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#### ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

- Research has helped us to better understand how everything from the smallest cell to the more complex growing child is influenced by the environments in which they spend their time.
- The Human Early Learning Partnership has developed the Total Environment Assessment Model of ECD (TEAM-ECD) as a way of understanding these environments, and the qualities within these environments, that play a significant role in influencing early development.
- Social inequalities matter to health, especially those inequalities experienced early in life.
- ECD matters to children, families and communities – on multiple outcomes, **including children’s physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive domains – and that early life experience has a determining influence on subsequent life chances and health through skills development, education, and occupational opportunities.....”**

[http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/publications/team-ecd\\_brief\\_final\\_2013-10-15.pdf](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/publications/team-ecd_brief_final_2013-10-15.pdf)

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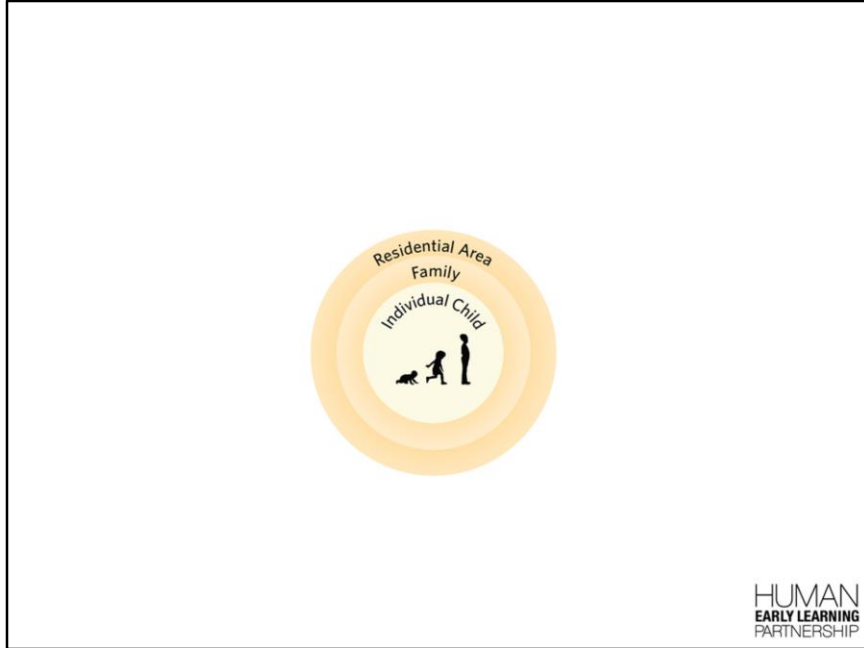
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## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The environment closest to children is their immediate family or home environment. Increasingly, this environment can take many forms, but the features that determine whether the environment has a positive or negative impact on a child's development is whether they are loved, cared for, believed in, and whether they have the basic necessities of life

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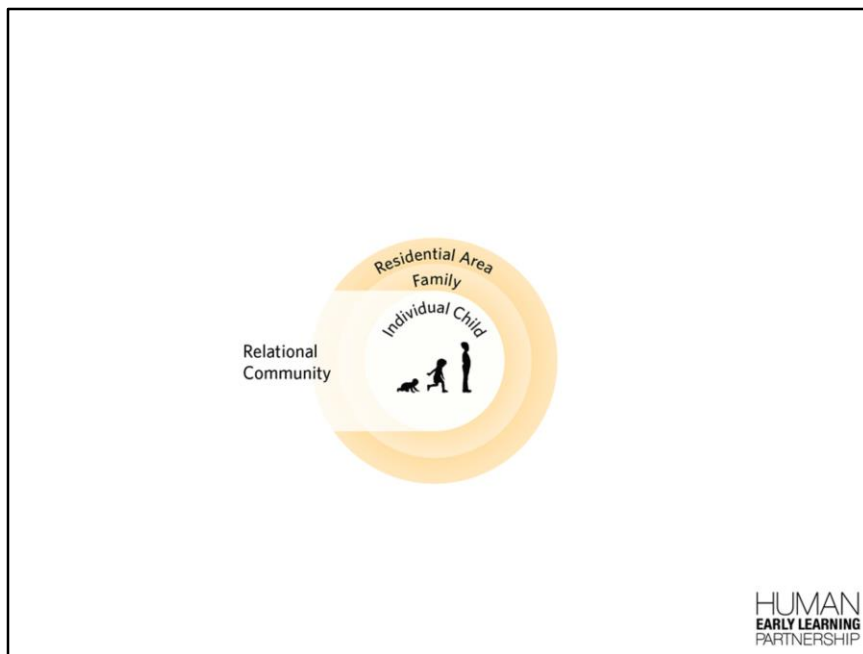


## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Children's homes exist in the context of neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods can be more or less nurturing of children. Nurturing neighbourhoods are those where adults look out for and care for the children in the area, where the built and natural environment is friendly for children and families, and where programs and services exist

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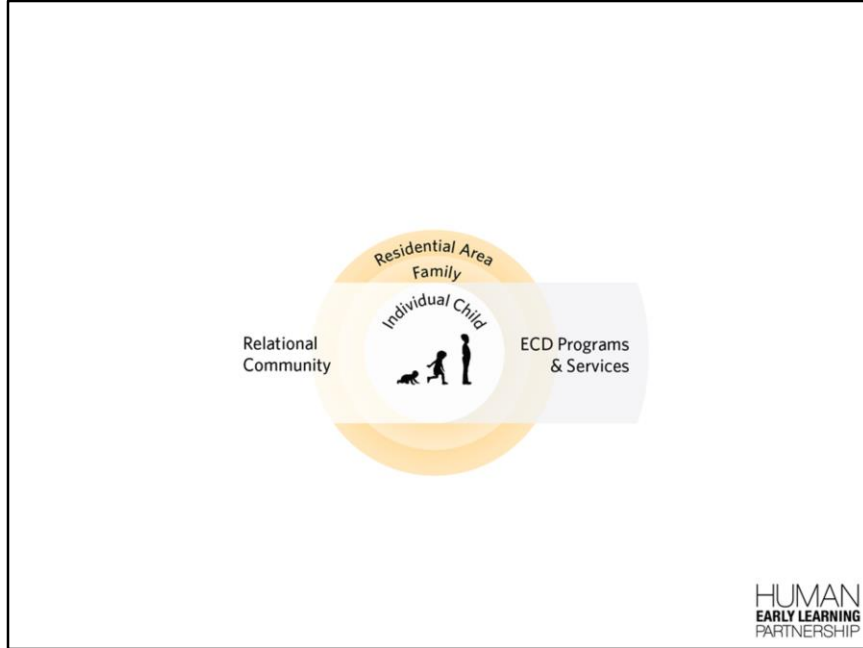


## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Relational communities are not so much geographic as cultural, spiritual, and friendship or activity based. For many, these communities are a very important part of child raising and play a critical role in the network of care

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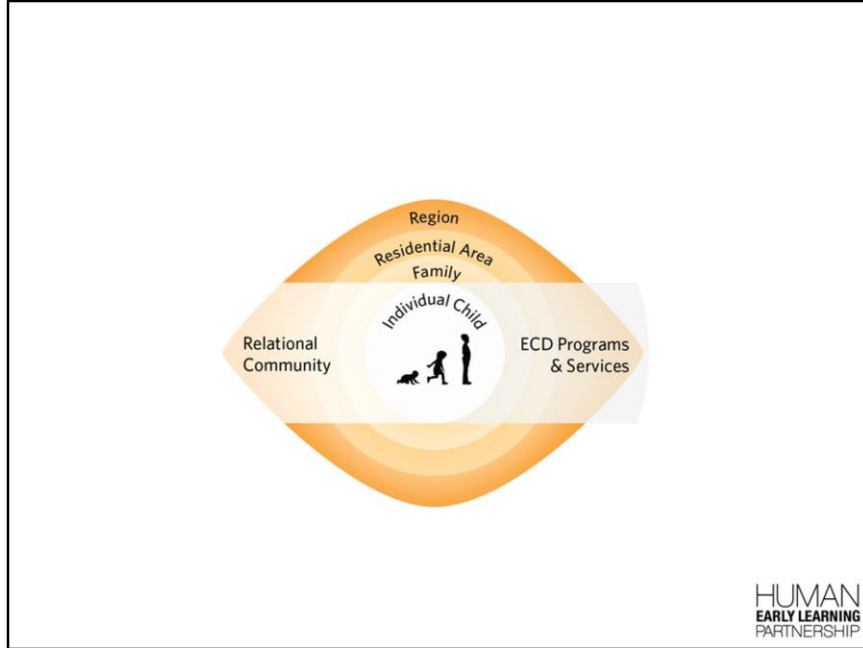


## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Children and families often participate in programs and services. The range, quality and accessibility of these is important in ensuring that children spend their time in nurturing and developmentally positive activities

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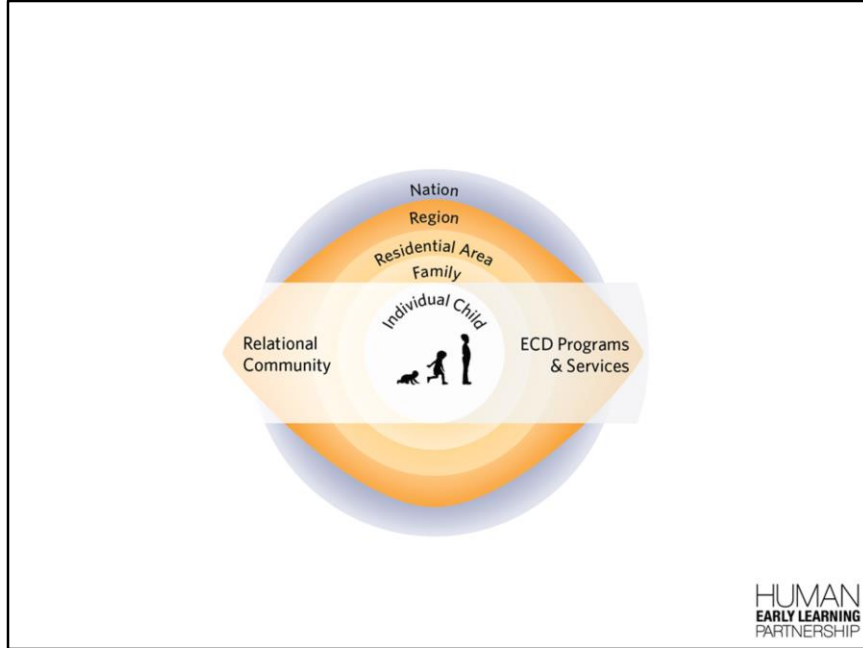


## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Regions can take many forms – municipalities, districts, provinces etc. These are defined by the policies and investments that are made by legislative authorities and can be more or less child and family friendly. Investments in built environment and decisions about zoning can have a profound effect on the livability of neighbourhoods. The kinds and programs and service are likewise important.

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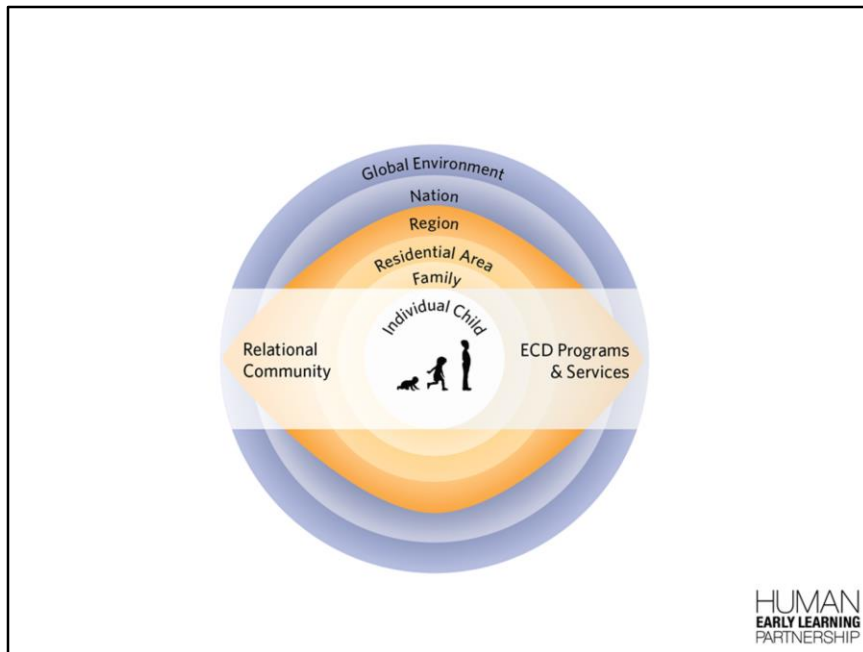
## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

National or federal decisions have important implications for children and families. Policy and investment decisions affect the time parents have available to be with their children, the resources they have available to them to care for their children and the kinds of programs and services that exist to serve children and families

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## ENVIRONMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Global environments exert a macro influence over all of us. The recent economic recession is evidence of this influence

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