

Parent and Child 2008

Family Settings and Child Well-Being: Gradients and Gaps in the Early Years

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Why Family settings matter

- **Neurons to Neighbourhoods –concluded”**
“virtually every aspect of human development, from the brains evolving circuitry to the child’s capacity for empathy, is affected by the environment and experiences that are encountered in a cumulative fashion, beginning in the pre-natal period and extending throughout the early childhood years”

US National Academy of Sciences 2000

Millennium Cohort Study

- 18553 Families 18819 Children
 - Born in 2001-2
 - Families interviewed when baby 9 months old and age 3 and 5 years and age 7 years in the field
- Over-representation
 - Children in disadvantaged areas
 - Ethnic minority communities
 - Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Linkage to Foundation Stage Profile data
- All our analyses use survey weights

Millennium Cohort Children's Families

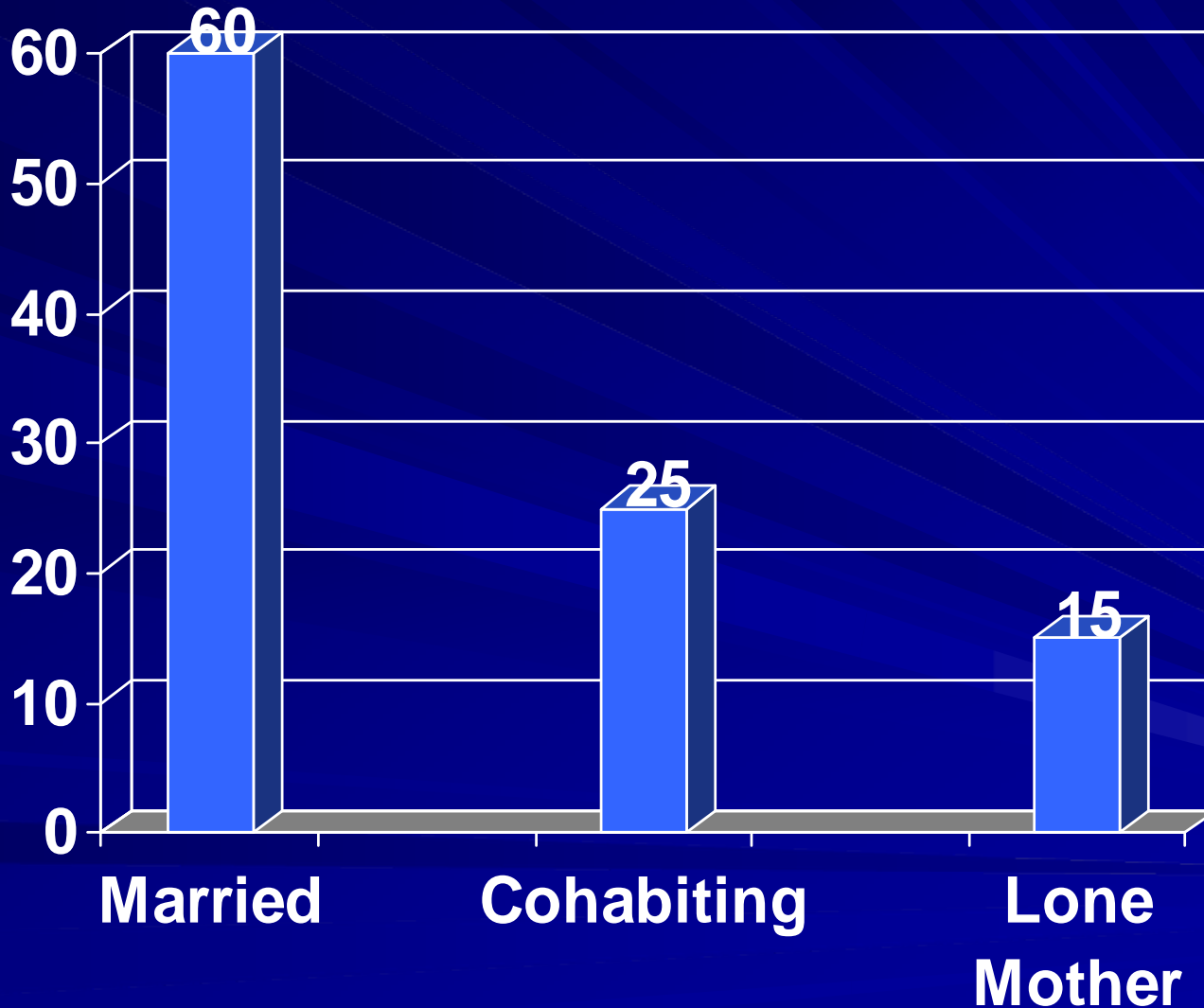
Family history

- Family trajectories
- Happiness of parents
- Poverty history
- Mother's depression history

