

Supplementary information

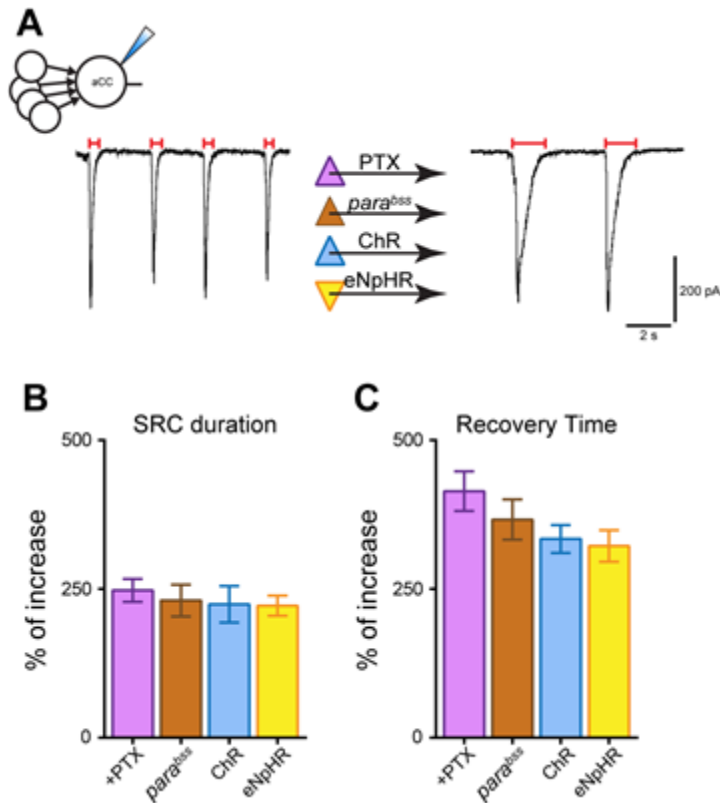


Figure S1. Activity manipulation during the embryonic critical period affects synaptic inputs to aCC motoneuron and induces a seizure phenotype.

(A-B) SRC broadening recorded from L3 aCC following activity manipulation during embryogenesis. Chemical (picrotoxin, PTX), genetic (*para^{bss}*), or optogenetic manipulation (*ChR* or *eNpHR*) produces an identical increase in duration of SRCs recorded in the aCC motoneuron (B), which correlates with an increased recovery time from electroshock-induced seizure activity (C) (5).

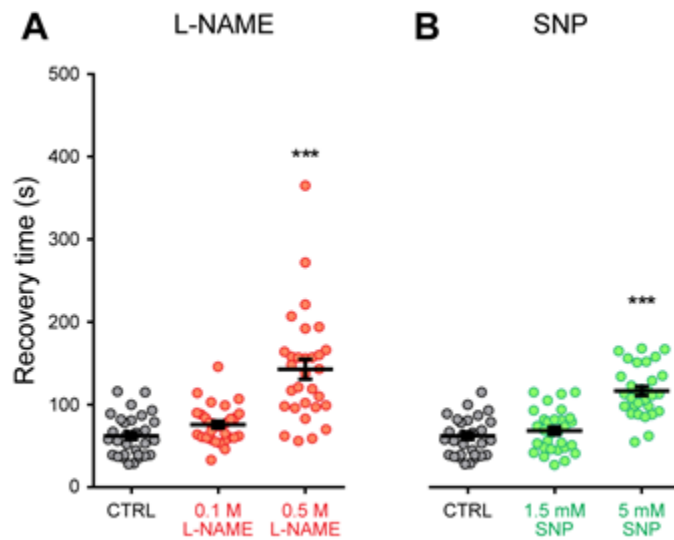


Figure S2. Higher doses of NOS drugs affect seizure induction, mirroring NOS genetic manipulation.

