

HE210 Reading Notes

The importance of early years education (Sims, 2013)

Greater recognition of the importance of ece → development of the NQS, child protection framework, national early childhood development strategy, plan for Indigenous children, EYLF.

In the home setting:

- access to literacy, high quality interactions with mother → better literacy and vocab age 5 (Rodriguez & Tamis-LeMonda, 2011)
- higher education levels of parents → higher English and maths achievement at 11yrs (Melhuish et al., 2010)

out of home settings:

- higher quality kindergartens → better academic, language and social skills (Mashburn, et al., 2008)
- attendance at daycare starting from an earlier age → better outcomes at school (EPPE study in the UK). However, those attending low quality did not have an advantage in maths and English achievement but continued to show better prosocial skills.

Impact on health and wellbeing:

- Stress in the early years (eg poverty, unemployment, dysfunctional relationships) → higher risk of clinical mental health problems. Extremely high stress (eg living in a war zone) → higher risk of adult coronary artery disease, chronic pulmonary disease, cancer, alcoholism, depression, mental health problems, obesity.
- Systemic racism also has its impact on mental health, maladaptive behaviours (eg smoking), and physical health (eg hypertension) (Paradies & Williams, 2008).

Reduces later disadvantage/social exclusion:

- Perry High/Scope intervention: ece attendance → by age 40, more likely to be employed, have higher education, living in their own homes. Not reliant on welfare, or engaged in maladaptive behaviour (crime, drugs etc) (Schweinhart et al., 2005)
- Attendance at Chicago Child-Parent Centres by low income children (starting from age 3) → higher rates of school completion, lower rates of juvenile delinquency.

Cost-effectiveness:

- In the Perry High/Scope intervention: by the age of 40years, the return of investment was 17:1 (every dollar spent, there was a return of 17 dollars)