

# Best Practices & Community Service in Ottawa-Centre

The purpose of the present document is to provide community partners and service providers with a profile of their neighbourhood with the specific aim of engaging all parties concerned in better serving the needs of the parents and children in those communities .

The current profile is based on the results of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) implemented in Ottawa in 2005/06 in conjunction with the 2001 Census data. As a result, the data presented here may not reflect the changes within your community neighbourhood since 2001. Nevertheless, the community profile as it stands can assist community partners and service providers in assessing the developments within their community neighbourhoods over a period of time.

**What is the EDI?** - The EDI is a 104-item checklist that is completed by senior kindergarten teachers for each child in their class and measures readiness for the Grade one learning environment. Although it is completed for individual children the results are compiled and interpreted for groups of children living within a particular geographic area such as a neighbourhood or city.

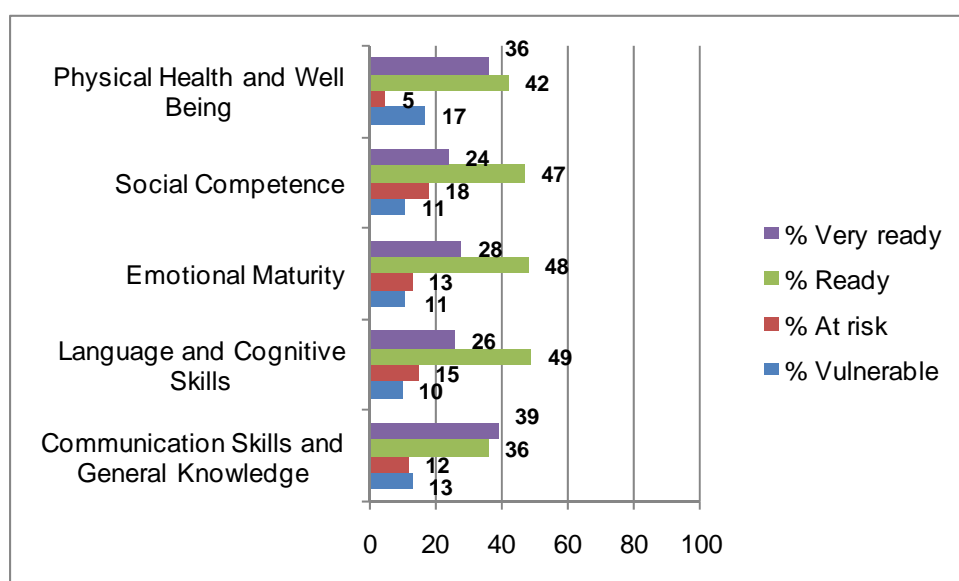
As such, the EDI is known as a population-based measure and is *not* a diagnostic tool nor is it an indication of a school's performance.

The EDI measures and monitors children's school readiness in five developmental domains:

1. Physical Health and Well-Being,
2. Social Competence,
3. Emotional Maturity,
4. Language and Cognitive Skills and
5. Communication Skills and General Knowledge.

Here is an overview of how the children are doing in Ottawa-Centre. Generally, children with scores **above the 75th percentile** are considered **"very ready"** for school whereas children with scores **between the 75th-25th percentile** are considered **"ready"**. The total group of children who score **between the lowest 10th and 25th percentile** are **"at risk"**, while those who score **below the 10th percentile** in one or more domains are considered **"vulnerable"**.

**Table 1:** Percentage of children who are vulnerable, at risk, ready and very ready for school in Ottawa-Centre



# Socio-Demographic Data

The socio-demographic indicators included in these tables were selected based on previous research indicating that they have an effect on the developmental outcomes of young children. Please refer to the following document for details: *School readiness to learn in Ottawa: A report on the results of the Early Development Instrument (2005/2006)*. Document available at: [http://parentresource.on.ca/DACS2\\_e.html](http://parentresource.on.ca/DACS2_e.html)

**Table 2:  
Population, Low-Income, Education and Employment**

	Ottawa-Centre
Total population	87806
Population of children 0-6	5200
Low-income families	17%
Less than high school education	16%
Unemployment rate	23%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census – City of Ottawa Website

**Table 3:  
Immigration and Language**

	Ottawa-Centre
Recent immigrant status	21%
English only spoken at home	55%
French only spoken at home	2%
Non-official language only spoken at home	9%
More than one language spoken at home	20%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census – City of Ottawa Website

**Table 4:  
Birth Data**

	Ottawa-Centre
Births (2004)	2%
Pre-term births (2004)	7%
Low birth weight (2004)	5%

Source: Niday Perinatal Database

Definitions of the Census terms can be found at the following address:  
[http://www.ottawa.ca/city\\_services/statistics/census/index\\_en.shtml](http://www.ottawa.ca/city_services/statistics/census/index_en.shtml)