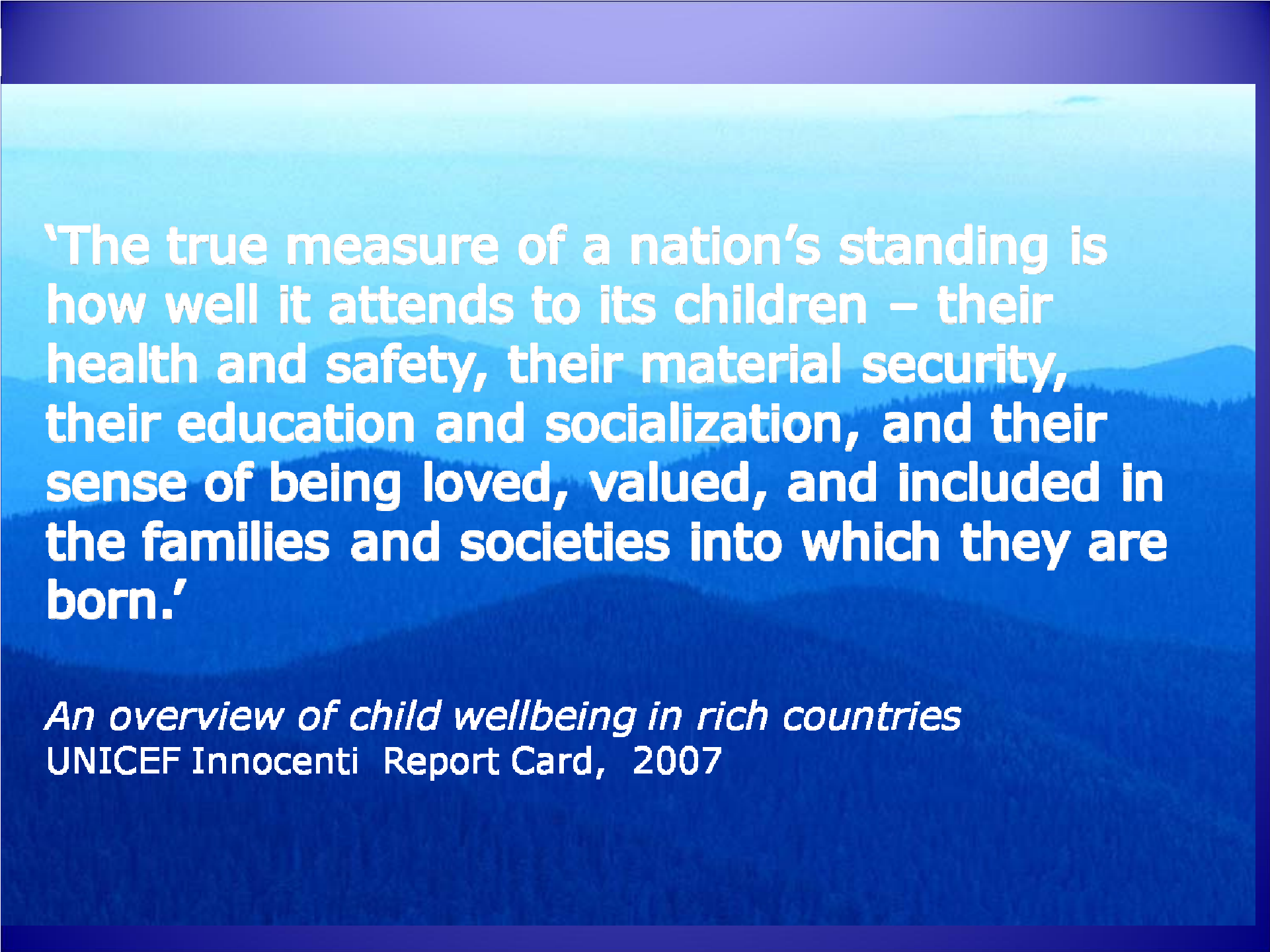


# Building parents' confidence in community settings

Study visits to the  
Netherlands and Italy, 2011

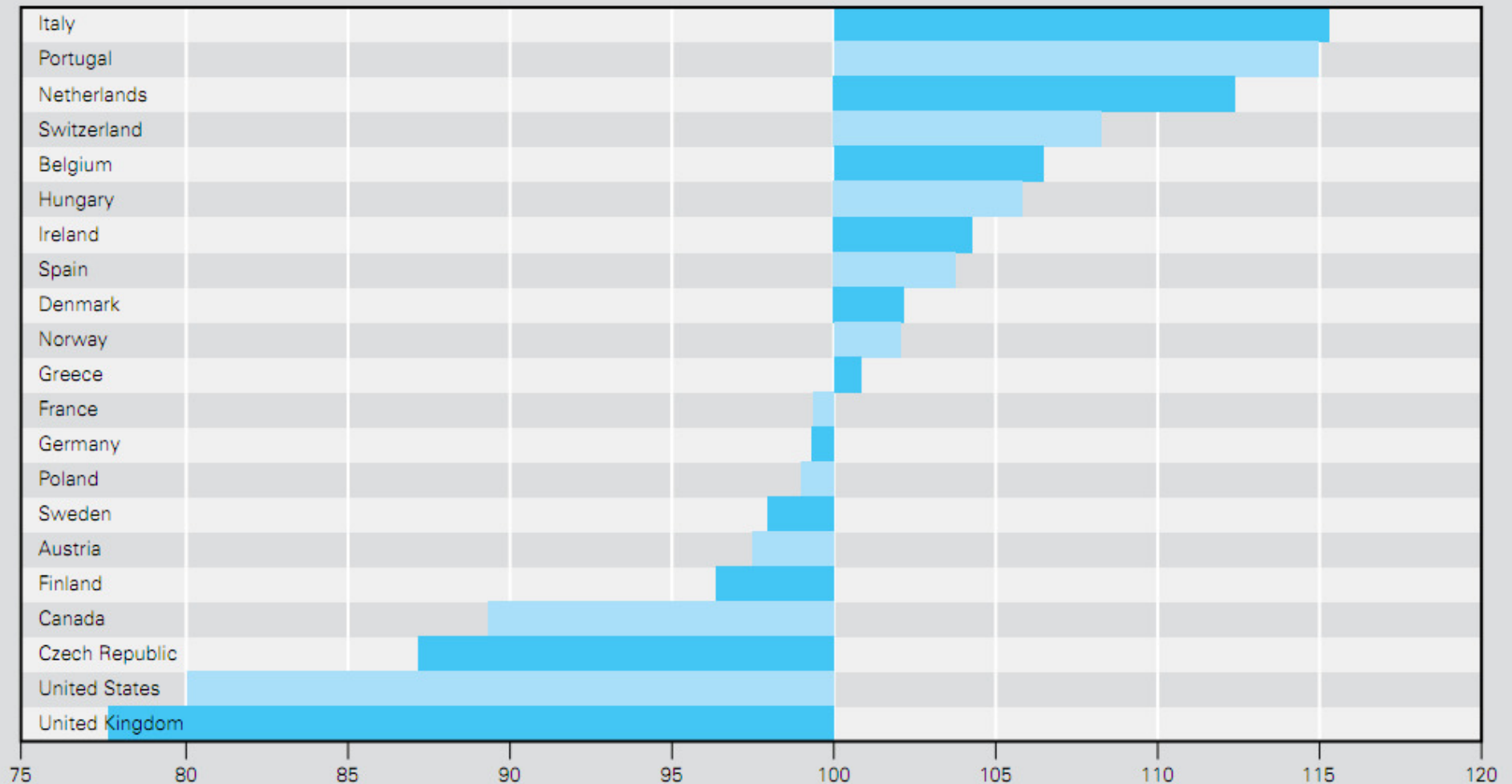
Julia Nelson



**'The true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children – their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are born.'**

*An overview of child wellbeing in rich countries*  
UNICEF Innocenti Report Card, 2007

# Young people's family and peer relationships, an OECD overview



- What helps to build parents' confidence in their child-rearing skills?
- How can professionals and parents work together to share their knowledge and understanding about children?
- How can parents find support from within their own communities?











