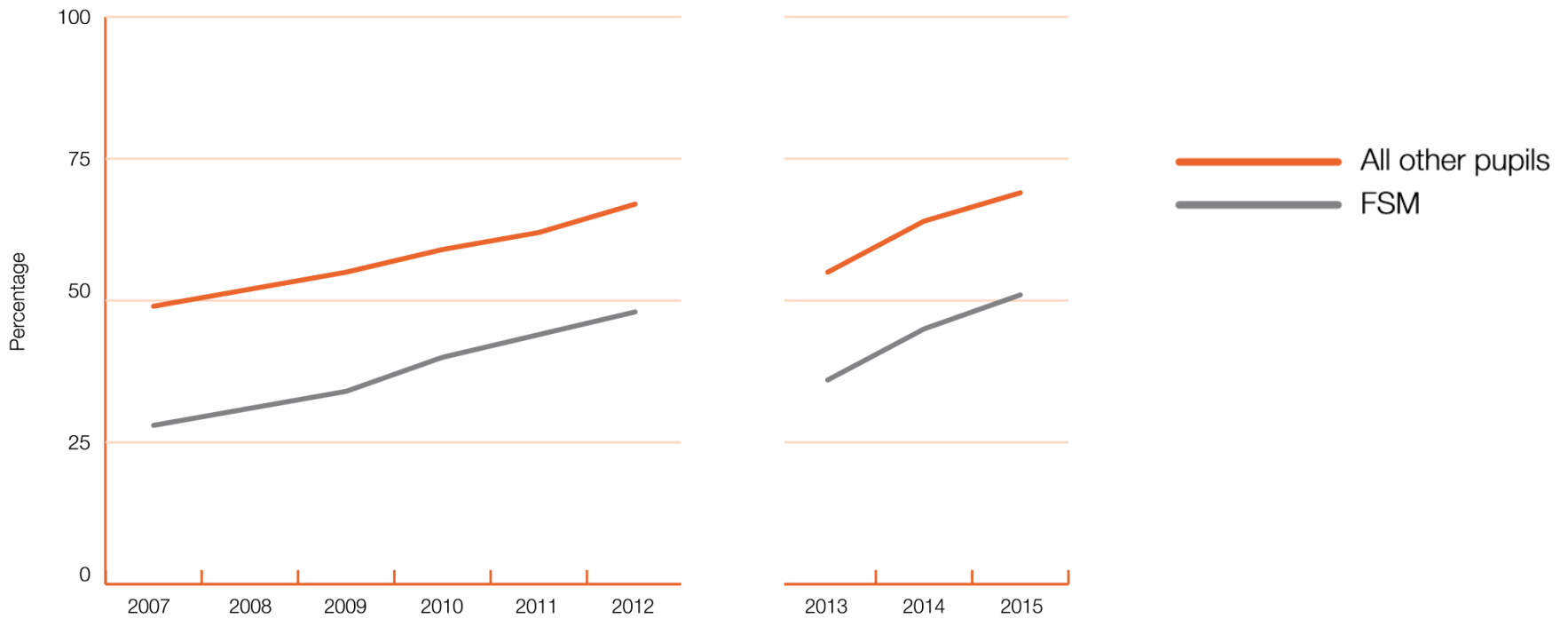


Closing the Development Gap in the Early Years

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A Stubborn Development Gap

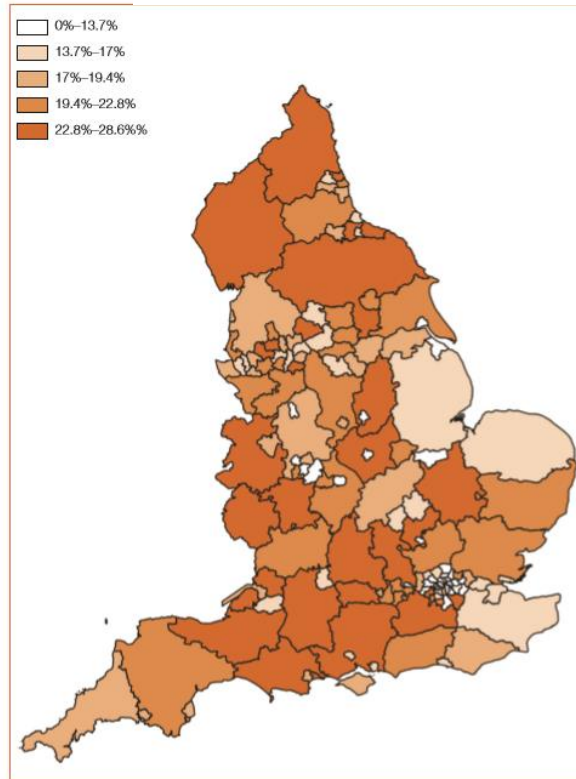
Percentage of children reaching a good level of development at the age of five since 2007



