

A Scoping Review on Word-Reading Resilience in Literacy

Evaluating Empirical Evidence for Protective Factors

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Aim = To understand what factors contribute to positive literacy outcomes in children with (a risk of) word-level reading difficulties (RD)

Key terms and definitions

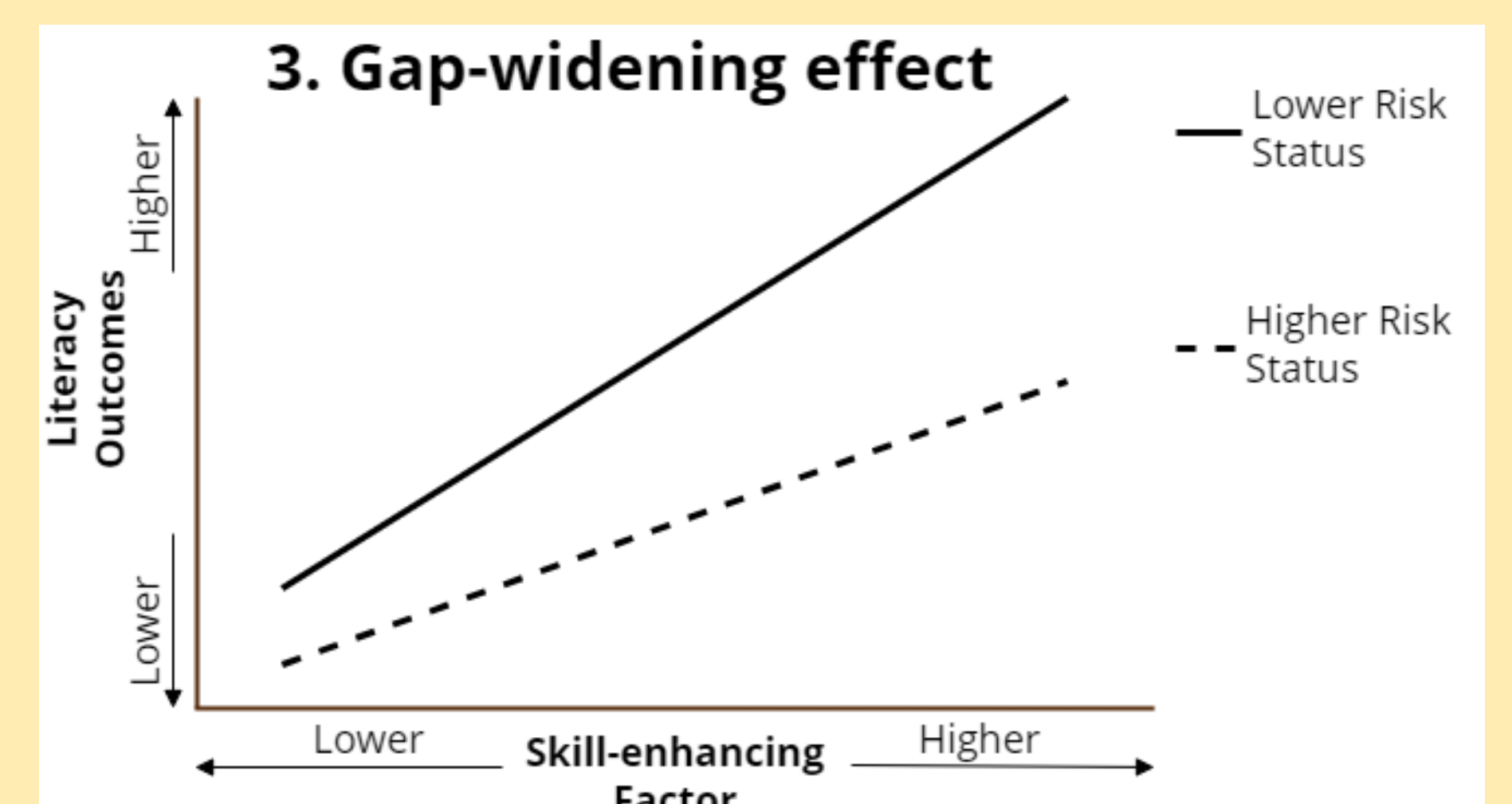
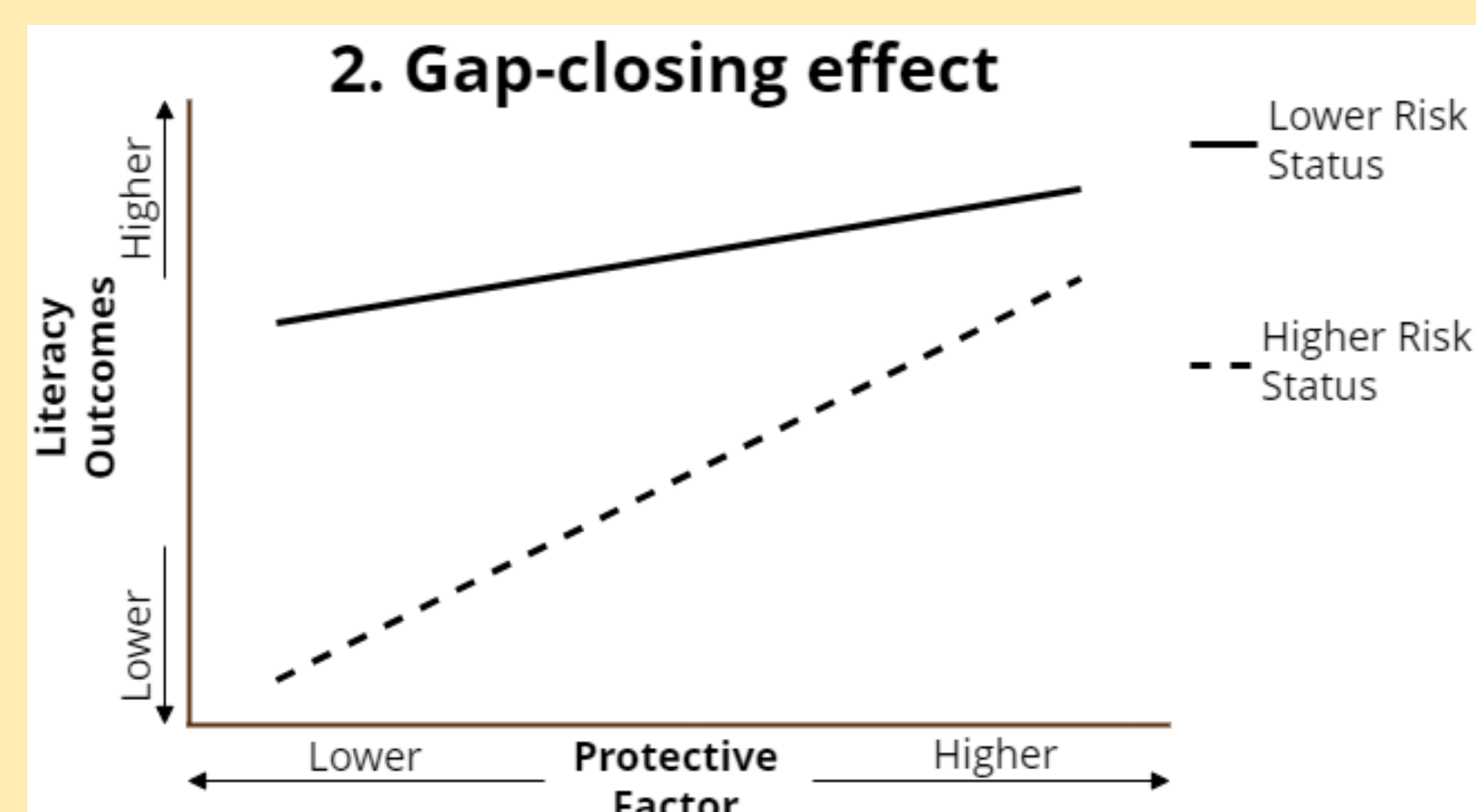
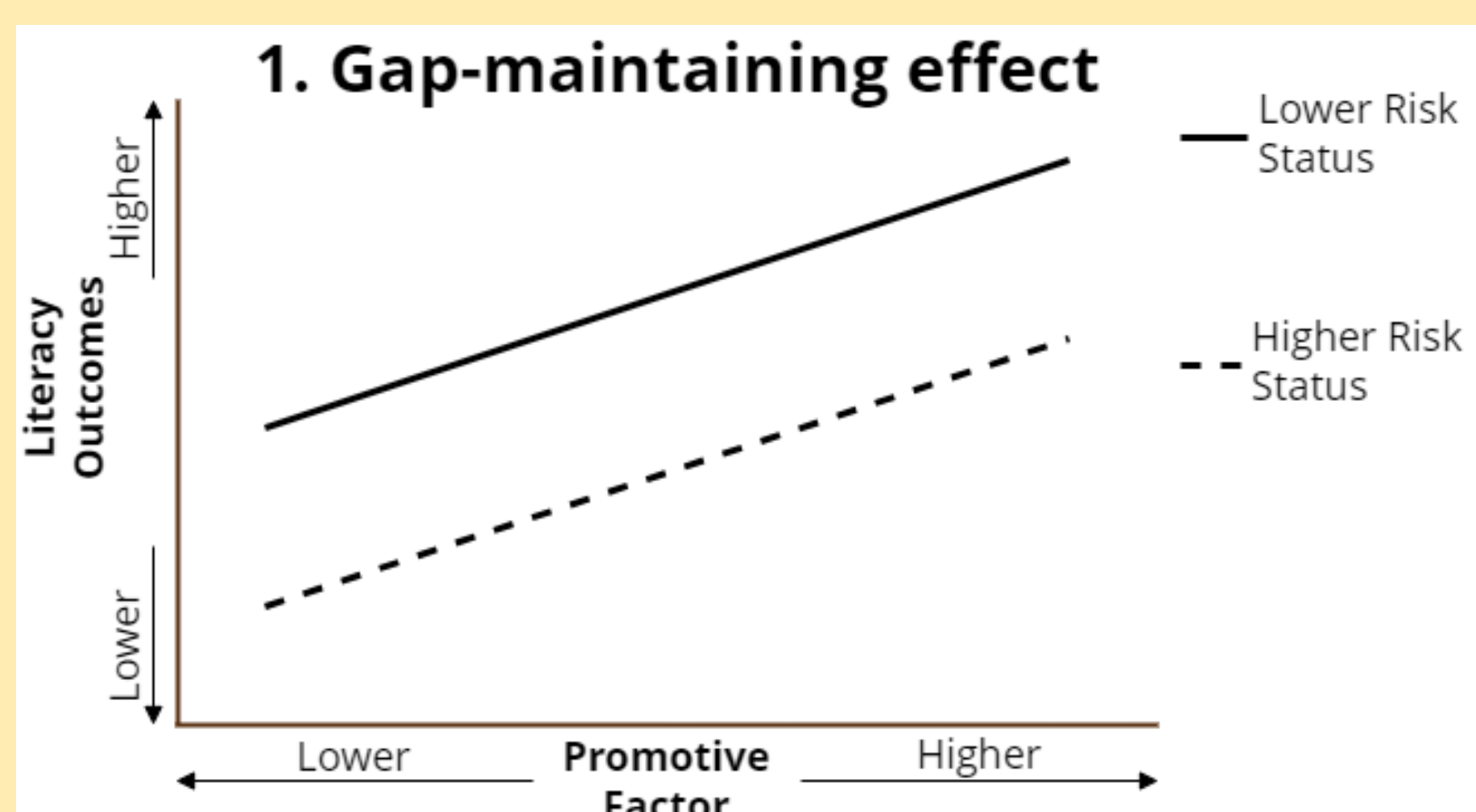
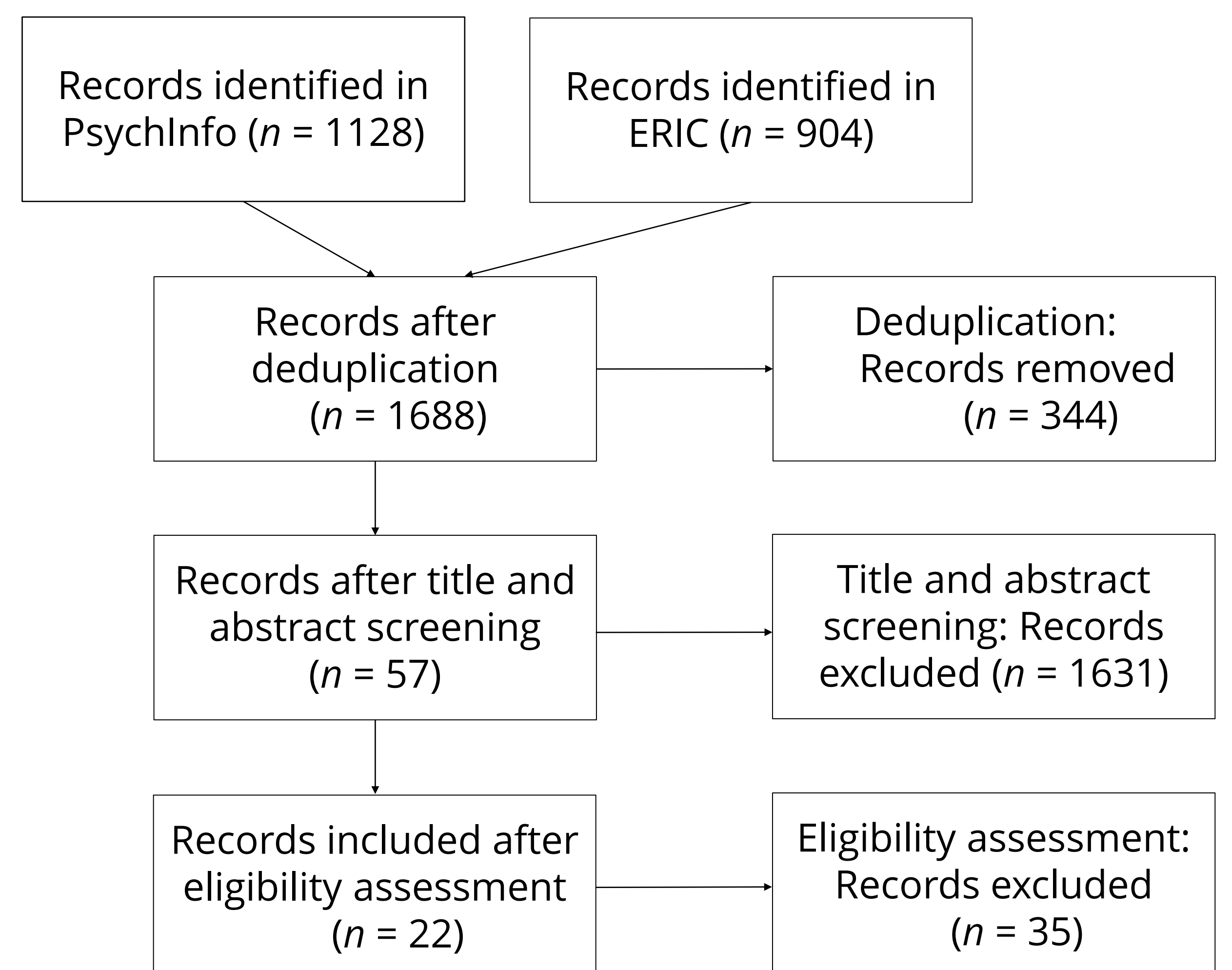
Resilience: The trajectory from a clear risk for and/or presence of low literacy outcomes towards positive adaptation and successful literacy acquisition

