

Nourishing Our Children with Language

The Early Years Last Forever



Genes & experience

Nature & nurture
work together





Reference: Cicchetti, 2006

At birth a baby...



Early communication

-  Gaze
-  Touch
-  Gesture
-  Babbling



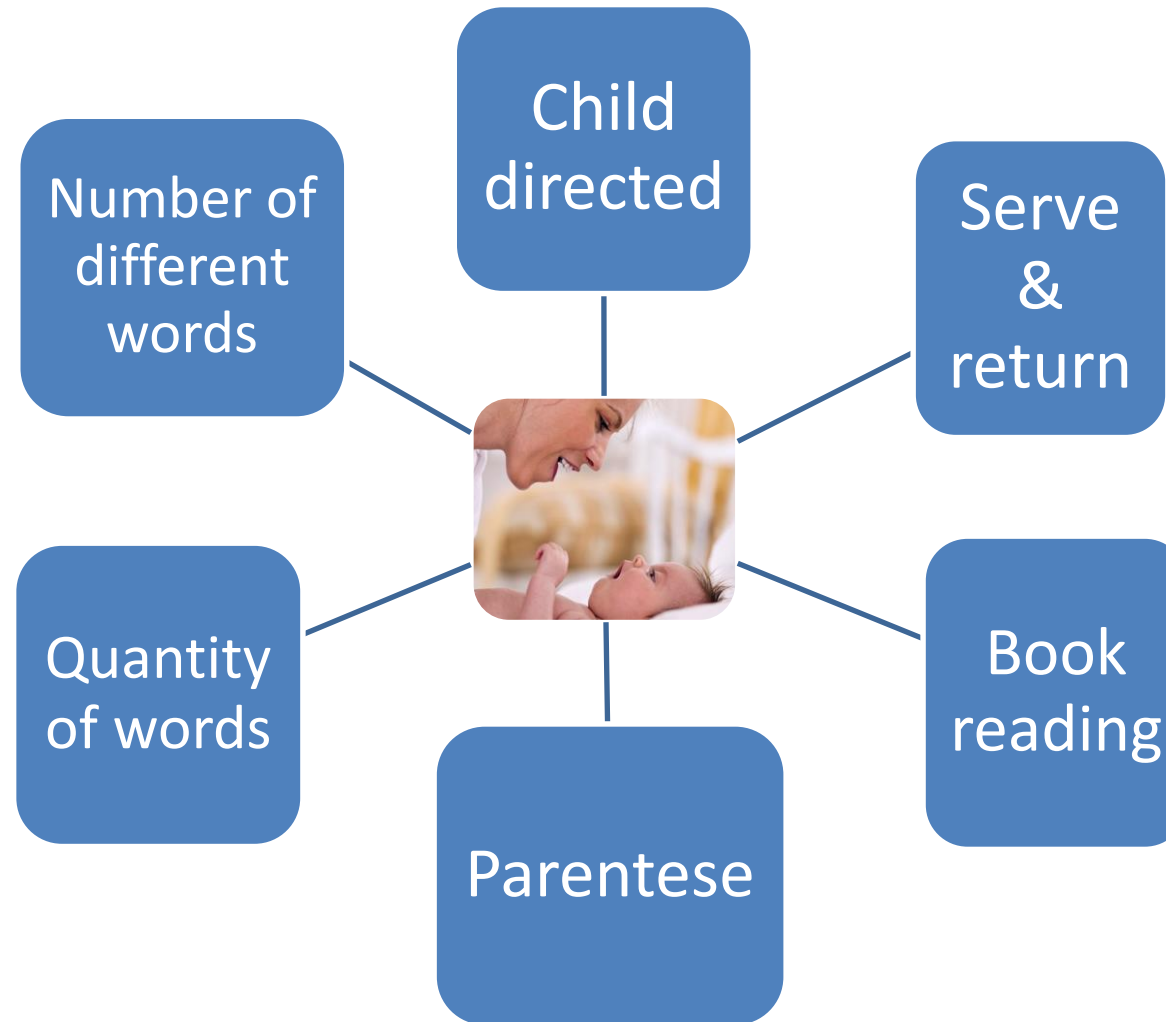
References: Bidgood, 2016; Mol & Bus 2011; Warren, 2015

