



Welcome!

**A Community Fit For Children
Niagara Falls Action Planning Meeting**

Please introduce yourself...

**The Understanding the Early Years initiative is funded by Human Resources
and Social Development Canada.**

For further information, visit: www.hrsdc.gc.ca

Agenda

- **UEY Findings in Niagara Falls**
- **Additional Community Knowledge**
- **Knowledge Exploration**
- **Patterns, trends and needs**
- **Ideas, applications and next steps**
- **Closing and Evaluations**

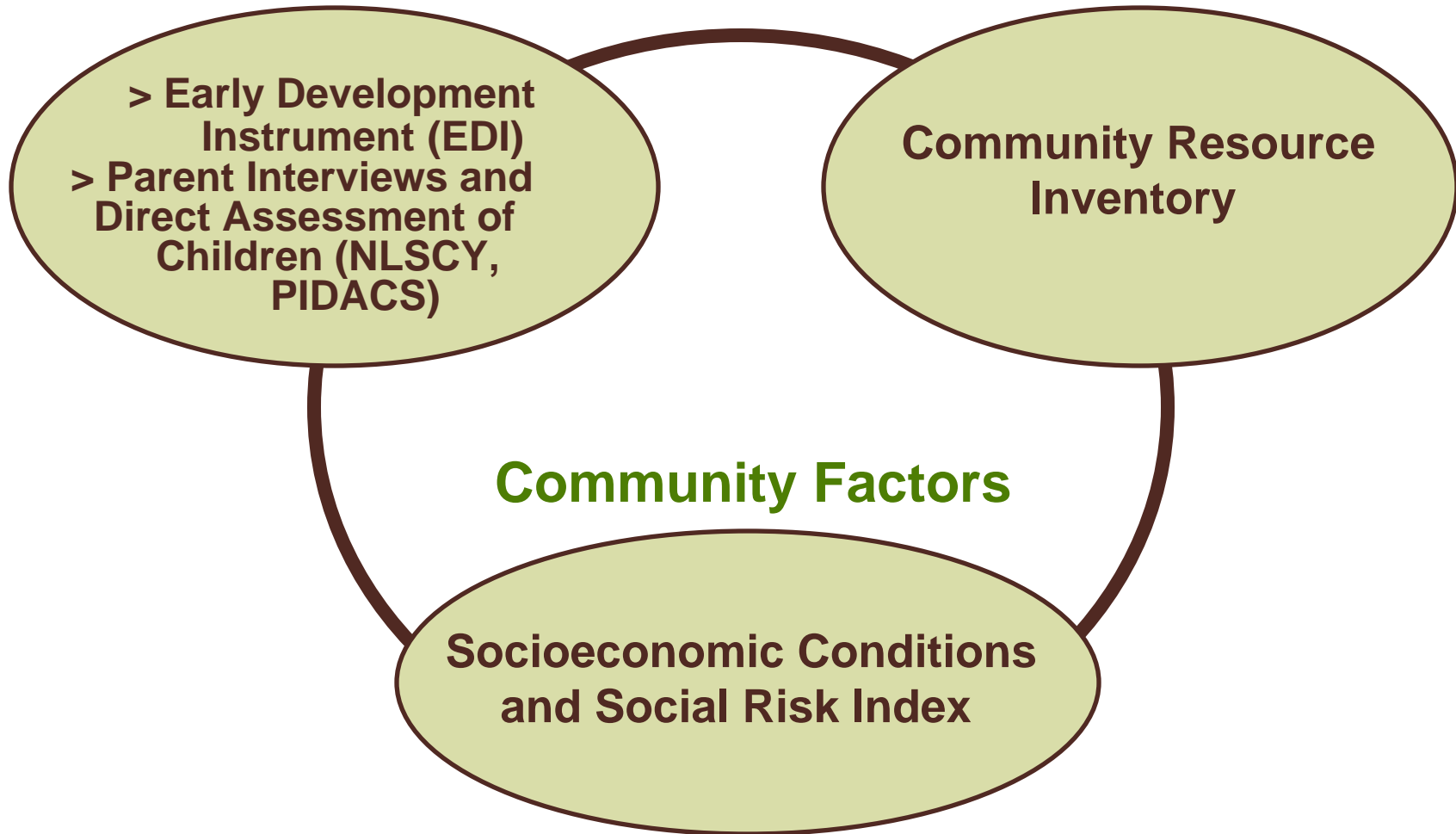
What is Understanding the Early Years (UEY)?

