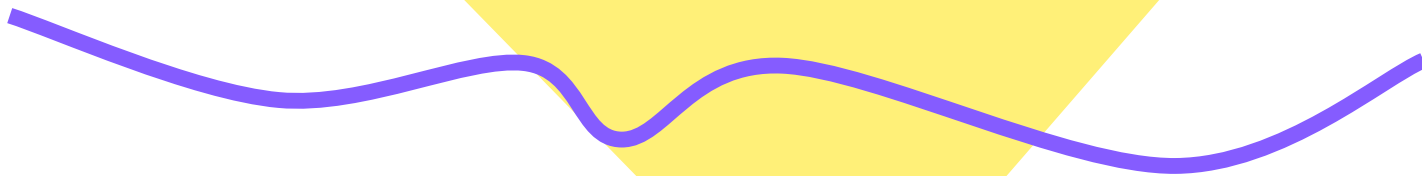




# Current Early Childhood Accomplishments and Challenges

Presentation at Global Leaders Meeting  
Belfast, Ireland  
June 14-15, 2009  
Judith L. Evans



# 1<sup>st</sup> Challenge

Speaking the same language!

ECCD

ECCE

ECD

ECE



The term, "Early Childhood Development" refers both to an outcome and a process. As an outcome, Early Childhood Development (ECD) defines a child's status as being "physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally sound, socially competent and ready to learn. ECD also refers to intertwined interventions of health, nutrition, education and protection services that contribute to the achievement of the outcome.

World Fit For Children Document, UNICEF May 2002.

