

Life's Little Treasures & MCRI

The 'Guiding Parents' Webinar Series



Past Webinars

- Early intervention for infants born preterm
 - Dr Alicia Spittle
- Who's Looking after Mum and Dad
 - Dr Carmen Pace

<http://www.lifslittletreasures.org.au/2015/04/lifes-little-treasures-and-mcri-webinars-2014/>

School Readiness in Preterm Children

From NICU to NAPLAN....

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Centre for Community Child Health, RCH

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne



Poll 1: who's in the audience?

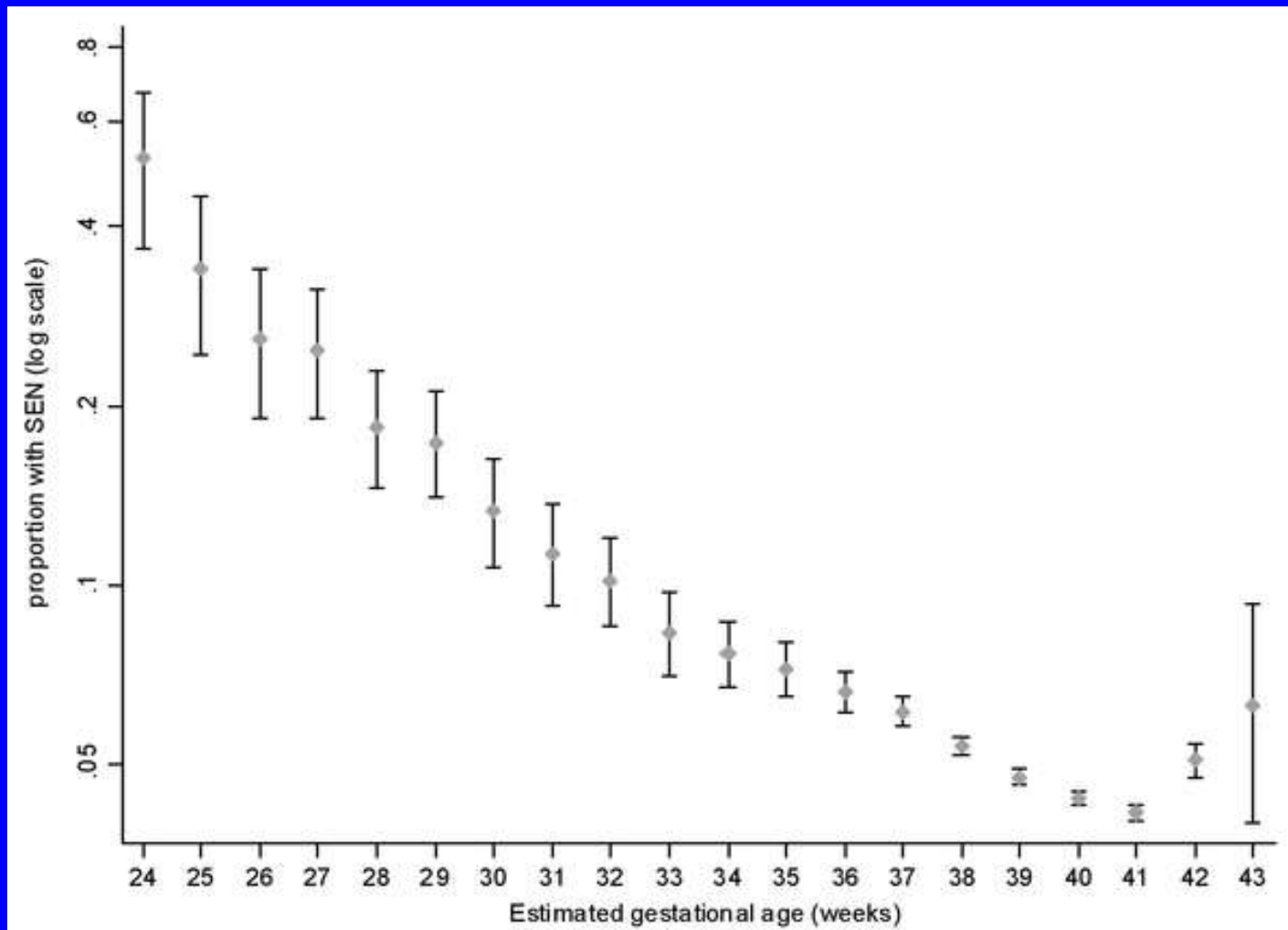
Contents

- Introduction
 - Why are preterm children at risk?
- What do children need to succeed in school?
- Management strategies
- Audience questions
- Summary and Discussion

