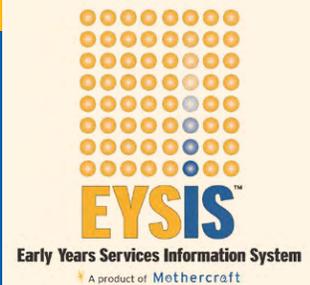


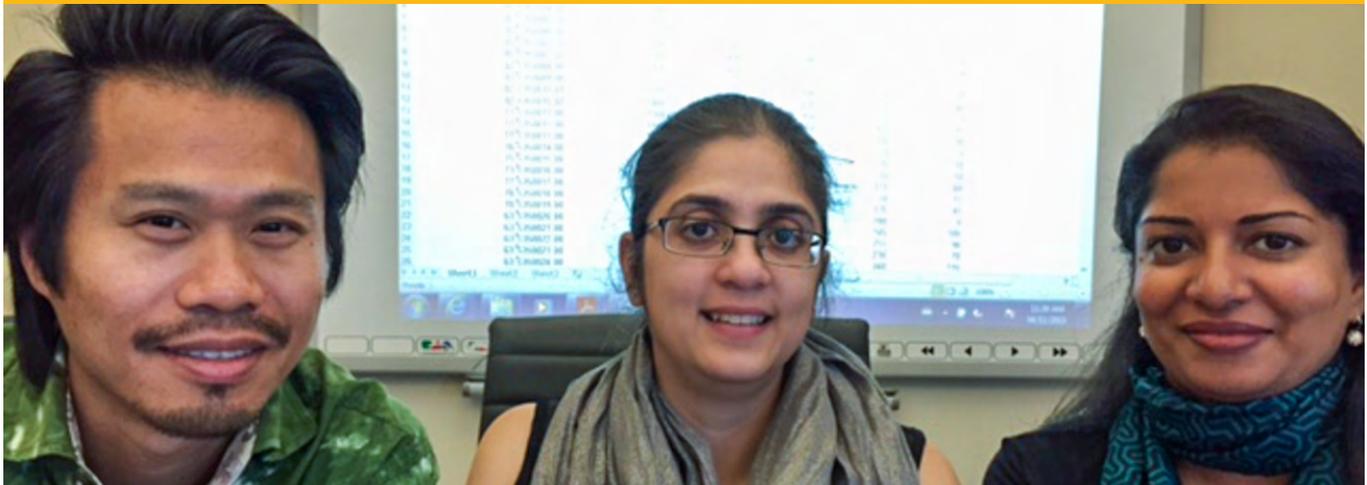
The DAC Post

FALL 2015 • WHAT'S INSIDE:

- » In the news
- » Updates about the Early Development Instrument process in Toronto
- » New research in child development
- » EYSIS information and training opportunities



A Newsletter from the Toronto Region Data Analysis Coordinators



DID YOU KNOW?

DACs in Toronto achieved the following from April to September 2015:

80 Participants served

101 Protocols/official linkages created and/or maintained

31 Hours of training, workshops, media events or conferences

“Many, many thanks for all the great work Toronto DACs have done for the OEYCs”
—Early Years Centre Supervisor

IN THE NEWS

World Health Organization Provides Recommendations to Reduce Vaccination Fear and Pain

(October 2015) Fear and pain associated with injections is one of the main reasons for vaccine hesitancy (delaying or refusing vaccinations). The World Health organization (WHO) estimates that 1 in 5 children world-wide still do not receive routine life-saving immunizations and around 1.5 million children die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases. The WHO has now put forward a number of recommendations to reduce pain and fear associated with vaccinations, based on a review of clinical practice guidelines used in Canada. The full report and recommendations can be found here: www.who.int/features/2015/vaccinations-made-friendly/en/

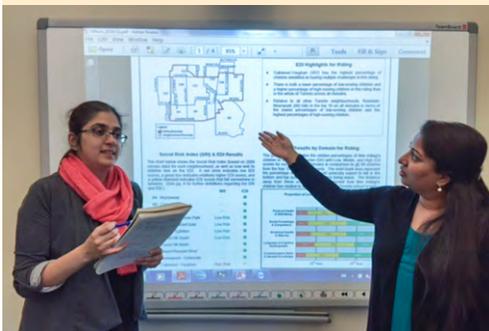
Are Canadian Parents Leaving Kids' Mental Well-being Off the Dinner Table?