Source: Department for Education, *Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Official Results: 2007 to 2015*, 2015

Large Regional Differences

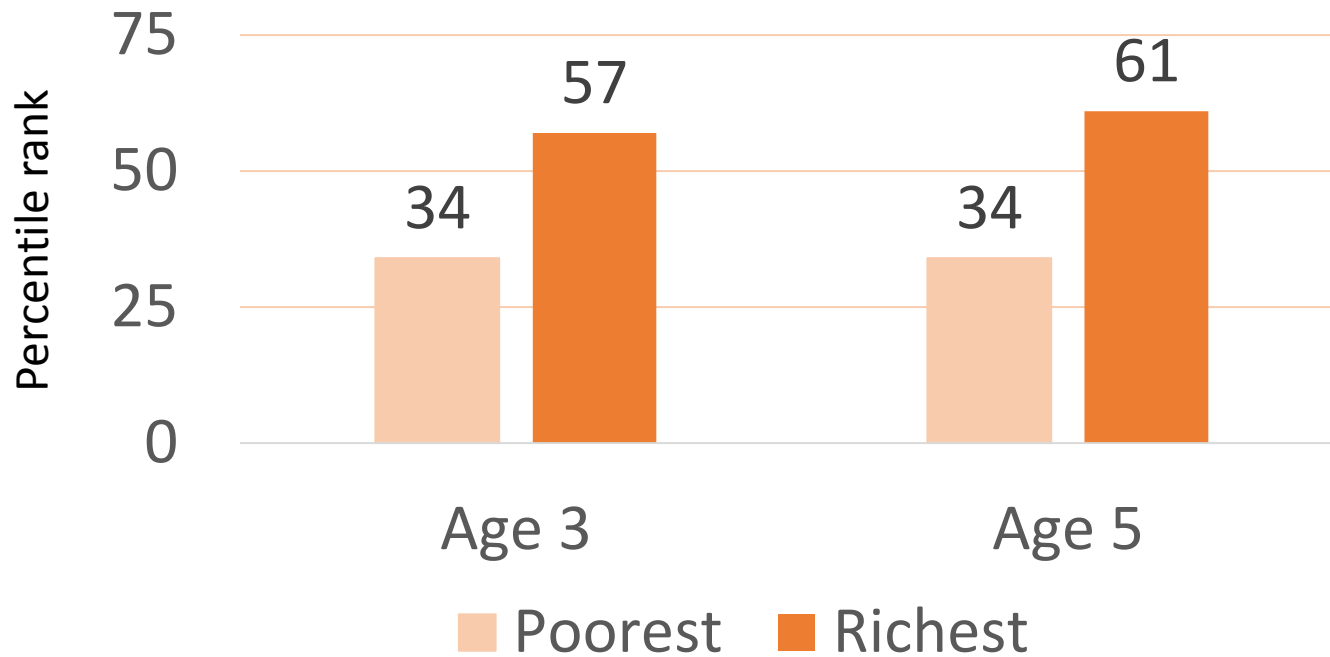
Free school meals gap in the proportion of children reaching a good level of development across local authorities



