
Early Child Development Program of Research: Early Development Instrument (EDI) Parent/Guardian Informed Passive Consent Letter

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

In February, Kindergarten teachers at your child's school will complete the **Early Development Instrument (EDI)** for children in their classroom. The EDI includes questions on children's social and emotional development, health and well-being, language and cognitive development, and communication skills. The Government of British Columbia (BC) has funded the collection and use of the EDI for over 20 years.

AT A GLANCE

- Your child's Kindergarten teacher will complete the EDI for each of their students in February, unless you request to withdraw your child;
- The EDI helps us understand trends in children's development at the group level, such as a neighbourhood or school district;
- The EDI questionnaire and further information are available at:
<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/edi/parent-caregiver-info/>

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to improve the understanding of influences on children's development across BC, and over time. Information from the EDI has proven essential to schools, health professionals, early years service providers, communities and governments in planning programs and supports for children and families.

What will happen?

Before completing the questionnaire, teachers are required to take training on how to complete the EDI. Teachers answer questions about five areas of development: 1) physical health and well-being; 2) social competence; 3) emotional maturity; 4) language and cognitive development, and 5) general knowledge and communications skills. There is no direct involvement of your child in completing the EDI questionnaire.

Participation is voluntary

Participation in the EDI project is voluntary. If you do not want your child's teacher to complete the EDI for your child, please return the attached form to your child's teacher or principal within 4 weeks upon receiving this letter. You can also email the EDI project team at HELP (edi@help.ubc.ca) to withdraw your child. Once data have been included in reports, they cannot be withdrawn. Participation or non-participation in the EDI will not affect your child's grades. It will not affect any services that your family receives from the school or school district.

How are my child's data protected, stored and used?

Teacher responses to the EDI questions are **private and confidential**. No information is added to your child's school record from the EDI questionnaire. Your child and your child's school will not be identified in research publications or in public documents.

To facilitate accurate completion of EDI questionnaires, your school district gives HELP/UBC information about your child, including their name, Personal Education Number, date of birth, gender, postal code, and whether they are First Nations, Métis or Inuit. Additional information including whether they have a disability or diverse ability, or if they are an English Language Learner or in a French Immersion program, is shared for research and reporting purposes. Your child's name is only used so that the teacher can complete the questionnaire. The names are removed from the EDI data set once the EDI questionnaire has been completed. Personal information is stored separately from the teacher's answers to the EDI questionnaire to protect your child's privacy. EDI data are stored in a secure environment.

EDI data can only be used for approved research projects **under Federal and Provincial/Territorial privacy laws**. Researchers may apply for permission to use the EDI data for research or statistical purposes. Approved researchers will be provided access to data that cannot be connected to any individual student.

Your child's EDI data may be linked with other data in order to learn about the factors that influence children's well-being, health, and school success. Other data may include education and health information. The data that are linked **can only be used for research or statistical purposes under an approved Research Agreement, or for program planning, evaluation, or research purposes through an Information Sharing Agreement**.

As the license-holder of the EDI, the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University receives a copy of your child's EDI data, postal code, gender, and month of birth to enable approved national research.

Your child's data are also shared with BC Ministries of Government and Health Authorities for program evaluation, planning, research, or statistical purposes. Data shared with the Ministries and Health Authorities may be linked to other data sets and then are de-identified before access and use for analysis, in accordance with the Information Sharing Agreement in place. Reporting can only take place at the group level. More information is available at: <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/about/privacy-and-ethics/>. For questions related to the privacy of your child's data, please contact HELP's Privacy Officer at privacy@help.ubc.ca.

EDI Reports

School reports are provided directly to school districts and schools, and are not shared publicly. HELP provides public community reports and neighbourhood maps of the data to support decision making towards improving policies, programs and services for children and families. These reports and maps are available at: <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/reports/>.

Indigenous Data and Reports

HELP recognizes and respects that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and governments have the right to access all data collected for their children. HELP, through guidance of the [Aboriginal Steering Committee](#), has established a protocol to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments and Indigenous-led organizations with data and reports for Indigenous children. HELP only reports EDI data for Indigenous Peoples through guidance and stewardship of the Aboriginal Steering Committee.

Where can I get more information on the project?

For more information, please visit HELP's website at www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marit Gilbert, Project Lead, via email at edi@help.ubc.ca or by

phone at 604-827-5504 or toll free 1-888-908-4050. You can also contact the principal investigator at the email provided below.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your child's rights as a research participant, please contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at the University of British Columbia at 604-822-8598, or if long-distance, e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Yours sincerely,



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If you want to withdraw your child's data, please, sign and return this section to your child's teacher.

Please return this form to the classroom teacher if you do NOT want your child to participate.

I do **not** consent for my child [NAME] _____ to participate in the Early Development Instrument (EDI) questionnaire taking place in February.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

School: _____ Teacher: _____