

## Did you know?

- ▶ The early years (birth to age 6) are important for a child's development and well-being.
- ▶ Healthy children = healthy communities.
- ▶ A child's family and community are key influences on his or her development.
- ▶ Healthy development in the early years provides the foundation for a healthy adulthood.
- ▶ Everyone can make a difference in the life of a child.



## UEY Halifax: Our Goals

- ▶ Raising awareness of the importance of the early years in laying the foundation for healthy development and a healthy life.
- ▶ Contributing to a community where everyone actively supports the early development of young children.
- ▶ Enabling our community to make decisions about early childhood programs based on evidence provided through sound, local research.
- ▶ Providing information so that government, community organizations and other partners can work together with families and schools for the well-being of children.

## Halifax Regional School Board

UEY Halifax thanks the Halifax Regional School Board and the following schools for their active participation in and support of this project. Their involvement was crucial in making this project possible. Special thanks to the principals, primary teachers, students and families who participated in the studies and generously gave of their time.

- Atlantic Memorial Terence Bay Elementary School
- East St. Margaret's Elementary
- École Burton Ettinger Elementary School
- École Grosvenor - Wentworth Park Elementary School
- Fairview Heights Elementary School
- Harrietsfield Elementary School
- École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower Elementary
- École Rockingham Elementary School
- Rockingstone Heights Elementary School
- Sambro-Ketch Harbour Elementary School
- Shatford Memorial Elementary School
- Tantallon Elementary School
- William King Elementary School



## Understanding the Early Years Halifax

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Early Intervention Society

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# UEY Understanding the Early Years Halifax



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best possible  
start in life"

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## Understanding the Early Years

Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a national initiative that enables communities across Canada to better understand the needs of their young children and families so that they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs.

UEY began in 1999 as a pilot project in five communities, becoming a national initiative in 2004. Today, Halifax is one of 50 UEY sites across Canada. Sackville Bedford Early Intervention Society, an organization that supports preschoolers with special needs, is the sponsoring organization for UEY Halifax.

**UEY Halifax is funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. To learn more, visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca).**



## Early Years Research

Experiences in the early years, from birth to age six, contribute to how well a child enjoys life and whether he or she will thrive now and in the future. Interactions with family members and adults in the community directly impact development and lay the foundation for a child's overall health and well-being.

The school readiness of primary children is central to UEY research. UEY research considers all areas of a child's development, including physical, social and emotional as well as language and communication skills. School readiness can be a useful indicator of how a community's children are doing and what supports may be needed for them in their early years.

Information is gathered using the *Early Development Instrument (EDI)* and the *Parent Interviews and Direct Assessments of Children Survey (PIDACS)*. Our research was carried out in the communities of Fairview/Clayton Park, St. Margaret's/Hammonds Plains and Spryfield/Herring Cove in partnership with the Halifax Regional School Board.

## UEY Halifax Goals

### Gather information and Build Knowledge

UEY is providing local research and information to help communities in planning services and programs to more effectively support young children and their families.

### Develop a Community Action Plan

UEY is working with our schools, local leaders and other partners to assist them in the development of a community action plan that will identify strengths and weaknesses in our community's support of young children.

### Enable Communities

The ultimate goal of UEY Halifax is to transfer the knowledge gained through this project to partners, schools and families so that it can be transformed into action. It takes the whole community to support children in their early years so that they can enter school ready to learn and have the best possible start in life!

***"It takes a village to raise a child."***

- AFRICAN PROVERB

