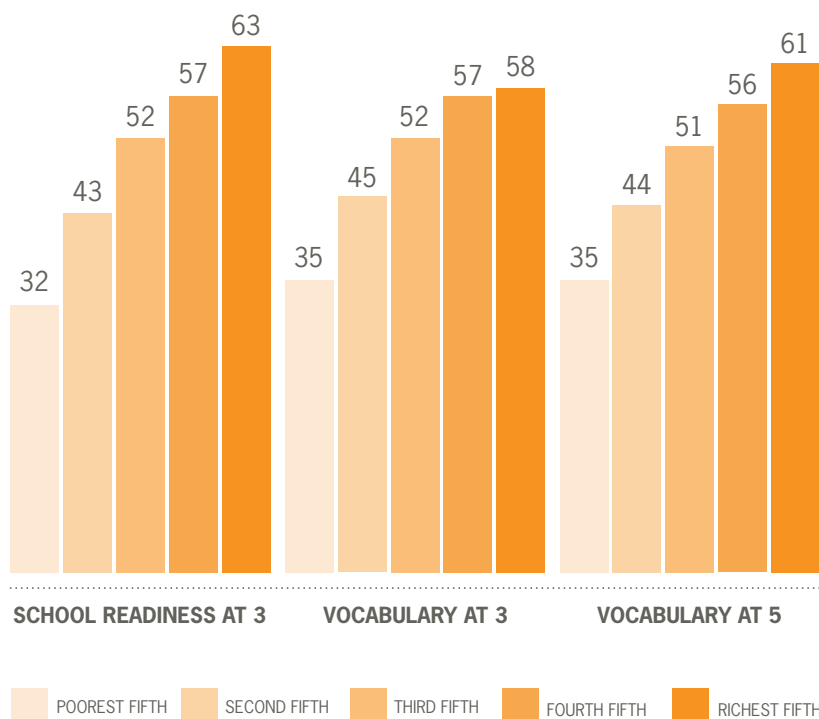


Poorer Children are already disadvantaged before they start school

DIFFERENCES IN 'SCHOOL READINESS' (AVERAGE SCORE OUT OF 100) BY PARENTAL INCOME



What does this mean?

Even at the age of 3 and 5, richer children have a wider vocabulary and their behaviour is more appropriate for school than poorer children. This means that as soon compulsory schooling begins, richer children are able to learn more quickly and progress further than their poorer counterparts.

Explaining the data

Academics analysed a group of children at the age of 3 and 5, comparing their school readiness and their reading age. They compared the average score for each income group, ranging from the richest fifth to the poorest fifth, to the overall average. In each category, Children in the poorest fifth averaged a score that was well below the overall average, while the richest fifth were significantly above average. So, for example, the average 3 year old born into the richest fifth of the population scored 63% for school readiness, while the average score in the poorest fifth was just 32%. Obviously, the average for all 3 year olds was 50%, below the richest, but above the poorest. This chart is taken from Professor John Hills's book *'Good Times, Bad Times: the welfare myth of them and us'* due to be published by 'Policy Press' in November 2014..