



Ready to learn: Improving children's development and readiness for school through data and knowledge mobilization



Children's Services Division

82
Students



5
EDI
Developmental
Domains



19
Creative products
developed



Winter semester 2025

The **Early Development Instrument (EDI)** is a tool used in Durham Region to stay informed about children's development and helps determine their readiness for school. It is a questionnaire completed by teachers for all senior kindergarten children.

The EDI has been completed six times in Durham Region:



How might we address the gap between data and on-the-ground interventions to improve developmental outcomes for children?



Ontario Tech University's students in the 'Holistic Learning in Early Childhood Education' course developed **evidence-based products** for our early learning and child care community. Some examples included:

*Physical Health and Well-being
Bingo*



*Communication Skills and General Knowledge
Community Resources and Activities*



*Emotional Maturity Snakes and
Ladder Game*



The EDI measures children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations across the following five development domains:



Physical Health and Well-Being



Social Competence



Emotional Maturity



Language and Cognitive Development



Communication Skills and General Knowledge



4.36 out of 5

Average rating of their CityStudio experience

61 students completed the survey



85%

Agreed or strongly agreed that the learning experience was valuable.

89%

Believed their final project/product will help children and their parents/families in Durham Region.

"I like that this project goes beyond the classroom. Having the chance to make a resource for educators, parents and children in the Durham Region is a unique opportunity we don't get in other classes."

92%

Agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed working with real-world data.

"I loved collaborating with my team and getting to really dive deep into our topic. Researching where the gaps may be in the classroom and then having the opportunity to create something to fill that gap was incredibly rewarding. It not only allowed us to address real challenges but also gave us the chance to build something that was practical and relevant. My team created a resource we could see ourselves using frequently in the classroom, making it even more valuable as we knew it would directly impact our students' learning experiences."

"I enjoyed collaborating with CityStudio Durham and working with real-world data that I can connect back to my place of work and future work as an educator."