Victoria: about 75 000 births/yr

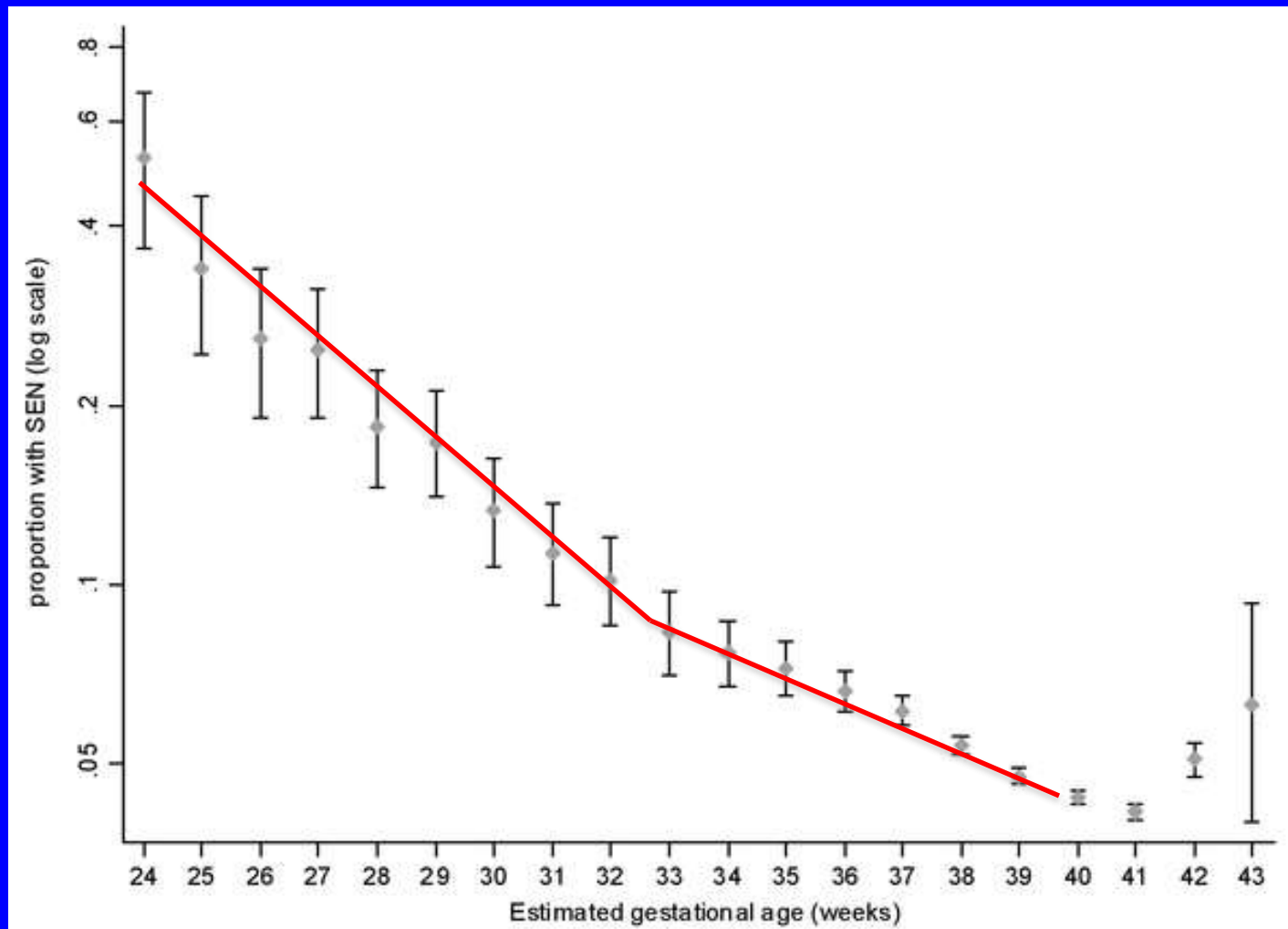
- Preterm <37/40 (~6 000)
 - Late preterm: 32 to 36+6
 - (~ 7%)
 - Very preterm: 28 to 31+6
 - Extremely preterm: <28
 - (~1.5%)
- Another 25% (~19 000) born at 37 and 38 weeks

