

Local

Every Kid Matters: Providing Kids With An Environment In Which They Can Thrive

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Vickie Thomas
Vickie Thomas is the City Beat Reporter for WWJ Newsradio 950. She was... [Read More](#)

DETROIT (WWJ) – In a special WWJ presentation, “Every Kid Matters: The Case for Early Childhood Investment” -- WWJ City Beat reporter Vickie Thomas takes a look at brain science and what we can do to help children learn in the earliest years of life.

Moriah Thomason, assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics of the Wayne State University School of Medicine, says from a scientific standpoint, it's more than just looking at the structure of the brain.

“We are really considering interplay and action,” said Thomason. “This makes sense on an intuitive level – the brain is complex ... so it's exciting that we are moving beyond that single dimension to get a more complex organization.

“A big effort in my lab is even in utero mapping the development of functional developments while women are pregnant. I don't think we can do any [better](#) than that, so that's an exciting future research,” said Thomason.

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Tim Bartik with the Upjohn Institute For Employment Research said the goal is to have children [develop](#) soft skills – the ability to get along – as early as possible.

“If you develop them early on, before a kid enters kindergarten they get off to a better start in kindergarten, they [learn more](#) in kindergarten then they go off to first grade – so there is a process of cumulative causation that leads into adulthood, that's what we are trying to do here. We are trying to say that although we can intervene later successfully, it's much easier if you can get it right the first time,” said Bartik.

Bartik says we need to provide kids with an environment in which they can thrive — and studies show they are the ones who will be most successful later in life.

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