Importance of language



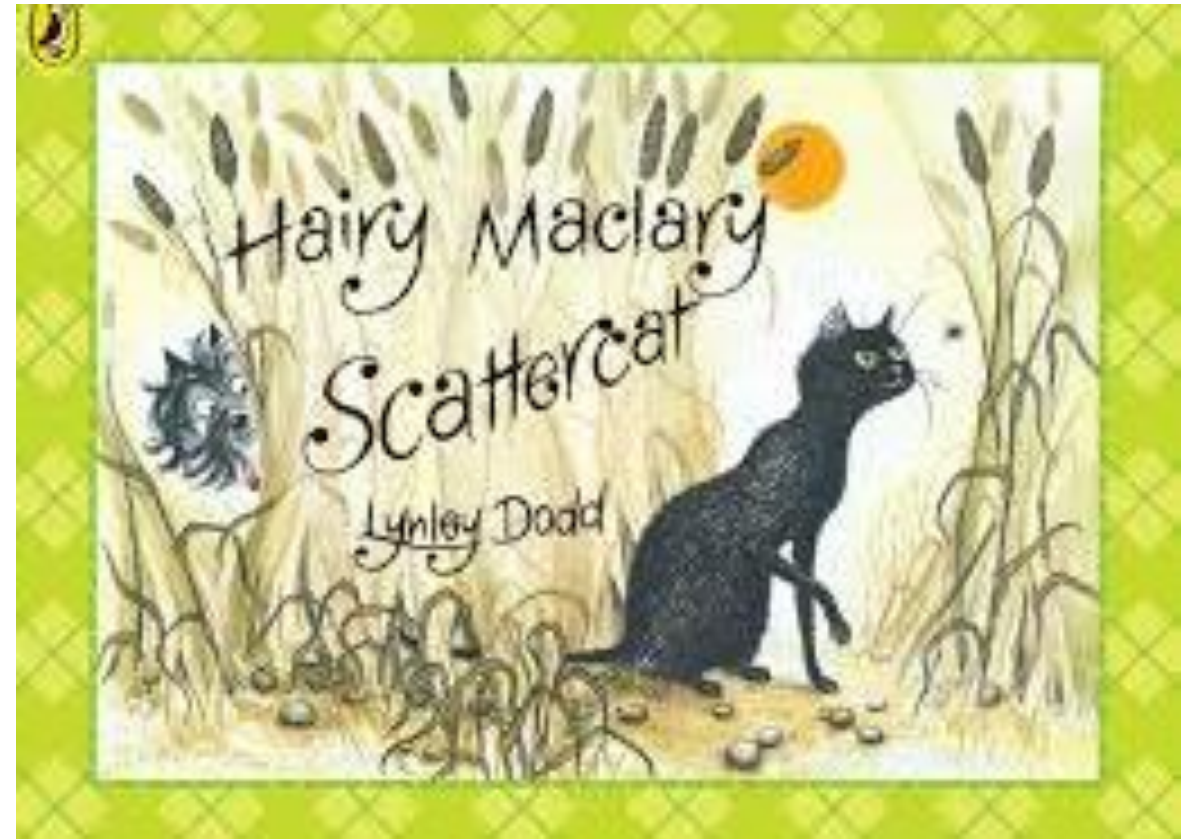
References: Goldfeld et al., 2016; Nelson et al., 2011; Snow and Powell, 2012; Zauche et al., 2016

