

# *Evidence for Critical Periods in Human Development: Lessons from the Bucharest Early Intervention Project*

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Experience plays an essential role in building brain architecture after birth. The question I will address in this talk is what happens to brain and behavior when a young child is deprived of key experiences during critical periods of brain development. My focus in particular is on the consequences of institutionalization with implication for the millions of children around the world who from an early age experience profound psychosocial deprivation. Deprivation can lead to a host of both short- and long-term consequences, but intervention at critical periods in development may remediate some of these negative consequences. I will present recent findings from the Bucharest Early Intervention Project to illustrate principles of critical periods in brain and behavioral development.

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