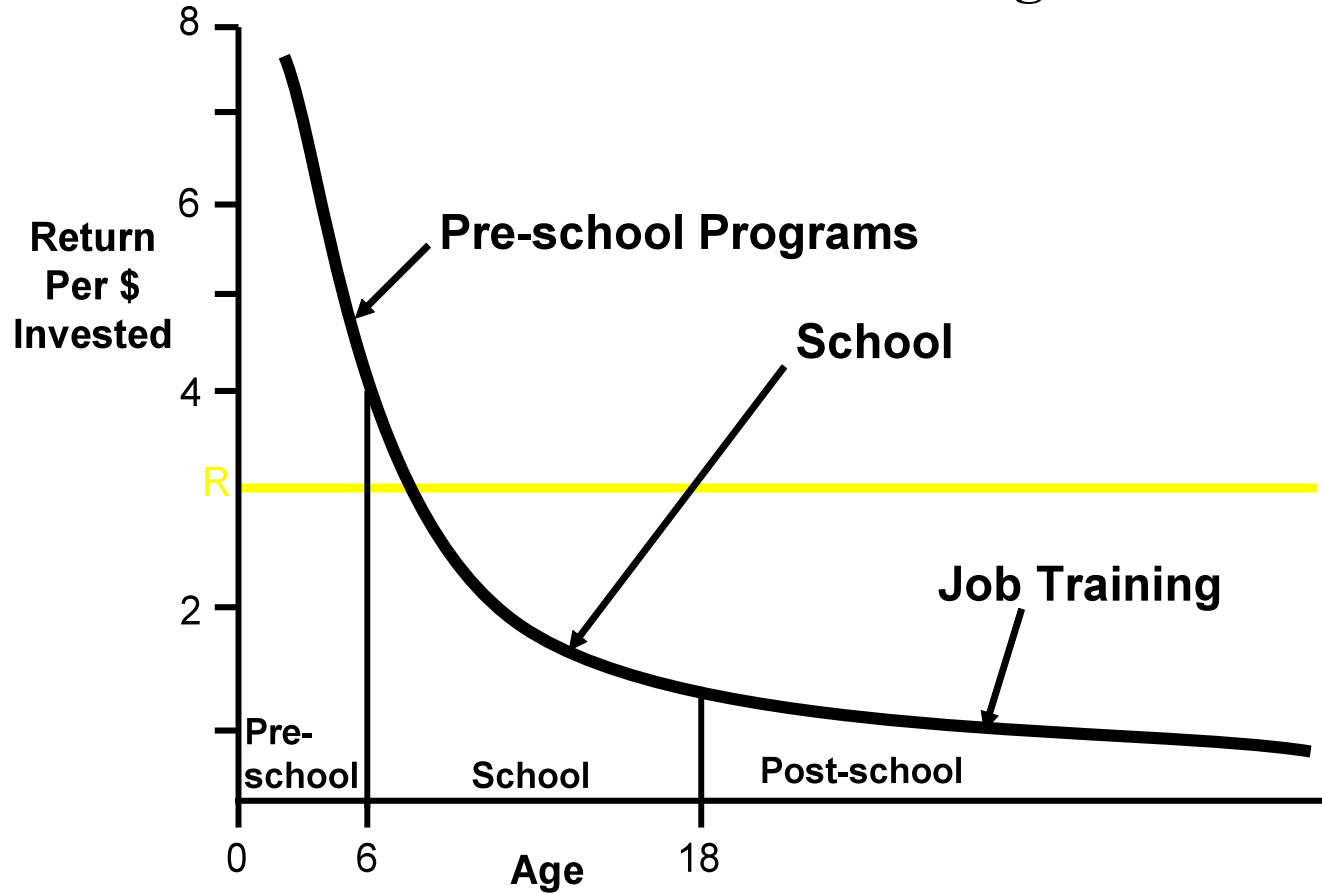


## 2nd

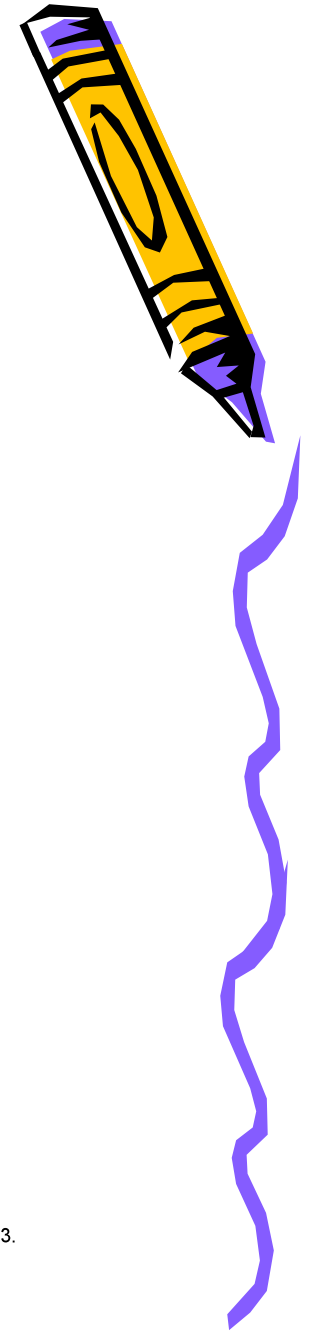
- **Accomplishment:** Getting ECCD on the agenda of donors and countries, using long-term impact data.
- **Challenge:** (1) Developing indicators of immediate, short-term impact. Politicians won't wait!



# Rates of Return to Human Development — Investments Across All Ages



Source: P. Carneiro & J. Heckman, *Human Capital Policy*, NBER, 2003.



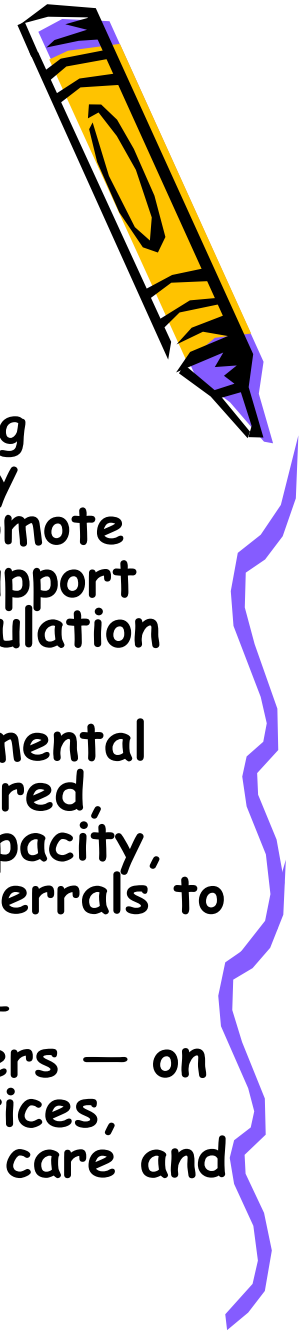
- Challenge: (2) Working with people so that they understand the 'holistic' nature of development - the need for ALL sectors to be involved.
- Challenge: (3) Integrating ECCD activities into Emergency preparation and response policies, plans and activities



