

Innovations in Evidence-Based Policymaking

Becoming Evidence-Based: What Does it Take?

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Senior Scholar

November 3, 2010



Child Trends' Mission

To improve outcomes for children by providing research and analysis to the people and institutions whose decisions and actions affect children.

INFORMATION FOR ...

PROGRAM PROVIDERS



POLICY COMMUNITY



**RESEARCHERS
& EDUCATORS**

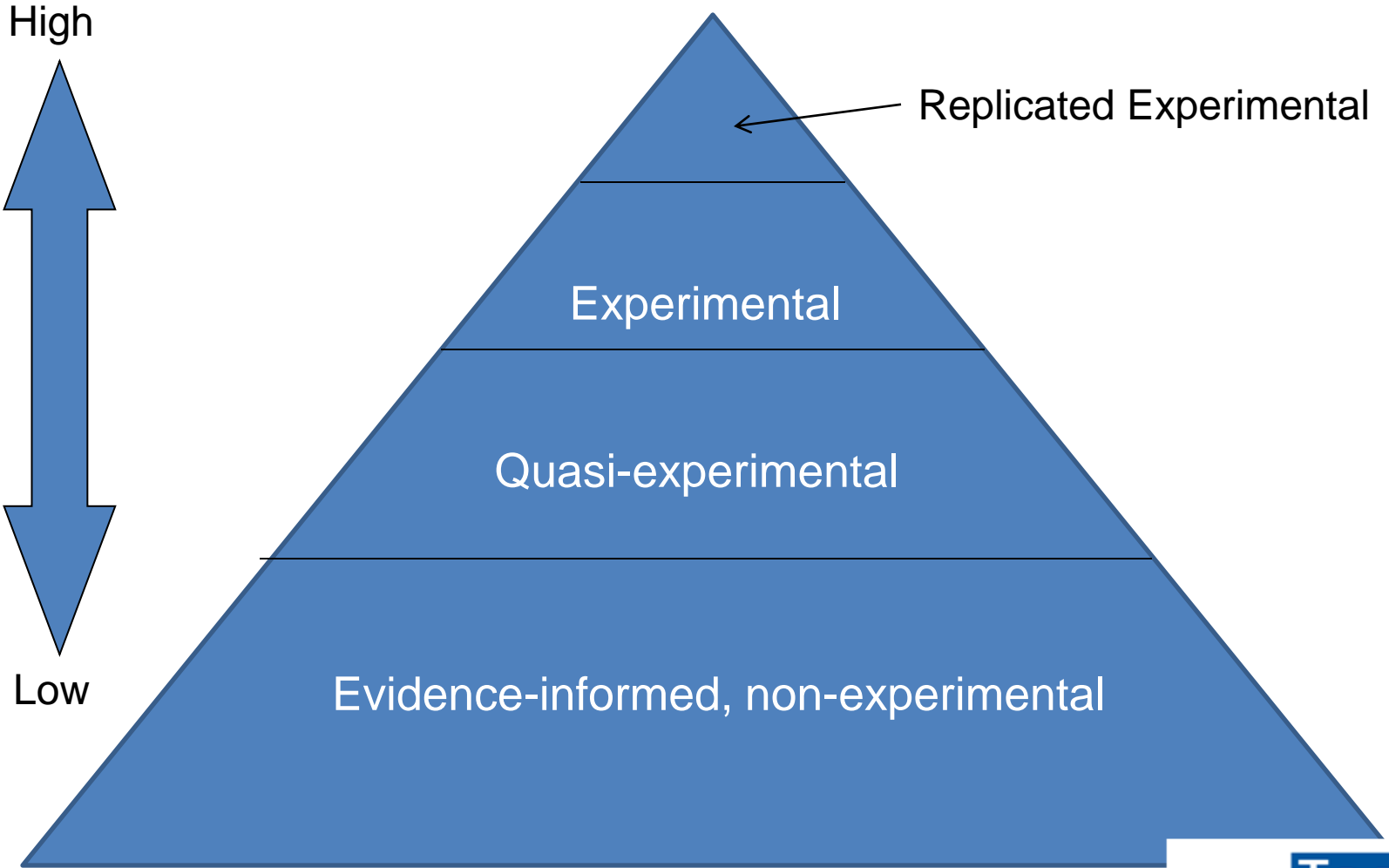


MEDIA

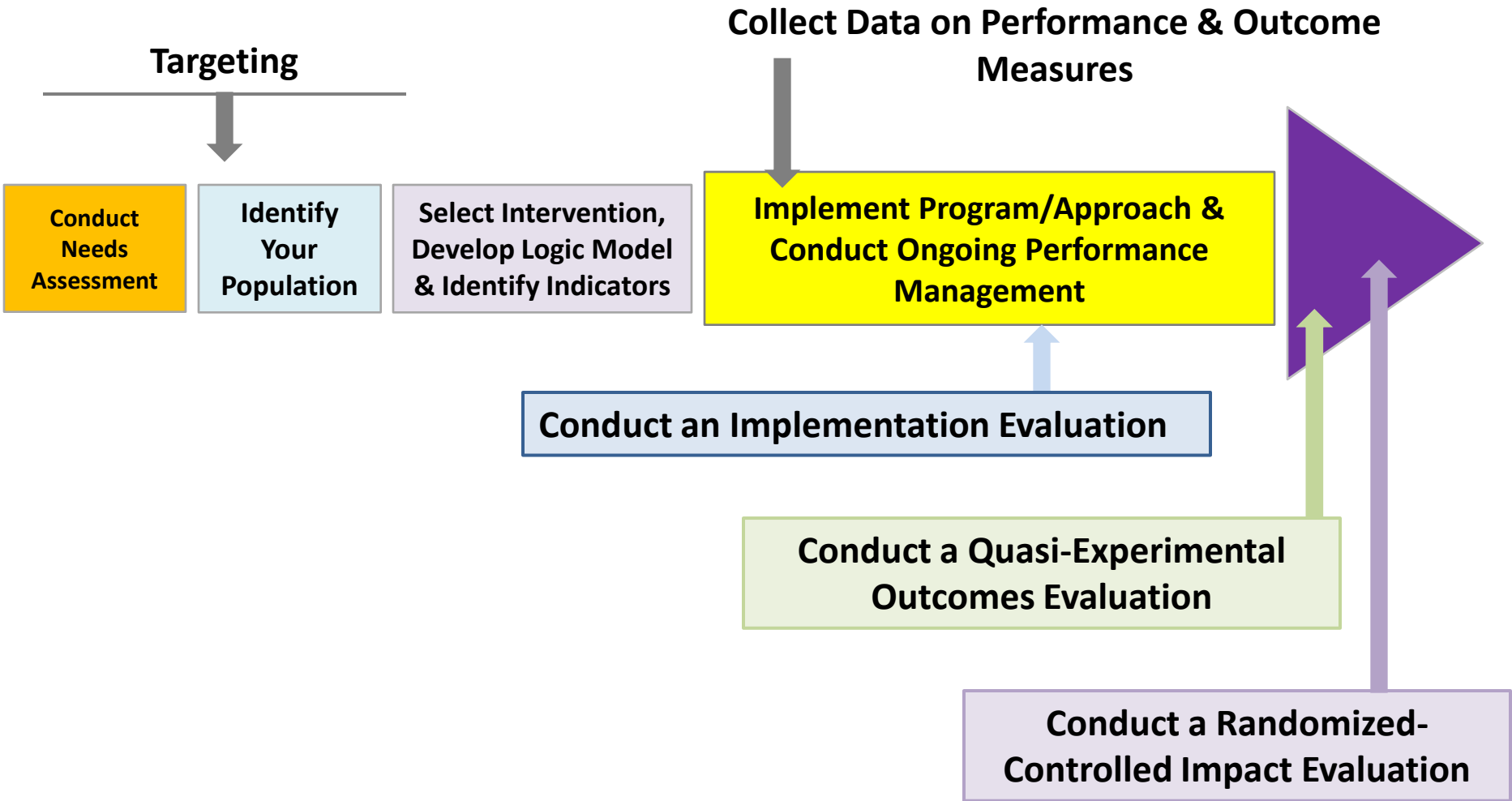


<http://www.childtrends.org/>

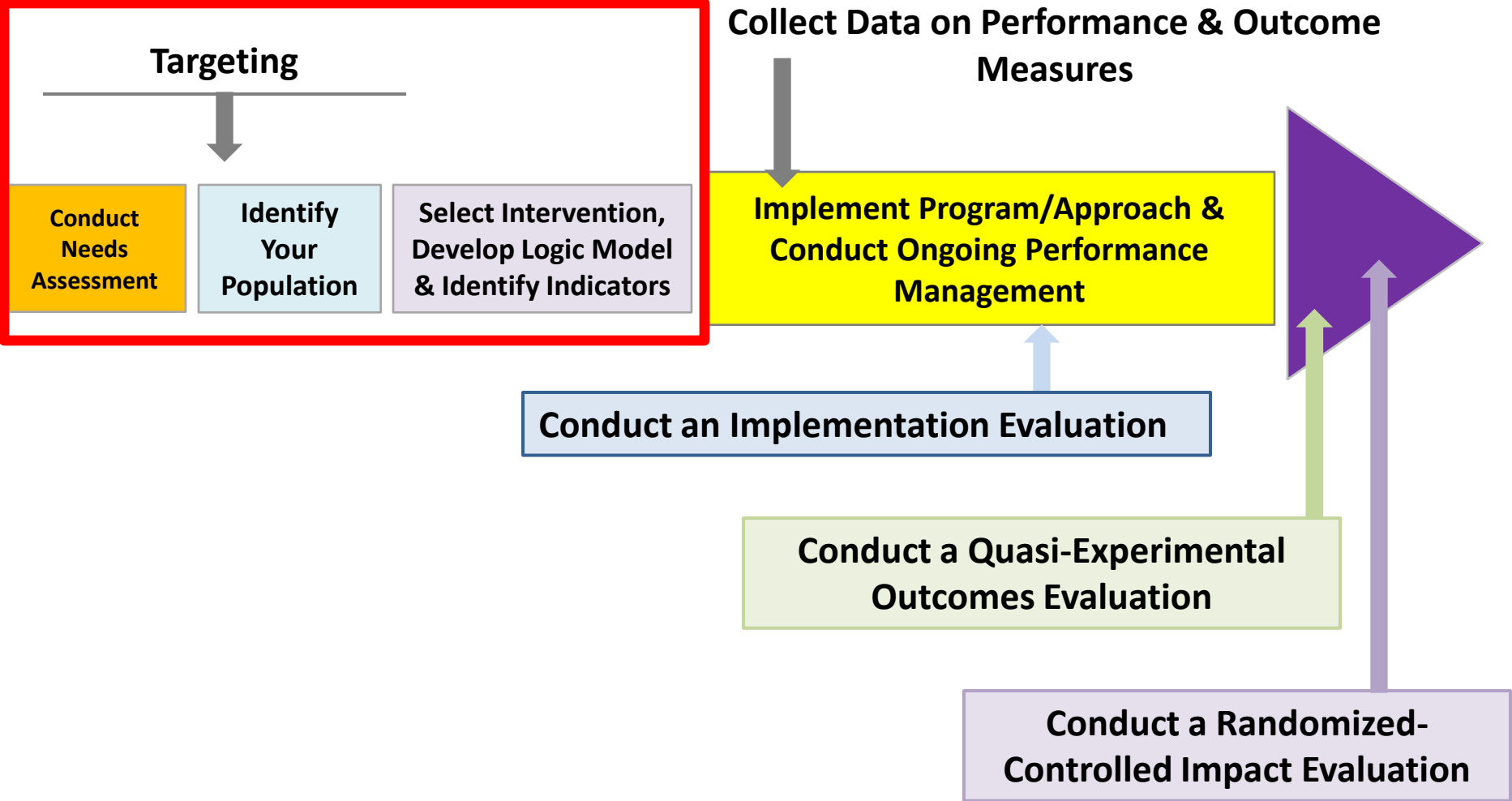
What Are the Levels of Evaluation Evidence?



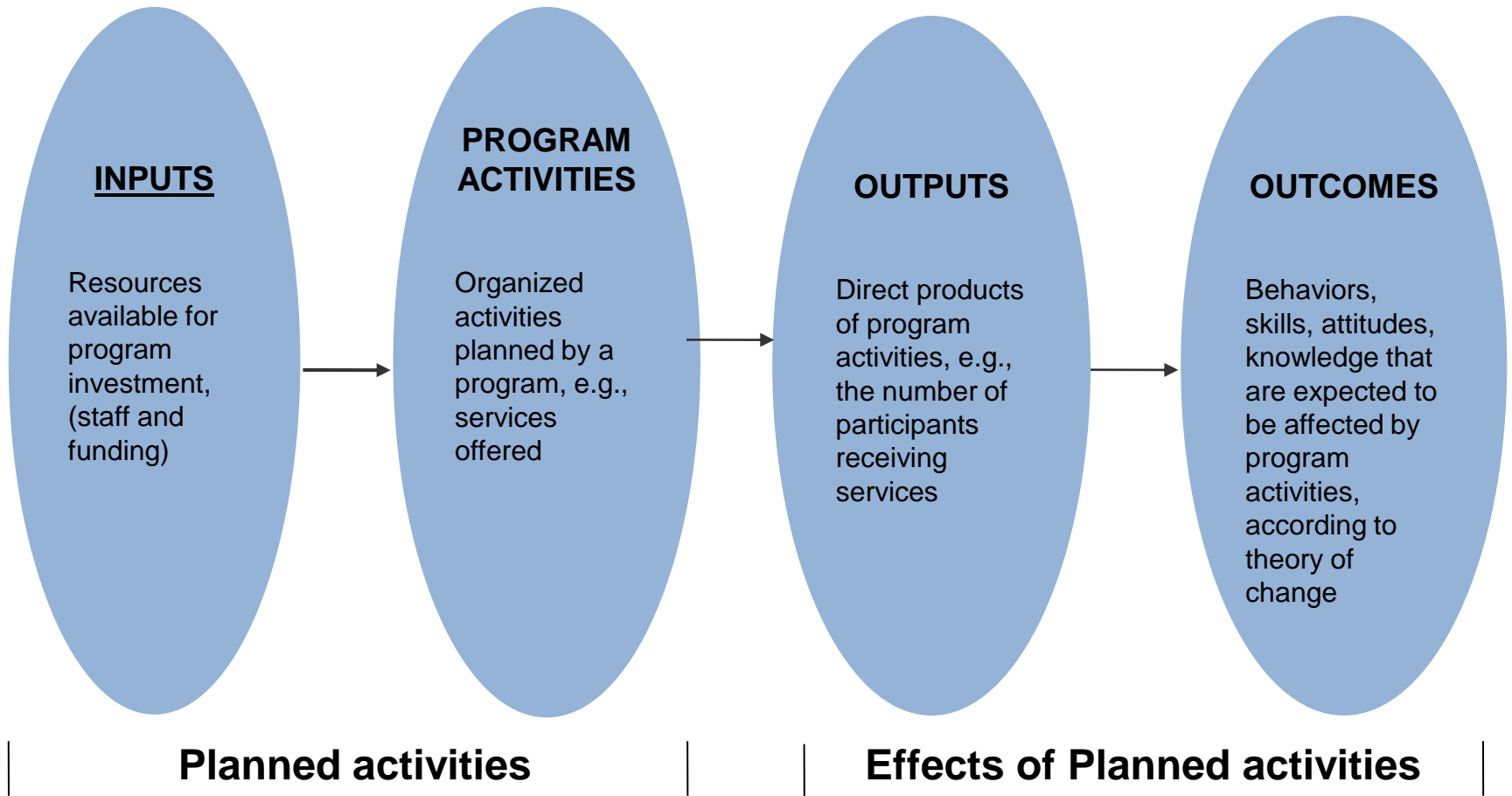
What is the Process of Becoming Evidence-Based?



