

CHILDREN IN NEED

Poverty & Education

Strategies for Student Success



Dawn Butler, Presenter

- ❖ Favorite way to spend free time: Reading and spending time with her family
- ❖ Former High School Teacher
- ❖ Taught for 11 years
- ❖ Current Role: Curriculum & Instruction Specialist at Learners Edge



Childhood Poverty in America

Children living in low-income, poor families:

39% in 2008

44% in 2014

“Children raised in poverty rarely choose to behave differently, but they are faced daily with overwhelming challenges that affluent children never have to confront, and their brains have adapted to suboptimal conditions in ways that undermine good school performance.”

-Eric Jensen – Teaching with Poverty in Mind

(1) <http://www.nccp.org/topics/childpoverty.html>

Adverse Childhood Experiences (aka ACEs)

Children living in low income areas are at high risk for experiencing multiple ACEs

EXAMPLES of ACEs:

- Living in unsafe neighborhoods
- Abuse
- Death
- Divorce
- Hunger

Untreated and chronic trauma can trigger mental health issues, lag in cognitive development and function, and increased absences

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How are children affected by poverty and multiple ACEs?

- Socially
- Emotionally
- Academically

Social Effects

Intergenerational Poverty

Students IQ scores do not determine their destiny...

...emotional skill sets and their efforts are better predictors of achievement.

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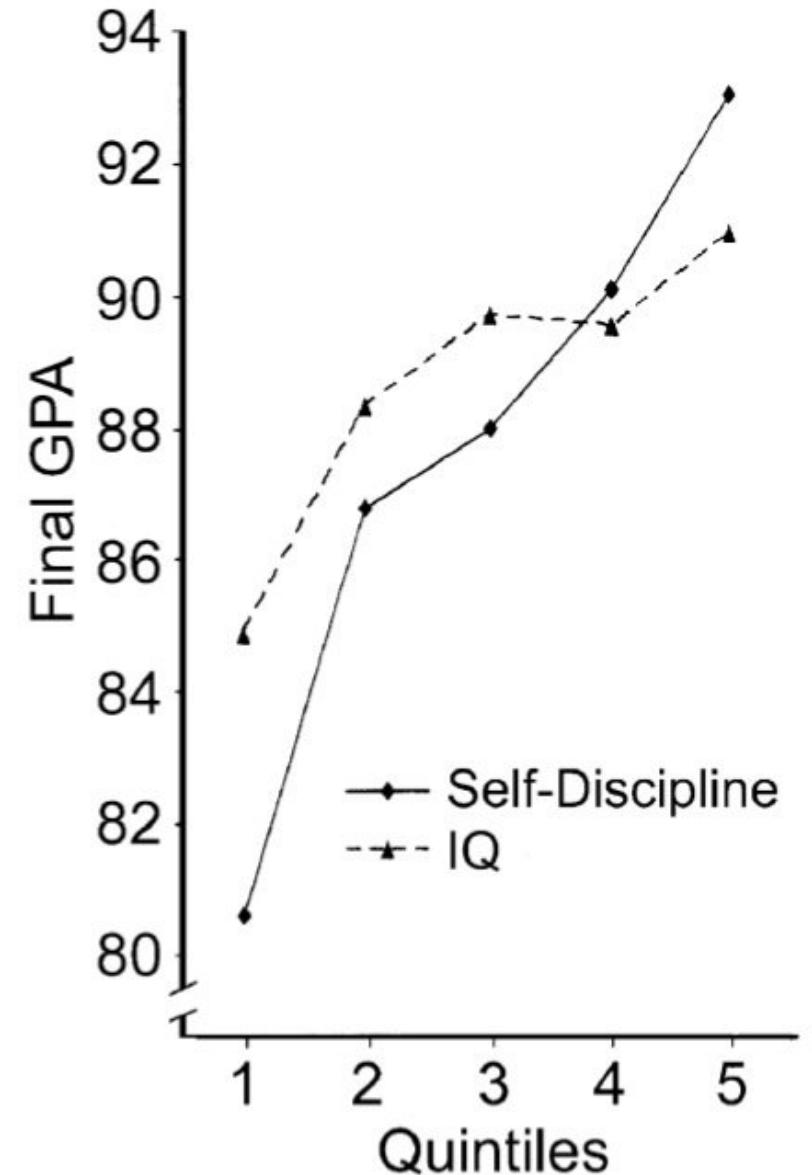


Fig. 1. Final grade point average (GPA) as a function of ranked quintiles of IQ and self-discipline in Study 2.