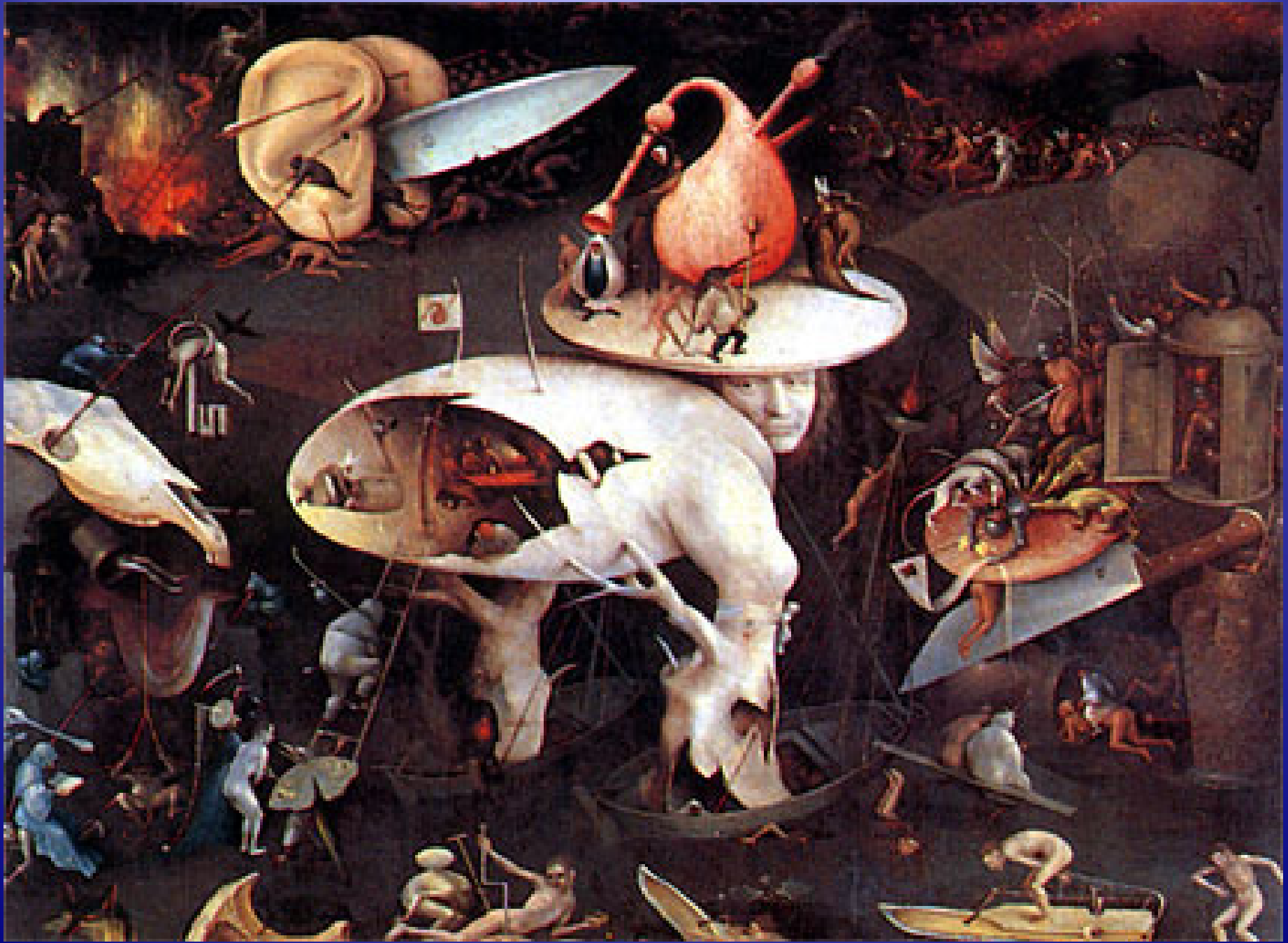


























‘The most important thing is stepping back and not trying to make everything perfect... Let parents do it for themselves.’







Basisschool DE WIEKEN

























‘Nursery is the first place where children and parents can learn and negotiate behaviours and form the future citizens that can manage complexities.’



























# Health and education services....

- More frequent health contacts for all children in the first three years
- Greater access to psychologists and community paediatricians at universal level
- Well-trained and supported early educators who can help parents to develop their skills
- Greater recognition of the role of universal services in supporting parents

At a community level, welcoming spaces and activities which:

- encourage parents to support each other
- visibly recognise and celebrate partnership between parents and professionals and children
- bridge the gap between the child's life in a service and at home so that skills and knowledge are shared between parents and professionals



# How can we make the most of the resources we already have?

- Schools?
- Leisure & cultural services?
- Health contacts?
- Community groups?



Let's try a  
different  
perspective....

Wooden rabbit overlooking the Waal  
valley at Nijmegen, Netherlands