



**YOUNG CHILDREN
PRIORITY FIRST**

The logo for the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (eccdc) features the lowercase letters 'eccdc' in a bold, brown, sans-serif font. A small green leaf is positioned above the letter 'd'.

early childhood community development centre

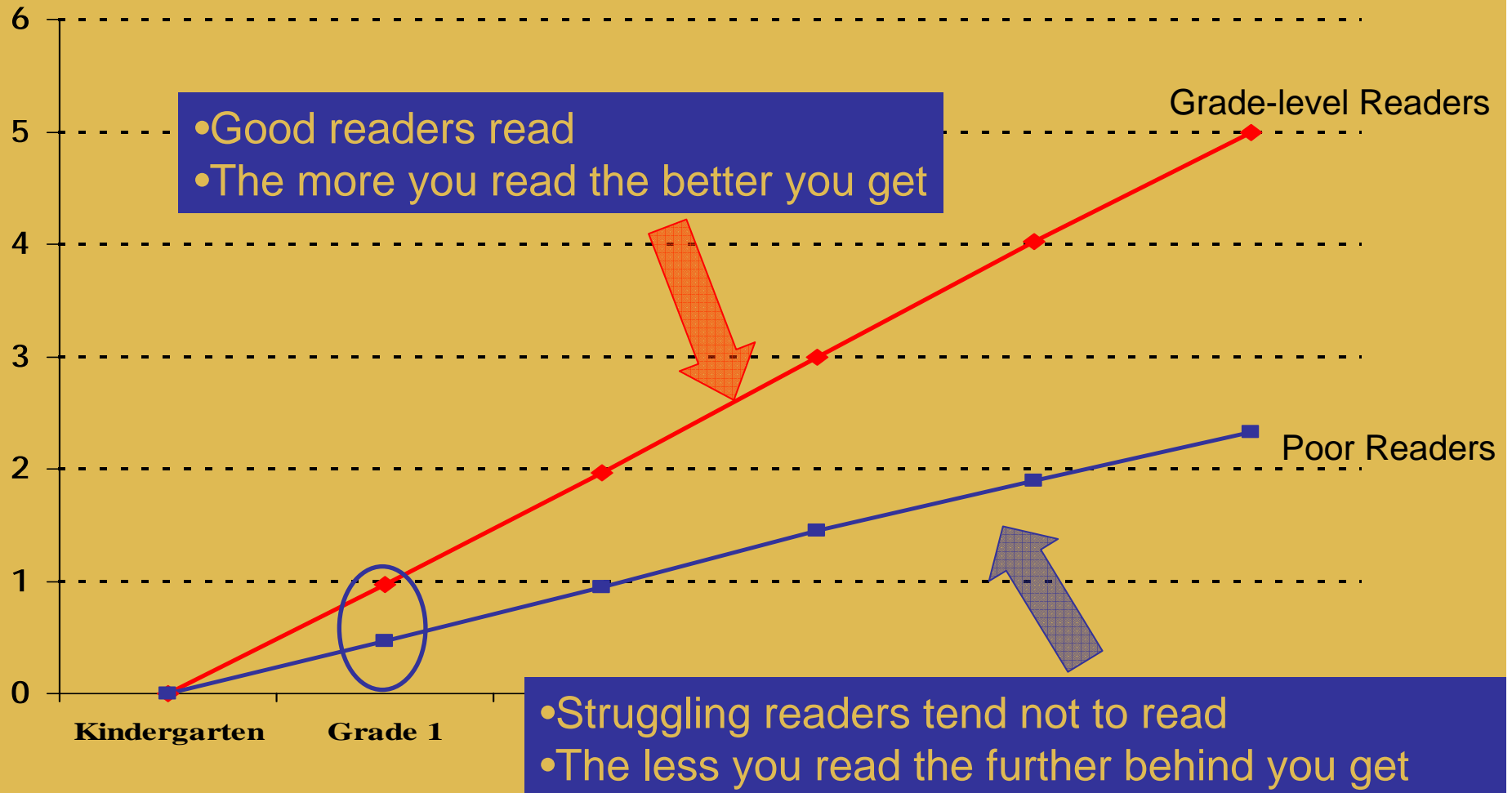
Understanding the Early Years (UEY)

The ability to read, write and use numbers is crucial for the labour market success and social well-being of individuals. It is also widely accepted that economies with highly literate populations will be more competitive