Emotional Effects

Emotional Keyboard: Eric Jensen



Taught

- Humility
- Forgiveness
- Empathy
- Optimism
- Compassion

Hardwired

- Sadness
- Joy
- Disgust
- Anger
- Surprise
- Fear

Taught

- Sympathy
- Patience
- Shame
- Cooperation
- Gratitude

The emotional brain can be represented by a keyboard on which children from poverty use fewer keys than well-off children. The six responses represented by the darker shading on the keyboard and in the center box are hardwired in our DNA. The responses represented by the lighter shading must be taught.

Eric Jensen – Teaching with Poverty in Mind

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Academic Effects

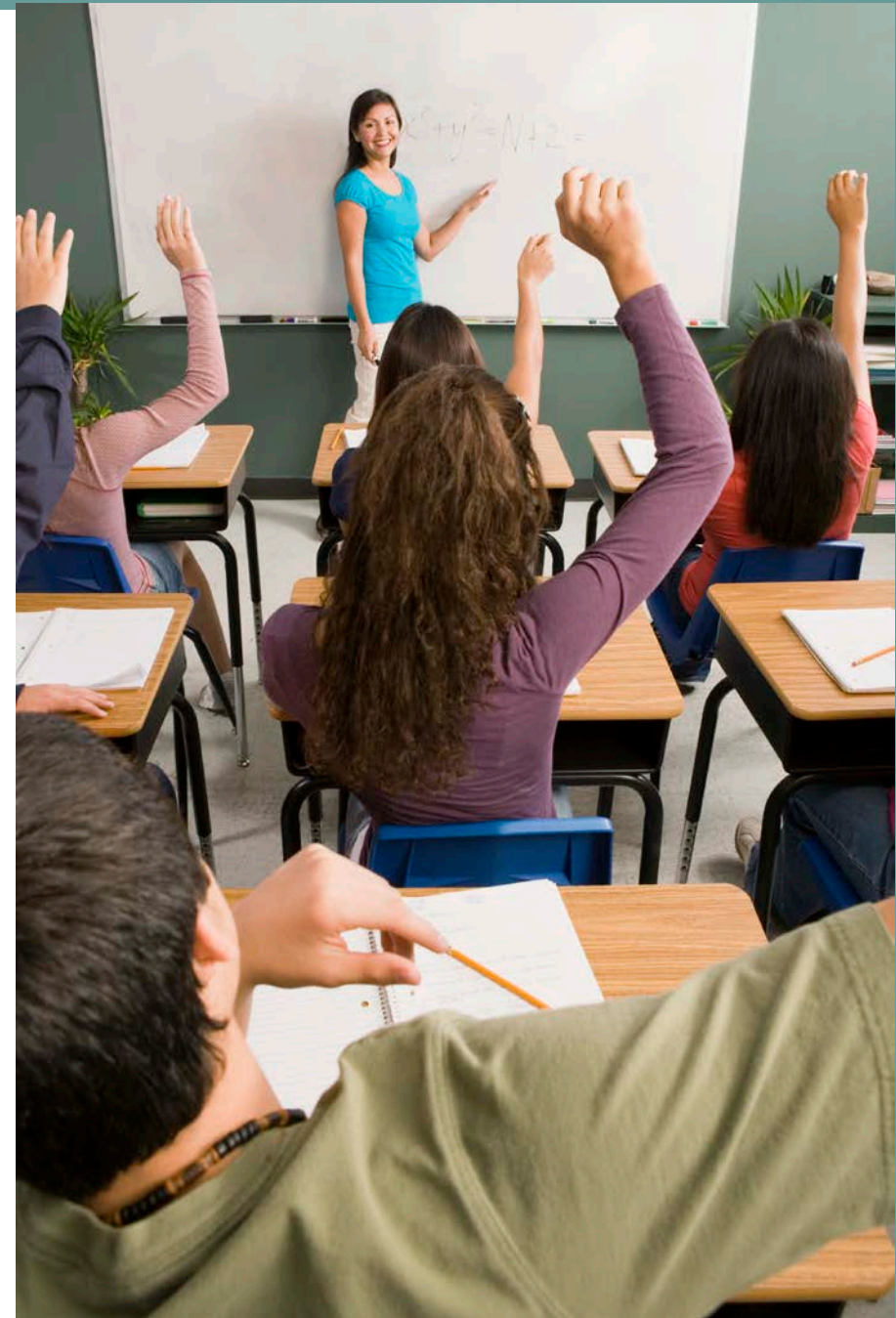
When kids are focused on meeting their basic needs: safety, healthy and relational issues...academics may take a back seat.