Source: Bespoke analysis by Education Datalab for the Social Mobility Commission using EYFSP results 2014/15

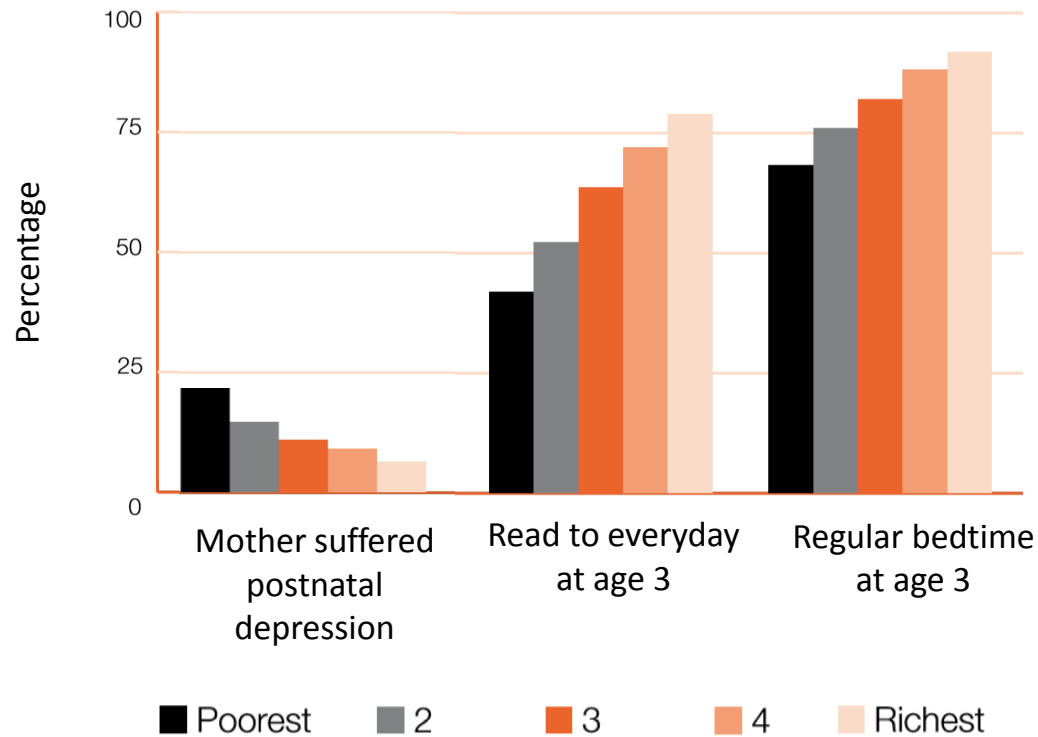
The Gap is Evident at 3

Cognitive outcomes of children at ages three and five by their socioeconomic background