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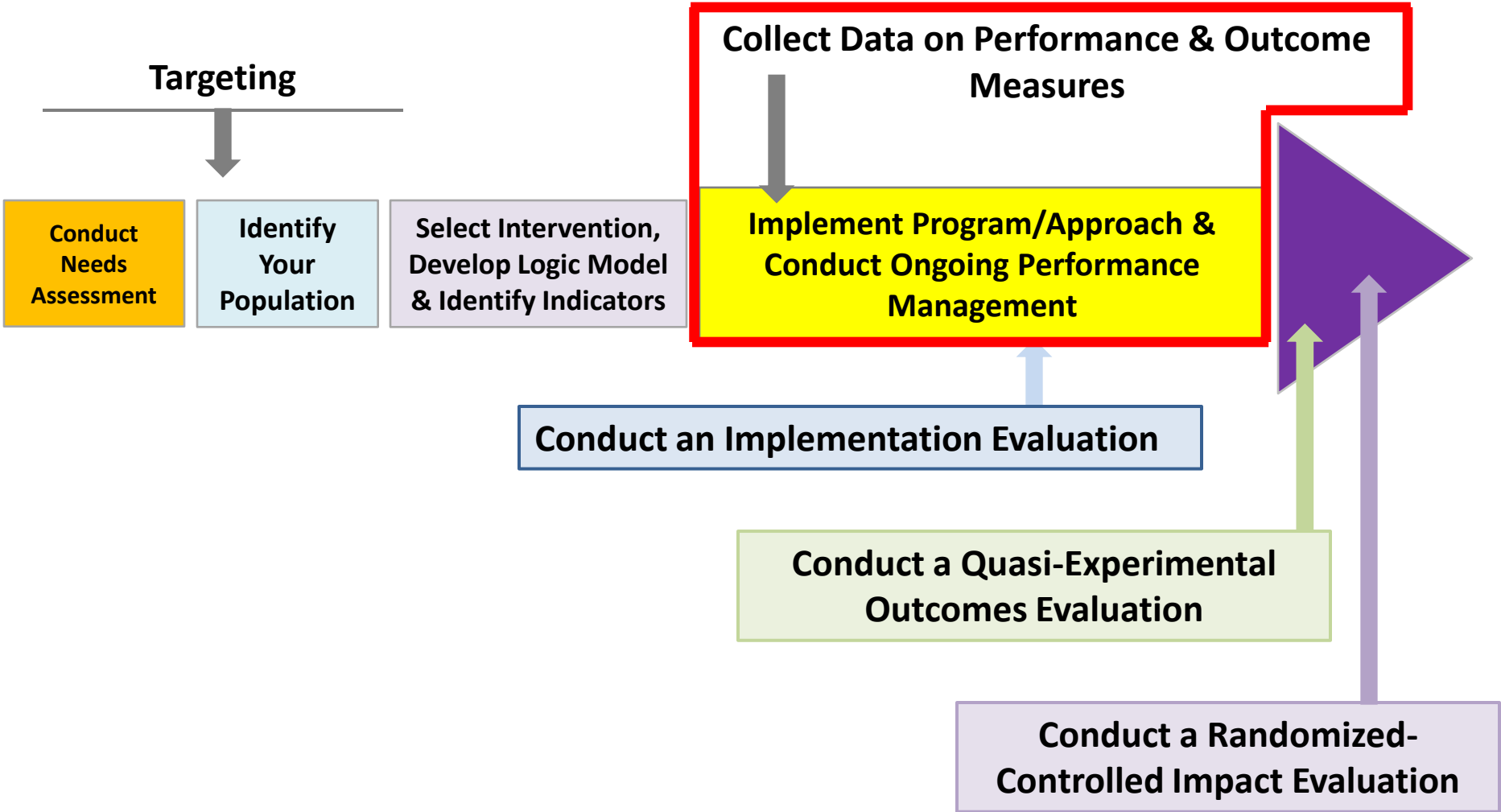
What is a Logic Model?



