

RETHINKING THE BRAIN

Old Thinking.....

How a brain develops depends on the **genes** you are born with.

The **experiences** you have before age three have a limited impact on later development.

A **secure relationship** with a primary caregiver creates a favorable **context** for early development and learning.

Brain development is **linear**: the brain's capacity to learn and change grows steadily as an infant progresses toward adulthood.

A toddler's brain is much **less active** than the brain of a college student.

New Thinking....

How a brain develops hinges on a complex **interplay** between the **genes** you're born with and the experiences you have.

Early **experiences** have a decisive impact on the architecture of the brain, and on the nature and extent of adult capacities.

Early interactions don't just create a context: they **directly affect** the way the brain is "**wired**".

Brain development is **non-linear**: there are prime times for acquiring different kinds of knowledge and skills.

By the time children reach age three, their brains are **twice as active** as those of adults. Activity levels drop during adolescence.