Students with at least three ACEs are:

- 3x as likely to experience academic failure,
- 6x as likely to have behavioral problems, and
- 5x as likely to have attendance problems
- 4.5x as likely to drop out of school and/or fail to complete college

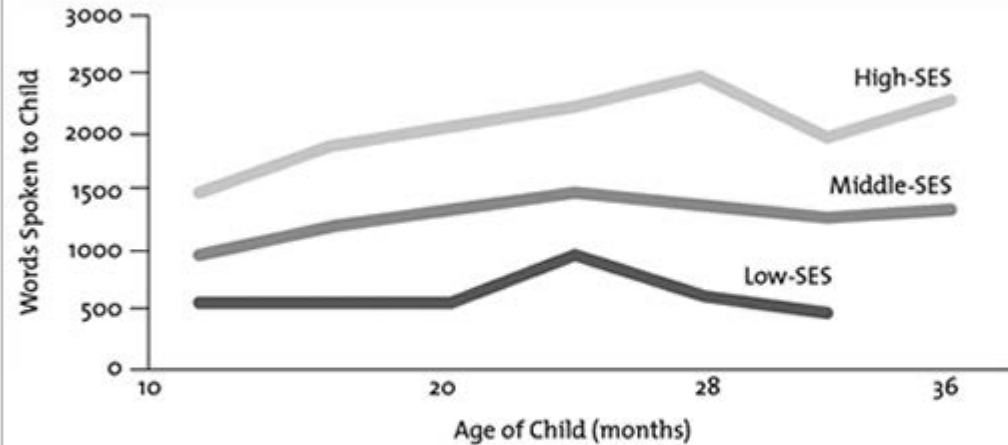
Income Achievement Gap affects:

- Early Literacy development
- Access to material resources (Homework Gap)



Academic Effects: Early Literacy

Figure 2.8. Daily Parent-Child Speech Interactions



Source: Adapted from *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experiences of Young American Children*, by B. Hart and T. Risley, 1995, Baltimore: Brookes Publishing.



Academic Effects: The Homework Gap



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqkAlwGsxwE>



Academic Effects: The Homework Gap

Pew Research Center findings:

- 82.5% of US homes with school-age children have broadband access
- 5 of 29 million homes = no high-speed Internet service at home

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ONE WAY TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY



What is Food Insecurity

In 2016, an estimated 1 in 8 Americans were food insecure, equating to 42 million Americans including 13 million children. [i].The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It is important to know that hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct, concepts. Hunger refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort, while food insecurity refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the level of the household. (1)

(1) <https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/understand-food-insecurity/>



97,700
CHILDREN

1,064
SCHOOLS

47
STATES

Mission

Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

Vision

Every school-aged child in America has the nourishment needed to learn and grow. As a leader in the movement to end childhood hunger, Blessings strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action..

Brooke Wiseman

Executive Director – Blessings in a Backpack

➤ What Do We Do?

Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

➤ Why Do We Do It?