A) Embryonic exposure to 0.1 M L-NAME (NOS inhibitor), showed a similar RT to electroshock compared to the untreated control group (76 ± 4 vs. 62 ± 5 s, 0.1 M L-NAME vs. CTRL, $p = 0.6802$). Conversely, higher doses were sufficient to increase RT to electroshock (143 ± 12 vs. 62 ± 5 s, 0.5 M L-NAME vs. CTRL, $***p < 0.0001$), mirroring NOS genetic manipulation. One-way ANOVA ($F_{(2, 87)} = 30.52$, $p < 0.0001$) followed by Bonferroni's post-hoc test, $n = 30$ in each group. B) Similarly, 1.5 mM SNP, NO donor, was not sufficient to produce an effect (68 ± 4 vs. 62 ± 5 s, 1.5 mM SNP vs. CTRL, $p = 0.99$), while 5 mM SNP significantly increased RT (116 ± 5 vs. 62 ± 5 s, 5 mM SNP vs. CTRL, $***p < 0.0001$). One-way ANOVA ($F_{(2, 87)} = 36.69$, $p < 0.0001$) followed by Bonferroni's post-hoc test, $n = 30$ in each group.

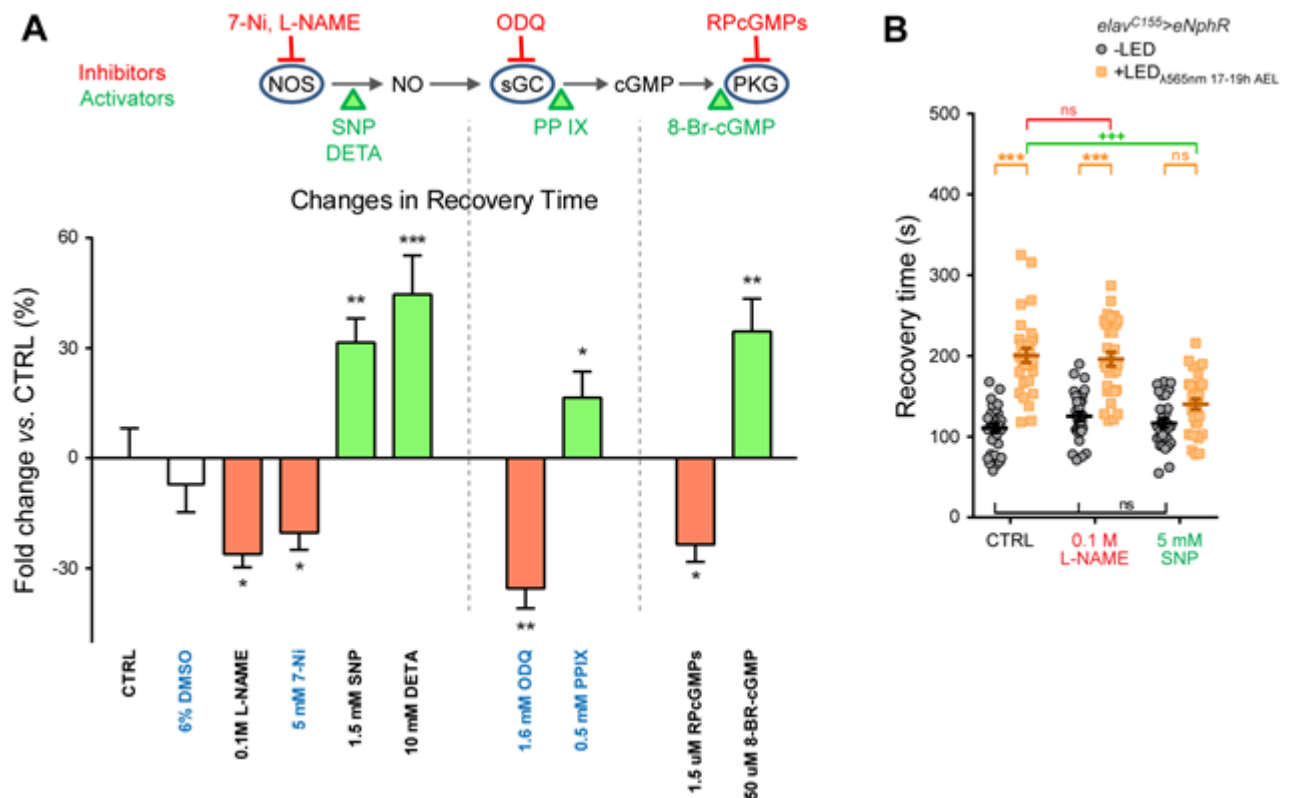


Figure S3. Nitric oxide mediates activity perturbation during the critical period.