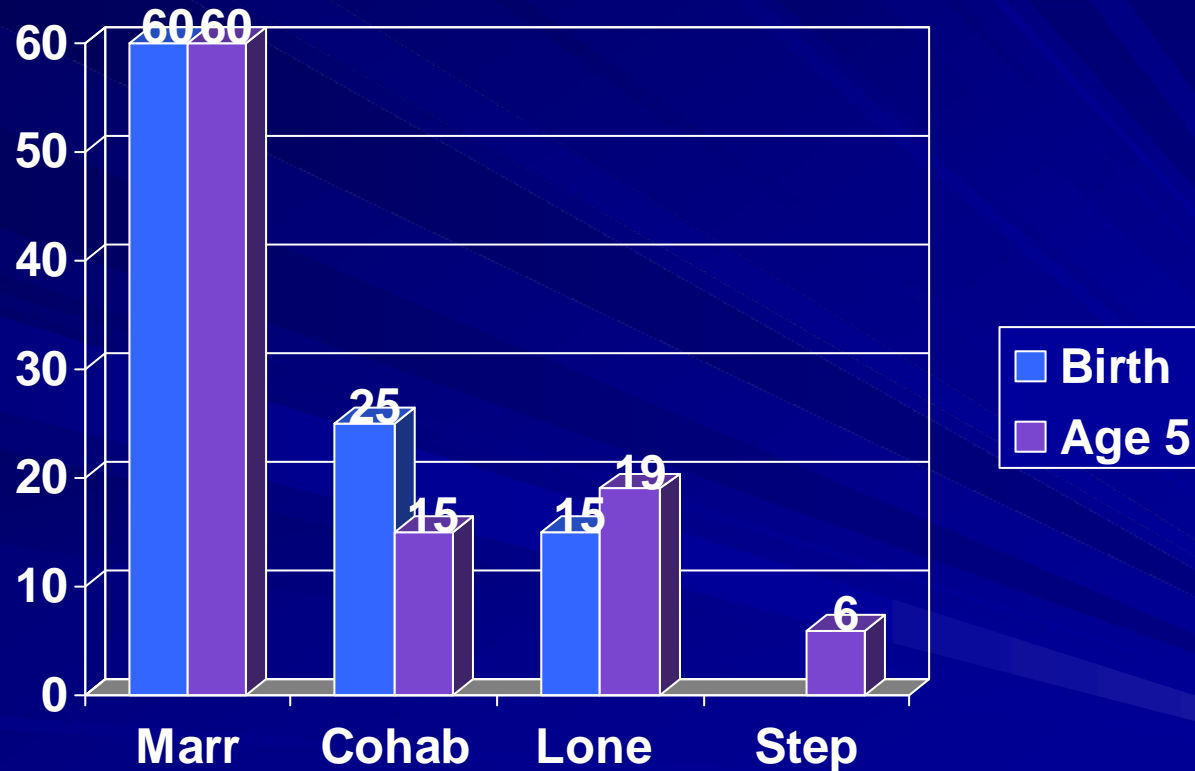
Child outcomes - Foundation Stage Profile Scores

- Income gradients and poverty gaps
- Mother's depression – gaps and current gradients
- Ethnicity gaps
- Family history gaps
- Learning environment gaps

Family type at birth



Family type at birth and age 5



Family transitions birth to age 5

	Married at birth	Cohabiting at birth	Lone at birth
By Age 5	%	%	%
Married-biodad	88	23	8
Cohabiting-biodad	-	43	17
Lone Parent	8	20	42
Step-family	2	7	13
Periods of separation	2	6	-
Periods of resident partnership	-	-	19

Unhappy Couples

Percentage mothers who say they are unhappy with their relationship

- Married Couples 14%
- Cohabiting couples 22%
- Step families 14%

Overall 75 per cent of 5 year olds are living in families with both their natural parents and 64 per cent of 5 year olds are living with both their parents who are in a happy relationship.