(Literacy Utilization in Canadian Workplaces, Professors Harvey Krahn and Graham S. Lowe, 1998 at <http://www.statcan.ca>)

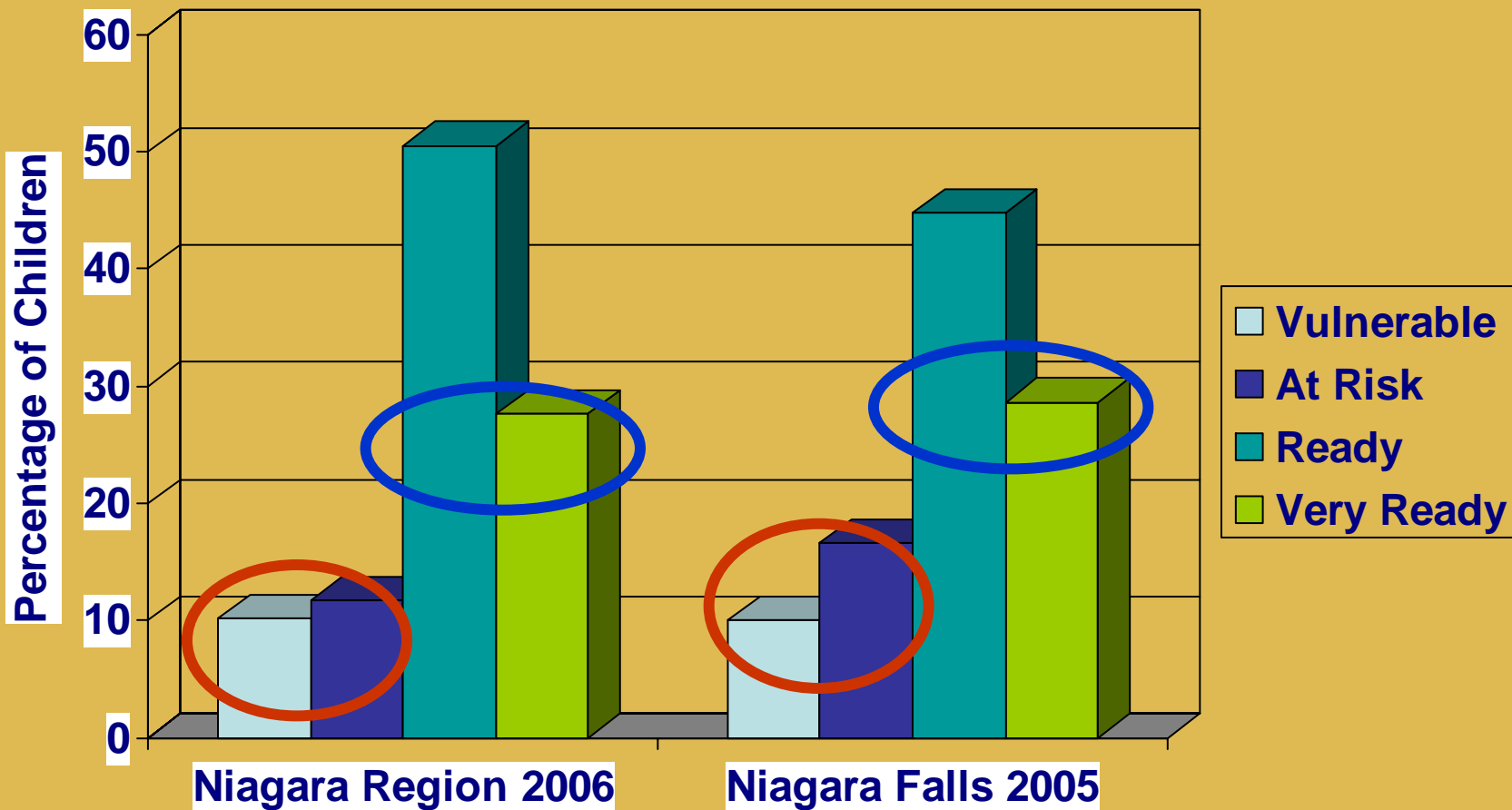
THE MATTHEW EFFECT

“THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR GET POORER”



McNamara, J., Scissos, M. & Monteiro, C. (2003). *A Longitudinal Study of Early Identification Markers for Children At-Risk For Reading Disabilities.*

SCHOOL READINESS TO LEARN (UEY 2005 & 2006)



