

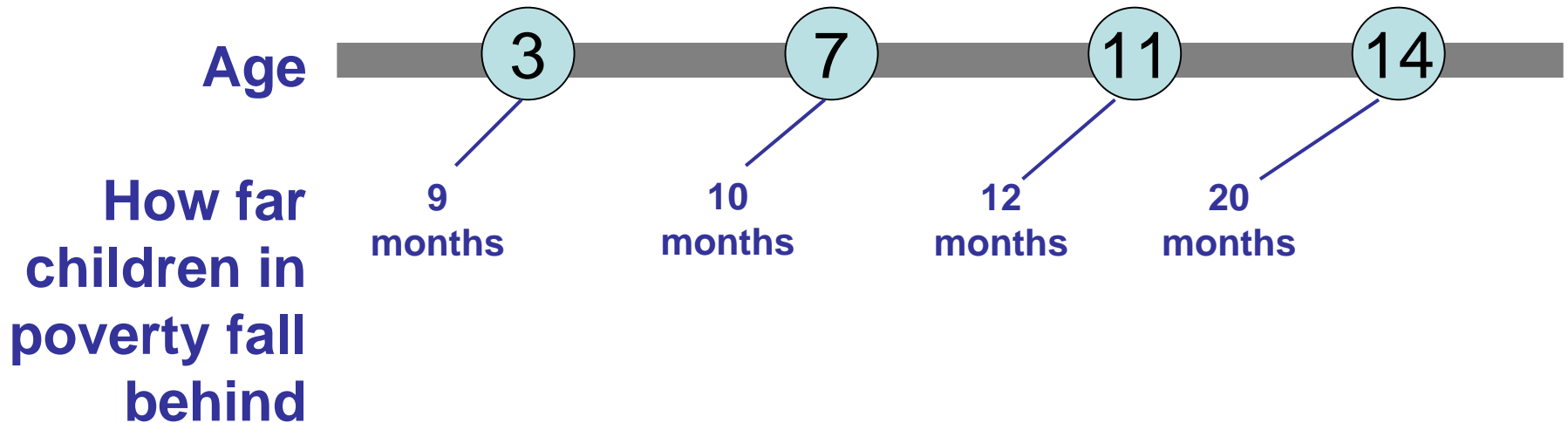
What will it take to end child poverty (in broad terms)?

- Uprating-plus of benefits (£4 billion soon)
- Continued progress in “welfare to work”
- Improvement of pay and stability of jobs
- Long-term measures to improve the skills of tomorrow’s parents

THESE ARE **NOT** ALTERNATIVES

What will it take to close the poverty gap in education?

1. The size of the gap



What will it take to close the poverty gap in education?

2. Three factors contributing to the gap

- Home support
- School experiences
- Out of school experiences

JRF research: these factors interact

Home differences

Early home support

Ongoing support
especially homework

JRF
found
different
life
stories

Out of school experiences

Structured learning
activities. Positive
learning environments

**Child's
confidence
as learner**

Early school experiences

Learning as coercive or collaborative
Teacher as friend or foe
School as opportunity or obligation

Issues for Wales

- Can the new Foundation stage live up to its promise?
 - More individual attention when entering primary
 - Emphasis on play and development as learners
 - Can this help develop positive attitudes
 - Will it prove a better long-term way of improving learning outcomes?
- Can community schools become schools for the community?
- If children are forced to remain in learning until 18 (by 2013?), can this become an opportunity, not a reluctant obligation?