There are more than 13.1 -million children in this country who are at risk of hunger. The consequences of hunger are much more than a growling stomach. Poor nutrition can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement.

➤ How Much Does it Cost?

As little as \$100 feeds one child on the weekends for one 38-week school year through the Blessings in a Backpack program. The Results: Nourished Kids Ready to Learn.

(<https://www.blessingsinabackpack.org/about/how-it-works/>)



One in five American children faces food insecurity.



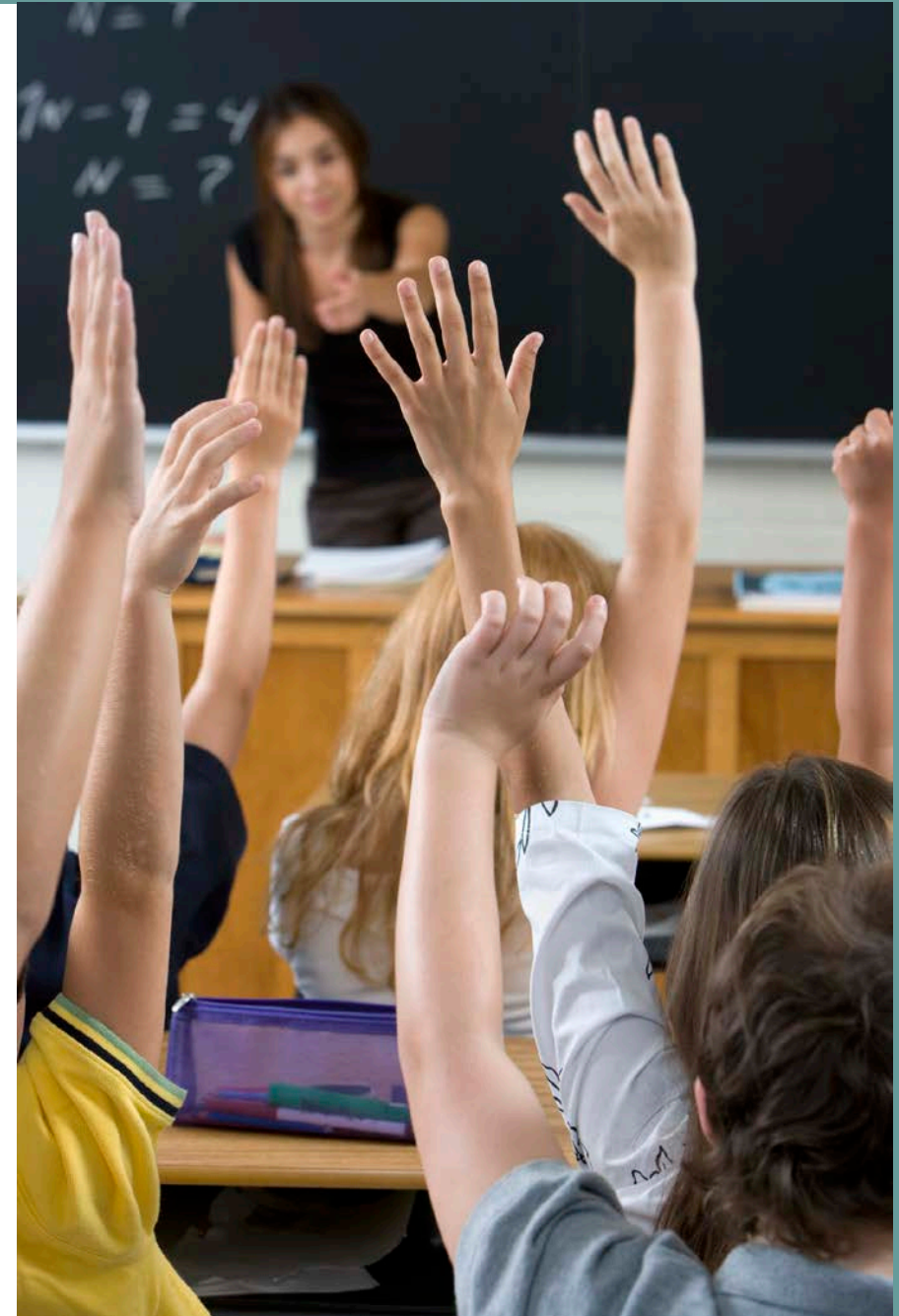
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ubP_jPC7M0

When the school closes its doors on Friday afternoon, many of these children go home to empty cupboards and empty bellies for 65 hours until they return to school on Monday morning. Who will feed them this weekend?

