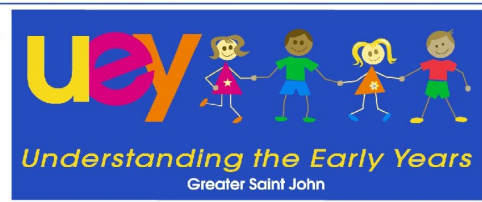


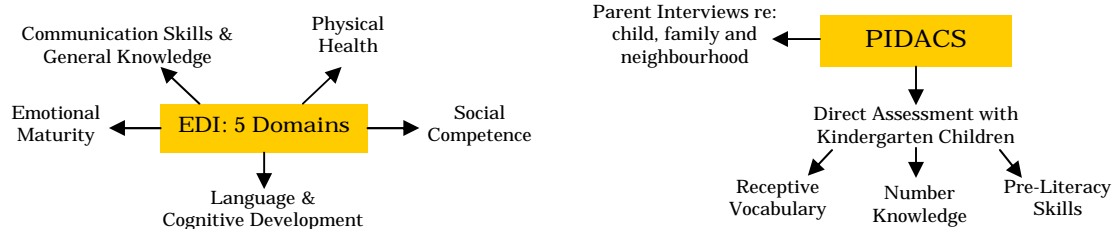
School Readiness Brief



Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a 3-year national research initiative which allows communities to gather data around these important questions:

1. Are our children ready for school? If so, great! If not, why not?
2. Which family and community factors influence our children's school readiness?
3. Are current programs and services adequately supporting young families in our area?

How are the data collected?



What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

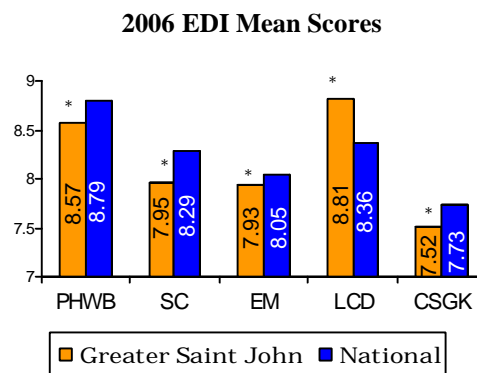
The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a 104-item survey designed to gauge how well the family and community have prepared a child for school entry. Note: It is not a measure of teacher effectiveness or school quality. There are 5 domains of child development assessed under the EDI:

- Physical health & well-being (PHWB): physical independence, gross/fine motor skills
- Social competence (SC): responsibility, respect, readiness to explore new things
- Emotional maturity (EM): helping behaviours, aggression, anxiety, hyperactivity
- Language & cognitive development (LCD): basic and advanced literacy and numeracy
- Communication skills & general knowledge (CSGK): ease of communication, knowledge

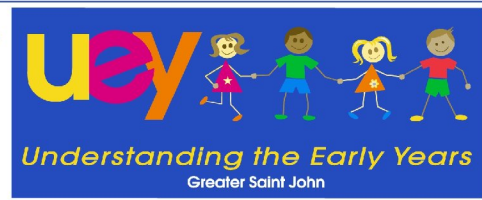
Overall, how did kindergarten children in Greater Saint John perform?

The EDI survey was completed by local kindergarten teachers in February 2006 on more than 700 children in School District 8.

The graph at right shows the 2006 EDI results. Compared nationally, kindergarten children in Greater Saint John scored significantly higher on Language and Cognitive Development. However, on all other domains, our scores were significantly lower than the national average. Now let's look at our neighbourhoods...



School Readiness Brief



Looking at vulnerability on the EDI by neighbourhood...

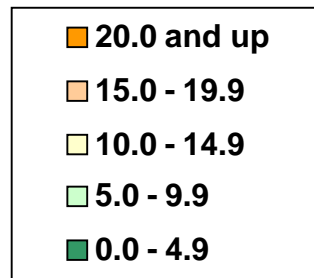
National comparisons are fine, but neighbourhood-level data are required to identify specific needs within our community. What is the percentage of vulnerable children in each neighbourhood for each of the 5 domains on the EDI? “Vulnerable” refers to those children who scored in the lowest 10% of all scores in the district. (Remember: Children who are vulnerable in one domain may or may not be considered vulnerable in other domains.)

In Greater Saint John, on the 2006 EDI:

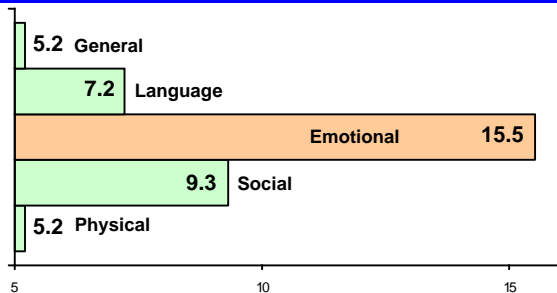
- 26.5% of children were vulnerable on at least 1 of 5 domains.
 - 14.2% were vulnerable on at least 2 of 5 domains.
- (These numbers were similar to the national sample.)

Below are the graphs representing the percentage of vulnerable children in each neighbourhood in the Greater Saint John area for the 2006 Early Development Instrument (EDI). The legend at right shows that vulnerability increases as you move up the scale from green to yellow to red, not unlike a traffic light!

