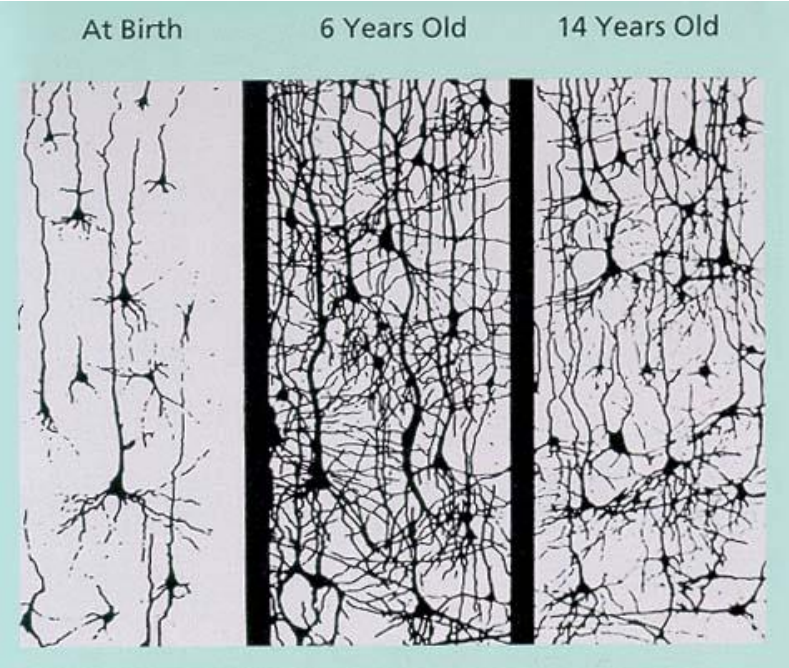
From **Rethinking the Brain: New Insights into Early Development** by Rima Shore (NY: Families and Work Institute, 1997)

Synaptic Density: Synapses are created with astonishing speed in the first three years of life. For the rest of the first decade, children's brains have twice as many synapses as adults' brains. (Drawing supplied by H.T. Chugani)



RETHINKING THE BRAIN

OLD THINKING	NEW THINKING
How a brain develops depends on the genes you are born with.	How a brain develops hinges on a complex interplay between genes you are born with and the experiences you have.
The experiences you have before age three have a limited impact on later development.	Early experiences have a decisive impact on the architecture of the brain, and on the nature and extent of adult capacities.
A secure relationship with a primary caregiver creates a favorable context for early development and learning.	Early interactions don't just create a context; they directly affect the way the brain is "wired."
Brain development is linear: the brain's capacity to learn and change grows steadily as an infant progresses toward adulthood.	Brain development is non-linear: there are prime times for acquiring different kinds of knowledge and skills.
A toddler's brain is much less active than the brain of a college student.	By the time children reach age three, their brains are twice as active as those of adults. Activity levels drop during adolescence.