



**MINNESOTA FAMILY
IMPACT SEMINARS**

**Options for a Responsive
and Accountable
Early Childhood Education System
in Minnesota**

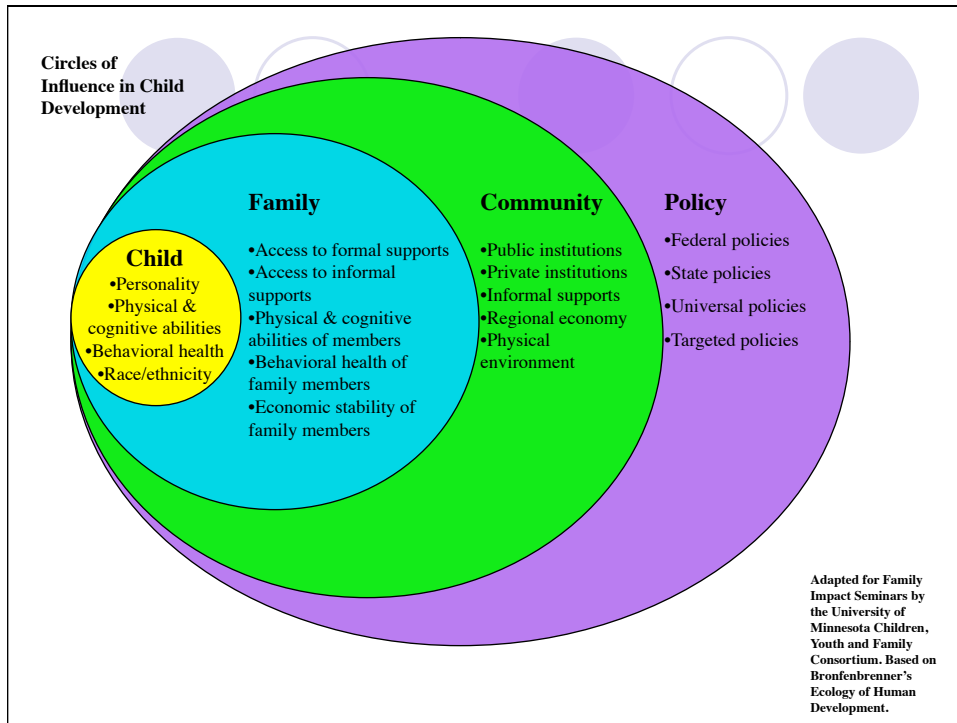


**Early Childhood Policies
from Ecological and
Family Impact Perspectives**

April 25, 2008

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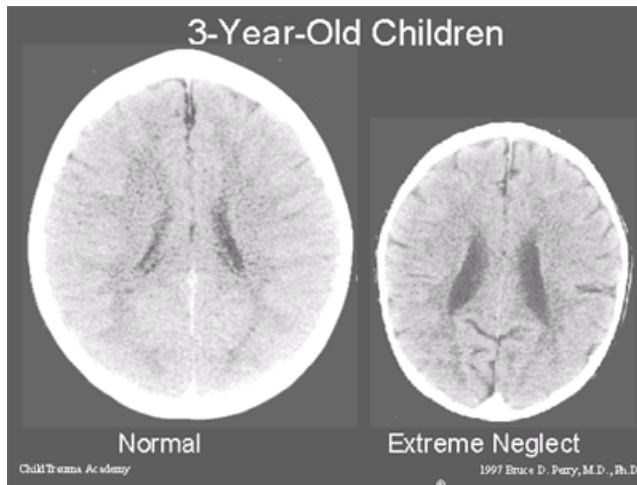