Language nutrition



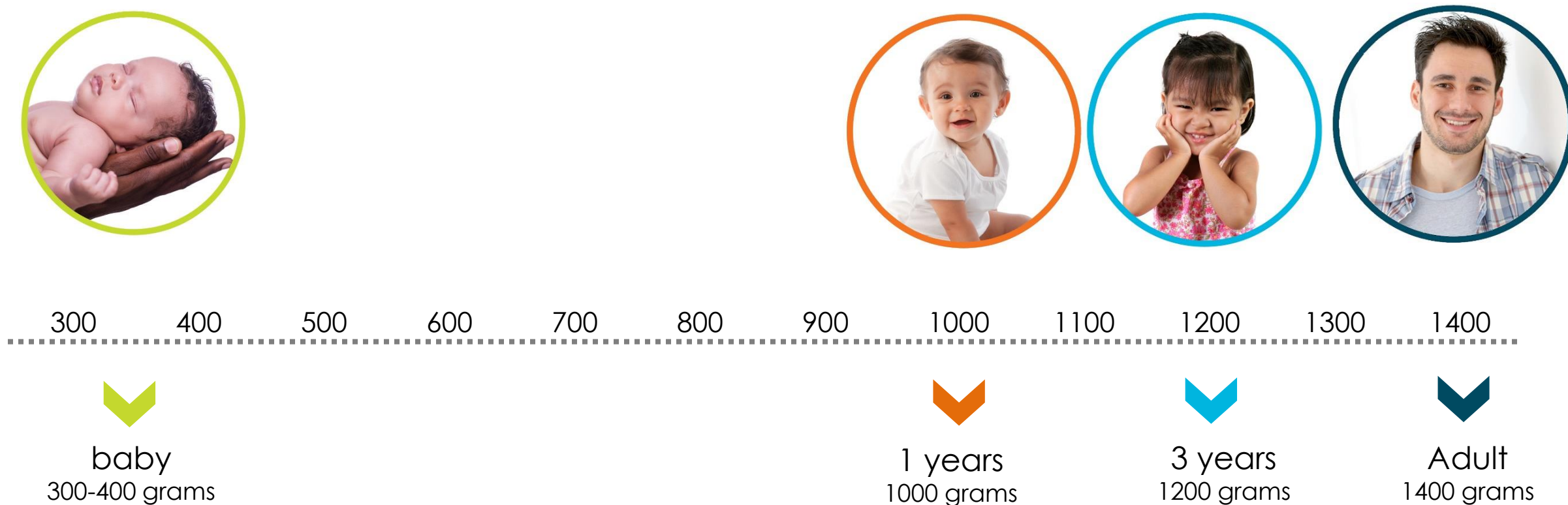
Books: Richer language

“Hairy Maclary
felt bumptious and bustly,
bossy and bouncy
and frisky and hustly.”



