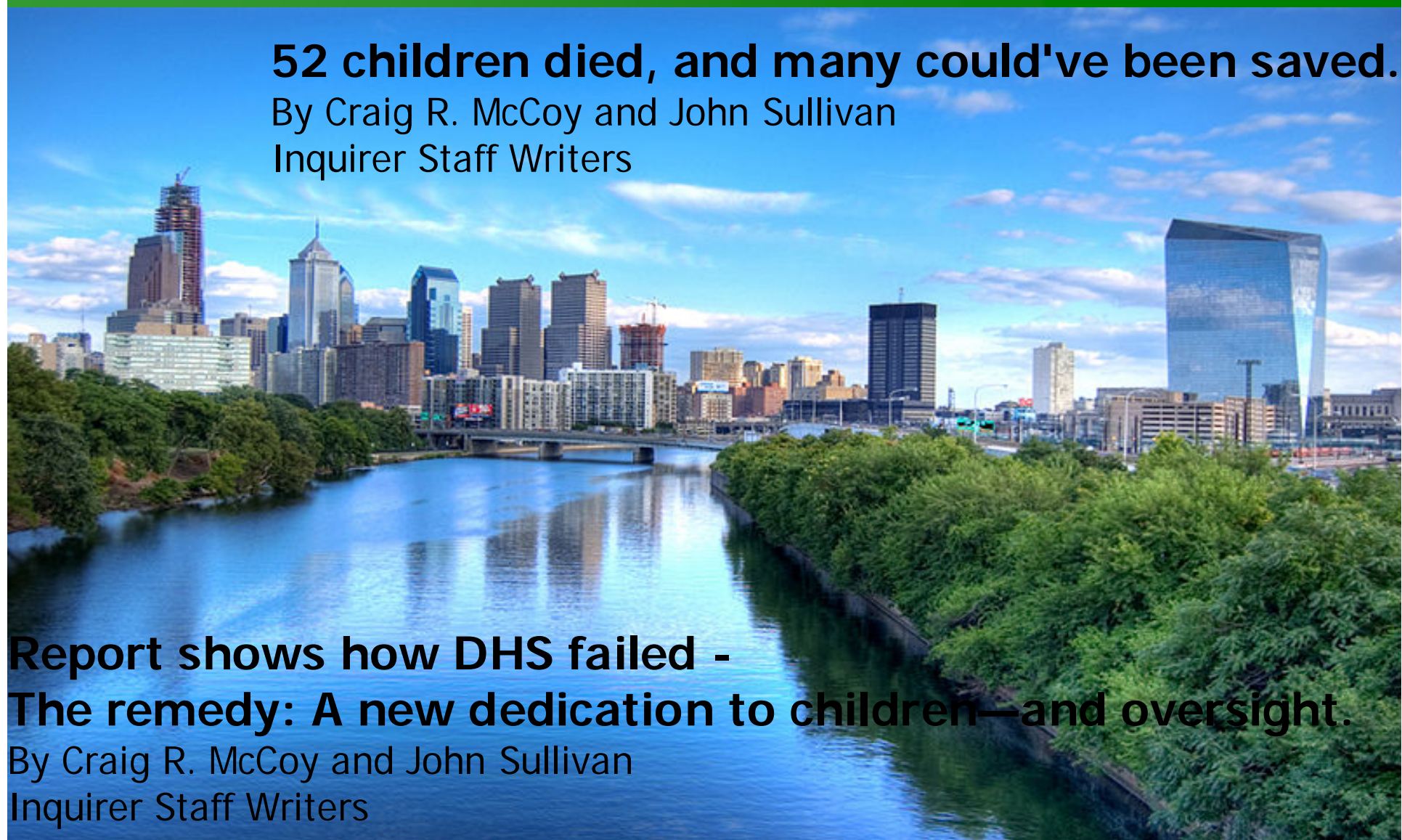
Intervention Focus – Identify which environment is perpetuating the problem

philly.com

The Philadelphia Inquirer

52 children died, and many could've been saved.