# Health



- Complement feeding programs with play activities that promote socio-emotional support and cognitive stimulation
- Ensure that young children's developmental progress is monitored, build parenting capacity, and guarantee referrals to other services
- Educate families — especially caregivers — on basic health practices, such as antenatal care and immunizations



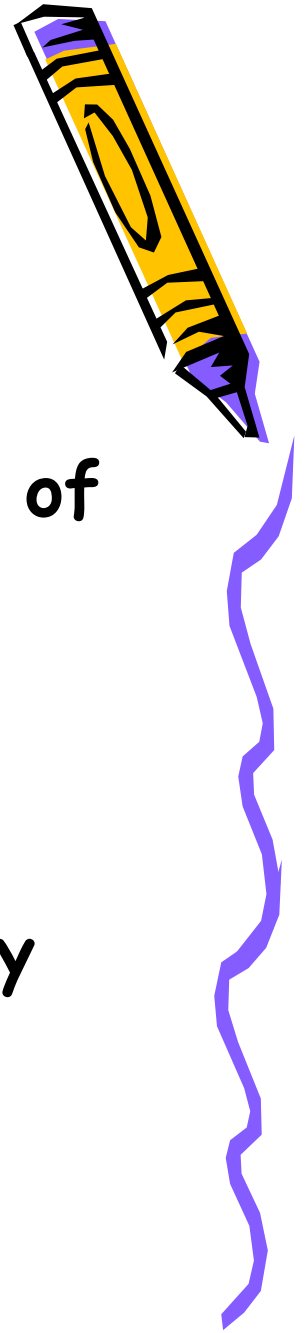
# W.A.S.H. Key Activities

- Guarantee availability of a minimally safe water supply through provision of technical and material support to implementing partners
- Ensure that water and latrines are accessible to all children (i.e., at a level children can reach and/or latrines at a size that is not dangerous for even young children to use) including those with disabilities

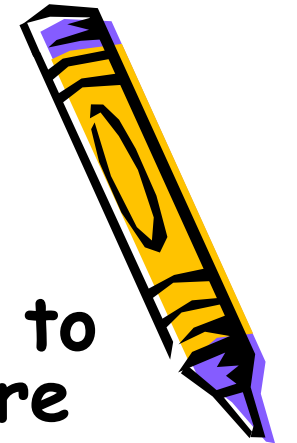


# Nutrition

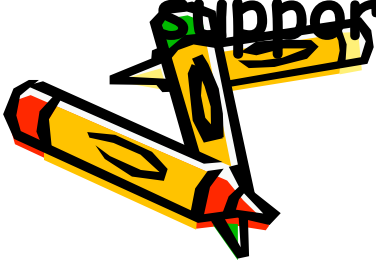
- Support breastfeeding mothers by providing messages on the integration of early stimulation and responsive breastfeeding.
- Ensure adequate micronutrient and vitamin A supplementation for young children.
- Create spaces for caregiver-child play and interaction in all services for younger children, such as feeding programs, hospitals, and clinics.



