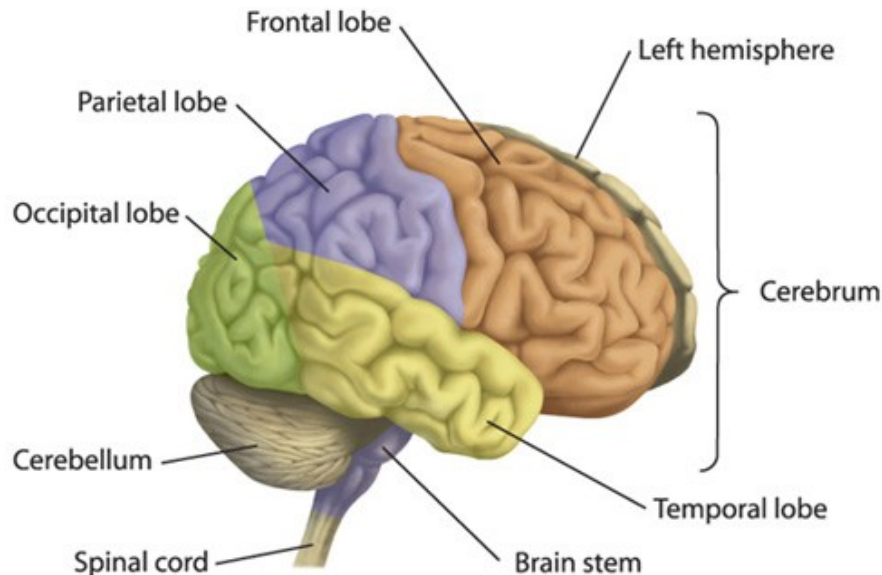


# The Brain: Impact on Development



The brain is the control center for the entire body. The development of the structures and the way they function is an important detail for all caregivers.

### Some stats:

- The visual Cortex begins assimilating information as early as 2-3 months
- The frontal lobe, associated with recognition, speech, movement, and memory shows increased activity at 6-8 months
- 60% of nutrition is used by the brain during the first year of life. This decreases to 30% by
- During the first 10 years of life the brain is twice as active as that of an adult.

Any experience, negative or positive is going to effect the growth and liveliness of a developing brain. Understanding the development of these structures is key to providing the most suitable and productive environment for any child's brain.

activity is apparent at 2- 3 months. Responsible for the visual information that the child observes

Frontal cortex Activity at 6-8 months associated with reasoning, planning, parts of speech, movement, emotions, and problem solving Research also finds that a memory area, the hippocampus, is smaller in adult survivors of abuse. Although still under investigation, it's possible that experiencing maltreatment during youth harms overall brain development and helps spur the ailments that seem to be common in these individuals

By age 3, 80% of synaptic connections are already made : Included is the cerebral cortex and prefrontal cortex, which help carry out complex actions; the corpus callosum, which helps the two sides of the brain communicate; as well as the temporal lobes and the amygdala, areas thought to be involved with emotion and memory. In one study researchers examined the brains of maltreated children and adolescents with PTSD. Compared with healthy individuals who never experienced abuse, those who were maltreated have smaller brain areas.