



ECMap

Early Child Development
Mapping Project Alberta

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ECMap final report summarizes early childhood development study findings

The Early Child Development Mapping Project's final report summarizes Early Development Instrument (EDI) baseline results for Alberta, provides an overview of the work done by coalitions in 100 communities throughout the province and puts forward recommendations for improving early childhood development outcomes.

How are our young children doing? Final report of the Early Child Development Mapping Project (ECMap) notes that:

- 46 per cent — or less than half — of Alberta's young children meet all age-appropriate developmental milestones by the time they reach kindergarten,
- nearly 30 per cent experience great difficulty in one or more areas of development,
- great inequities exist in children's early development among communities, and
- many young children in Alberta fall below the Canadian norm.

The report shows a strong link between EDI results and the socio-economic status of communities. Low socio-economic levels are generally associated with poorer early development results in communities and vice versa. However, the largest number of young children experiencing developmental difficulties is found in middle-class socio-economic level communities due to the predominance of middle-class households in Alberta.

ECMap has now concluded its five-year research and community development mandate. The project was funded by Alberta Education and based in the Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth and Families (CUP) at the University of Alberta. The research information collected by ECMap was shared directly with 100 early childhood development (ECD) community coalitions, which were mobilized to work with the data and plan local responses. As a result of the project and Alberta Education's Early Child Development Mapping Initiative, Alberta now has its first province-wide picture of early childhood development with EDI baseline results for 70,200 young children. Community coalitions, made up of broad-based, diverse memberships, are active throughout the province, raising public awareness about the importance of the early years and making a positive, informed impact on policies, programming and supports related to young children and families.

The report and a LiveAtlas with early development information on communities throughout Alberta can be accessed on the ECMap website at www.ecmap.ca.

Dr. Susan Lynch, Director, Early Child Development Mapping Project