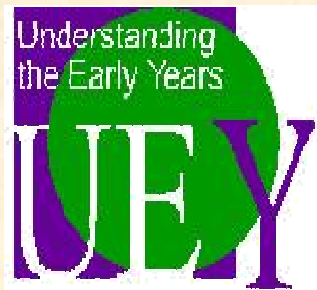


Readiness to Learn:

How well are we doing in preparing our children?



**Understanding the Early Years
Community Forum**



Canada

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Your 'MC' for today's event...

Margaret Andrewes

- **Co-Chair, along with Dr. Robin Williams, of Niagara Best Start Network & Children's Planning Council**
- **Involved as an Early Years champion since 2001, when she was appointed Chair - Early Years Steering Committee in Niagara Region**
- **Longstanding library leader in Canada with special interest in equitable public library service for Canadians with print disabilities**
- **Lives with her husband, Philip, on their family fruit farm in Beamsville; they have 3 grown children**
- **Currently serves her immediate community as a member of Town of Lincoln Council.**

Forum Agenda

WELCOME!

- ✓ UEY Overview
- ✓ Dr. Jason Ramsay
 - ✓ *‘Neurodevelopmental Aspects of Readiness Learn’*
- ✓ Local Research Results
- ✓ Refreshment Break
- ✓ Local Achievements
- ✓ Next Steps
- ✓ Dialogue / Q&A
- ✓ Closing

What is 'Readiness to Learn'?

This refers to the ability to meet the task demands of school, such as:

- **Being comfortable exploring and asking questions**
- **Sitting quietly and listening to the teacher**
- **Playing and working with other children**
- **Remembering and following rules**



In short - to benefit from the educational activities that are provided by the school!

It's also a good indicator of early development.

UEY Project Overview

What is UEY?

- A national research initiative on early childhood development
- A knowledge transfer strategy that provides communities with the necessary information to enhance resources and services

What are the goals of UEY?

- Increased understanding of the importance of the first 6 years in child development
- Increased understanding of the community factors that influence early development
- Support community learning and success - in using research evidence to achieve progressively better outcomes for children



UEY Research – Phase 1

Gather, develop capacity to research, and share local community factors that are influencing early child development; utilizing 3 evidence-based tools:

1) The Early Development Instrument (EDI)

Measures early development in terms of children's 'readiness to learn' at school across five (5) domains and is completed by SK teachers. The EDI provides data about how groups of children are doing in all areas of development prior to grade one (not an assessment of individual children, schools or teachers)

2) The Community Survey

Gathers detailed information about how family, friends and community influence the physical, behavioural, and learning development of children (previous data only - at this time)

3) The Community Mapping Study (CMS)

Examines community characteristics believed to play a significant role in children's developmental health including the socio-economic environment and the availability of community resources (currently updating)

UEY Research – Phase 2

Support the use of UEY research which precipitates the development of strategies and decision-making that improve child development within communities.

Goal

- ✓ **Successful knowledge transfer and application**

Primary Activity / Objective

- ✓ **Interactive process for disseminating, adopting and integrating research results**

Anticipated Outcomes

- ✓ **Community learning, and**
- ✓ **Success in using research evidence to achieve progressively better outcomes for children**

Potential Benefits of UEY



Education

- ★ **quality data** that is useful for **resource allocation decision-making**
- ★ **opportunity** for Niagara **children** to be **better able to take full advantage of all our education system offers**

Government

- ★ **quality regional, municipal and neighbourhood level data** that is useful for **resource allocation and planning**
- ↑ **community involvement** in **achievement of progressively better outcomes** for children of Niagara

Potential Benefits of UEY



Business, Professional Associations and Service Clubs

- ★ **opportunities for locally based CSR and partnering that is tied to quality research and identified need**
- ↑ **economic prosperity through understanding, supporting and advocating for the importance of early years' services and resources that contribute to increased productivity among current employees / better employees in the future**
- ✎ **support for your community capacity building and planning activities which utilize UEY research**

Potential Benefits of UEY



Parents and Community Members

- ↑ **understanding of, and support for achieving early development**
- ↑ **knowledge of neighbourhood resources, services and other community factors affecting early childhood development**
 - ★ **opportunity to make a difference, in your local neighbourhood, and achieve better outcomes for your children**

Potential Benefits of UEY



Community Partners and Agencies

- ★ **quality data** that is useful for **resource allocation, funding proposals, and outcome measurement**
- ✎ **support** for your **community capacity building and planning activities** which utilize **UEY research**

UEY Niagara Falls To-date

- ✓ Niagara Falls has been a 'UEY Community' since 2001
- ✓ Reports have been generated on the 2001, 2003 and 2005 data
- ✓ The EDI was administered during 2002 (sponsored by the Region) and in 2005 (sponsored by Ontario's Best Start Initiative)
- ✓ Various communication pieces have been distributed
- ✓ Research has been shared with, and used by, the community