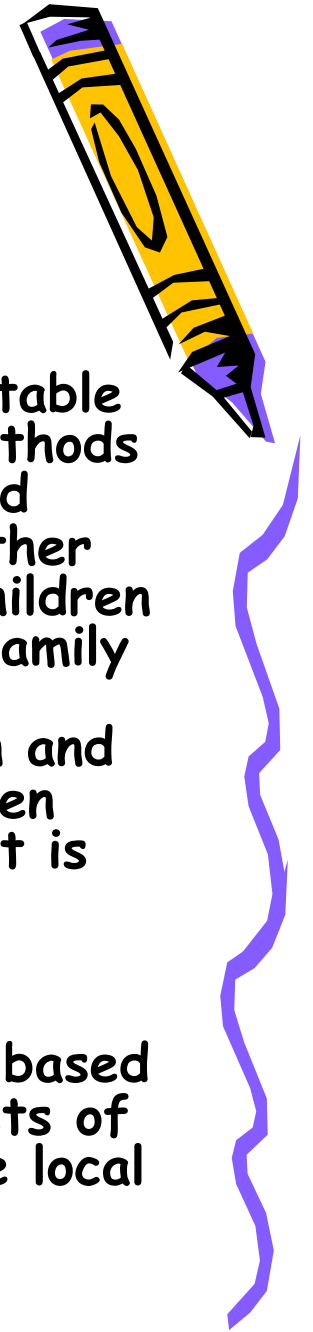
# Education



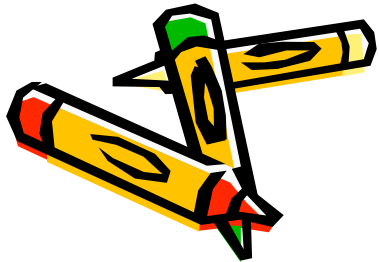
- Ensure young children have safe spaces to play where their developmental needs are met
- Use known games, songs, dances, and home-made toys; these are most practical
- Facilitate activities for young children that promote social community building and non-violence
- Build caregivers' capacities — including mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, and other family members — through support and training



# Protection



- Use culturally acceptable and appropriate methods to keep children and their families together such as teaching children songs about their family name, village, and contact information and tagging children when population movement is likely
- Determine care arrangements for separated children based on the best interests of the child within the local cultural context



# Cross-Cutting Issues

## Gender

ECD activities provide girls with skills to succeed  
Girls are often expected to take on household responsibilities or income-generation activities outside the home

Increase participation of preschool-age children giving older female siblings chance to attend school

Emergencies disproportionately limit girls' access to safe, quality educational opportunities



# Cross-Cutting Issues

## Disabilities

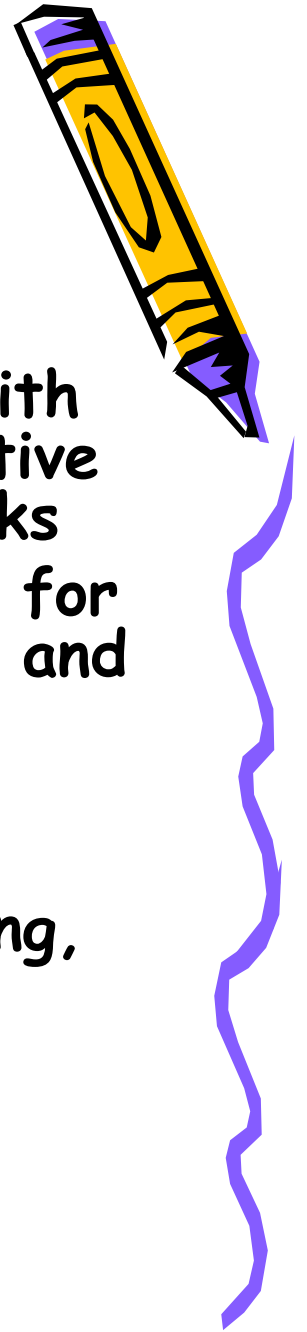
- Common among children who are at risk - geographically, ethnically, language in crisis-affected situations from injury, lack of immunizations or malnutrition, famine or war
- Children with disabilities are among the highest at risk and the most vulnerable during an emergency, and often face neglect.
- They have the same needs as children without disabilities, but it is often more difficult to ensure their needs are met



# Cross-Cutting Issues

## HIV/AIDS

- Vulnerability to HIV infection is high with loss of livelihoods, disruption of supportive and protective family and social networks
- ECCD can be an entry point to services for prevention, care and treatment of HIV and AIDS
- Create Mother-to-Child Transmission interventions
- Health, nutrition, economic strengthening, and psychosocial interventions mitigate impact of HIV and AIDS
- Create Caregiver Support Programs



## 3rd

- **Accomplishment:** Countries are adopting ECD policies
- **Challenge:** Ensuring that there are financial and human resources to implement the policies