Income poverty

History of income poverty ¹	%
None reported	56
At 9 months or age 3 (Prior)	17
At age 5 (Current)	14
At 9 months, age 3 and age 5	13

¹less than 60 percent of the median for the UK

Maternal depression and anxiety

History of maternal depression and anxiety ¹	%
None reported	70
At 9 months or age 3 (Prior)	14
At age 5 (Current)	12
At 9 months, age 3 and age 5	3

¹Assessed using Malaise scale at 9 months and Kessler scale at 3 and 5 years

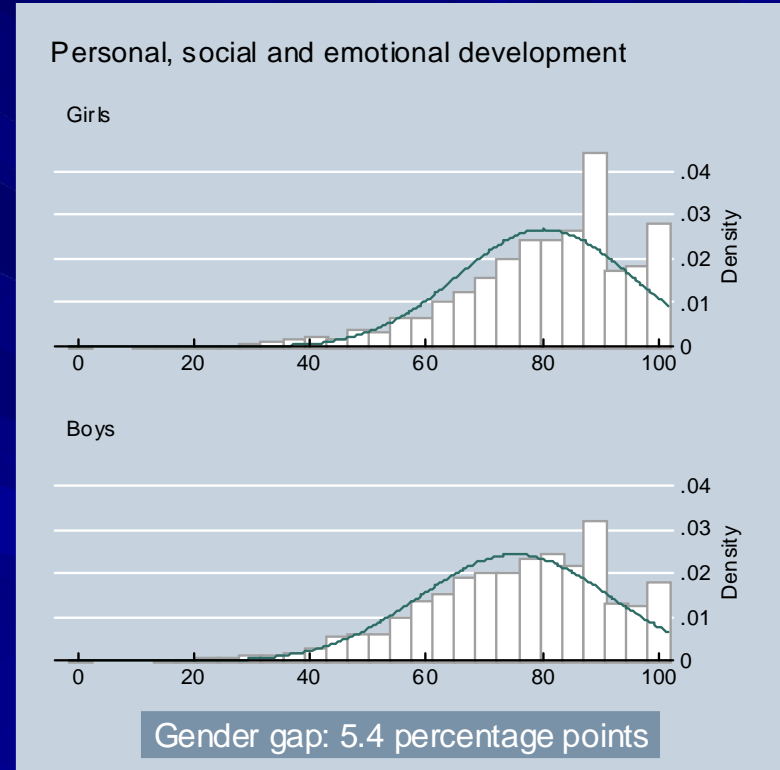
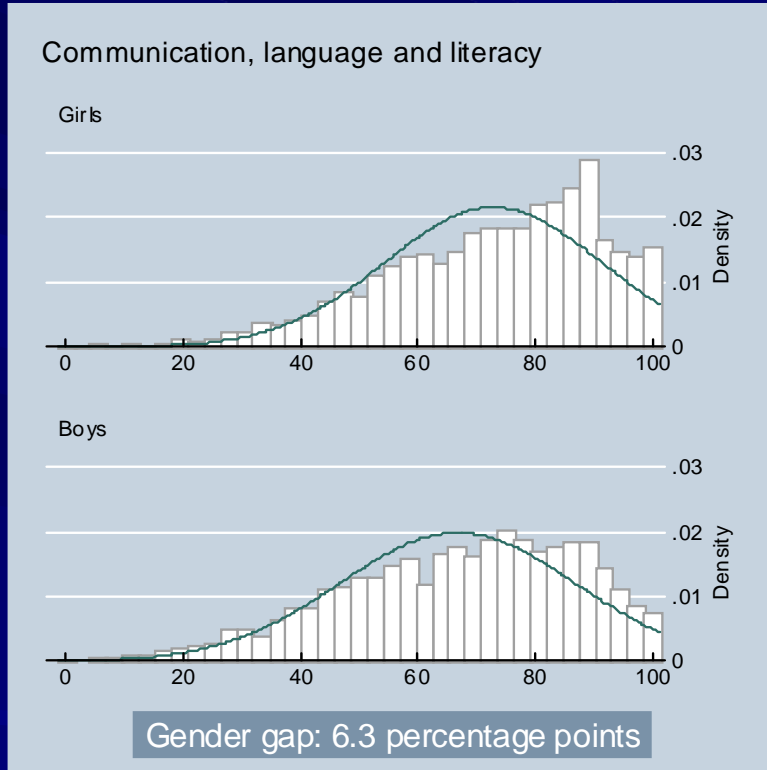
Foundation Stage Profile – Areas of Learning