(A) Upper shows schematic representation of the NO-signalling pathway. NOS: Nitric oxide synthase, sGC: soluble guanylyl cyclase, cGMP: cyclic guanosine monophosphate and PKG: Protein Kinase G. Inhibitors and activators were indicated in red and green, respectively. Chemical manipulation of the NO pathway (lower) affects the ChR-induced increase in RT to electroshock (*elav^{C155}>ChR*, LED_{100ms}, 17-19h AEL). Values are expressed as fold change (+LED/-LED) and normalised to control water (set to zero, see Materials and Methods). For each compound, drug concentration was first optimised to ensure no effect was observed in the -LED control group (One-way ANOVA $F_{(9, 290)} = 0.8452$, $p = 0.4987$). Drugs labelled in blue were dissolved in 6% DMSO (which had no effect: $-6.9 \pm 7.9\%$) instead of water. All inhibitors significantly reduced the ChR-increase in RT (0.1 M L-NAME: $-26.2 \pm 3.6\%$, $*p = 0.016$; 5 mM 7-Ni: $-20.4 \pm 4.6\%$, $*p = 0.041$; 1.6 mM ODQ: $-36.53 \pm 5.4\%$, $**p = 0.005$ and 1.5 μ M RPcGMPs: $-23.52 \pm 4.7\%$, $*p = 0.018$), while activators potentiated the effect of ChR activation (1.5 mM SNP: $+31.5 \pm 6.6\%$, $**p = 0.0048$; 10 mM DETA: $+44.6 \pm 10.6\%$, $***p = 0.0002$; 0.5 mM PPIX: $+16.5 \pm 7.1\%$, $*p = 0.0341$ and 50 μ M 8-BR-

cGMP: $+34.5 \pm 8.9\%$, $**p = 0.0040$). One-way ANOVA ($F_{(9, 290)} = 16.86$, $p < 0.001$) followed by Bonferroni's *post-hoc* test, $n = 30$ in each group. (B) To test the contribution of NO-signalling in a context of neuronal inhibition, we repeated the pharmacological manipulation of NOS in embryos pan-neuronally expressing halorhodopsin ($elav^{C155}>eNpHR$, $\lambda 565$ nm, 600 ms/1 Hz). L3 larvae from the CTRL group, lacking manipulation of NO-signalling, showed the expected increase in RT after electroshock (111 ± 5 vs. 201 ± 9 s, $p < 0.001$). Exposure to L-NAME (0.1 M, sufficient to inhibit the effect of ChR), did not prevent the effect of eNpHR-mediated inhibition (125 ± 5 vs. 196 ± 9 s, -LED vs. +LED, respectively, $p < 0.001$), exhibiting values statistically not different to those of the CTRL group ($p > 0.9$). Conversely, exposure to SNP (5 mM, sufficient to potentiate the effect of ChR) blocked the eNpHR-mediated increase in RT (116 ± 5 vs. 140 ± 6 s, -LED vs. +LED, respectively, $p = 0.246$). A two-way ANOVA analysis revealed a significant effect of the LED treatment ($F_{(1, 174)} = 118.7$, $p < 0.001$), NOS manipulation ($F_{(2, 174)} = 12.66$, $p < 0.001$), and interaction ($F_{(2, 174)} = 12.16$, $p < 0.001$). $***p < 0.001$ shows significance to +LED vs. -LED within each group; $+++p < 0.001$ shows significance to NOS drugs (+LED groups vs. CTRL), Bonferroni's *post-hoc* test, $n = 30$ in each group.