Prevalence of special educational need by gestation



MacKay DF, et al. Gestational Age at Delivery and Special Educational Need: Retrospective Cohort Study of 407,503 Schoolchildren. PLoS Med 2010.

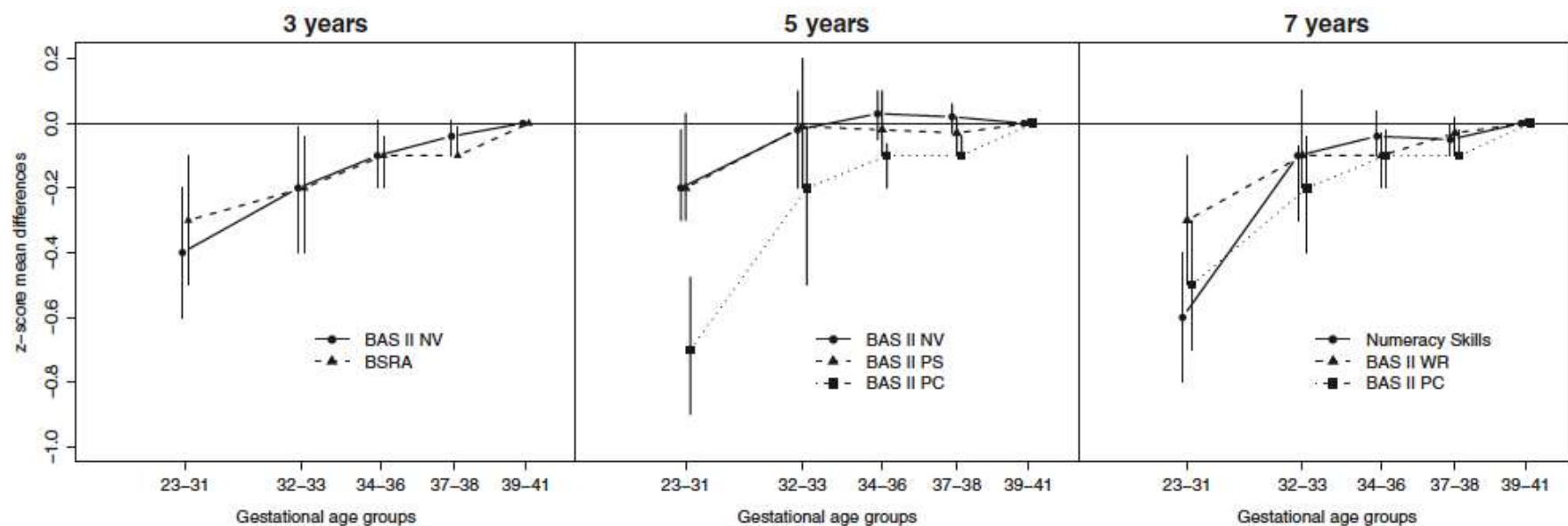
Prevalence of special educational need by gestation



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Gestational Age and Cognitive Ability in Early Childhood: a Population-based Cohort Study

Gry Poulsen,^a Dieter Wolke,^b Jennifer J Kurinczuk,^a Elaine M Boyle,^c David Field,^c Zarko Alfrevic,^d Maria A Quigley^a