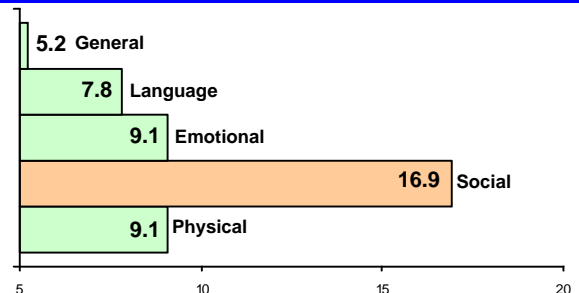
Percentage of 'vulnerable' children



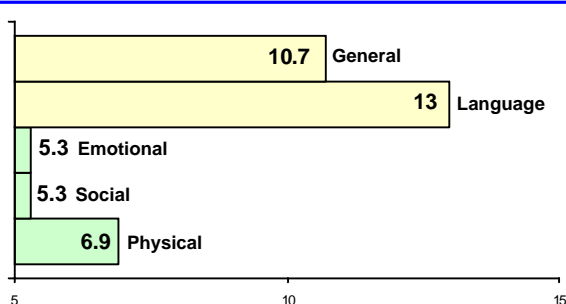
NH1: Morna Hts/Grand Bay/Westfield/Brown's Flat



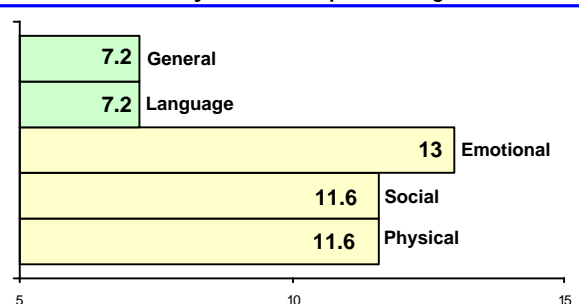
NH2: Seawood, Havelock, St. Patrick's



NH3: Lakewood Hts/Loch Lomond/St. Martins



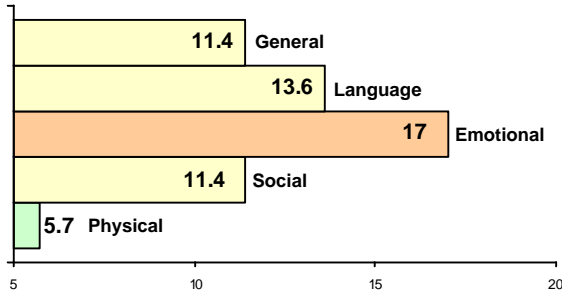
NH4: Bayside/Champlain Heights



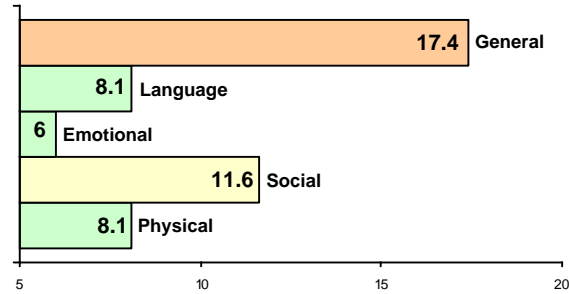
School Readiness Brief



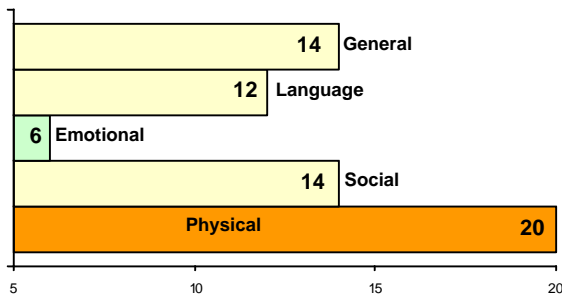
NH5: Forest Hills/Glen Falls



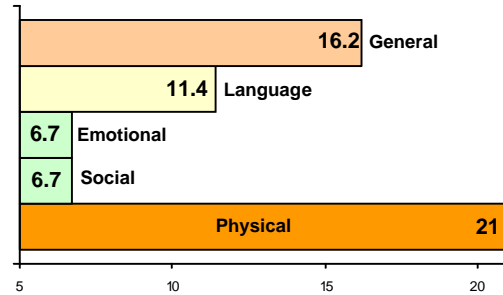
NH6: St. Rose/Island View/Fundy Shores



NH7: Centennial/M. Gerald Teed/Millidgeville



NH8: Prince Charles/SJB-KE/HW-SF/PES



Where do we go from here?

Overall, kindergarten children in 2006 in Greater Saint John scored significantly higher than the national average on the Language and Cognitive Development domain of the EDI. Great news! However, they also scored significantly lower than the national average on all other domains. Each neighbourhood within Greater Saint John demonstrated both challenges and successes, with varying percentages of vulnerable children in different domains.

These results give us a good sense of how well the family and community have prepared our children for school. We must now ask ourselves: What have we done well? What can we do better?

For more information on enhancing our children's school readiness, go to:

- Offord Centre for Child Studies: <http://www.offordcentre.com/readiness/index.html>

For more information on the UEY project and its results, visit www.uey-sj.org!



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