

Media Release

How are Red Deer's Young Children Doing?

The Red Deer Understanding the Early Years Project (UEY) releases preliminary research findings about the school readiness-to-learn of young children in Red Deer.

Red Deer, Alberta, December 3, 2009-The Red Deer Understanding the Early Years Project at Family Services of Central Alberta is a 3 year community project, which examines the family and community factors that impact on children's readiness to learn in the years before they start school.

Early Development Instrument (EDI)-over 800 Red Deer kindergarten students were observed, to examine 5 areas of development: Physical Health and Well-being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Communication and General Knowledge, and Language and Cognitive Ability.

Key findings regarding readiness when entering school include:

- 17.8% of children arrive at school vulnerable; without the developmental readiness for the school environment (compared to the Canadian average of 27.2% of children 'not ready')
- Boys scored significantly lower than girls on all developmental areas examined.

Three other research projects were done; Parent Interviews, Socio-economic Factors, and Community Resources for Young Children

The full version of the research reports and executive summaries can be accessed at the Family Services of Central Alberta website, www.fsca.ca.

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