

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

WELCOME!

The Grande Prairie Coalition Alliance Network is excited to be launching our newsletter this month to start off January 2019! Every two months we will publish a newsletter focusing on one of the five areas of development from the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The purpose of the newsletter is to provide parents with ideas to strengthen these areas of development, provide information on community resources and upcoming family friendly events.

WHO ARE WE?

The Grande Prairie Coalition Alliance Network is a committee of interested individuals for the enhancement and furtherance of early childhood development with a focus on the early years of 0 - 6 years of age.

GP CAN includes parents, grandparents, caregivers, early learning and care providers, educators, health care workers, and members of various non-profit organizations. If you are passionate about making positive early childhood development a reality for families in our community consider joining us! If you would like more information on GP CAN and how to become a member contact the Coordinator, Erin, at erin.fes@telus.net or 780-830-0920.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- By taking the information from the EDI, we partner to promote and improve early childhood development resources in our communities.
- We connect families, service providers and communities together.
- We provide parents and caregivers with meaningful information on early childhood development and services available in the community.
- We promote understanding of how children's early years impact lifelong development.



Grande Prairie Family
Centered Coalition

Supports to Early Learning
& Child Care Programs



Network

WHAT IS THE EDI?

The EDI is a 103-item questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers in the second half of the school year that measures children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations in five general domains:

- 1) Physical Health & Well-Being
- 2) Social Competence
- 3) Emotional Maturity
- 4) Language & Thinking Skills (or Language & Cognitive Development)
- 5) Communication & General Knowledge

The results are grouped together to give a snap shot of how children are doing across schools, neighbourhoods, cities, or even provinces and countries. This information is then used by Early Childhood Coalitions to create awareness and improve early childhood development resources in their communities.

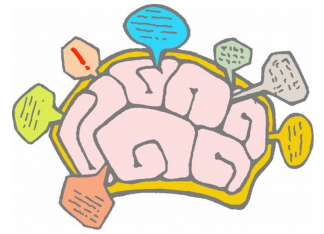
For more information on the EDI you can visit <https://edi.offordcentre.com/>

This month
we focus on:

LANGUAGE & THINKING SKILLS

Within the EDI, language and thinking skills are defined as:

- an interest in reading, writing and language related activities
- age-appropriate reading, writing and counting skills
- recognition of shapes, sizes and colors
- can easily remember things



HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD DEVELOP THESE SKILLS?

There are many ways you can help your child develop their language and thinking skills:

- Point to pictures in books and name the various objects
- Sing nursery rhymes
- Vary the tone of your voice, make funny faces, or do other special effects when you read to stimulate your child's interest in books and stories
- Substitute your child's name in for the name of the child in the book. This will keep them interested in the story.
- Incorporate actions and sensory experiences into reading. For example, do the actions to your favorite nursery rhymes or when naming objects, have the child hold or touch the object at the same time. This helps to develop thinking skills.

Ideas from Brain Games for Toddlers and Twos by Jackie Silberg

FREE EVENT

For more ideas on how to develop language and thinking skills and to connect with community resources come to the . . .

FAMILY LITERACY PARTY Friday, January 25th from 10 pm to 2 pm at the Prairie Mall. This event is for parents and caregiver with children 0-6 years old. There will be crafts, activities, story time, singing, games and free books!