7 years

doi: 10.1111/ppe.12

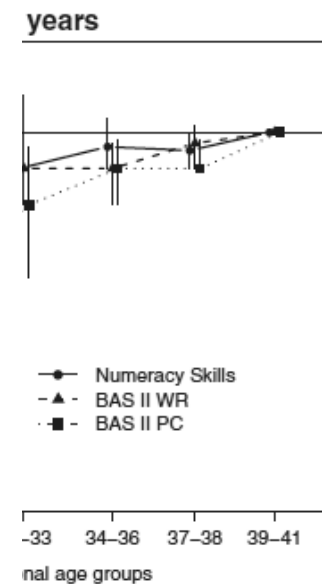
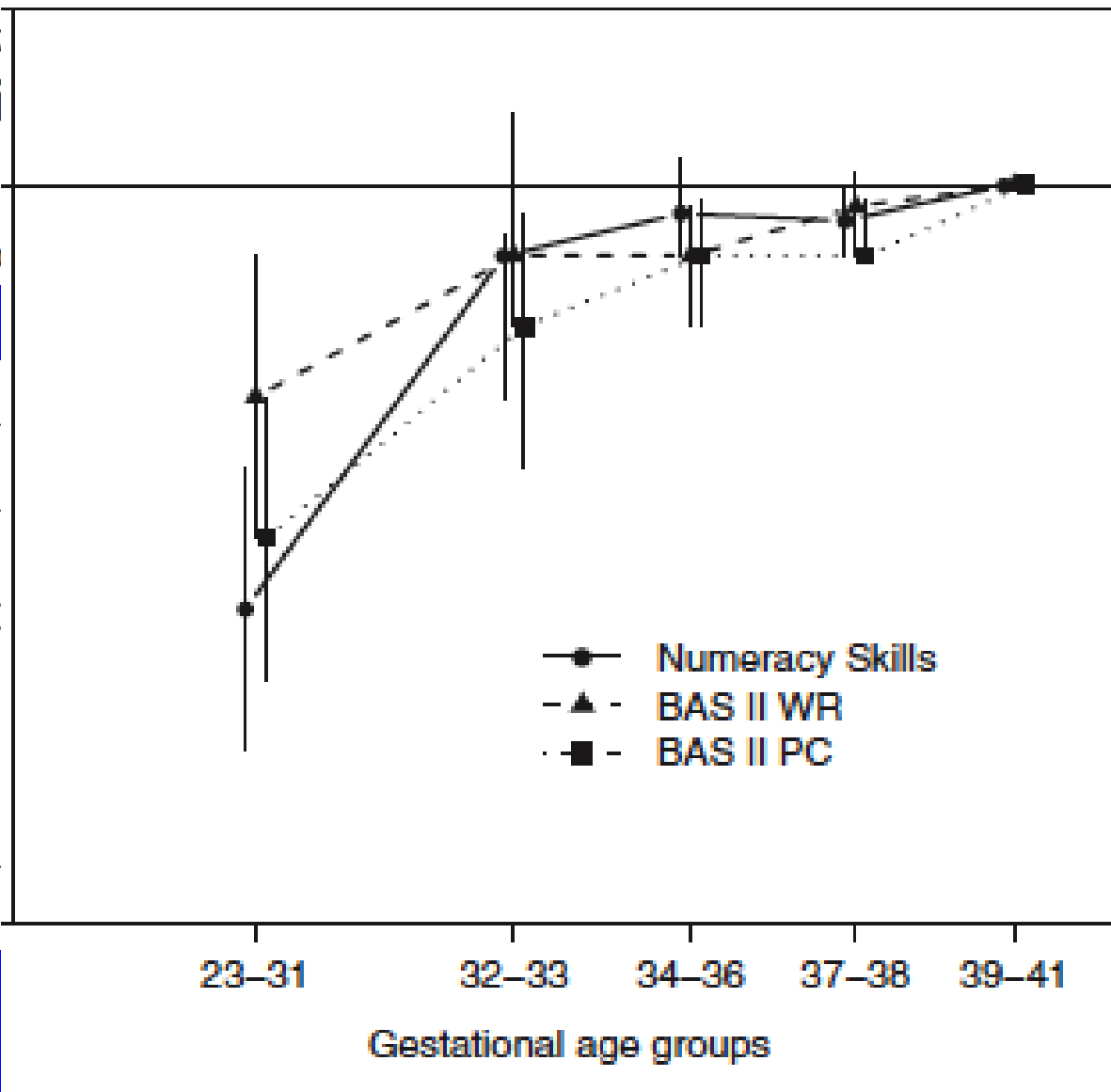
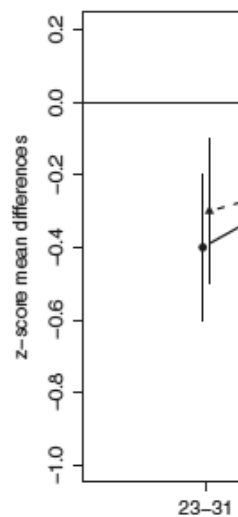
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nal age groups

