



# Parental engagement as a tool for social mobility

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Chair

All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility  
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The School Readiness Project





## Improving children's outcomes...

- The Peep Learning Together Programme made a positive difference of an additional two-months progress over a five-month period to children's early literacy development.

## ... and narrowing the attainment gap for pupils eligible EYPP:

- made an additional four months' progress in core language skills and in communication
- made an additional three months' additional progress in early literacy development.



# Before age 5

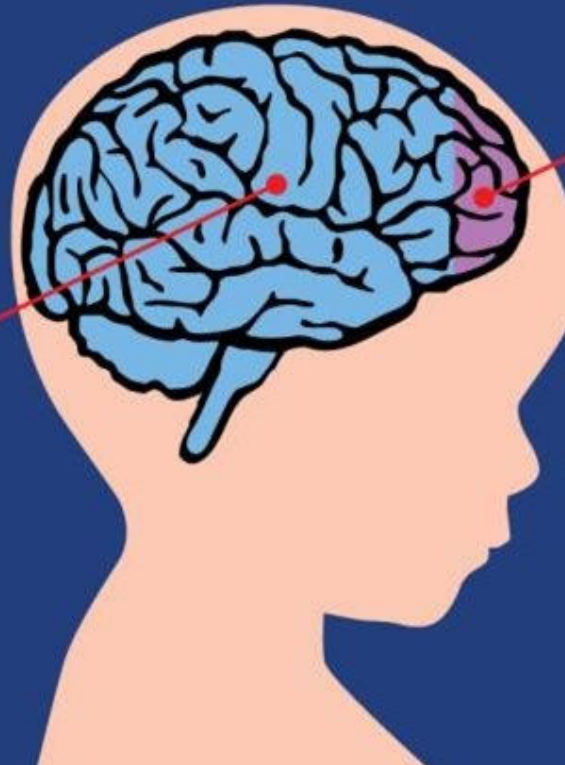
90% of a child's brain development happens