By Craig R. McCoy and John Sullivan
Inquirer Staff Writers

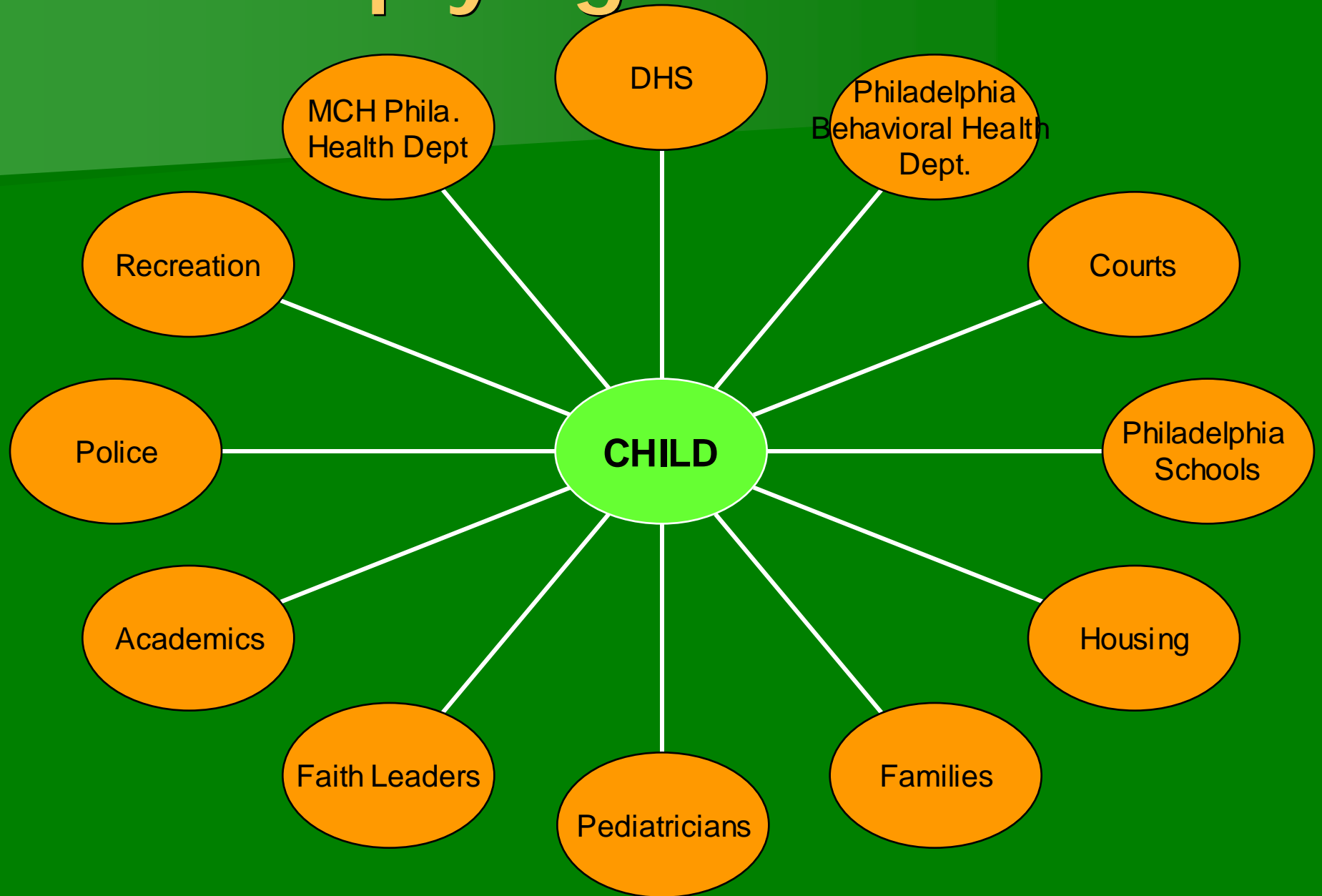


Report shows how DHS failed -

The remedy: A new dedication to children—and oversight.

By Craig R. McCoy and John Sullivan
Inquirer Staff Writers

Multiplying Connections



Future of Foster Care Research



“We worry about what a child may become tomorrow – yet we forget that he is someone today.”

Stacia Tausher

References and Acknowledgements

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