- Communication, language and literacy
 - Language for communicating and thinking
 - Linking sounds and letters
 - Reading
 - Writing

- Personal, social and emotional development
 - Disposition and attitudes
 - Social development
 - Emotional development

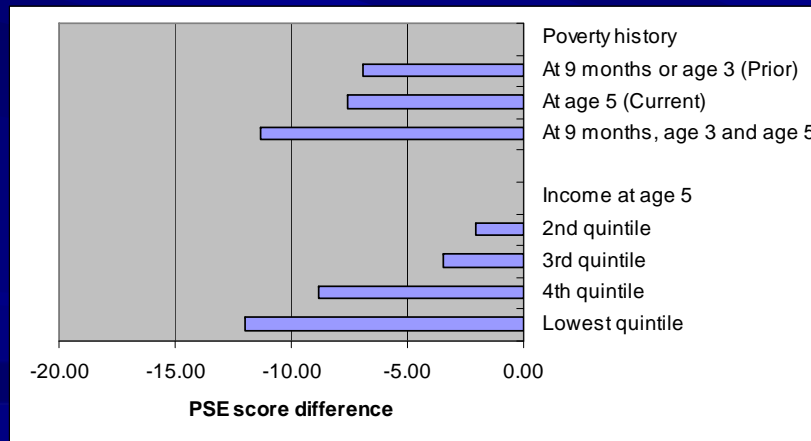
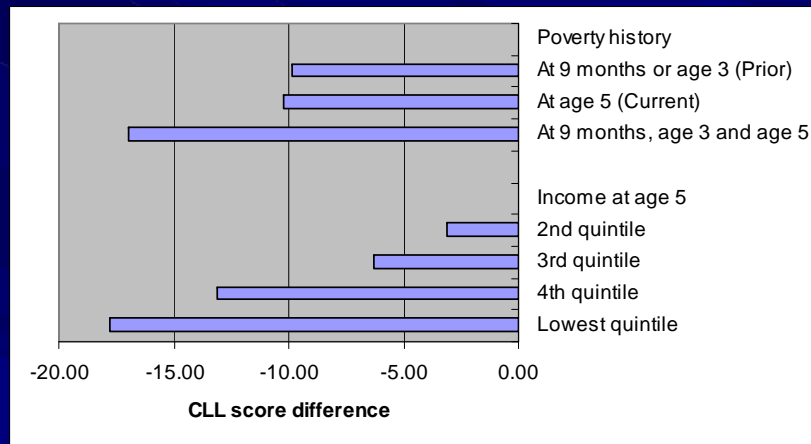
- Scales within each area of learning each 9 point scale
- Raw scores summed and converted to percentage score
- Max score indicates working beyond the early learning goals
- Outcomes analysed using tobit regression

Children's development over the foundation stage

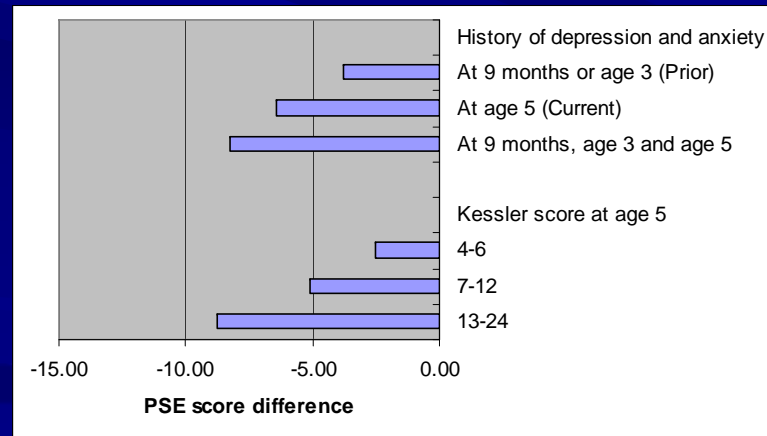
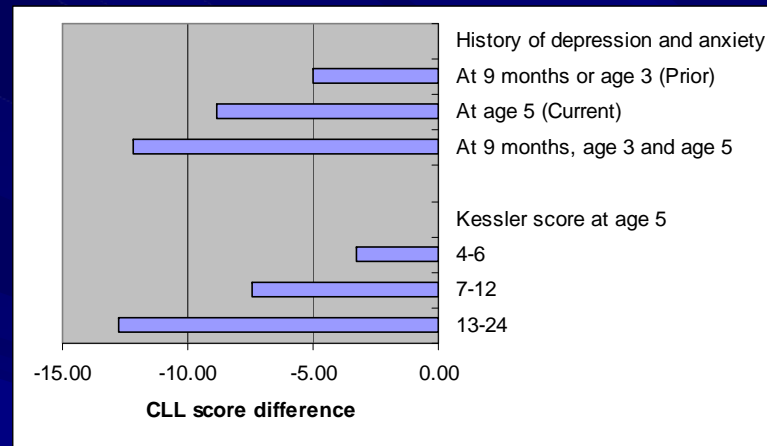


