



Media Release

Date: For Immediate Release

**From: Red Deer Understanding the Early Years Project
At Family Services of Central Alberta**

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Re: Community Action Forum May 18, 2010

On Tuesday, May 18, 2010 from 9:00-3:00, a group of stakeholders, including parents, educators, health professionals and other community members will gather at Red Deer College in The Four Commons Area to create an action plan that will help to meet the needs of young children ages 0-6 in Red Deer.

The planning session will be guided by the research findings of Understanding the Early Years (UEY). UEY is part of a national research initiative that examines the family and community factors that support positive outcomes for children. The UEY project, which began in May, 2007 has collected data from Red Deer parents, children, teachers and service providers. Our findings show that while Red Deer's children are more 'ready to learn at school' when compared to Canadian findings, there is still room for improvement. Over 17% of Red Deer's kindergarten scored in the vulnerable range in one or more area of child development.

A comprehensive community action plan to address the needs of young children, and to build on existing successes, can help support all Red Deer's children to thrive.

**The UEY Red Deer Project is funded by the Government of Canada's
Understanding the Early Years Initiative.**

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