

Identifying and developing skills that drive children's lifetime success

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Outline

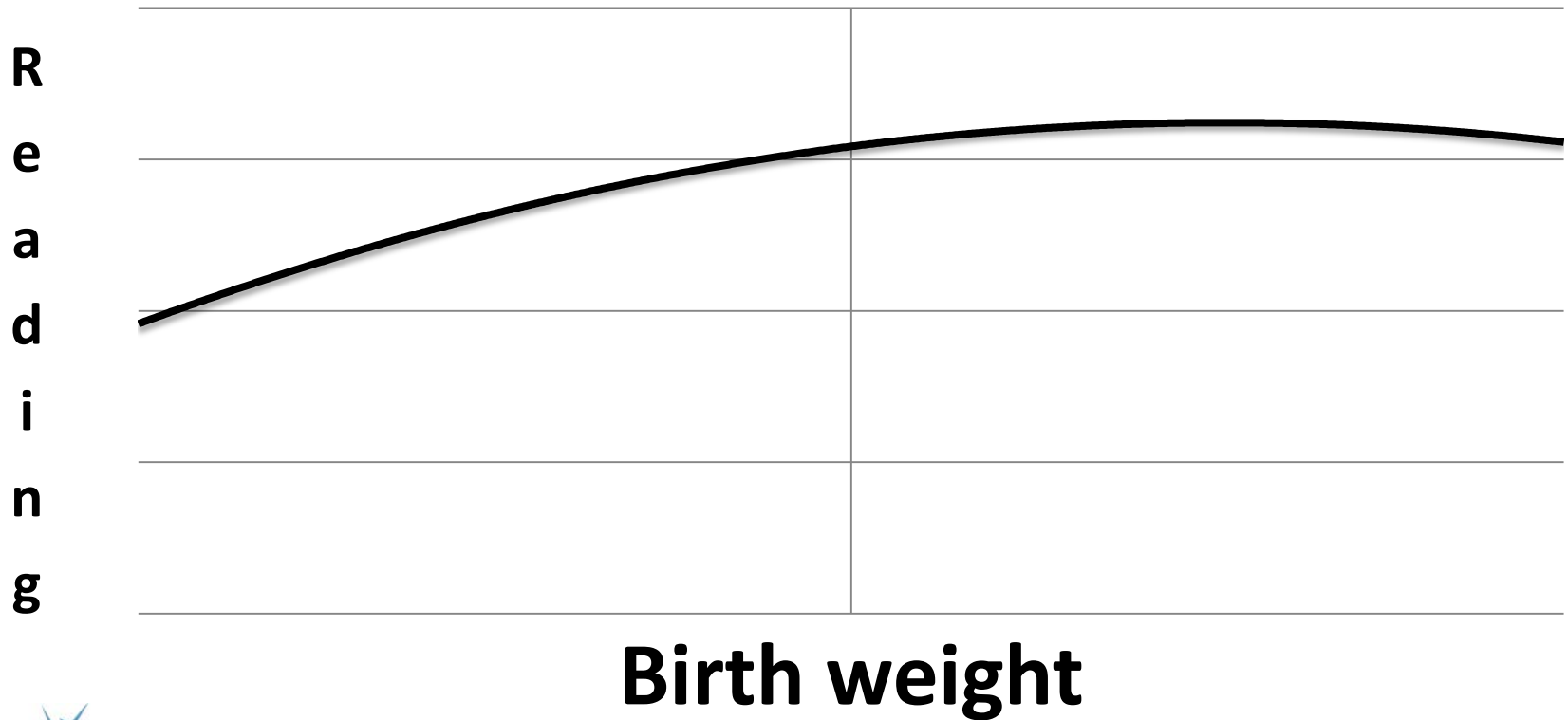
- A structure of influences
- **The** critical period
- Some specifics:
 - A key skill: concentration
 - What makes an effective teacher?
 - A great teaching technique
- Two general principles

A Structure



A study from Newcastle (UK)