Questions

“Is it more beneficial for children who were very premature at birth to be held back a year?”

“Is there a negative impact on children's confidence when they are held back, and their peers go on to school? If so, how can parents help them rebuild their confidence?”

Questions

“Understanding that my son has developmental delays, what are the key factors for a preemie to be school ready?”

“What things should be taken into consideration in deciding whether or not to send a child to school with delayed fine motor skills (ie in particular, unable to trace basic shapes or draw basic things)”

What do children need to succeed in school?

- Three key attributes
 - Children who are ready to learn
 - Schools that are ready for children
 - Parents and communities who support the child's development.

“School Readiness”

What do children need to succeed in school?

- Readiness to learn: 5 skill areas
 - 1) Health and physical development
 - 2) Emotional well-being and social competence
 - 3) Approaches to learning
 - 4) Communication skills
 - 5) Cognitive skills and general knowledge.

Copple, National Educational Goals Panel, 1997

A suggested approach...

- Early recognition of areas of vulnerability and areas of strength
- Support the areas of vulnerability while moving ahead to the next developmental stage (rather than waiting for it to ‘catch up’)

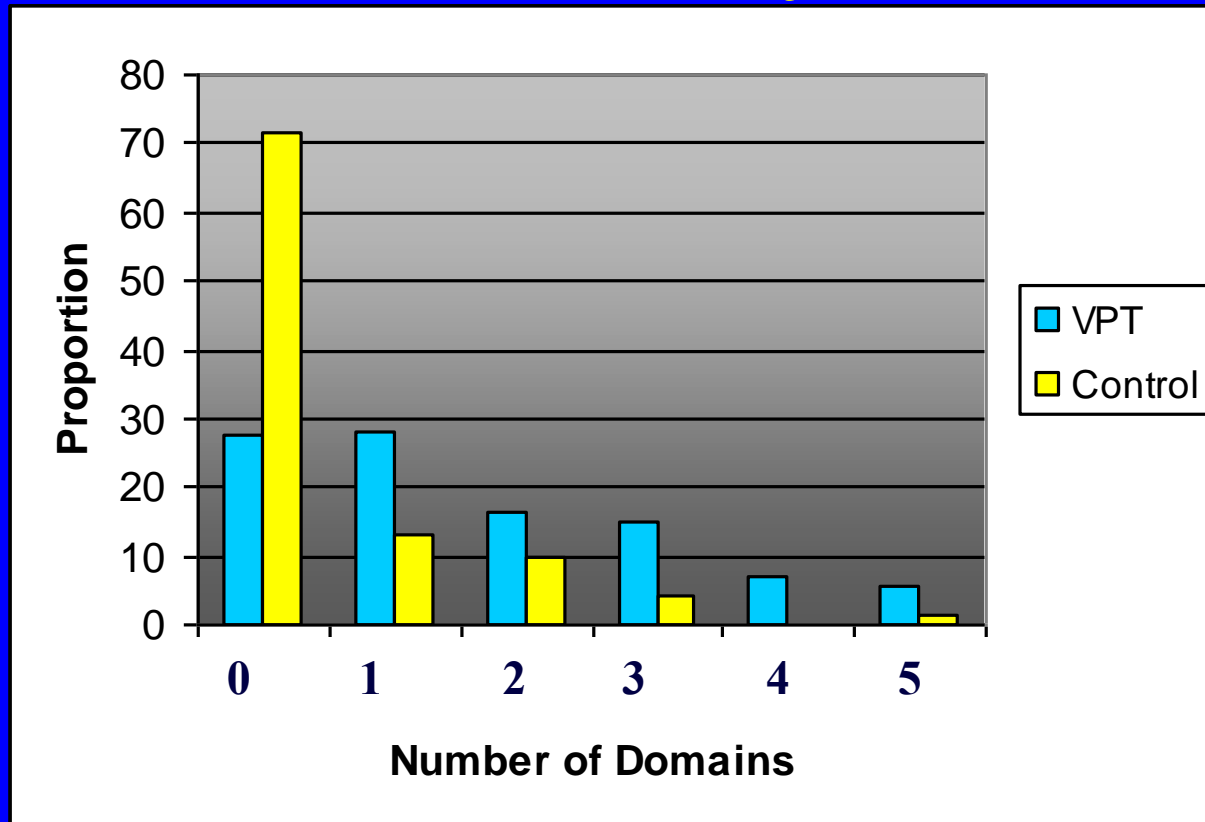


Proportion of children with vulnerabilities in each domain

School readiness Domain	%VPT n=195	%Control n=70	Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio – adjusted for social risk
Health/ physical development	35%	14%	3.3*	3.2*
Social emotional skills	21%	10%	2.3	2.3
Approaches to Learning	53%	17%	5.5*	5.2*
Communication	20%	4%	5.6*	5.2*
Cognition and General knowledge	33%	7%	6.5*	5.9*

*P<0.05

Cumulative number of areas of difficulty



School-age Outcomes of Extremely Preterm or Extremely Low Birth Weight Children

Esther A. Hutchinson, Cinzia R. De Luca, Lex W. Doyle, Gehan Roberts, Peter J. Anderson and for the Victorian Infant Collaborative Study Group
Pediatrics; originally published online March 18, 2013;

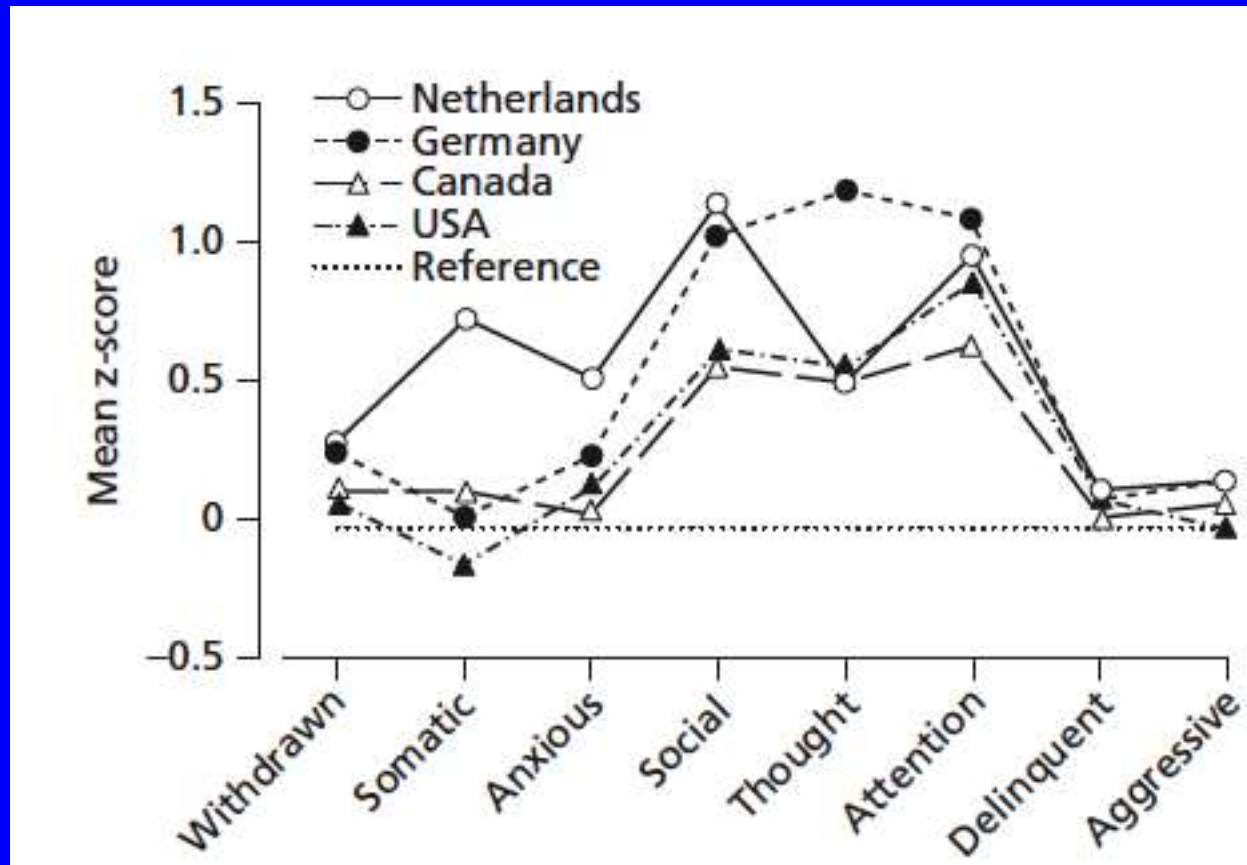
TABLE 5 Distribution of Neurobehavioral Impairments in the EP/ELBW and T/NBW Cohorts Judged According to the T/NBW and Test Normative Distributions

