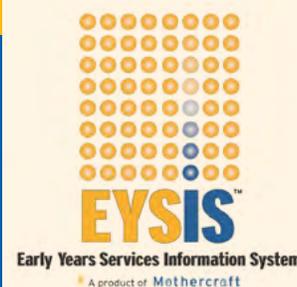


The DAC Post

WINTER 2015-16 • WHAT'S INSIDE:

- » In the news
- » Updates about main DAC activities
- » 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 October to December 2015:

199 Participants served

101 Protocols/official linkages created and/or maintained

21.5 Hours of training, workshops, media events or conferences

"The Wellbeing Toronto mapping tool [presentation] was very useful in helping us to know our community better and to help our families connect to resources that they may need."
—OEYC Manager

IN THE NEWS

Integration Key to Immigrant Student Success

(December 2015) A recent study by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) shows that immigrant students around the world do best in countries that help them integrate in school. The report, *Immigrant Students at School: Easing the Journey towards Integration*, also states that immigrant children who attend pre-primary education programs score higher on reading assessments than immigrant children who do not attend such programs. Some recommendations around early learning include tailoring programs to the needs of preschool immigrant children, reaching out to immigrant parents to raise awareness of the learning programs available and monitoring programs. The full report can be found [here](#).

Pain Management in Premature Infants Linked to Impaired Brain Development

(January 2016) A new study by the Hospital for Sick Children and the University of British Columbia has found that premature infants who are given morphine to manage pain show impaired brain development. Specifically, the study published in the *Journal of Pediatrics* showed that higher morphine exposure was associated with decreased growth in the cerebellum, resulting in both physical and cognitive impairments. In addition to balance and coordination, the cerebellum also plays a major role in attention, executive functions and language. As there are also risks to brain development if pain is not managed in infants, the authors of the study stress the need for research to find methods of pain control that would alleviate pain while presenting minimal risk to brain development.

UPDATE ON MAIN ACTIVITIES

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

The DACs are preparing for the knowledge mobilization phase of the current EDI cycle and expect to receive data from the Ministry of Education shortly. In the meantime, we have reconvened the EDI advisory group to help guide knowledge mobilization



activities. We have also compiled population information to accompany EDI data in our community profiles. We thank Social Policy Analysis & Research at the City of Toronto for their assistance in consolidating the population information.

MISA (Managing Information for Student Achievement) Symposium Planning

The DACs are part of the planning committee of the Toronto Region MISA Professional Network Centre EDI symposium scheduled to be held in May 2016. We are working with our community partners to prepare a community vignette about how EDI data is used and how to support parent engagement.

Statistics Canada Workshops

Statistics Canada offers a number of workshops that provide information on relevant and current statistical topics and applications. In the past year, the DACs attended two workshops – “Turning Statistics into Stories” and “Exploring Statistics Canada Data with the Beyond 20/20 Browser”.

Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC) Directory

The DACs continue to update the OEYC directory and recently provided the directory in response to a request for support in updating the OEYC Regional List. The OEYC Directory contains information for main and satellite sites of OEYCs in Toronto.



RESEARCH BRIEF

I Want My Mommy

Separation anxiety (SA) is the wary or fretful reaction that infants and toddlers often display when separated from caregivers to whom they are attached. This behaviour is typical and gradually becomes less frequent and less intense in early childhood. An exaggerated or age-inappropriate manifestation of such behaviour is conceptualized as separation anxiety disorder (SAD). Childhood SAD has been identified as a possible gateway to physical and psychiatric problems later on and should therefore be identified early on.

In a recent Canadian study, researchers investigated the developmental trajectories of separation anxiety symptoms from infancy to school entry and their early associated risk factors. They followed 1933 children from 1.5 years to 6 years of age and most children experienced little or moderate SA that was time-limited. However, children with initial high levels of SA that increase over time may be a population at risk for developing SAD. This group was uniquely characterized by higher maternal depression, unemployment and smoking during pregnancy. The researchers emphasized that early identification of children at risk for SAD should not rely solely on early assessment, but rather repeated assessments over the first few years.

(Battaglia, M., Touchette, E., Garon-Carrier, G., Dionne, G., Cote, S. M., Vitaro, F., Tremblay, R., & Boivin, M. (2016). Distinct trajectories of separation anxiety in the preschool years: Persistence at school entry and early-life associated factors. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 57, 39-46.)



Resource Library

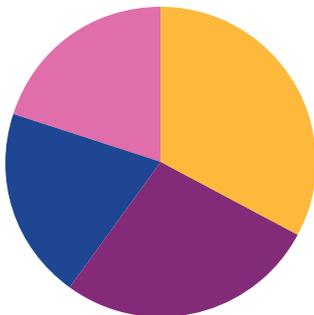
Does your agency have a large body of resources that you lend out to families, caregivers and professionals? The Resource Library in EYSIS can help you manage and track your resource inventory and lending

services. All tasks related to the Resource Library are carried out through the Resource Library Switchboard. There are six main components of the Resource Library, all accessible through the Resource Library Switchboard:

- **Database Library Options:** Provides options to help determine how your library is managed
- **Library Inventory:** Stores all information related to your library resources and allows you to manage resource categories, resource sources, resource target ages, etc.
- **Manage Lists/ Categories:** Allows you to customize options in the drop-down lists of the library
- **Library Manager:** Main section that deals with lending and returning resources
- **Wait List Manager:** Manages wait list information if clients would like to put resources on hold
- **Reports:** Summarizes resource and lending information based on selected criteria

Did you know that when parents/caregivers borrow a resource, it can be counted under the data elements "Parents/ Caregivers Served" and/ or "Number of Visits by Parents/Caregivers" just like program participation?

EYSIS Support October – December 2015



- 33% Updates / Supports
- 27% Data Entry Inquiry
- 20% Reports Inquiry
- 20% Query Request

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday, February 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.

Wednesday, February 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

Thursday, February 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 College, 646 St. Clair Avenue West

FEES

- » DACs and Toronto OEYCs – free!
- » Non-Toronto 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 December 2015, the Toronto Region DACs once again met with DACs from Dufferin County, Wellington County, Peel Region and Halton Region. Dufferin County hosted the meeting and led knowledge exchange on effective EDI reporting and using contextual data to tell data stories. The group also shared information about other ongoing projects and activities. The next meeting will be

hosted by Halton Region.

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. A beta version of mapped family support locations was shown at the last

TCFN Family Support Committee meeting, with the next steps being to gather the most recent updates to data sources. DACs continue to update the OEYC information for this on-going project.

3 Staffing Update

After 7 years at Mothercraft, Nikita Desai has left her position as one of the Toronto Region DACs to explore opportunities in the area of independent research

consultation. Nikita sends her thanks and best regards to our OEYCs and community partners. We will advise all of our early years partners when new staffing plans are in place.

The DACs also continue to provide presentations on the [Wellbeing Toronto](#) mapping tool and its potential use by organizations. If you are interested in a presentation, please contact us!

Contact Us

Community Data Group
Mothercraft
646 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON, M6C 1A9
Fax: 416-483-0119

Andy Mong, Manager
andy.mong@mothercraft.org • Phone: 416-483-0644 ext. 211

Jean Varghese, Community-Based Data Analyst/Researcher
jean.varghese@mothercraft.org • Phone: 416-483-0644 ext. 204