- *A national initiative that enables communities to better understand the needs of their young children and families so they can determine the best programs and services to meet them.*
- Identifies *community factors* that *influence children's development, readiness to learn in school, and family welfare* (HRSDC, 2006).
- Niagara Falls (2001-2007)
- Niagara Region (2005-2008)

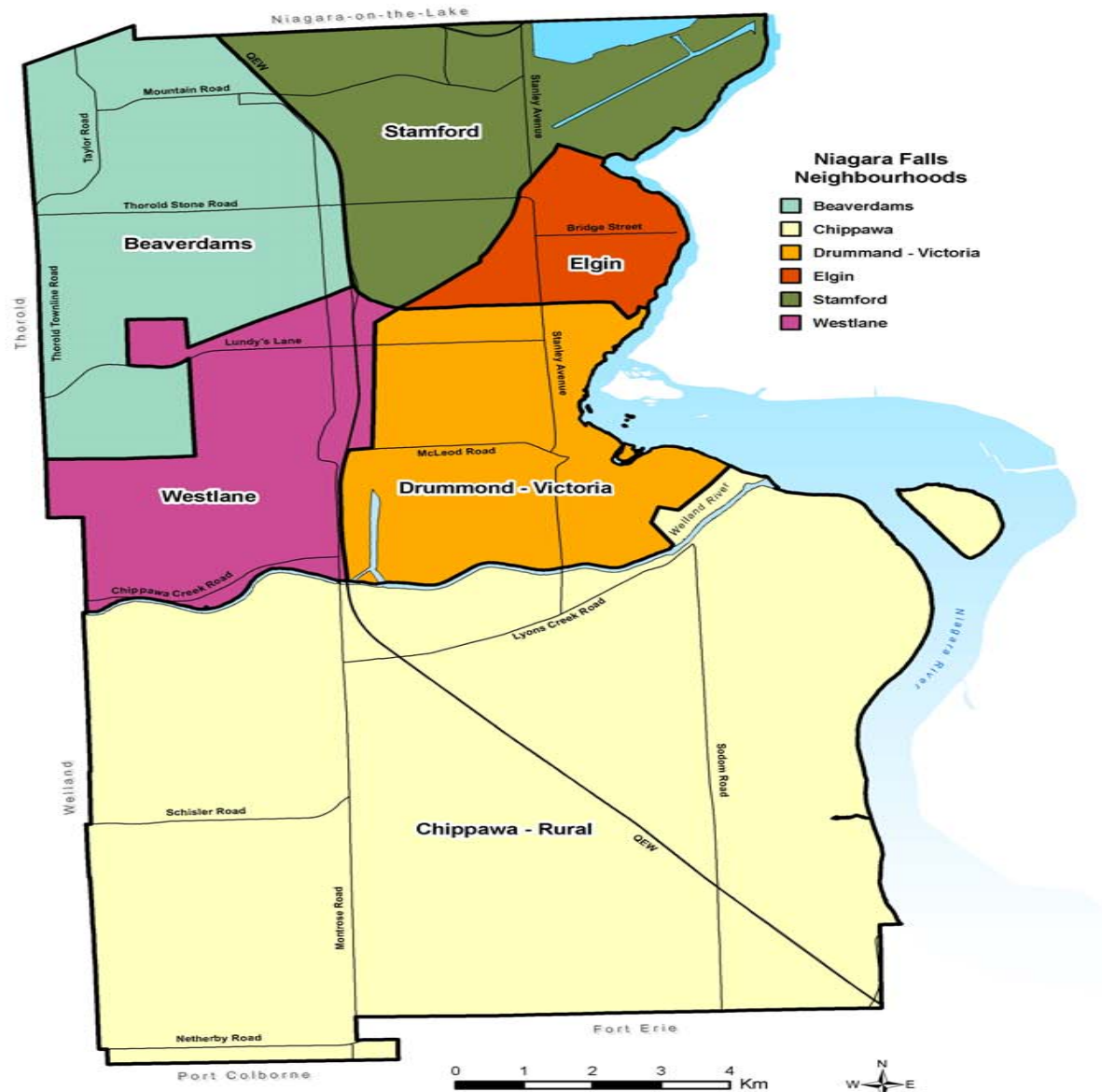
UEY Niagara Falls Data

**Children's Development, Family
& Community Experience**

Community Assets



Niagara Falls' Neighbourhoods



Data Sources: Neighbourhood (ECCDC), 2006.,
 © 2006 - The Regional Municipality of Niagara.
 Produced by: PREP Unit, Public Health, 2006.

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

Measures *readiness to learn at school* which refers to the child's ability to meet the task demands of school, such as:

- being comfortable exploring and asking questions,
- listening to the teacher,
- playing and working with other children,
- remembering and following rules, and
- benefiting from the educational activities that are provided.