Outcome	EP/ELBW (<i>n</i> = 175)	T/NBW (<i>n</i> = 169)
T/NBW distribution ^a		
No impairment	29.1 (51)	58.6 (99)
1 impairment	24.0 (42)	25.4 (43)
2 impairments	18.3 (32)	7.7 (13)
3 impairments	16.0 (28)	4.7 (8)
4 impairments	7.4 (13)	1.8 (3)
5 impairments	5.1 (9)	1.8 (3)

'Preterm and low birth weight babies'

by Dieter Wolke.

The Sage Handbook of Developmental Disorders.



>1 Million Swedish children, born between 1987 - 2000, followed up between age 6 and 19 years

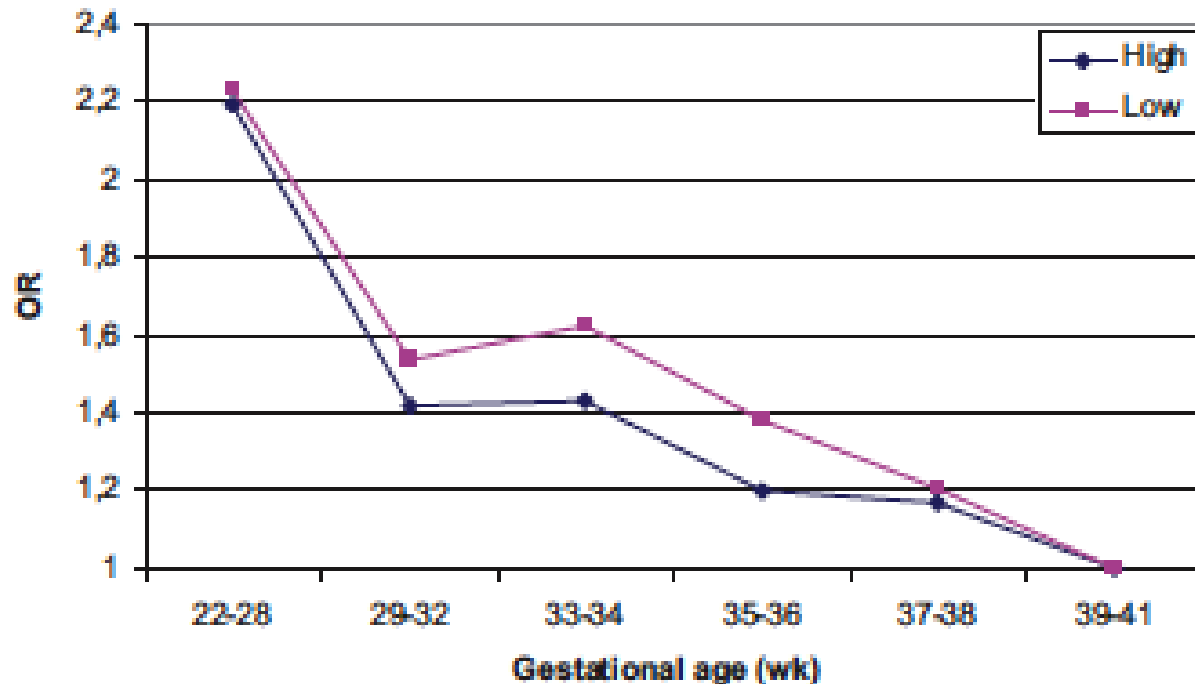


FIGURE 1

ADHD medication by maternal education and gestational age.

Questions

“My child is now 15 months corrected. was only 8 weeks prem. Would he fall into this category of needing school readiness? He is reaching appropriate milestones thus far and shown no signs of being disadvantaged by his pre-term birth.”

Specific Management

- Advocacy
 - Know your child
 - Become a powerful advocate for your child
 - Partner with your care team
 - Know the system



Specific Management

- Preschool experiences
 - Developmental enrichment at home



In the early years of childhood development, your child's main way of learning and developing is through play - exploring, observing and experimenting. Time spent playing with your children sends a simple message - you are important to me.



Questions

“How important is kindergarten for preterm babies and is starting early as possible best to ensure school readiness?”

Specific Management

- Structured, high quality preschool

The screenshot shows the website interface for raisingchildren.net.au. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo, 'About Us', 'Resources', font size controls, a 'Listen' button, and a search box. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with categories: pregnancy, newborns, babies, toddlers, preschoolers (highlighted), school age, pre-teens, teens, grown-ups, autism, and disability. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home / Preschoolers / Play & learning / Preschool. The article title is 'Preschooler play & learning: preschool', accompanied by social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Google+, along with print and email options. A left sidebar lists categories under 'PRESCHOOLERS 3-5 years', with 'Play & learning' selected. The main content area is titled 'Preschool articles' and contains two featured articles: 'Choosing your child's school' with a photo of a child reading, and 'Preschool in your state' with a photo of a child playing.