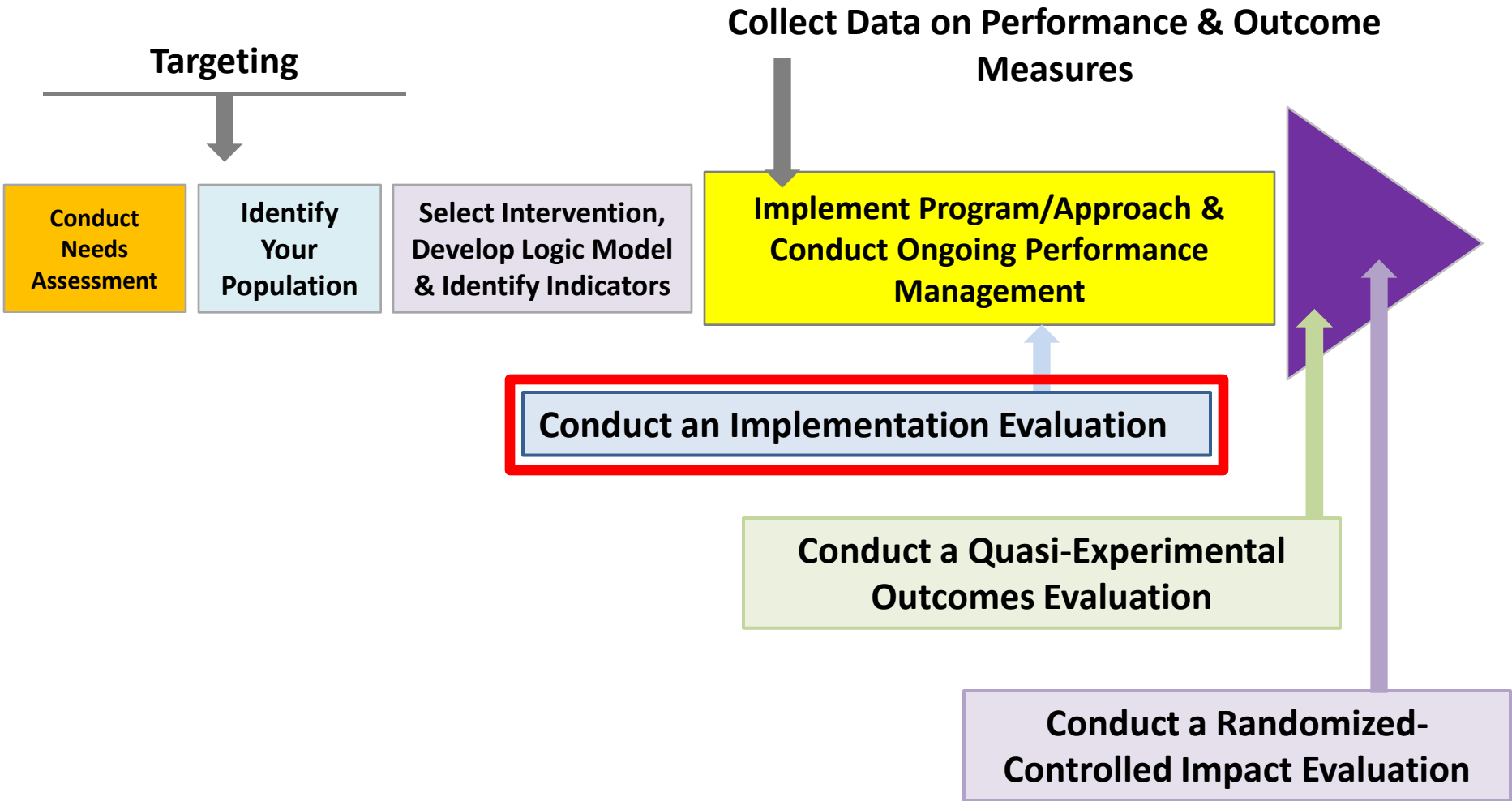
Child Well-being Domains

- Physical health and safety
 - Cognitive achievement and academic attainment
 - Psychological and emotional development
 - Social Behavior
 - Relationships
- Child well-being is NOT: poverty, family structure, health insurance, parenting, neighborhood cohesion, school quality.
- These are contexts, independent variables, risk and protective factors.

What is the Process of Becoming Evidence-Based?



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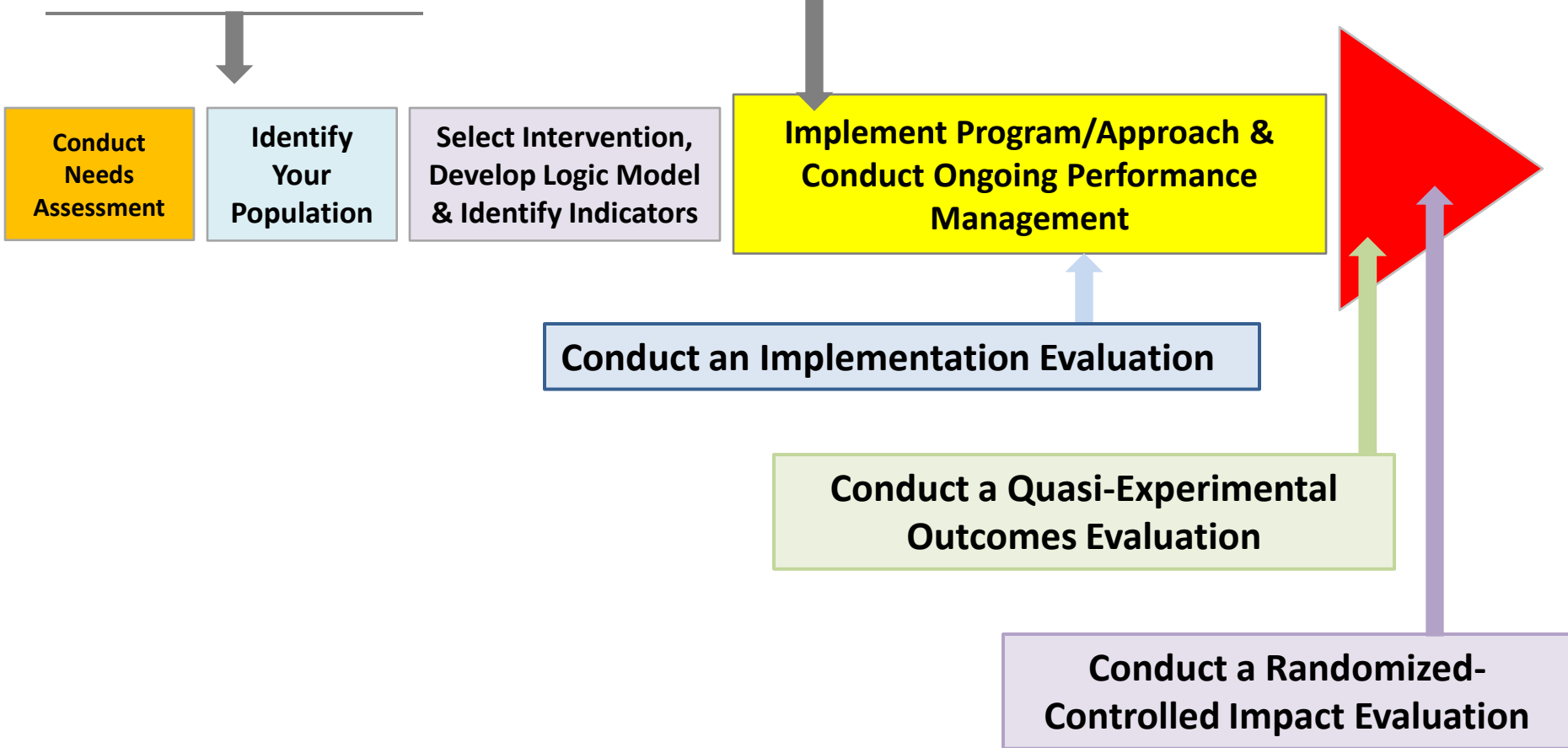


Issues to Consider in Implementation Research



Evidence-Based Programs

Targeting



Child Trends' Resources on Evidence-Based Programs

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Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully (LINKS)


Programs That Work – Or Don't – To Enhance Children's Development




LINKS Database
A continually updated database of programs that work - or don't - to enhance children's development



LINKS Effectiveness Charts
Snapshot of programs with modest to large effect sizes that work for various outcomes across the lifecourse.