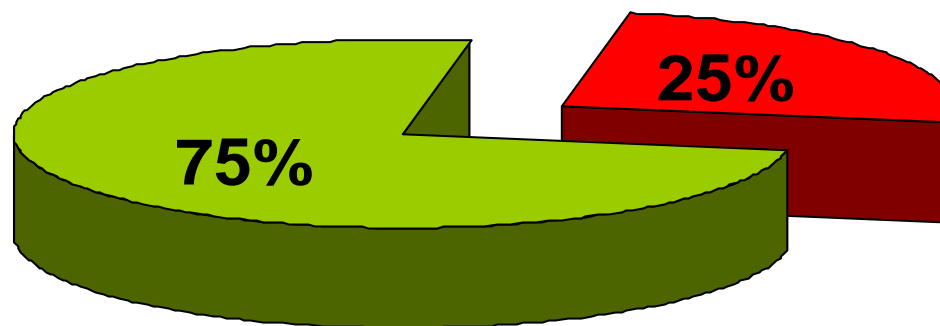
EDI Cont'd...

Provides a population-based snapshot of children's readiness to learn in school over five domains:

- 1. Physical Health & Well-being,**
 - 2. Social Competence,**
 - 3. Emotional Maturity,**
 - 4. Language & Cognitive Development, and**
 - 5. Communication Skills & General Knowledge.**
- (Offord Centre for Child Studies, 2006)**

EDI Findings

- Ready to Learn
- Not Ready to Learn



Large proportion (75%) of children in Niagara Falls are ready for learning in school, and are likely to adjust well and be academically successful!

(UEY & OEYNR, 2005)

Overall, SK children scored above the national averages on all five readiness to learn domains!

(UEY & OEYNR, 2005)

EDI Findings Cont'd...

- **Overall Strengths:**
 - **Physical Health & Well-being**
 - **Social Competence**
 - **Language & Cognitive Development**
- **Overall Challenges:**
 - **Emotional Maturity**
 - **Communication Skills & General Knowledge**

EDI Findings Cont'd...

- **Poorer scores were associated with:**
 - **Gender (males);**
 - **Younger children;**
 - **Not attending part-time preschool and/or Junior Kindergarten; and**
- **Areas that had more socioeconomic risk also had:**
 - **more children considered vulnerable; and**
 - **more challenges in some or all of the EDI domains.**

Community Assets

- **Favourable residential stability and employment rates** (Statistics Canada, 2001).
- **Wide variety of community supports** (OEYNR, 2003; UEY, 2006).
- **Supports in neighbourhoods with highest socioeconomic need** (OEYNR, 2003; UEY, 2006).
- **Lower levels of socioeconomic risk overall and least risk in** (Statistics Canada, 2001):
 - Beaverdams,
 - Chippawa-Rural, and
 - Stamford.

Community Challenges

- **Medium-to low household income** (Statistics Canada, 2001).
- **High rates of lone parent families** (Statistics Canada, 2001).
- **Large percentages of residents over 20 years-of-age without high school diplomas** (Statistics Canada, 2001).
- **Low cultural diversity** (Statistics Canada, 2001).
- **Neighbourhoods with multiple socioeconomic risk factors** (i.e. low income, lone parent, instability, etc.; Statistics Canada, 2001).

Community Challenges Cont'd...

- **Access to resources:**
 - **Barriers - physical distance, income, culture, language and/or lack of caregiver support (Statistics Canada, 2001); and**
 - **Gaps and/or unmet demand for service in health and wellness and multicultural (OEYNR, 2003; UEY, 2006).**
- **Disproportionately higher levels of socioeconomic risk in (Statistics Canada, 2001):**
 - **Westlane,**
 - **Drummond-Victoria, and**
 - **Elgin.**

Additional Community Knowledge

Please share:

- **Any additional knowledge, information or materials you consider important to the well-being of children and families in Niagara Falls**
- **Any factors that you believe are important to consider when planning and/or making decisions**

Note: Highlights will be recorded.

Exploring the Knowledge

Please take time to:

- **Review any information provided, or otherwise explore community knowledge.**
- **Prepare a brief report back for the large group.**

Note: Highlights will be recorded.

Patterns, Trends, and Needs

- **Are there any patterns, trends or needs that you / your organization might address?**
- **Are there any that can be addressed in partnership?**

Note: Highlights will be recorded.

Applications, Ideas, and Next Steps

- How do you intend to apply what you've learned today?
- Do you have any additional ideas?
- What next steps will you take?
- Do you have other suggestions?

Note: Highlights will be recorded.

Thank You!!

To our hosts and partners...



Early Years
NIAGARA



and to all attendees 😊

Kindly complete an evaluation.

With appreciation,

Glory & Marion