raisingchildren.net.au
the australian parenting website

About Us ▾ Resources ▾ A | A Listen 🔊 Search this site 🔍

🏠 pregnancy newborns babies toddlers **preschoolers** school age pre-teens teens grown-ups autism disability

Home / Preschoolers / Play & learning / Preschool


Preschooler play & learning: preschool

👍 Like 0 🐦 Tweet 0 📌 Pin it 📄 Share 0 🖨️ 📧

PRESCHOOLERS
3-5 years


- Behaviour
- Connecting & communicating
- Development
- Health & daily care
- Nutrition & fitness
- Play & learning**

Preschool articles



Choosing your child's school

Things to consider when choosing a school for your child, including information on public schools, private schools, school culture, religious schools, selective schools, class size, and single-sex and co-educational schools.



Preschool in your state

This simple guide explains what preschool is called in different Australian states and territories, and differences in preschool services across Australia.

Specific Management

- Transition program
 - School visits
 - Peer group
 - Meet the principal
 - Don't be shy: ask for help!



Questions

“My ex 26 week is almost 2 years old and receives speech and occupational therapy. What sort of things are in place to assist children with delays in the government, catholic & private system?”

Specific Management

- Build a team around your child
 - Parents, Family and Friends
 - Kinder and School
 - GP, Maternal and Child Health Nurse
 - Paediatrician
 - Therapists: Speech, Psychology, OT, Physio....
 - Assessments to inform Transition Plan
 - E.g. Speech or Cognitive testing



Questions

“My ex 26 week is almost 2 years old and receives speech and occupational therapy. What sort of things are in place to assist children with delays in the government, catholic & private system?”

Questions

“My school-age child has not accessed any service but I suspect there may be an issue. Who do I take my child to, to assess the child?”

Summary

- Understand the preterm developmental profile
- Work within local systems of care
- Think broadly (be holistic) and longitudinally (key transitions)
- Plan ahead in partnership