LINKS Syntheses
Publications that synthesize the lessons learned from experimentally evaluated programs in the LINKS database



Lifecourse Interventions that Work
A matrix of interventions that work (according to varied evidence-based registries and resources) to enhance children's development across the lifecourse

LINKS - Lifecourse Intervention to Nurture Kids Successfully



LINKS - Lifecourse Intervention to Nurture Kids Successfully

- Random assignment evaluations of social interventions to help children and youth
- Only intent-to-treat studies
- More than 460 programs evaluations summarized online
- Over 500 programs identified

LINKS database is searchable by:

- Age group
- Grade
- Gender
- Population (adolescent mothers, high-risk)
- Race/Ethnicity
- Location
- Program Setting (community-based, school-based)
- Implementation Information
- Program Type (summer program, skills training)
- Outcome (mental health, civic engagement)

LINKS Database Keywords

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LINKS (Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully) summarizes evaluations of out-of-school time programs that work (or not) to enhance children's development, in a user-friendly format for policy makers, program providers, and funders. This approach is built on the concept that child development is a cumulative process that begins before birth and continues into young adulthood. **Important: To see more search results, choose fewer criteria and then search again.**



Search Program Listing by Specific Criteria:

Target Population	
Age Group	Grade
<input type="checkbox"/> Infants (0-12 months)	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers (12-36 months)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten
<input type="checkbox"/> Children (3-11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents (12-17)	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (16+)	<input type="checkbox"/> High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adults (18-24)	<input type="checkbox"/> College

Gender	Other Population
<input type="checkbox"/> Male Only (if gender-specific)	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Offenders
<input type="checkbox"/> Female Only (if gender-specific)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adolescent Mothers
<input type="checkbox"/> Males and Females (Co-ed)	<input type="checkbox"/> High-Risk

Race/Ethnicity	
<input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian
<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native	

Program Characteristics	
Location	Program Setting
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> School-based
<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban	<input type="checkbox"/> Home-based
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural and/or Small Towns	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinic/Provider-based
	<input type="checkbox"/> Community-based

Implementation Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cost Information is Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Manual is Available

LINKS Database Keywords

Program Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Visitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent or Family Component	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Training/Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Community or Media Campaign	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Learning
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Case Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer-based	<input type="checkbox"/> Skills Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare/Public Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstinence Education
<input type="checkbox"/> After-School Program	

Outcome	
Mental Health	Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Select All "Mental Health"	<input type="checkbox"/> Select All "Education"
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety Disorders/Symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendance
<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct/Disruptive Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading/Literacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression/Mood Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics
<input type="checkbox"/> Eating Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Achievement/Grades
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Motivation/Self-Concept/ Expectations/Engagement
	<input type="checkbox"/> College Enrollment/Preparation
	<input type="checkbox"/> High School Completion/Dropout
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Self-Sufficiency	Physical Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Select All "Self-Sufficiency"	<input type="checkbox"/> Select All "Physical Health"
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Earnings	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Status/Conditions

LINKS also has Syntheses Across Programs



LINKS Syntheses



LINKS synthesis

“What Works” fact sheets synthesize the lessons learned from experimentally evaluated programs in the LINKS database

- Adolescent Reproductive Health
- Transition to Adulthood
- Home Visiting
- Parent Involvement Programs For Teens
- Parent Involvement Programs For Children
- Summer Learning
- Substance Use
- Civic Engagement
- Education
- Income and Employment

An Example: Contracting STDs

Not Proven to Work

Abstinence education programs:

- [My Choice, My Future!](#), a three-year program for 8th, 9th, and 10th graders
- [ReCapturing the Vision](#), a one-year program for 8th grade girls
- [Teens in Control](#), a two-year program for 5th and 6th graders
- [Families United to Prevent Teen Pregnancy \(FUPTP\)](#), an abstinence-focused after-school program for 8-13 year-olds
- Heritage Keepers Life Skills Education, a character-based program for 6th-12th grade students

Sex education programs:

- [Postponing Sexual Involvement \(PSI\)](#), a middle school program that focuses on delaying sexual activity

Mixed Findings

Sex education programs:

- [SiHLE](#), an HIV-prevention intervention for African American female adolescents, led to decreases in the acquisition of Chlamydia, but not trichomonas or gonorrhea.
- Clinic-based programs:
 - [ASSESS](#), a safe-sex education program for young teens, showed some evidence of reducing STD contraction.

Found to Work

Sex education programs:

- [FOCUS](#), a curriculum for female youth

An Example: WHAT WORKS FOR ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions

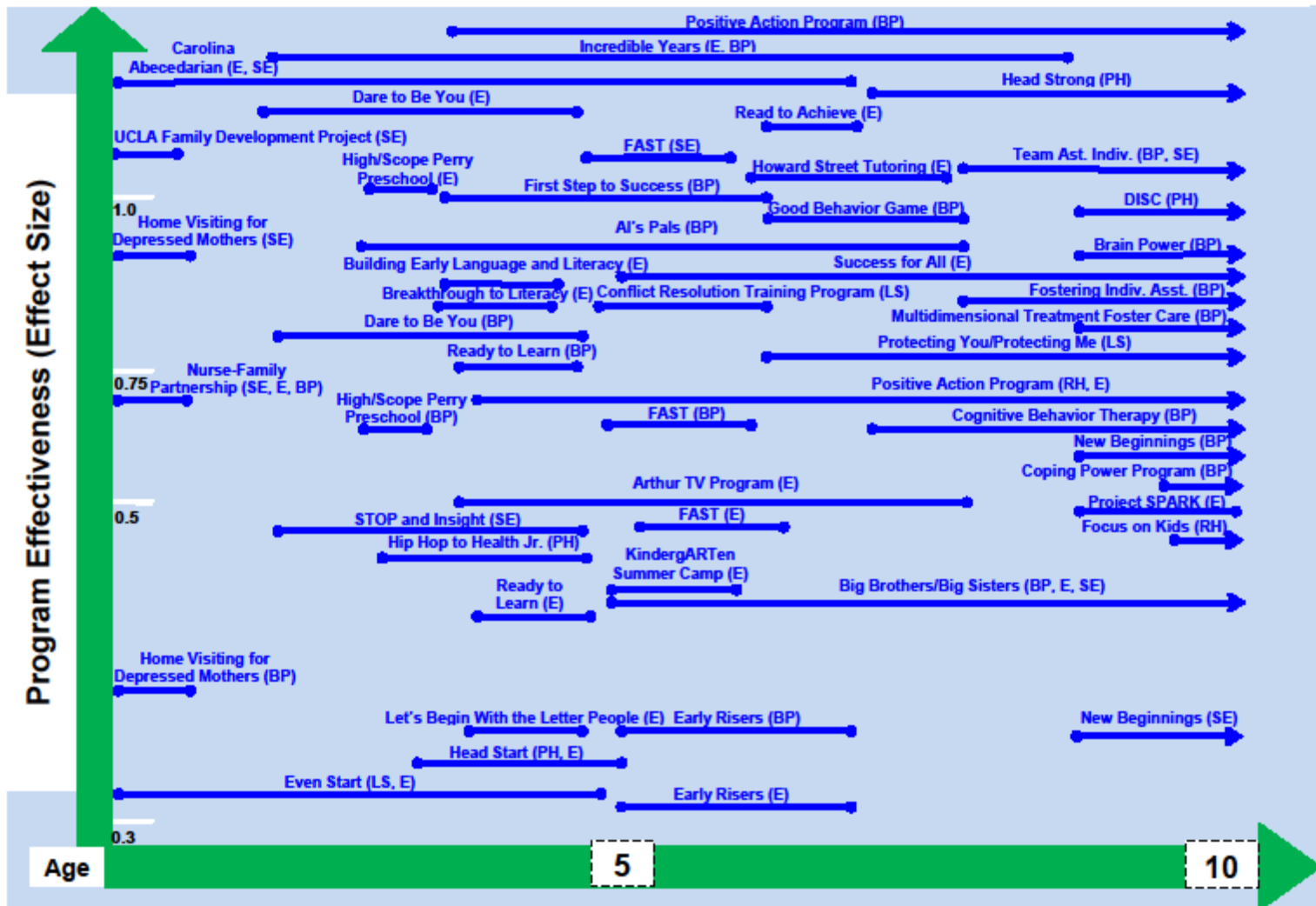
Victoria Ball, B.A. & Kristin A. Moore, Ph.D. May 2008

