

EDI International Conference

Hamilton, ON

**The Offord Centre and Early Child
Development**

By J. Fraser Mustard
The Founders' Network

June 16, 2010

Dan Offord

Child Psychiatry at McMaster

1978 - 2004

**- A brilliant creative sensitive
academic leader**

Offord's Interests

- **Prevention** – improved early child development
- **Treatment** – diagnosis, treatment, and support

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

Population Health

Bob Evans, Clyde Hertzman and
Michael Marmot

Human Development

Dan Keating, Robbie Case,
Clyde Hertzman and Dan Offord

Early Years Action Group – North York

Clara Will

Established 1995

Members included:

Clara Will

Jim Grieve

Ontario Early Years Study

Premier Harris – 1998

Co-chairs: McCain and Mustard

Members of Advisory Committee:

Dan Offord, Robin Williams, Clara Will

Magdalena Janus

Born in Poland

MSc – 1985 – Krakow

PhD – 1989 – Cambridge (MRC Unit on Development and Integration of Behaviour), Supervisor – Hinde

Research Fellow, Psychiatry, Hospital for Sick Children, 1993-98

Project Coordinator for EDI, Centre for Studies of Children at Risk (McMaster), 1998

Assistant Professor, 2002

Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience (McMaster), 2008

Early Years Study – Outcome Measures

The earliest time, given our present institutional structures, when a measurement can readily be made of human development in the early years for all children is when they enter the school system.

Government of Ontario

- 2001 – Children’s Secretariat established endowment fund for research in early child development – funded Magdalena’s chair

Early Years Action Group

1998

- 3 year grant, Human Resources Canada, Pilot EDI
- Toronto District School Board - Offord Centre (Dan Offord and Magdalena Janus)
- Tested EDI with former North York public schools

Early Years Action Group

Meeting October 1999, Toronto,
Clara Will

Speakers:

- Charles Pascal – Atkinson Fdn.
- Dan Keating – CIAR, OISE (UofT)
- Dan Offord – CIAR, EDI
- Allen Zeesman – UEY
- Margaret Marland, John Godfrey

EDI – North York *

EDI Test	Percent with Low EDI Score		
	York Central	York W.	Eglin/Law
Physical Health & Well-being	28	39	23
Social Competence	29	41	27
Emotional Maturity	24	29	25
Language & Cognition	15	28	16
Communication & General Knowledge	34	46	25

* Early Years Action Group – Clara Will

EDI and School Performance

# of Vulnerabilities	% Failing Grade 4 Test	% Not Passing Grade 4
0	13.6	17.8
1	26.7	33.9
2-3	29.5	43.1
4-5	48.4	68.3

Hertzman, HELP, 2006

Offord's Influences re ECD

1. **Pascal** – Atkinson Foundation, With Our Best Future In Mind, Ontario report. 2009.
2. **Clara Will** – Early Years Action Group – North York
 - Early Years Study.
 - First EDI Community Assessment North York.
3. **Jim Grieve** – North York School Board
 - Piloted EDI with kindergarten staff.
 - ADM Education – Early Years program (0 to 8 years), November 2009.
4. **Magdalena Janus** – Offord Centre, McMaster University.
 - EDI outcome measure