Memory, Attention, Trauma and Learning: Translating Research into Educational Practice

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Our speakers…..

- Professor Susan Gathercole
  - Director, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge
- Professor Vicki Anderson,
  - Director, Psychology, RCH
  - Director, Critical Care & Neurosciences Research, MCRI

Why is Working memory interesting?

CCCH clinical experience

- School function program
  - Multidisciplinary assessment for children referred with learning problems
  - 5-year retrospective chart review:
    - Dr Carl Hoekstra, fellow at CCCH in 2009
  - 70-80% have difficulties with short-term and working memory

Research experience: School Readiness in very preterm children

- Three key attributes
  - Children who are ready to learn
    - 1) Health and physical development
    - 2) Emotional well-being and social competence
    - 3) Approaches to learning
    - 4) Communication skills
    - 5) Cognitive skills and general knowledge.
  - Schools that are ready for children
  - Parents and communities who support the child’s development.
  - Copple, National Educational Goals Panel, 1997

Very preterm children have multiple areas of difficulty
Being in the right place at the right time...

**Memory Maestros:**
Aiming to prevent children's learning difficulties by improving working memory

**Aims**
- Can a school-based computerised working memory program have a sustained impact on
  - (a) literacy and numeracy and
  - (b) working memory skills
  …in intervention children, compared with controls?
- What are the intervention’s costs, compared with its benefits, to children, families and schools?