- Many different types of programs have positive impacts, including:
 - Comprehensive sex education
 - High-quality, intensive early childhood interventions
 - Programs that incorporate community service
- Providing adolescent mothers with guidance and support while their children are young appears to decrease subsequent pregnancies and births.

LINKS Effectiveness Charts Provide Information on Effect Sizes



Chart A: Effective Social Programs (Birth to 10 Years of Age)



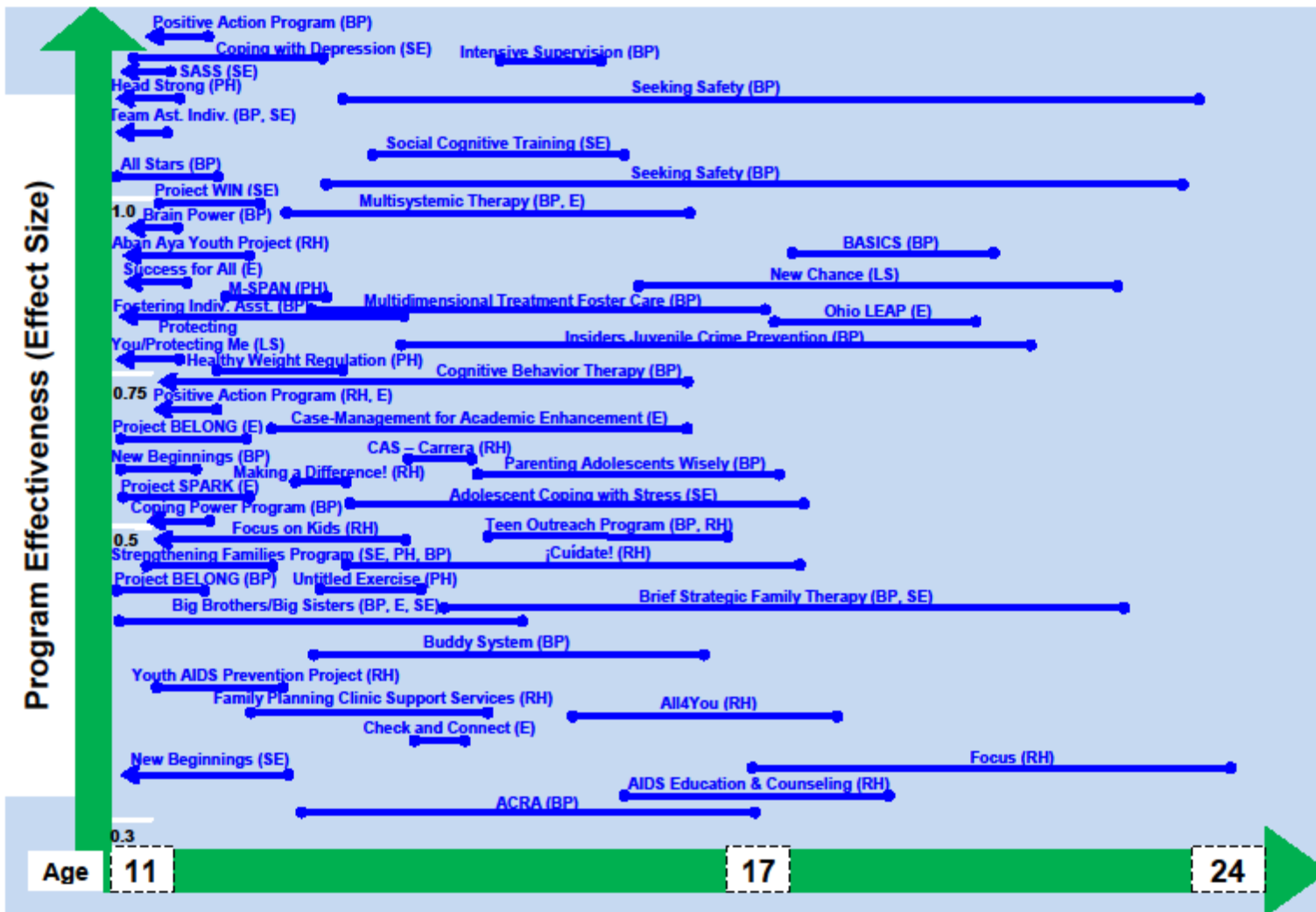
Source: Child Trends LINKS at www.childtrends.org/links

June, 2010

SE – Social/Emotional Health
 LS – Life Skills
 BP – Behavioral Problems/Substance Use

RH – Reproductive Health
 E – Education
 PH – Physical Health

Chart A: Effective Social Programs (11-24 Years of Age)



Source: Child Trends LINKS at www.childtrends.org/links

June, 2010

SE – Social/Emotional Health
 LS – Life Skills
 BP – Behavioral Problems/Substance Use

