

WEEK 8



Adverse Childhood Experiences

From infancy through high school, children’s educational outcomes are dependent on the quality of their early learning experience. Quality early childhood education has been shown to have a significant positive effect on future success, because brain circuits are actively developing. In fact, 85% of the brain’s development happens before a child enters kindergarten.

Social and emotional health are also key to children’s development. We know that poverty, trauma and other adverse childhood experiences (ACES) can have sustained, negative impacts on children’s ability to succeed. Dr. Roy Wade notes that “We see higher levels of childhood adversity among minority populations, but we need to acknowledge the role those historical inequities and disenfranchisement play in creating the environment in which such traumatic experiences are more likely to occur.”

This week’s challenge



Watch

this 2-minute CBS News report on how systemic racism persists in

early childhood education, where Black preschool students are disproportionately facing harsh punishments, like suspension. Reflect on your (or your child) earliest education experience and what you observed (or believed) was happening to Black classmates.

Watch Recognizing Bias and Promoting Equity in Early Childhood Settings. (6:19) Explore and compare your biases prior to watching this, and how any potential differences will shape your personal or professional purpose.

SPONSORS



Good Samaritan





View this [infographic that explains how ACEs affect our lives and society](#)

and summarizes findings from a landmark Kaiser study that looks at the link between ACEs and long-term well-being.



Watch See [Pediatrician Nadine Burke Harris on the TED stage \(16:02\)](#)

explains how the repeated stress of abuse, neglect and parents struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues has real, tangible effects on the development of the brain. Reflect on your own coping skills during the most difficult life experiences and how any privilege may have helped you cope. Consider how different the outcome may have been without that privilege.

SPONSORS