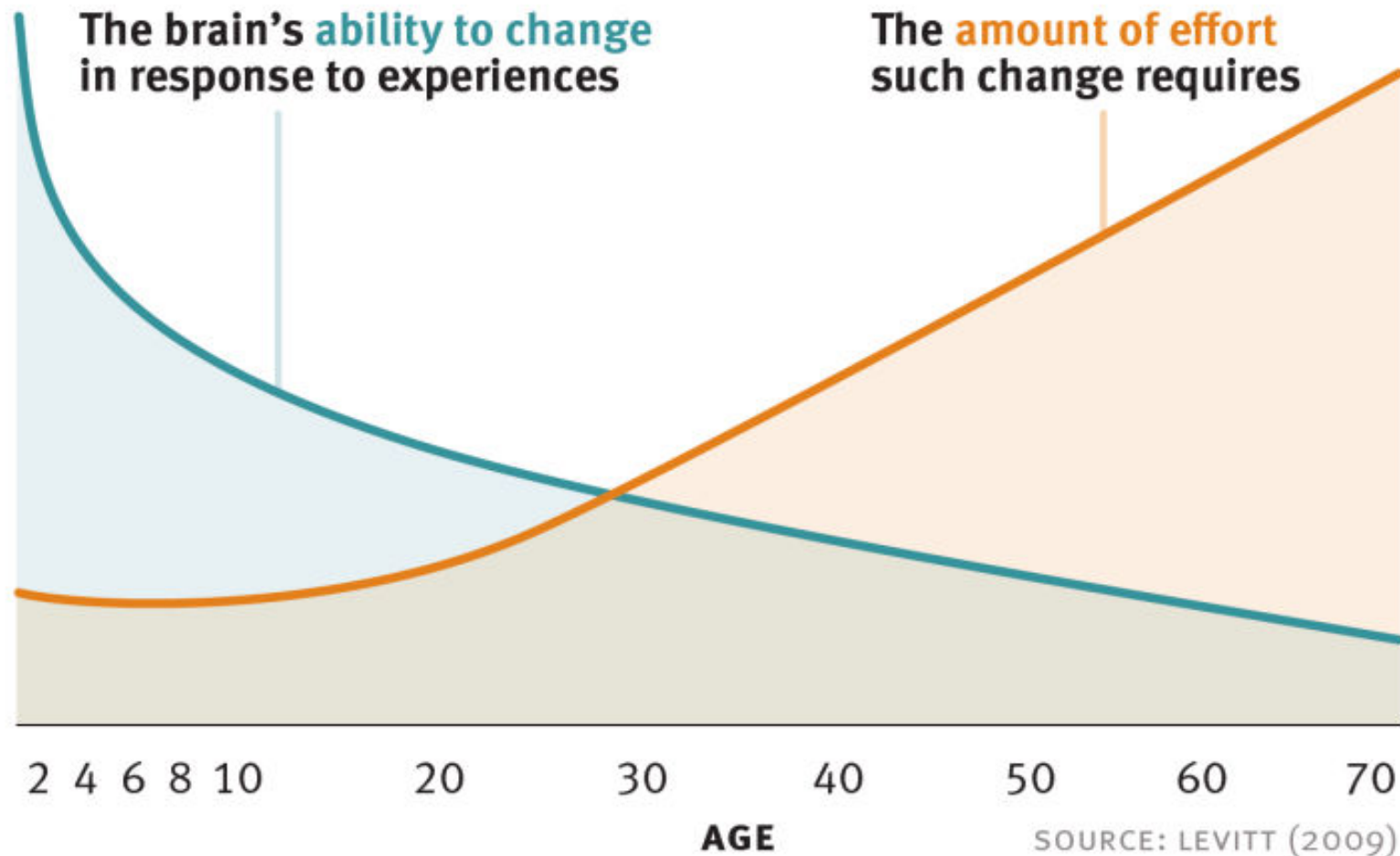
90%

Brain development  
before age 5

10%

Brain  
development  
after age 5





Center on the Developing Child  HARVARD UNIVERSITY

[www.developingchild.harvard.edu](http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu)







# Annual Survey Results

91% of parents reported that they felt more confident in supporting their child's learning and development at home after attending GM groups

97% now share books at least three times a week (76% read every day)

92% of parents reported themselves doing more things with their child at home or out and about that they learned about in GM groups









# Empowering parents and boosting social mobility

Sam Phripp, Head of Policy

Parentikind



# About Parentkind



As a national charity, Parentkind give those with a parenting role a voice in education. We invest substantial resources in representing parent views on their child's learning to local, regional and national governments and agencies because evidence tells parental participation in education benefits all children in all schools and society as a whole.

Parentkind is the network of PTA fundraisers in the UK. We bring specialist fundraising support and advice to parent volunteers so that every school can benefit from a successful PTA. Our 12,500 PTA members raise over £120+ million per year, placing us alongside some of the largest charities in the UK.



# PTAs: a powerful force for change

- **PTAs are independent organisations**, often charities, run by parents of a particular school.
- **They've raised over £1bn in the last decade.** Donations to PTAs account for 2.4% of all charitable donations
- **Funds are incredibly well targeted.** PTAs are free to make decisions on funding that will best improve outcomes for young people. This funding can and should be used to boost social mobility.



# What parents tell us



**Parentkind's Annual Parent Survey goes direct to parents, this year, 5000 parents across the UK, managed by Yougov.**

- Parents want to be more involved – 85% want to play an active role
- Barriers exist, including time poverty and a lack of money to fund additional educational activities
- This year's results suggest that too many young people don't even have the basics for learning at home.



# Improving social mobility



- **Target funding where it's needed most and use existing funding mechanisms** (eg. Pupil Premium)
- **Focus on poverty-proofing the school day:** addressing costs of uniform, school food and enriching school trips
- **Embed true parental participation in innovative approaches** like the work being done by Oak National Academy or the National Tutoring Programme. These are new approaches which could really support better inclusion and parental participation.

# Looking ahead: the General Election

- **There's not much time left** – already, the Department for Education is looking for quick wins not new policies that will take time to flesh out and embed.
- **Parents are a huge voting block** and they shouldn't be ignored. ONS tells us there are 19.4m families – a huge number of people who care about education.
- **Neither party is offering a blank cheque** and so proposals need to be mindful of this.





# Empowering communities: A PTA for every school



**Parents working together can transform schools and boost social mobility.  
Our plan for a PTA in every school would:**

- Deliver £2.83bn to schools across the next decade
- Benefit from Parentkind support until they reach sustainability
- Open the door to better parental engagement and reimagined parent councils.

# Thank you

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