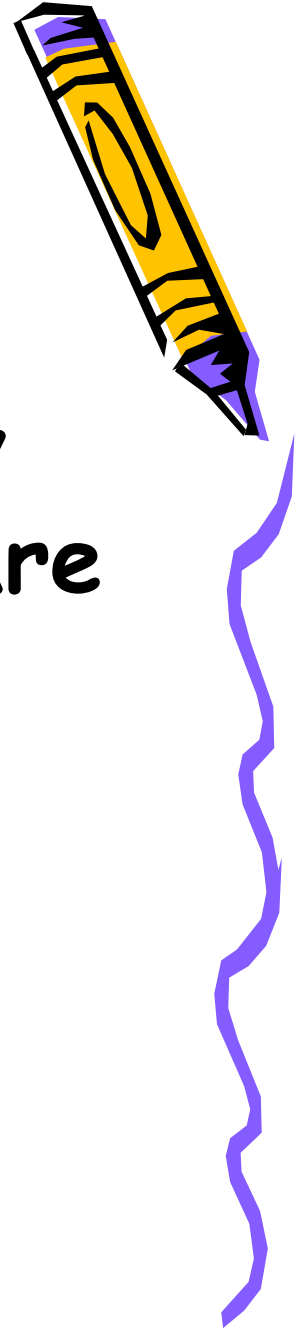
## 4th

- **Accomplishment:**  
Implementation of quality early childhood programs is widespread
- **Challenge:** 'Scaling up' these programs for national coverage.  
Consider a mosaic.



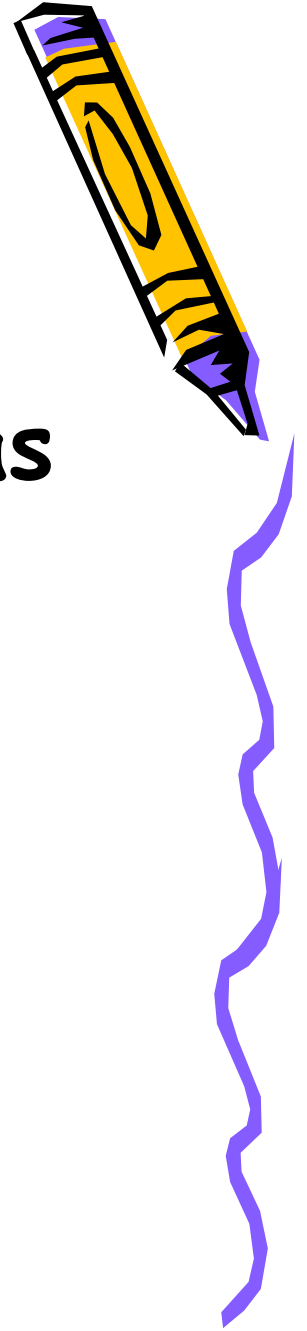
## 5th

- **Accomplishment:** Contextually appropriate ECCD programs are being implemented
- **Challenge:** Resisting the plea for 'best' models that can be replicated world-wide



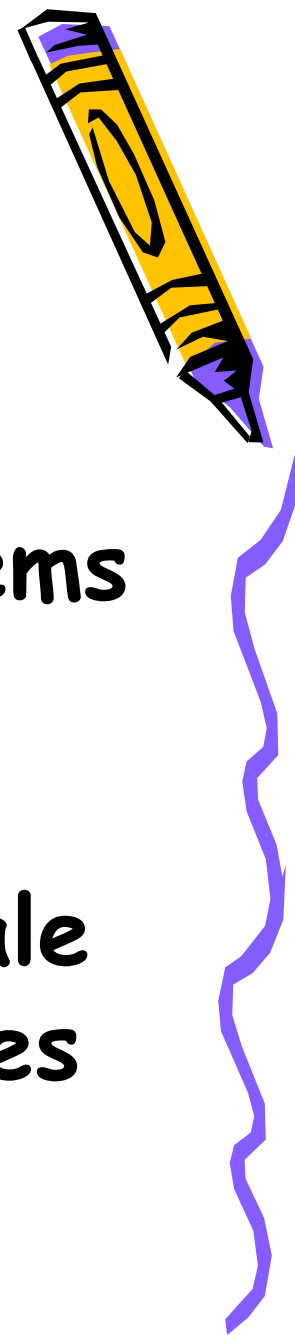
## 6th

- **Accomplishment:** The case has been made for investment in ECCD programs
- **Challenge:** Demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of such programs (e.g. Nepal study)



## 7th

- **Accomplishment:** Creating training and supervision systems that support local capacity development
- **Challenge:** Creating large-scale capacity development activities at all levels within a country.



## 8th

- **Accomplishment:** Creating quality preschools, but...
- **Challenge:** Strengthening access to education for all through: (1) child readiness for school, (2) school readiness for child, and (3) parents readiness to support the child's transition from home to learning centre.



## 9th

- **Greatest Accomplishment:** ECCD has become a a priority for many donors, NGOs & governments.
- **Greatest Challenge:** ECCD needs to become a right!



Now its time to hear from  
you about  
your accomplishments  
and challenges