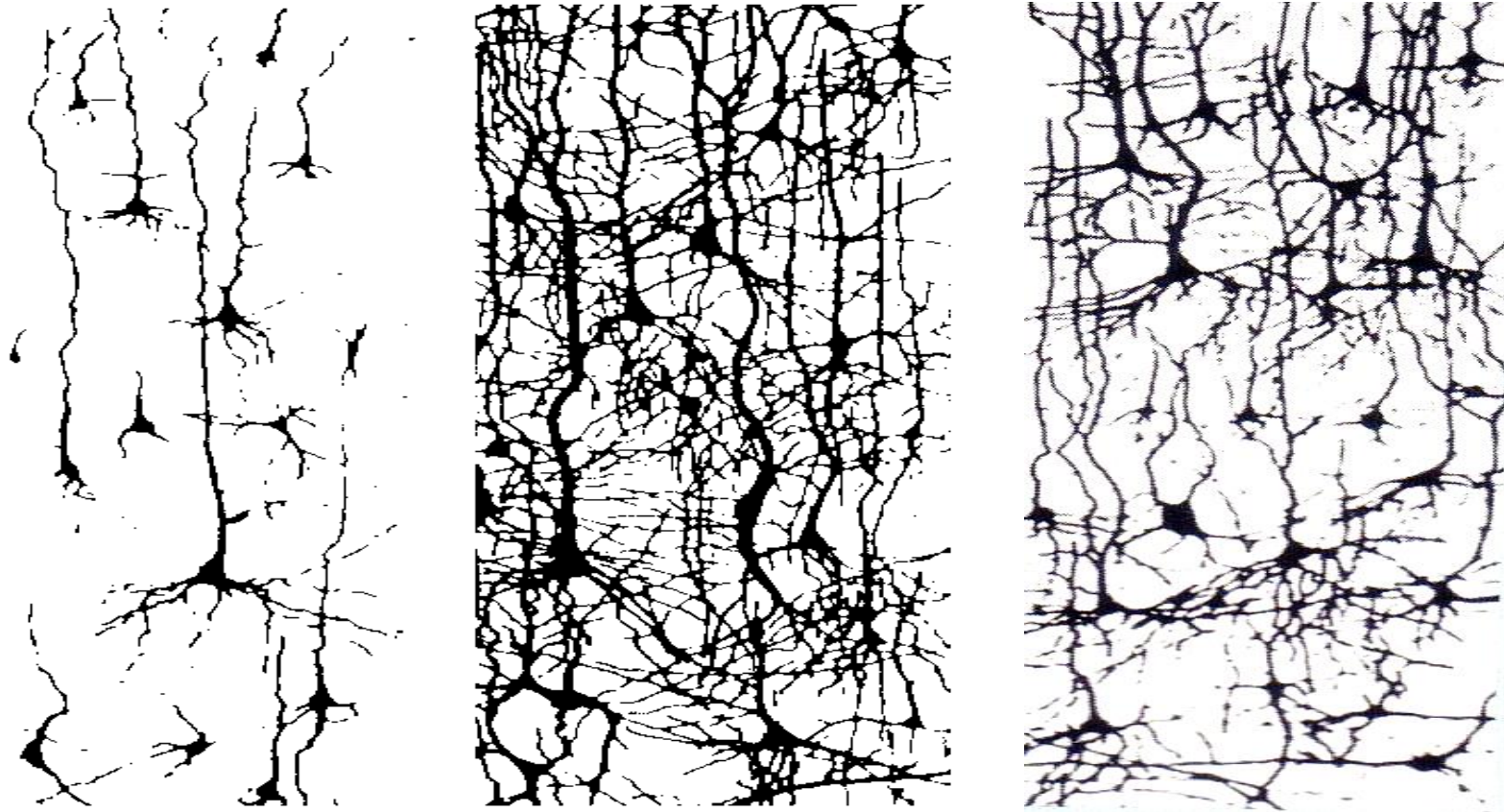
Reference: Dodd, 1985, p.1

Brain growth

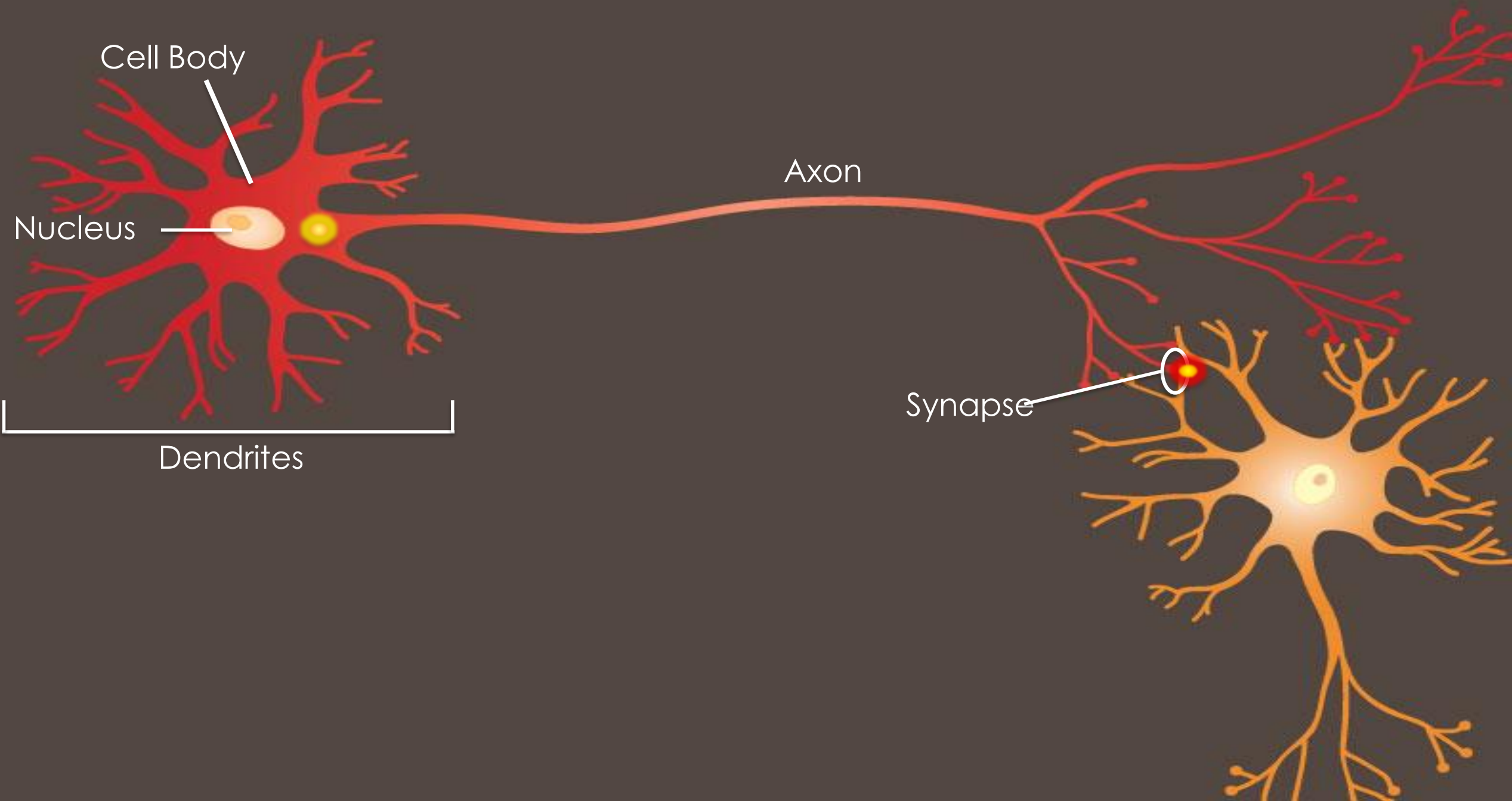


Reference: Dekaban, 1978

Growth & pruning

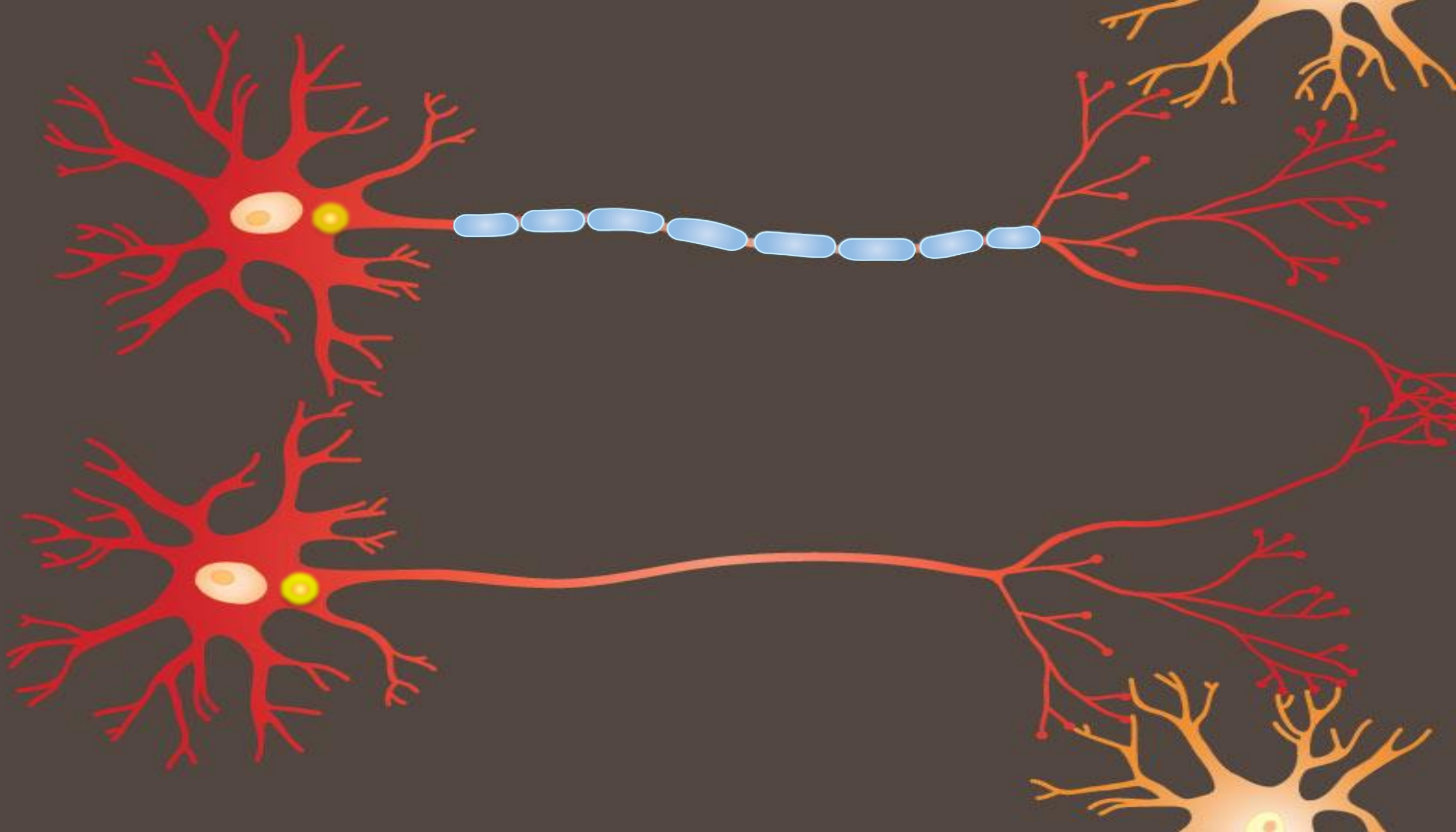


Reference: Purves et al., 2012



Ordinary opportunities





The snowball effect

- Accumulated advantage
- Widening gap



Reference: Fletcher & Reese 2005, cited by Mol & Bus, 2011

Implications for professionals

- 🧠 Sharing with parents the importance of language
- 🧠 Fathers' role
- 🧠 Options for parents with low literacy



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