



NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Volume 3, Issue 1

ALL ABOUT THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT

THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) studies the development of all British Columbian kindergarteners using the Early Development Instrument (EDI).

The EDI is a questionnaire kindergarten teachers answer in January/February for each of their students. Five areas of development are measured:

- ✓ Physical Health and Well-Being,
- ✓ Social Competence,
- ✓ Emotional Maturity,
- ✓ Language and Cognition, and
- ✓ Communication Skills.

The EDI tells us the percentage of children that are vulnerable in each developmental area, and the percentage of children that are vulnerable in one or more area.

Three Waves, or Phases, of the EDI have been done. Wave 1 data was collected from 2000-2004, Wave 2 was from 2005-2007, and Wave 3 was in 2008-2009.

Starting this year, the EDI will be done every year.

WHAT DOES VULNERABLE MEAN?

Being vulnerable means that the child is, on average, more likely to be limited in their development compared to a child who is not vulnerable.

Vulnerability is based on the distribution of scores from Wave 1. The vulnerability threshold is the EDI score that separates children in the bottom of the distribution from all others. Children below the threshold are said to be vulnerable on that scale.

Turn the page to find out how children are doing in your community.

HOW DOES COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS USE THE EDI?

The EDI helps us identify early childhood development needs in our neighbourhoods, communities, and region. Then we help communities plan and deliver programs & services that respond to those needs.

In short, we use the EDI to improve early childhood development outcomes for all children in all South Okanagan-Similkameen communities.

Communities for Kids, in partnership with Success by 6®, engages families and communities in children's healthy early development.

A Brief Summary of the EDI Results in Our Area

- In general, the percentage of developmentally vulnerable children (on one or more scale) has been steadily increasing across the South Okanagan-Similkameen since 2000.
- Nine communities have vulnerability rates among the highest in the province; ranging from 28.6% to 51.1%.
- Five communities have rates among the lowest in the province, but their rates range from 17.9% to 22.5%.

Summerland

- ↻ Since 2000, the percentage of children vulnerable on one or more developmental scale has steadily increased in this community. In Wave 1 it was 22.3%, in Wave 2 it was 30.1%, and in Wave 3 it was 33.3%.

Penticton

- ↻ In the Penticton area in 2008-09, more than one in three children were vulnerable on one or more developmental scale. This represents a consistent trend of approximately 30% of children being vulnerable on one or more scale since 2000. The largest proportion of vulnerable children was on the emotional maturity scale (15%). The smallest proportion of vulnerability was on the language and cognitive development scale (10.4%).

Okanagan Falls

- ↻ In 2005-07, there were 22.5% of children vulnerable on one or more scale in this community.
- ↻ The highest amount of vulnerability was on the language and cognitive development scale, at 17.5%.

Oliver

- ↻ In 2005-07, there were 37.5% of children vulnerable on one or more developmental scale in Oliver.
- ↻ The lowest percentage of vulnerability was 15% in emotional maturity, but this is among the highest vulnerability compared to provincial norms.

Osoyoos

- ↻ Osoyoos is doing relatively well, with 17.9% of children vulnerable on one or more scale. This is among the lowest vulnerability compared to provincial norms.
- ↻ Since 2000, there has been a consistent trend of decreasing or consistent rates of vulnerability on four of the five developmental scales. Communication skills is the only scale which has seen increased vulnerability; from 7.6% to 15.4%.

Keremeos/Cawston

- ↻ Since 2000, there has been a steady trend of increased vulnerability on one or more developmental scale in Keremeos/Cawston. Currently there are 40.9% of children vulnerable.

Princeton

- ↻ Over 40% of children are vulnerable on one or more developmental scale in Princeton.
- ↻ The lowest percentage of vulnerability was 11.9% in communication skills, but this is among the second highest rate of vulnerability compared to provincial norms.

Information in this newsletter is from H.E.L.P.'s "EDI Community Summary. Mapping Early Child Development: Okanagan-Skaha (School District 67) Community Summary - Fall 2009". See www.earlylearning.ubc.ca.

Send comments, suggestions, ideas and questions to communitiesforkids@telus.net or call 250-496-5511.
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