1. Promotive factors: Are associated with positive reading and/or spelling outcomes *regardless* of the presence or degree of literacy difficulties (gap-maintaining effect)

2. Protective factors: Are associated with better-than-expected outcomes specifically for children with literacy difficulties (gap-closing effect)

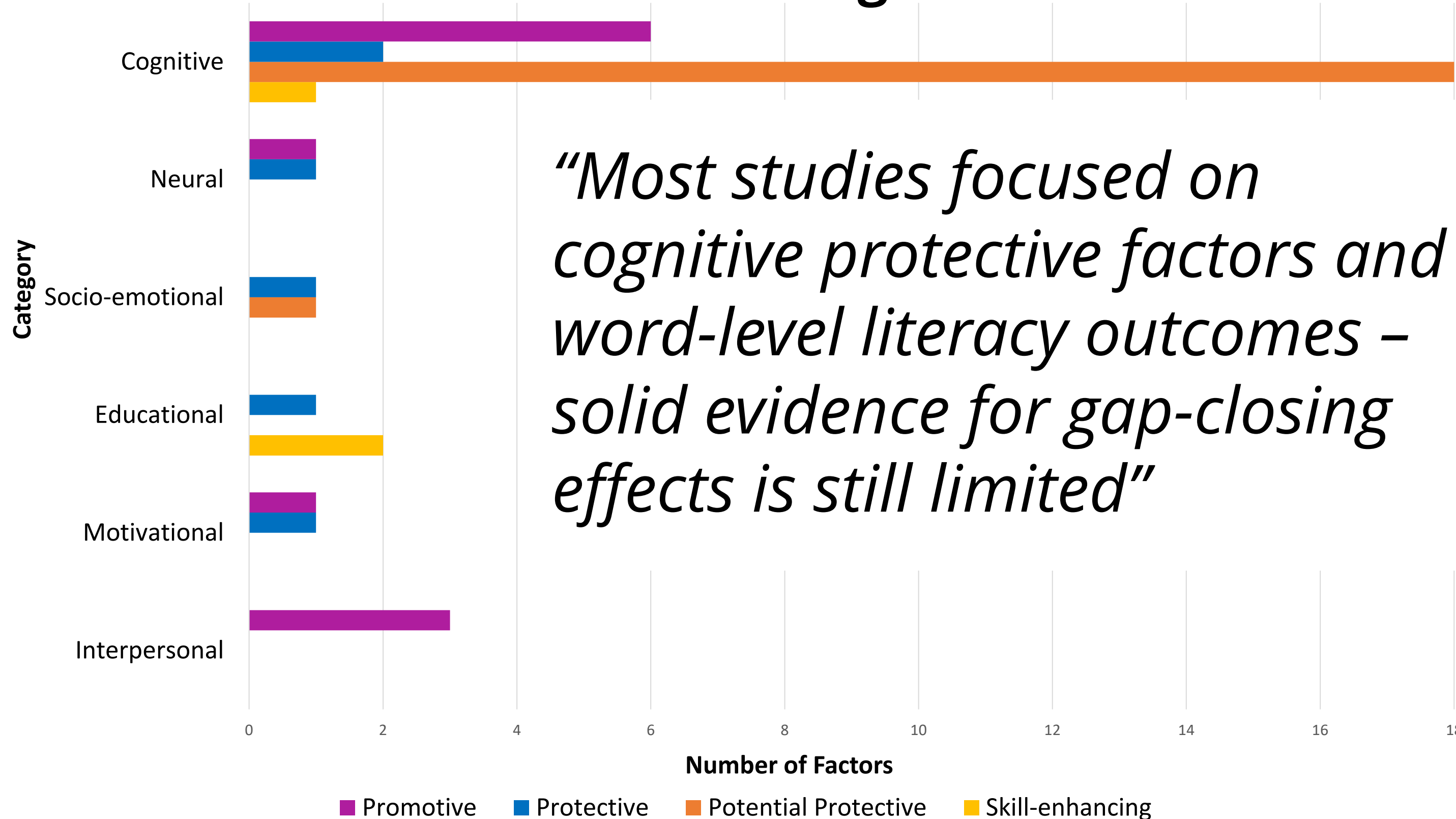
3. Skill-enhancing factors: Are associated with even better-than-expected outcomes for children without literacy difficulties (gap-widening effect)

Flow chart



Results

Evidence for Promotive, Protective and Skill-enhancing Factors



“Most studies focused on cognitive protective factors and word-level literacy outcomes – solid evidence for gap-closing effects is still limited”

Discussion

General findings for included studies

- Small sample sizes, **low statistical power**
- Often **insufficient study designs and/or statistical analyses** to distinguish between promotive, protective, and skill-enhancing factors
- Still **limited empirical evidence for gap-closing effects**
- **Focus on variety literacy outcomes is needed** to better understand resilience and compensatory mechanisms

Recommendations for studying academic resilience

- In variable-centered studies, **test and plot interaction effects** and/or include all high-risk RD, high-risk resilient and TD-control group comparisons
- **Conduct person-centered or mixed-level studies** to identify subgroups of children with specific literacy profiles and combinations of risk and resilience factors
- **Employ longitudinal research designs** to increase power and test resilience mechanisms over time

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