

EDI – Early Development Instrument

The instrument's name: "Early Development Instrument: A Population-based Measure for Communities" (EDI) reflects the fact that it measures the outcome of the early years. At the same time, however, it provides information on children's readiness to learn at school. This refers to a child's ability to meet the task demands of school, such as: playing and working with other children, listening to the teacher, remembering and following rules, and being comfortable exploring and asking questions.

The instrument has been designed to provide information for groups of children in neighbourhoods/communities to:

1. report on groups of children in different communities,
2. measure strengths and vulnerabilities, and
3. predict how children will do in elementary school.

The EDI is a short, teacher-completed instrument, administered to Senior Kindergarten students, measuring a child's developmental readiness in five domains:

1. Physical health and well-being

- gross and fine motor skills:
- holding a pencil
- running on the playground
- motor coordination
- adequate energy levels for classroom activities
- independence in looking after own needs
- daily living skills

2. Social knowledge and competence

- curiosity about the world
- eagerness to try new experiences
- knowledge of standards of acceptable behaviour in a public place
- ability to control own behaviour
- appropriate respect for adult authority
- cooperation with others
- following rules
- ability to play and work with other children

3. Emotional health/maturity

- ability to reflect before acting
- a balance between too fearful and too impulsive
- ability to deal with feelings at the age-appropriate level
- empathic response to other people's feelings

4. Language and cognitive development

- reading awareness,
- age-appropriate reading and writing skills
- age-appropriate numeracy skills
- board games
- ability to understand similarities and differences
- ability to recite back specific pieces of information from memory

5. Communication skills and general knowledge

- skills to communicate needs and wants in socially appropriate ways
- symbolic use of language
- story telling
- age-appropriate knowledge about the life and world around the child

Results are available for the following neighbourhoods:

- Athens/Front of Yonge
- Augusta/Prescott
- Brockville
- Edwardsburgh/Cardinal
- Elizabethtown-Kitley
- Gananoque
- Leeds and Thousand Islands
- Merrickville- Wolford
- North Grenville
- Rideau Lakes/Westport

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