



Early Development Instrument

In 2009 and 2010, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education will partner with the Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University and Saskatchewan school divisions) to collect information on children's 'readiness for school' using the Early Development Instrument (EDI).

The EDI was developed by the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University in 1998-1999. It is currently used in 14 countries around the world, and across Canada. Currently, the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have provincial collections of the EDI tool.

The EDI is a questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers. It looks at five areas of early childhood development that have the greatest impact on children's readiness to learn when they start school. These five areas include:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communication skills and general knowledge

The EDI is designed to measure the relative success of communities in facilitating healthy early childhood development and to predict the readiness to learn of groups of children as they enter school. The knowledge gained from the EDI every year will provide a broad picture of how well prepared each new cohort of children is as they begin school.

The results from the EDI will inform a baseline measure of readiness to learn at school as an outcome of early development. Readiness to begin grade one is influenced by children's early environments and experiences. The EDI does not measure individual children, school performance or teacher ability; the purpose of the instrument is to report on populations of children in different communities.

Kindergarten teachers complete the [Saskatchewan EDI Tool](#) on each child in his/her classroom in February and March. The Ministry of Education funds school divisions for teacher replacement time to complete the Early Development Instrument. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete each questionnaire.

EDI results are grouped by school, school division and community boundary and will be used by school divisions, schools, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and other government ministries as a resource for planning new programs and evaluating existing programs in order to support the unique strengths and needs of schools, school divisions and local communities.

For further information contact the Ministry of Education at (306)787-6532 or find further information on the tool at: <http://www.offordcentre.com/readiness/>

[EDI Timeline](#)

[EDI Parent Fact Sheet](#)

[FAQs Poster](#)

[Saskatchewan EDI Tool](#)