

Early Intervention

Criminal Justice

Acting on developmental risk before any offence, and what it buys.

Programmes targeting developmental risk factors in childhood, evaluated over long follow-up periods.

EVIDENCE PATTERN

Modest effects, wide social benefit

KEY CONSTRAINT

Results take decades to appear

- Some early-years programmes show long-run effects
- Parenting programmes have the better evidence
- Effects are usually broad, not crime-specific
- Long follow-up is needed to see anything
- Targeting carries a risk of stigmatising children

LOOK FOR IT

Crime reduction often arrives as a by-product of health and education gains.

Educational reference. Landmark early-years trials had small samples; replication at scale has produced more modest results.