(October 2015) Despite ranking the mental well-being of their children as the top concern, Canadian parents aren't talking about it with them. According to new data from *Taking the Pulse of Canada's Kids: A Landmark Study on Physical, Social, Emotional and Mental Well-being* by Companies Committed to Kids, parents and children are much more likely to discuss schoolwork (90 per cent), healthy eating (69 per cent), physical activity (61 per cent), friendships (57 per cent) and technology/media (51 per cent) over managing stress (28 per cent). The full report can be found here: cck-eee.ca/system/attachments/102/original/Taking_the_Pulse_of_Canada's_Kids_full_report.pdf

UPDATE ON MAIN ACTIVITIES

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

The DACs are preparing for the knowledge mobilization phase of the current EDI cycle. We will receive data from the Ministry of Education by early 2016. We are currently compiling population information to accompany EDI data in our community profiles and are reconvening the advisory group. We also recently released a report about the EDI process and usage of the 2010-2011 EDI data in Toronto. The [full report can be found here](#). The [report is also featured on the Offord website](#).



Provincial DAC Meeting

In October 2015, the DACs attended the DAC Provincial Meeting in Toronto. Topics included EDI knowledge mobilization, how communities and

schools use information to plan for children and a summary of Ontario Government perspectives and key initiatives. Toronto Region DAC support for the City of Toronto's Shared Outcomes work was also highlighted.

OEYC Directory

The OEYC (Ontario Early Years Centre) Directory contains contact information for main and satellite sites of OEYCs in Toronto. The DACs have updated the directory for 2015 and this information will be sent to the City of Toronto to update the Wellbeing Toronto website.

Toronto Wellbeing Mapping Tool Presentation

The DACs have provided presentations on the Wellbeing Toronto mapping tool. The presentation includes an introduction to Wellbeing Toronto and its potential use by organizations, from front-line workers to management and research teams.



RESEARCH BRIEF

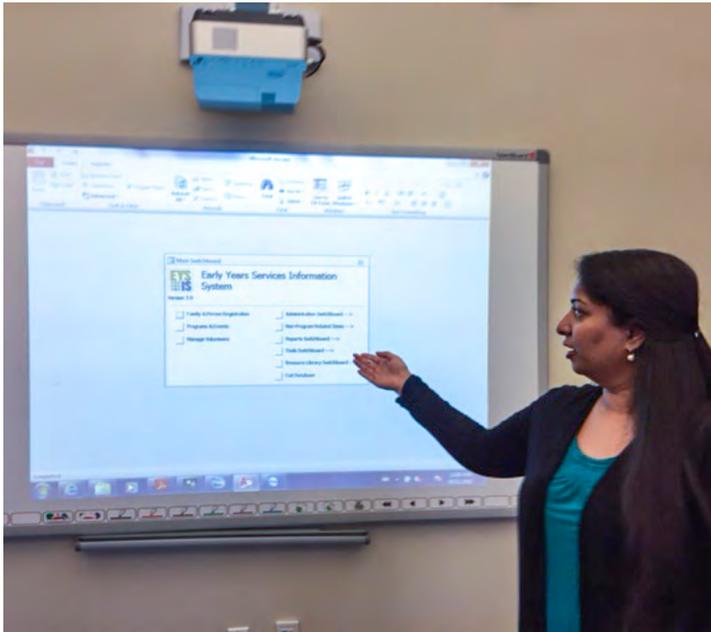
Building Baby Brains

In a recent 2015 study in the U.K., researchers investigated the relationship between parent behaviour and infants' brain responses to emotional expressions. Forty 7-month-old infants (24 males) and their mothers took part in the study. Parent behaviour was assessed using the Emotional Availability Scales. This assessment was done while mothers and infants engaged in a free-play interaction, playing as they normally would at home. Neural activity in infants' brains was measured using electroencephalography (EEG). EEG is a safe and noninvasive way to assess both spontaneous and induced activity in the brain by recording electrical signals from the scalp. EEG measurements were taken while infants viewed a series of emotional expressions displayed on a monitor. Three different emotions were used – happy, neutral and fearful.

The results showed that infants of more sensitive and responsive mothers showed greater neural responses to happy faces relative to neutral faces. There was no association between parental sensitivity and infants' neural responses to fearful faces. These findings suggest that the early interaction that infants have with caregivers primes the brain to respond in particular ways.