PRIORITIES AS IDENTIFIED BY UEY

NIAGARA FALLS 2005

N=135

69.1%

Did not show interest in books, reading, or math

63.6 %

Could not read or write simple words or sentences

49.1%

Could not count, compare or recognize numbers, name shapes and tell time

NIAGARA REGION 2006

N = 628

78.3%

Did not show interest in books, reading, or math

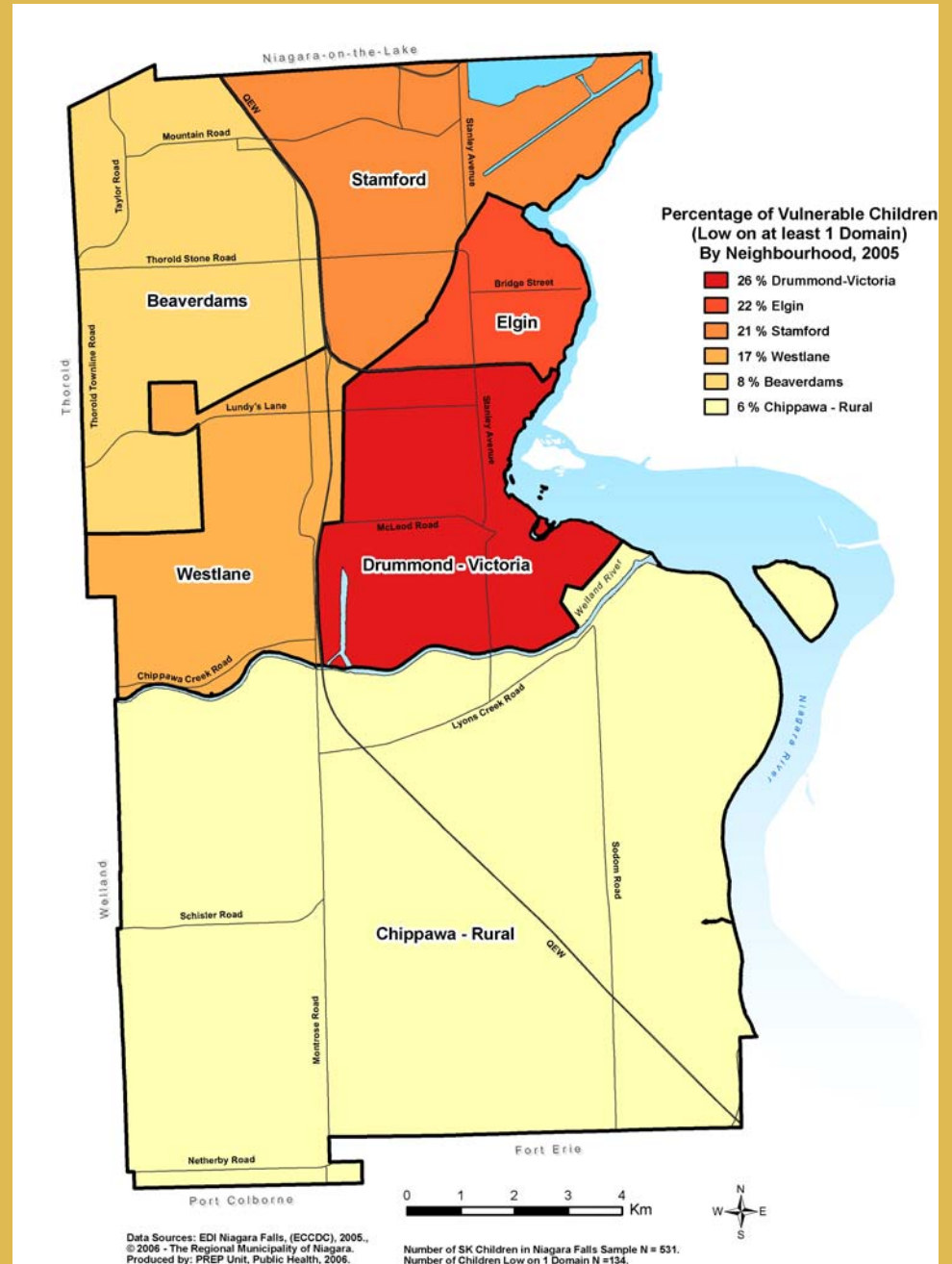
73.1%

Could not read or write simple words or sentences

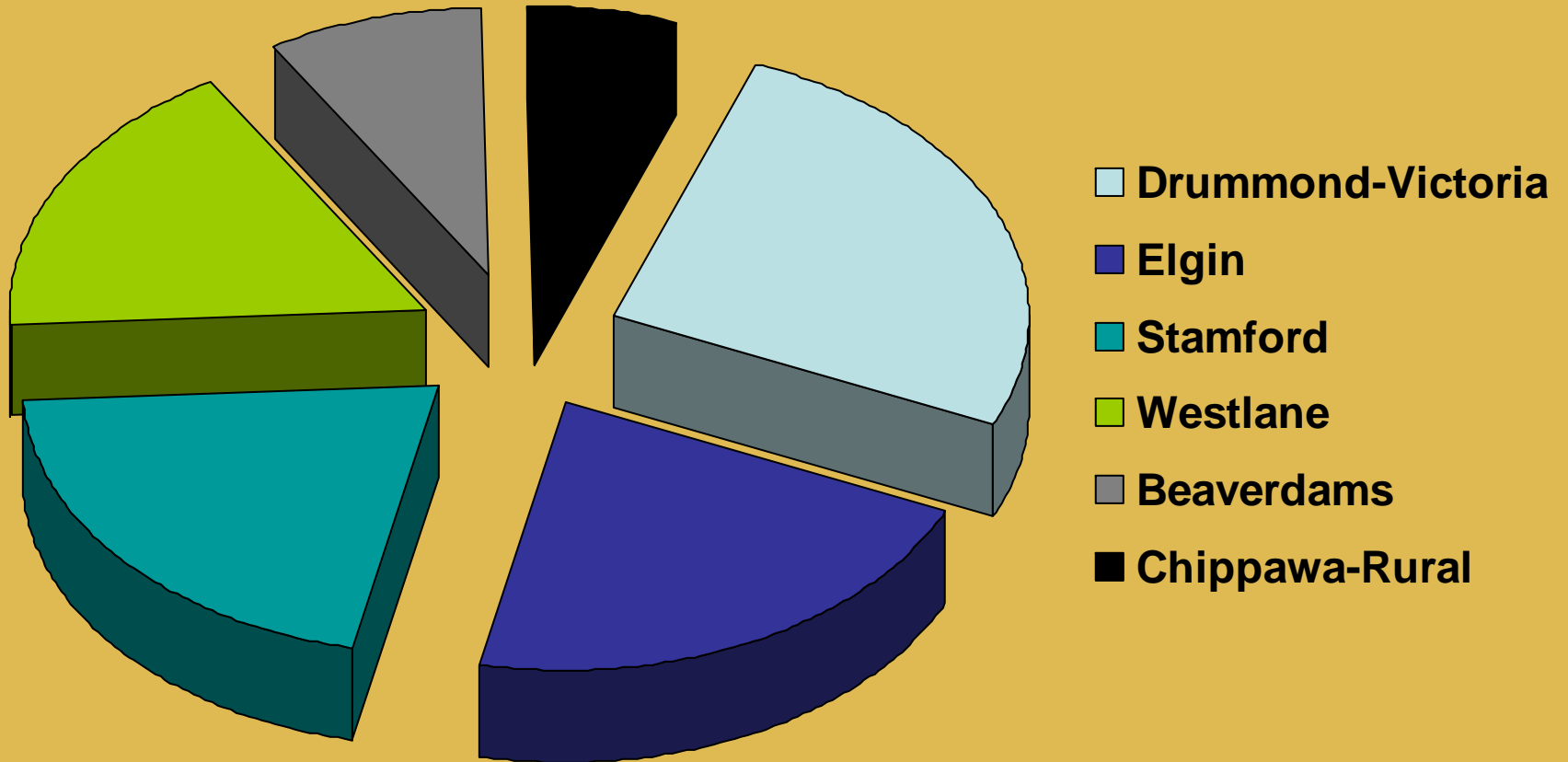
69.8%

Could not count, compare or recognize numbers, name shapes and tell time

CHILDREN WITH LOW SCORES ON AT LEAST ONE OR MORE DOMAINS



NUMBER OF CHILDREN SCORING LOW ON ONE OR MORE DOMAINS (NIAGARA FALLS EDI 2005)



READINESS TO LEARN OVERALL (KEY)

**At average Age
5 Years
7 Months**

**Niagara Falls 2005
25.3%
At Risk or Vulnerable**

**Niagara Region 2006
21.86%
At Risk or Vulnerable**



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