Source: UK Millennium Cohort Study, 2010

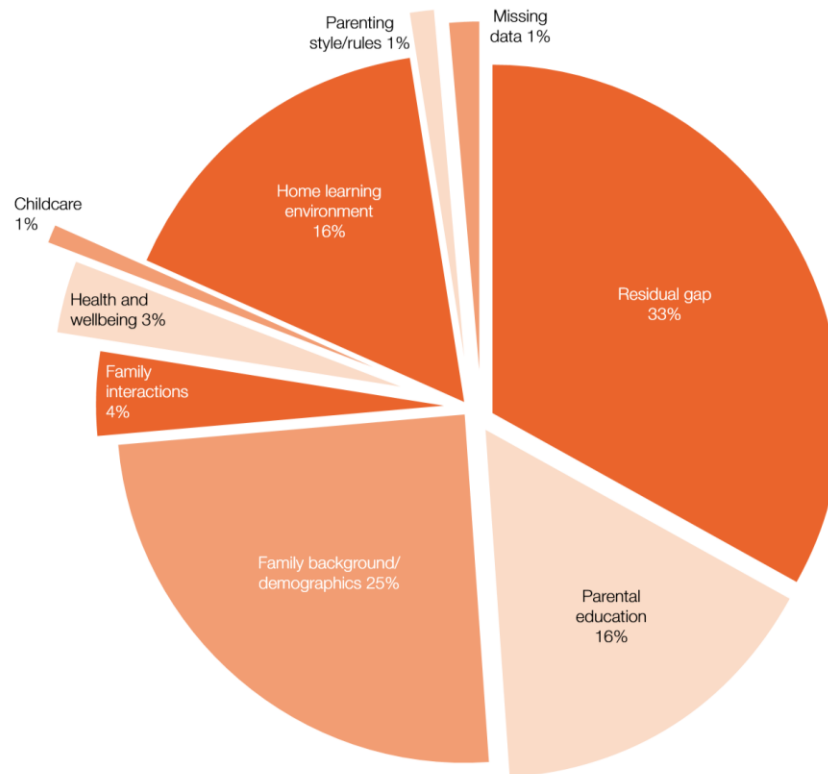
Early Environment by Background



Source: UK Millennium Cohort Study, 2010

What Can Close The Gap?

Explaining the gap between the poorest and richest at age three



- 1. Parent-Child Interactions** (home learning, parenting style, family interactions, health and wellbeing)
- 2. Parental Education**
- 3. Childcare**

Source: Goodman and Gregg, *Poorer Children's Educational Attainment: How Important are Attitudes and Behaviour?*, 2010

Support for Parents Helps Close the Gap

- 1. Parent-Child Interactions:** EIF has found **17** programmes in the UK with sound evidence of positive impact on child development.
- 2. Parental Education:** A number of reading programmes are proving effective (e.g., **85%** of Quick Reads participants feel more confident).
- 3. Childcare:** A 5 year old who has had two years of childcare is **8 months** ahead in literacy versus peers who have not – effects are strongest for disadvantaged children.

Source: [Early Intervention Foundation, “Foundations for Life”](#); [Quick Reads Evaluation 2016 - Reading Agency](#); Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education Project (EPPSE 3-16+), 2015

Problems

- Limited support for new parents & limited evaluation of what works
- Disadvantaged children are getting squeezed out of high-quality childcare – the 30-hour free entitlement may make matters worse
- Low uptake of the 2 year old childcare free entitlement

Discussion Questions

1. How are you supporting new parents?
2. How can you help disadvantaged children access the best childcare?
3. How can you make the most of the 2 – 2 ½ check for disadvantaged children?
4. How can you increase the quality and availability of childcare in your area? How are you enabling collaboration and knowledge sharing?
5. How can you boost uptake of the free entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds?

Parent-Child Interaction Programmes

Evidence-Based Programmes in the UK			
Area	Programme	Evidence Rating (Out of 4; is highest)	Cost Rating (Out of 5; 5 is highest)
Attachment	Child First	3	5
	Child-Parent Psychotherapy	3+	Missing
	Infant-Parent Psychotherapy	3+	Missing
	Family Foundations	4	1
	Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)	4	5
Behaviour	Empowering Parenting and Empowering Communities (EPEC)	3	1
	Family Check-Up (FCU)	3+	2
	Helping the Noncompliant Child	3	3
	Hitkashrut	3	2
	Incredible Years Preschool	4+	2
	ParentCorps	3+	2
	The New Forest Parenting Programme	3+	3
	Triple P Discussion Groups	3+	1
	Triple P Group	3+	1
	Triple P Standard	3	2
Cognitive	Let's Play in Tandem	3	3
	Raising Early Achievement in Literacy Project (REAL)	3	3

Source: Early Intervention Foundation, "Foundations for Life" <http://www.eif.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FFL-Overview-document-FINAL-1.pdf>