



The Early Development Instrument *Frequently Asked Questions*

All children are born ready to learn, BUT not all children arrive at school ready to learn...1 in 20 children enter kindergarten without the skills they need to learn. The first 5 years of life is important in preparing them for future success in school and life which is why a measure such as the Early Development Instrument (EDI) is so important.

What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

■ Developed by Drs. Magdalena Janus and Dan Offord at the Offord Center for Child Studies, McMaster University, with support of a national advisory committee, the EDI is a questionnaire that measures either junior or senior kindergarten children's 'readiness for school'.

■ School readiness is the child's ability to meet the task demands at school and the child's ability to benefit from the educational activities provided by the school.

■ School readiness to learn is measured across several areas of child development, including:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and thinking skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

Why is the EDI important?

■ To know how to best support healthy child development, we need to know how children are doing right now.

■ The EDI provides information for groups of children in order to:

- Report on areas of strength and deficit for populations of children.
- Monitor populations of children over time.
- Predict how children will do in elementary school.

■ EDI results assist communities in planning for the services and programs children need in order to learn and enjoy their school experience.

How is the EDI collected?

■ Kindergarten teachers complete the EDI questionnaire for all children in their classroom.

■ EDI results can only be presented for groups of children; the EDI is never used to assess the development of individual children