



## Understanding the Early Years

Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a nation-wide project that is funded by Human Resources and Social Development of Canada. UEY is means to provide “communities with information to enable them to make informed decisions about the best policies and most appropriate programs for families with young children.”<sup>1</sup> In the Niagara region, UEY is housed within the Early Childhood Community Development Centre which is dedicated to enhance and strengthen the region’s child care and early learning industry.

## My CSLP : Roles and Responsibilities

During my time with UEY, my primary responsibilities were to: a) compile various social resource databases for the Community Resource Booklet and b) update the 2007-08 Niagara Region Early Years Research Inventory (NREYRI).

a) This project consisted of compiling all the social resources in the Niagara region stratified by type of social resource (e.g. sports) as well as by the 12 municipalities. The databases would then be used in a mapping study to summarize the adequacy of resources in a community and published in a Community Resource Booklet<sup>2</sup> for each municipality.

b) The NREYRI arose as a result of the need and demand for information sharing of all early years-related research implemented in the Niagara region. The first NREYRI from 2004-2005 needed to be updated; from the 2004-05 edition, all academics and organizations were re-contacted in request for updates. These efforts have been the groundwork for the 2007-08 ed. of NREYRI<sup>3</sup>.

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“I could directly tie UEY to the classroom concepts I learned from medical sociology and health promotion; it was exciting to see how UEY plays a strong role in enabling and increasing capacity of communities to improve the health of their children through research. Because research is key to establishing knowledge and knowledge is the power to change.”

~ Lisa Banh, B.Sc. Health Sciences '09

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## References

1. KSI Research International Inc. (2005). Understanding the Early Years. An update of early development results in four Canadian communities (Human Resources Development Canada Catalogue No. HS4-23/2006E).
2. UEY. (2007). St. Catharines Community Resource Booklet. St. Catharines, ON: Ressler, G.
3. UEY and Early Years Niagara Planning Council’s Research Advisory Group. (2008). Niagara Early Years Research Inventory. St. Catharines, ON.



# A Community Service Learning Project

## MedPLUS Level III - Student Reflection

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