RH – Reproductive Health
 E – Education
 PH – Physical Health

Chart B: Effective Social Programs with Manuals for Implementation

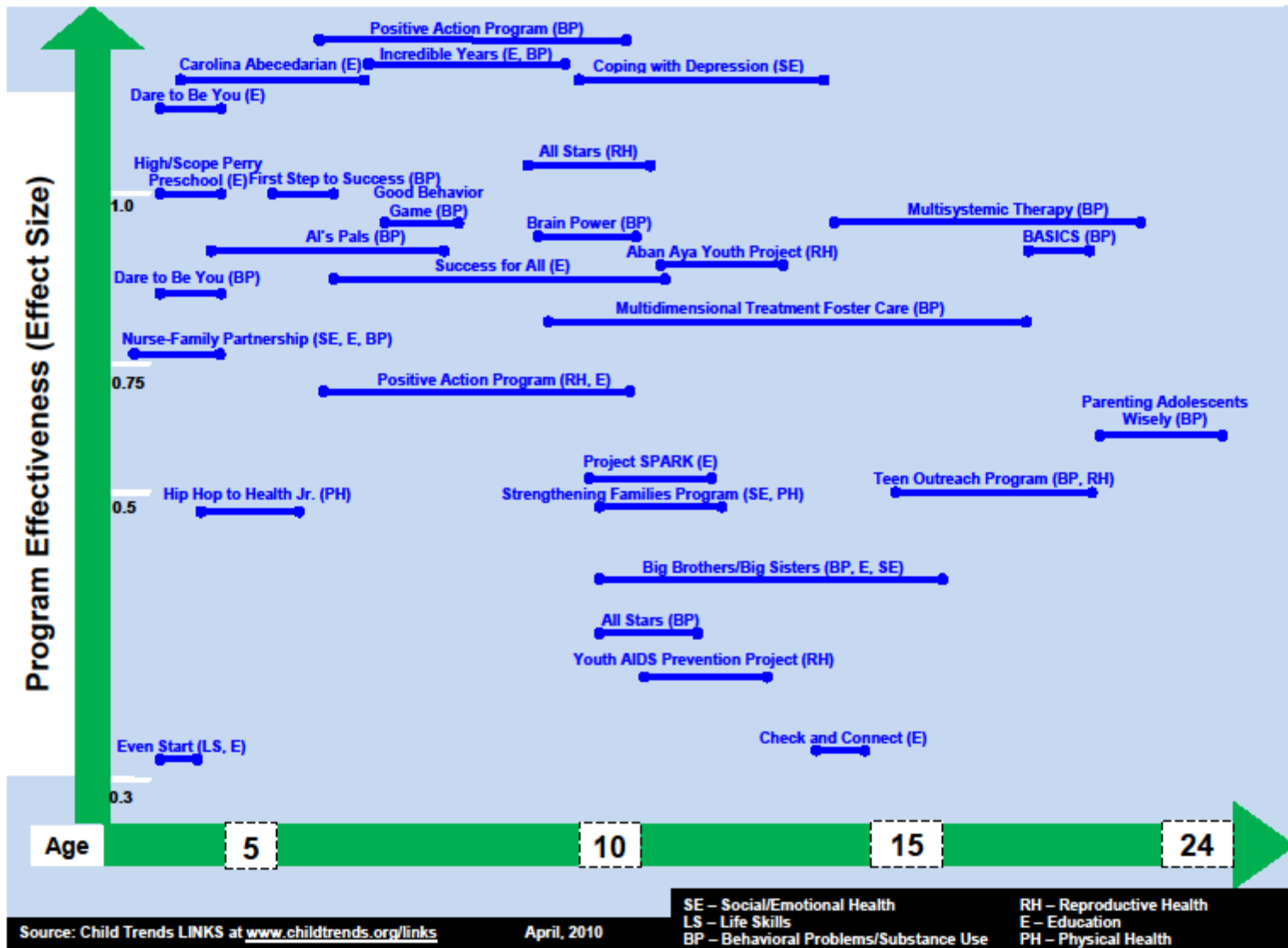


Chart C: Cost-Effective Social Programs

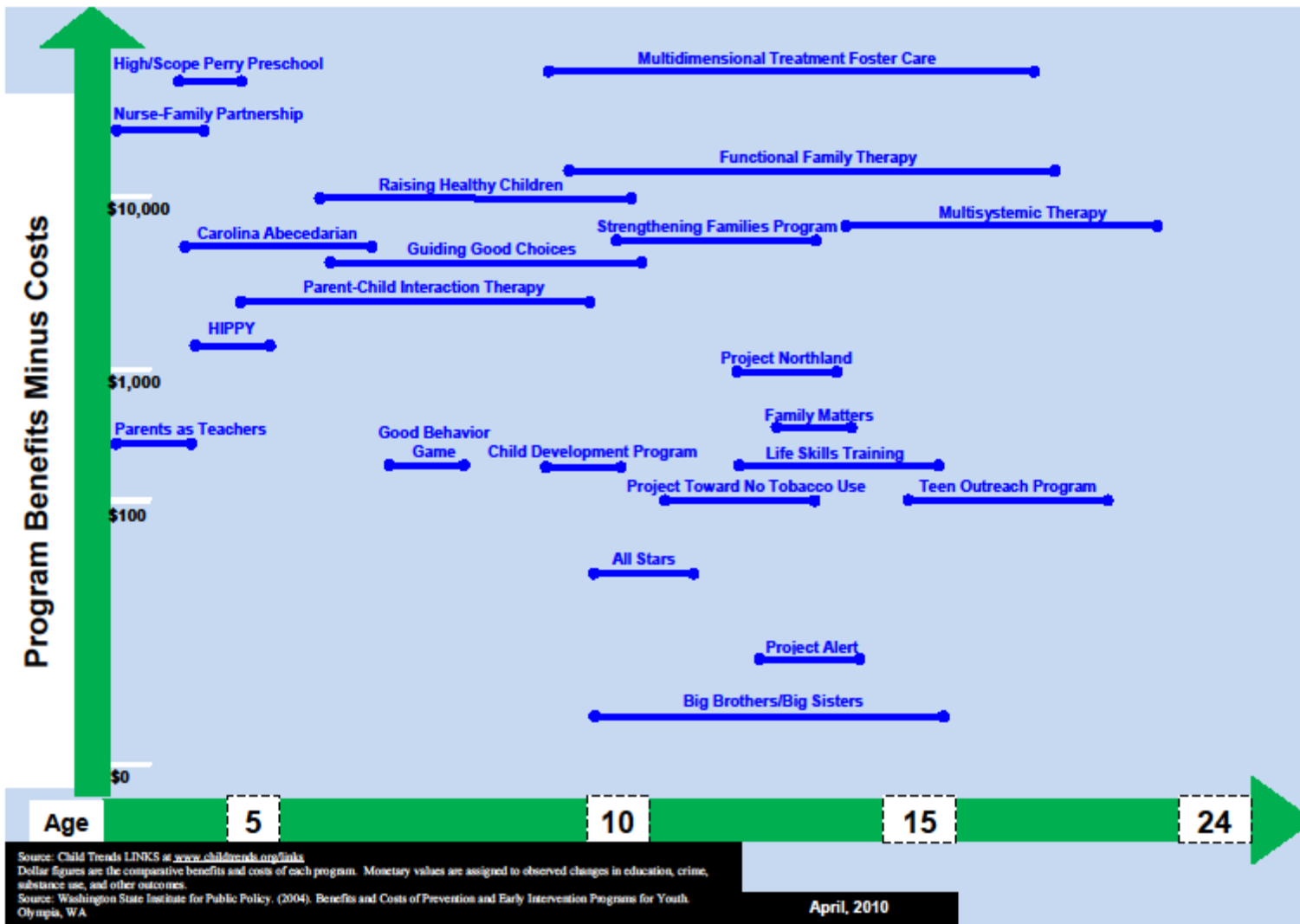
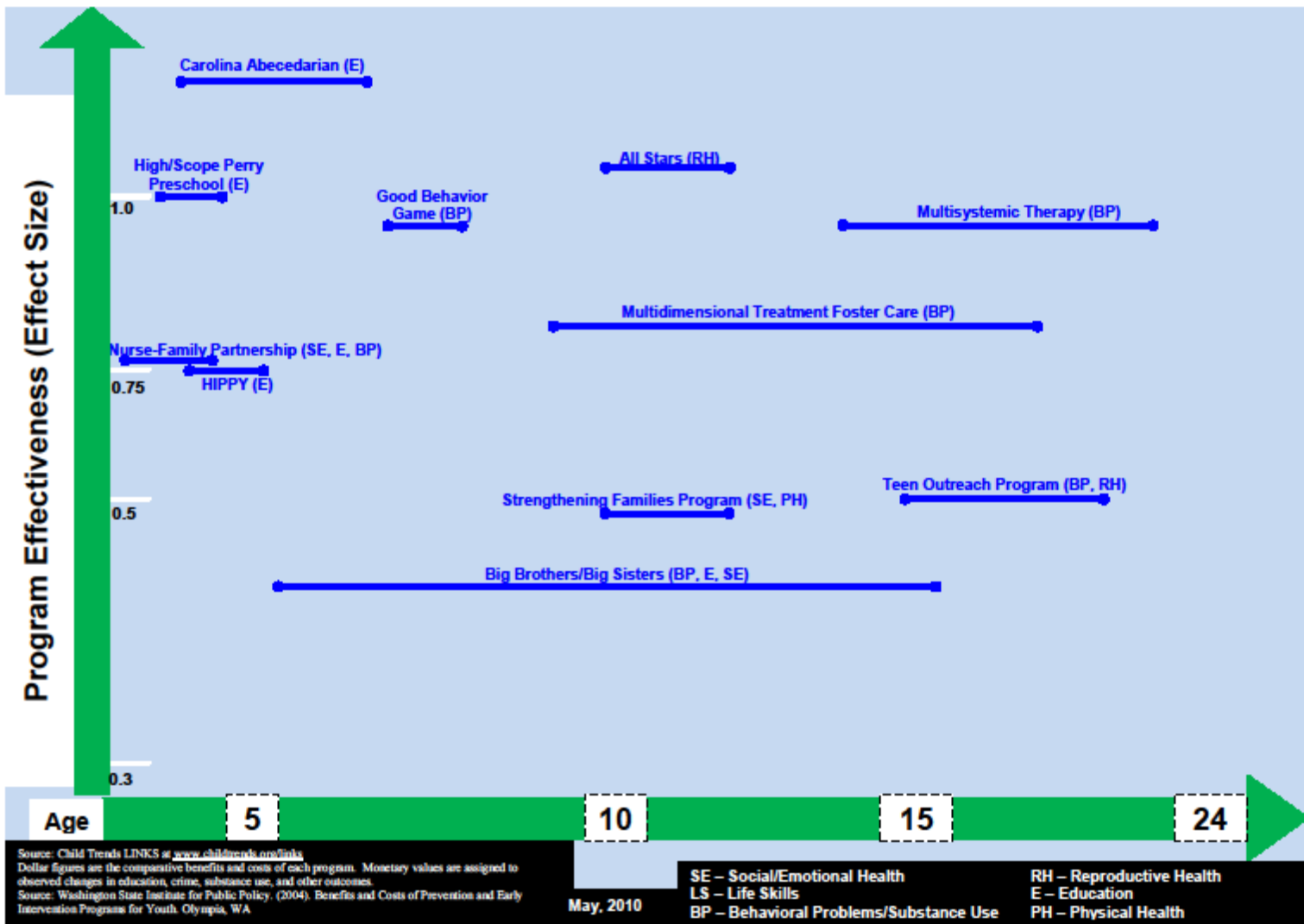


