

Understanding  
the Early Years



COMMUNITY RESEARCH IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

UEY Niagara Falls is sponsored by the  
Early Years Action Group - Niagara Region and the  
Early Childhood Community Development Centre

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## **HOW DO CHILDREN IN NIAGARA FALLS MEASURE UP?**

ST. CATHARINES, ON—A national study of Canadian kindergarten students indicates that children's readiness to learn may be influenced by the community in which they live. Niagara Falls was one of 13 communities to take part in the study. ***A report of the findings for Niagara Falls, including national highlights, will be released at 10:00 am Friday, August 22 in a special presentation at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls.***

The study is part of Understanding the Early Years (UEY) – a national research initiative that offers communities insight into how their children are doing relative to their peers across Canada. UEY, conducted with funding from Human Resources Development Canada, consists of three components—the *Early Development Instrument*, a teacher checklist that assesses kindergarten students' overall health and development in terms of how prepared they are to learn at school; the *Community Mapping Study*, which profiles neighborhood resources and socio-economic factors thought to impact on child development and the *National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth Community Study*, a national instrument used to gather data directly from parents and children 5-6 years of age.

***Dr. J. Douglas Willms author of the Understanding The Early Years Integrated Report will present the study findings for Niagara Falls. MP Gary Pillitteri and other local dignitaries will offer their comments.***

"Around the world, governments that are concerned with economic growth are studying children's readiness to learn," explains Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, which helped coordinate the UEY study in Niagara Falls. "We now know that the experiences children have before they enter school can have an effect on how well they do throughout their school careers. Ultimately, this determines the skill level of a country's labour force." The World Bank has noted that early education programs that help children enter school ready to learn allow taxpayer dollars to be more effectively spent, because they reduce the need for remedial interventions once children are in school.

***To receive research highlights of the Niagara Falls study, please contact Lori Walker at 905-646-7311 or email [lwalker@vaxxine.com](mailto:lwalker@vaxxine.com).***