Taylor-Colls, S. & Fearon, R. M.P. (2015). The effects of parent behavior on infants' neural processing of emotion expressions. *Child Development*, 86, 877-888.

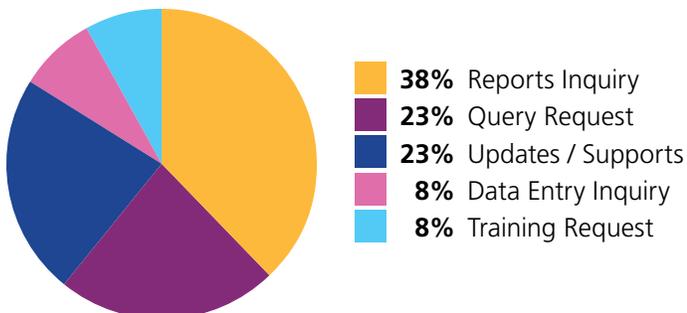
EYSIS



EYSIS has over 25 reports available to users that allow for the presentation of data according to a number of specified criteria. However, in some cases, users may require information that is not accessible through the built-in reports of the database. In this case, requests for custom queries can be made to the Toronto Region DACs. We can create and teach users how to run custom queries, provide instructions for custom queries or work with users to create custom queries. Here are some examples of recent custom queries that we created with our clients:

- Report of all children born in a particular year
- Report of families served
- Report of photo consents by site
- Report of non-participants

EYSIS Support September-October



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, November 23

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

2A: Family and Person Registration

This course teaches users how to register and edit client information records.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

2B: Programs and Events

This course provides instruction on how to enter client participation and event details in programs and events.

Tuesday, November 24

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

2C: Generating Reports

This course teaches users how to generate reports for program and resource tracking.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

3A: Data Cleaning

This course provides instruction on data cleaning and best practices in data entry.

Prerequisites: 2A and 2B

Wednesday, November 25

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

2D: Resource Library

This course allows participants to learn how to use the resource library.

Prerequisites: 2A and 2B

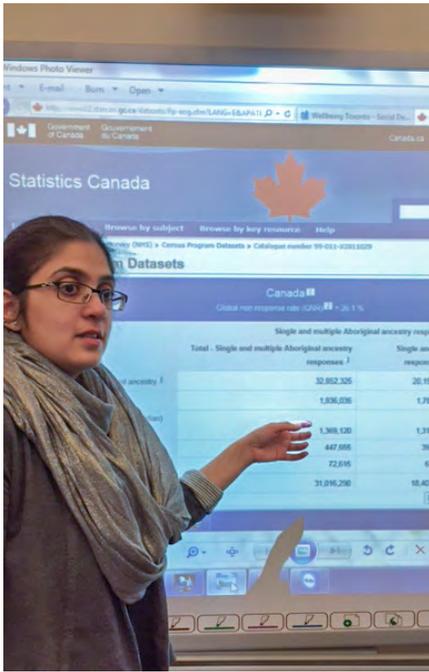
» Registration is first come, first served, so sign up early!

» Sessions are held at Mothercraft, 646 St Clair Ave West

FEES

» Toronto OEYCs & DACs - Free!

» OEYCs outside of Toronto & Non-OEYCs - \$25 per person per course (full refund if 2 business days' notice of cancellation is provided)



DACS OUT AND ABOUT

1 Regional DAC Group

In September 2015, the Toronto Region DACs once again met with DACs from Dufferin County, Wellington County, Peel Region and Halton Region. Peel Region hosted the meeting and led knowledge exchange about the Family Resource Programs Canada (FRP Canada) e-Evaluation. We also shared information about our current projects

and strategies for EDI knowledge mobilization.

2 Toronto Child and Family Network (TCFN)

The DACs are continuing to support the activities of the Family Support Services Mapping Work Group, which is asking that all family support services provide updates on their service locations, including contact information. DACs

have updated the OEYC information.

3 Presentations for Early Child Education (ECE) Professionals-in-Training

The DACs have been delivering presentations to ECE professionals-in-training at Mothercraft College. A number of topics are being covered, including:

use of technology in ECE, investing time and resources in the management of data, online sources of scientific evidence, writing research papers and information about the EDI process in Toronto, including how EDI data can be used to inform program planning in the early years sector.

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