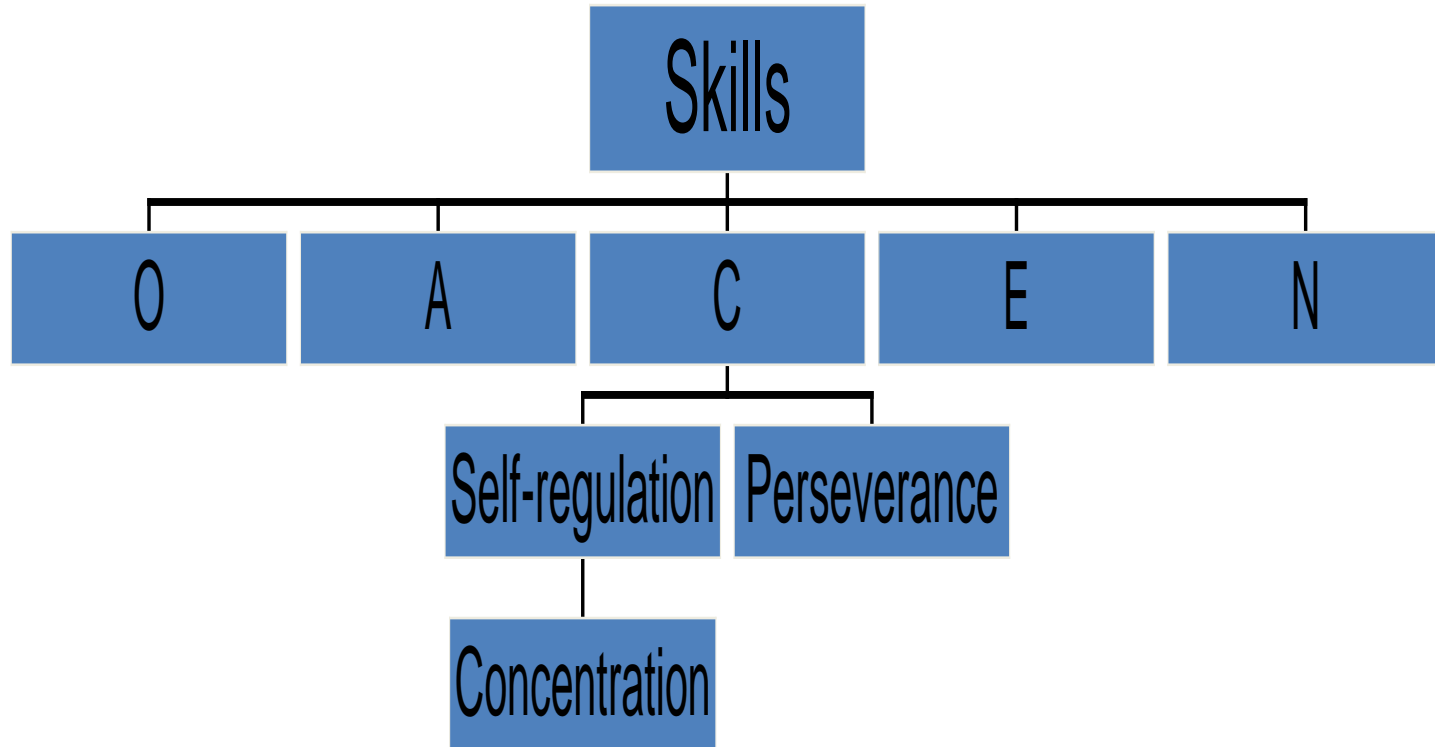
Reading at age 11 and birth weight



The Critical Period

- Healthy babies => better life chances
- Embryo development is crucial
- Problems
 - Alcohol, smoking, malnutrition & stress
- **Mother's stress** affects
 - Birth weight
 - Early temperament
 - Cognitive development

A Key Skill (often unnoticed)