Child Environments influence children

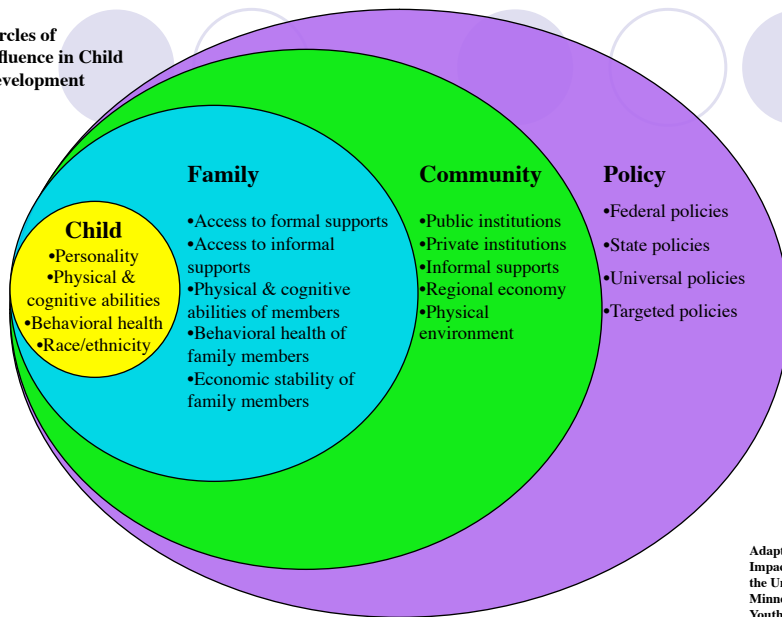
- Environments include people, things, activities
- Important because nature and nurture both matter
- Environments influence learning and behavior throughout lifespan, but have particular importance during the early years

Child

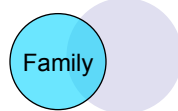
A Dramatic Example



Circles of Influence in Child Development



Adapted for Family Impact Seminars by the University of Minnesota Children, Youth and Family Consortium. Based on Bronfenbrenner's Ecology of Human Development.

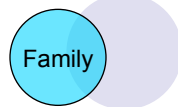


Policy influences Family influences Child

Family Focused Questions:

What can government and community institutions do to enhance the family's capacity to help itself and others?

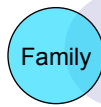
What effect does (or will) this policy (or program) have for families? Will it help or hurt, strengthen or weaken family life?



Policy influences Family influences Child

- In Minnesota...
 - Most families use some non-parental care for young children
 - Children five and under spend an average of 27 hours per week in non-parental care
 - As in nearly every other state, child care costs about as much or more than tuition at public college
 - Can be challenging to compare care

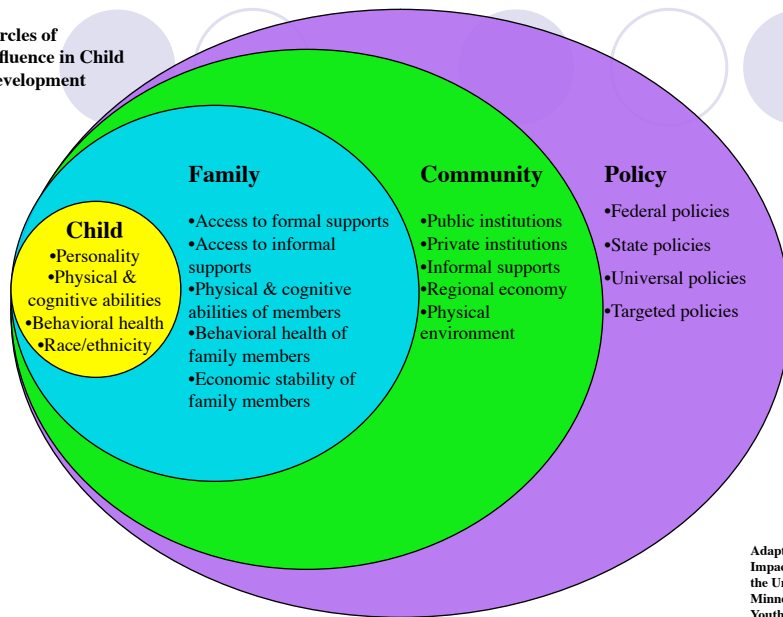
Minnesota Department of Human Services. November 2005. *Child Care Use in Minnesota.*



The Family Impact Checklist

- ✓ Family support & responsibilities
- ✓ Family partnership & empowerment
- ✓ Family membership & stability
- ✓ Family diversity
- ✓ Family involvement & interdependence
- ✓ Support of vulnerable families

Circles of Influence in Child Development



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