Source: Foundation Stage Profile 2006 – Results for Millennium Cohort Study Children in England

Poverty History and Income



Maternal Depression



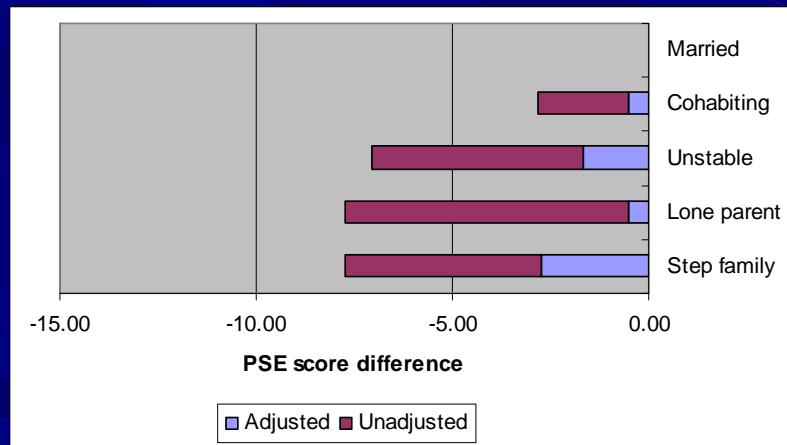
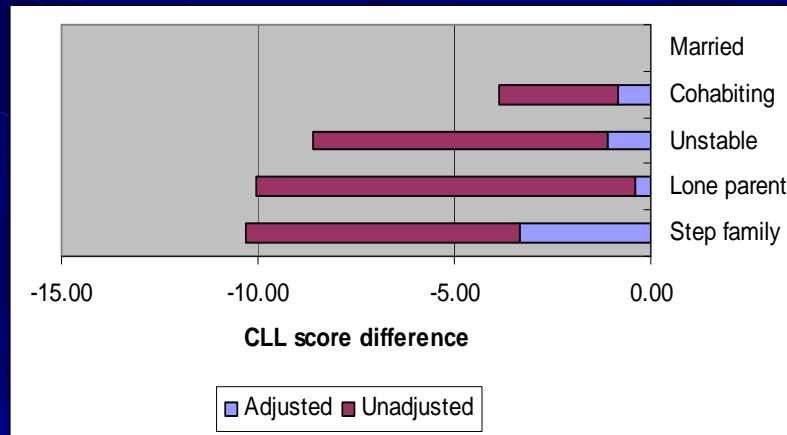
Gaps by Children's Ethnic Origin

	CLL raw	CLL adj	PSE raw	PSE adj
White (reference group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mixed	-2.8	-1.0	-2.2	0.8
Indian	-3.3	-1.4	-0.9	-0.2
Pakistani	-11.6	-3.2	-8.6	-3.9
Bangladeshi	-12.7	-1.4	-8.3	-1.8
Black Caribbean	-8.0	-2.3	-8.5	-4.2
Black African	-4.3	+3.6	-4.7	0.5
Other	-5.6	0.5	-5.5	-1.4

