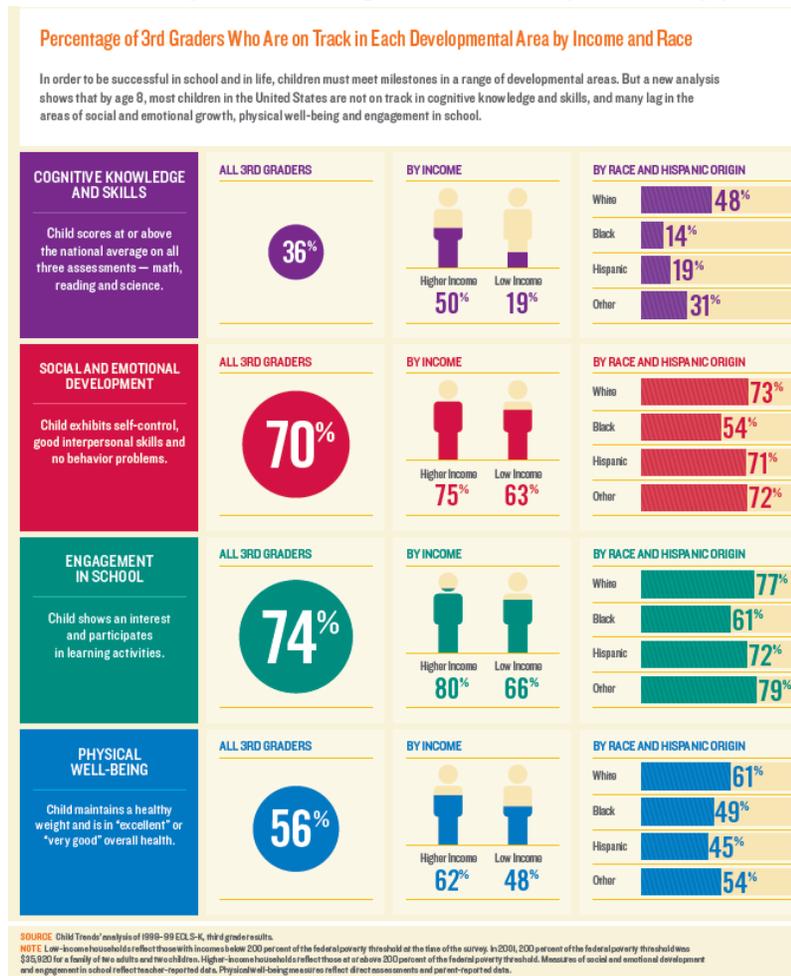


BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE CONTINUUM

Ensuring that care and education is comprehensive and coordinated for all children from birth through age 8 is critical. To achieve the best outcomes, all programs and services for children need to work in unison to support development from the early years through the early grades. Research shows that creating a more comprehensive, coordinated approach — one that starts with programs to improve parenting for infants and toddlers and continues through prekindergarten and elementary school programs — could substantially improve child outcomes.ⁱ Unfortunately, families currently experience a patchwork of disjointed services that are difficult to access and coordinate.

Communication and data sharing among programs is inconsistent, with parents often serving as the only linkage between health care, child care and education services. For example, when a child moves from a child-care setting to kindergarten, there is often little information sharing between early care providers and the school system, making the transition particularly problematic.



ⁱ Grannis, K., & Sawhill, I. (2013, forthcoming). "Improving children's life chances: Estimates from the Social Genome Model," Washington, DC: The Brookings Center on Children and Families.