Chart D: Effective Social Programs with Manuals and Positive Cost-Benefit Impacts



Lifecourse Interventions that Work have been Compiled by a Number of Organizations; Child Trends has summarized them



Program Name (Bolded programs appear on at least two evidence-based registries)	CSPV/ Blue-prints (11)	EPIS Center (10)	PPN (21)	PFR (13)	CEBP/ SPTW (23)	CT/ LINKS (26)	DHHS/ PPRER (28)	Find Youth Info (37)	Streng- thening Families (28)	OJJDP (38)	Surgeon General (7)	NIDA (20)	CTC (56)	SAMHSA / NREPP (62)	US DOE (9)
1. Aban Aya Youth Project						•	•								
2. Academic Tutoring															
3. Across Ages														•	
4. Adolescent Transitions Project									•			•	•		
5. AIDS Prevention for Adolescents in School													•		
6. Alcohol Skills Training Program													•		
7. AI's Pals						•							•	•	
8. All4U							•								
9. All Stars						•								•	
10. Amity Prison Therapeutic Community					•										
11. Anger Coping Program													•		
12. Arthur TV Program															
13. Assisting in Rehabilitating Kids							•								
14. Athletes Training and Learning to Avoid Steroids (ATLAS)								•		•		•	•	•	•
15. BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students)						•							•		

Examples of Online Resources Available

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

- **LINKS – Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully**
<http://www.childtrends.org/links>
- **HFRP Out of School Time Database**
<http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time/ost-database-bibliography/database>

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

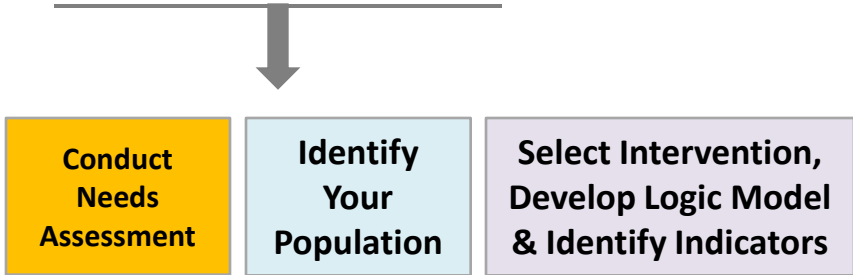
- Blueprints Model Programs**
<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/index.html>

EDUCATION

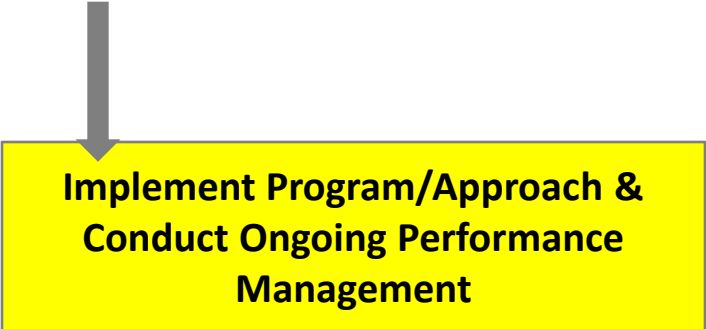
- **What Works Clearinghouse**
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/intervention/>
- **Best Evidence Encyclopedia**
<http://www.bestevidence.org>
- **NDPC/N Model Programs (National Dropout Prevention Center/Network)**
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/model_programs/default.htm

Becoming Evidence-Based

Targeting



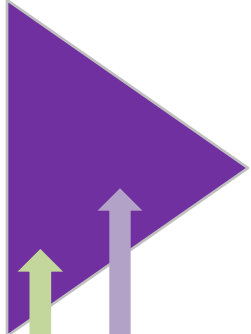
Collect Data on Performance & Outcome Measures



Conduct an Implementation Evaluation

Conduct a Quasi-Experimental Outcomes Evaluation

Conduct a Randomized-Controlled Impact Evaluation





Research in the Service of Children

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www.childtrends.databank.org