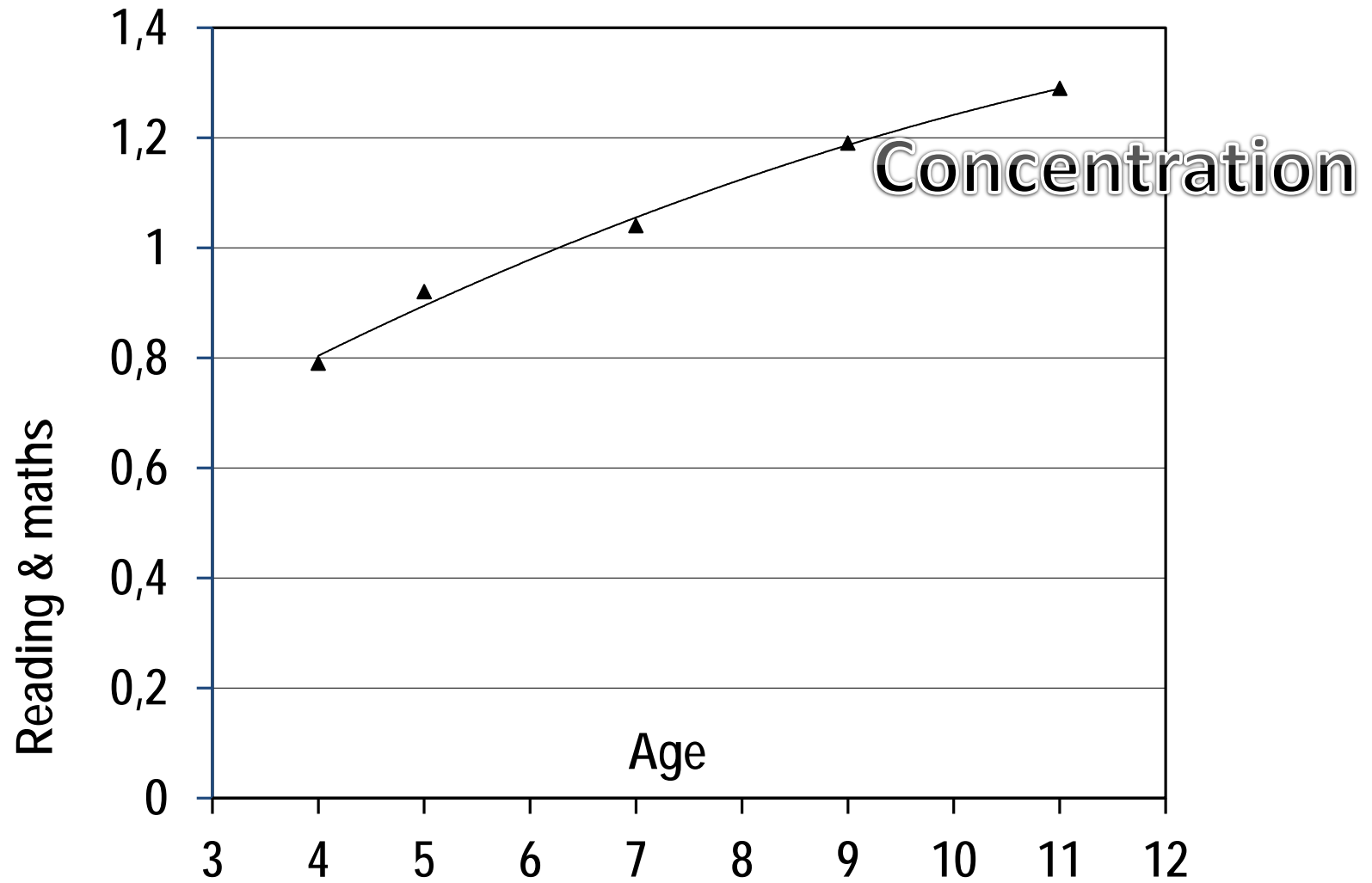




A study from England

1. Sample of thousands children
2. Tracked from age 4
3. Teachers rating of concentration at age 5

Progress over time: Reading & maths





Can we help?

- We tried
- We wrote a booklet to help teachers
- Advice
 - Plan-do-review
 - Advance warning
 - Physical activity
 - Paired work
 - etc



Results

- Higher reading scores 2 years later
- More positive attitudes for low concentration
- Better behaviour reported
- Better quality of life for teachers

What makes a great teacher?

The Classroom

- Great teachers have a lasting effect
- We looked at many activities on a large scale
 - Weak correlations
- Student ratings give weak correlations
- Observations give weak correlations
- But success correlates with success
- Effectiveness is illusive

And

- Attainment effectiveness does not link to:
 - Grit
 - Implicit Theory of Intelligence
 - Effort
- We have a challenge

A really promising approach

Cross age Peer Tutoring

- The research is very positive
- What is involved?
- But studies have been small scale

We tried it on a large scale

- Two years across a whole district

Results

- Cross age tutoring works (cognitive outcomes)
- Same age did not work
- Intensive was the same as light

Two General Principles

- What matters to children is what is close to them
 - Parents, relations, peers, teachers
- For skills key features are:
 - Active involvement
 - Responsibility with a structure

Thank you