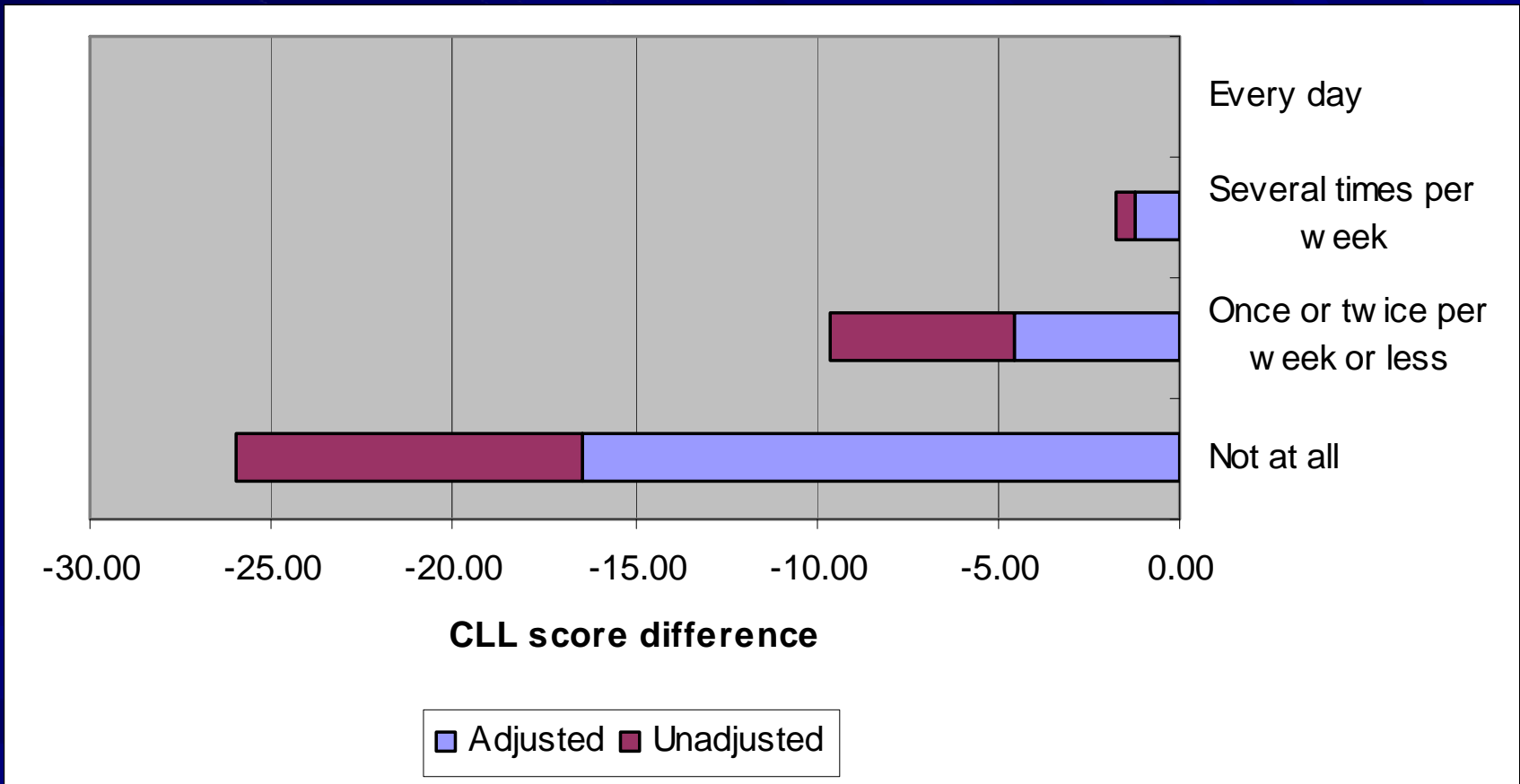
Factors taken into account

- Child attributes
 - Gender and age
 - Birth Order (first versus later born)
 - Number of siblings
 - Ethnicity
- Mother's attributes
 - Age at first birth
 - Educational Qualifications of Mother
 - Maternal depression
 - Mother feels close to the child
 - Mother's life satisfaction
- Family attributes
 - Family history
 - Parental relations- happy or not
 - Work History
 - Income
 - Housing Tenure
 - Good area to bring up children
 - Help with reading
 - Language spoken in the home

Parental Partnerships



Home Learning Environment: help with reading



The Future?