SHARE:

Strategies that Make a Difference

- ❖ Support of the Whole Child
- ❖ Hard Data
- ❖ Accountability
- ❖ Relationship Building
- ❖ Enrichment Mindset



Strategies for Success

- Positive Physical Environment
- Building Relationships
- Boosting Social Status
- Connecting with Life
- Building Hope
- Teach Learning Strategies
- Incorporate Physical Activity/Movement into Lessons
- Framing and Delivering Content
- Closing the Day

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7 Achievement Killers

- ❖ Overdoing the Pep Talks and Hot Air
- ❖ Planning Endlessly
- ❖ Putting Kids First and Staff Last
- ❖ Creating a Climate of Fear
- ❖ Measuring Improvement only through Test Scores
- ❖ Treating the Symptoms not the Causes
- ❖ Counting on Big wins Quickly

Education breeds confidence.

Confidence breeds hope.

Hope breeds peace.

-Confucius

References and Resources

- **Learners Edge Course 966:
In the Face of Poverty**

This course will provide real-world support and guidance in your work with students in poverty. Improve your effectiveness by learning the “hidden rules” of poverty, poverty-related behavior, and appropriate interventions. Explore practical yet compassionate strategies for addressing poverty and learn from leading thinkers in the field, including Eric Jensen and Ruby Payne.

- **Learners Edge Course 5007:
Trauma Sensitive Teaching: Helping Students Overcome Adverse Experiences**

For students who have experienced trauma** at home, including divorce, loss, illness, or abuse, success in school can feel out of reach. In this course, you will learn how to help your students overcome adverse experiences as you develop trauma-sensitive strategies for your classroom. Beginning with brain research, discover the impact trauma has on students’ emotional and academic development. Explore the foundations of trauma-informed teaching, including an emphasis on relationship-building, student choice, safety, and resiliency.

References and Resources

- **Learners Edge Course 5032:
Empathy & Understanding: The New Tools for Students with Challenging Behaviors**
Ease your fear and frustration when faced with students who are difficult to reach and teach. In this course, featuring Dr. Greene's book *Lost at School*, you will find the steps you need for connecting with challenging students. Break free from old mindsets and terminology like "at-risk students," and empower yourself with the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) model that teaches strategies for building and nurturing teacher-student relationships. Learn how to use the Assessment of Lagging Skills and Unresolved Problems (ALSUP) inventory to identify the issues in need of attention. Join us on this journey of empathy, problem solving and relationship building!
- **Learners Edge Course 5041:
Five Fabulous Skills for Your Students' Lifelong Success**
This inspiring course focuses on building five success skills in students beyond academics to increase the likelihood of positive outcomes in school and adult life. Learn strategies for teaching students empathy. Gain skills to introduce and teach self-control to your students. Help students grasp the difference between honesty and integrity and plan activities to focus on integrity in the classroom. Embrace diversity in the classroom through the review of resources and planning of activities for your students. Determine the importance of teaching grit and develop ideas to increase the skill in you learners.

References and Resources

Book

- Teaching with Poverty in Mind, Eric Jensen (2009), ASCD

Websites

- <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/how-does-poverty-influence-learning-william-parrett-kathleen-budge>
- <http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/109074/chapters/How-Poverty-Affects-Behavior-and-Academic-Performance.aspx>
- <http://www.scilearn.com/blog/ten-facts-about-how-poverty-impacts-education>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/discussion/5-ways-help-students-affected-generational-poverty>
- <http://www.theedadvocate.org/how-to-help-low-income-students-succeed/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2990478/>
- <http://thirtymillionwords.org/tmw-initiative/>

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

