



PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Study: Community-Level Measurement of Developmental Health at School Entry for Kindergarten Children

EDI Coordinator: Cindy Astephen

Principal Investigator: Dr. Magdalena Janus, Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University

Sponsoring Agency: NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

As part of an ongoing study about children's developmental health, school boards across Canada have been collecting developmental information on primary students. This year, all primary classes in your child's school and throughout Nova Scotia will be involved in the study.

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a teacher-completed questionnaire developed at McMaster University. It covers five areas of child development: physical health and well-being, social knowledge and competence, emotional health and maturity, language and cognitive development, as well as general knowledge and communication skills. Teachers are trained in the use of this tool.

Information collected with the EDI is a measure of children's developmental health when they enter school: it reveals patterns of development in different communities and helps us understand what might be affecting children's development between birth and age 5. It is a good predictor of how well children will do at school.

The results are used by Offord Centre researchers and their partners to create research publications and reports to help understand children's early development and the ways in which communities support young children's development.

Children's privacy is protected: the Offord Centre provides a numerical code to help match children with their questionnaires; children's names are NEVER used. Data are stored in a secure and confidential manner designed to prevent unauthorized access. Data, kept at the Offord Centre for Child Studies and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, are analyzed at an aggregate (group) level. They may be linked to other assessment data collected by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the purpose of finding patterns in development related to other variables that impact school success. The information collected is NOT sufficient to provide individual diagnostic information and will never become part of your child's academic record.

If you would like additional information please contact your child's school; EDI Coordinator, Cindy Astephen, Halifax Regional Center for Education (castephen@hrce.ca); Gillian Kiely, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (902-229-1095); or Amanda Offord at the Offord Centre for Child Studies (aofford@mcmaster.ca).

It is your choice whether your child's information is included in this study. If you do not want it included, or you would like more information before making a decision, just contact the school.

Sincerely,

Cindy Astephen

Facilitator, Literacy P-6 Implementation - Halifax Regional Centre for Education - castephen@hrce.ca