



CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING
CENTRES D'EXCELLENCE POUR LE BIEN-ÊTRE DES ENFANTS

Children and Adolescents with Special Needs
Les enfants et les adolescents ayant des besoins spéciaux

Why the Investment in Children?

***Costs and Benefits of Investing in
Children***

***“Upstream investments to reduce
downstream pressures”***

Sandra Griffin, Substance Abuse Task Force, UNBC Node



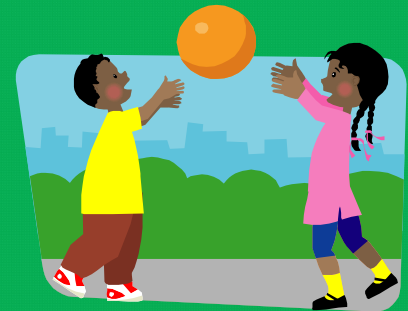
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The Earlier, the Better

Early indicators of disadvantage have implications for how prepared children are when they first enter school at Kindergarten

(Vandiviere et al., 2004).





Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement

The present research suggests the Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement has promising potential as a prevention program for improving birth outcomes, one that is of relatively low cost and builds on existing community health resources

(Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement Study. Patricia Canning, Mary Courage, and Lynn Frizzell Centre of Excellence for CEASN 2007).



Children's Well-Being requires a holistic approach

Experts agree that readiness is a multi-faceted concept that goes beyond academic and cognitive skills to include physical, social, and emotional development, as well as approaches to learning

(Vandiviere et al., 2004).





Omega 3 Fatty Acids

Dr. Brian Ross, Associate Professor Thunder Bay of Neuropharmacology at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), Dr. Ed Rawana, Research Director at Lakehead University site of the Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs (CECASN) are studying the link between Eye Q, a new Omega-3 fatty acid supplement and its effect on ADHD.



Positive Outcomes

Overall the evidence that stable long term programs which incorporate a child development focus and family support services are most associated with positive outcomes

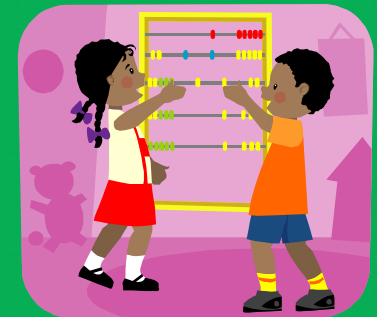
(Kienapple, K., Lyon, M., McSorley, A. 2006).



Early Interventions

If learning begets learning, then interventions at younger ages have the potential to generate cumulative benefits by altering a child's developmental trajectory

(Heckman, 2000; Heckman and Masterov, 2004).





Get Ready, Get Set, Get Going: Learning to Read in Northern Canada

This report describes the status of teaching and learning early reading in Canada, with a focus on early identification and intervention for rural and northern children with reading difficulties. Best practices, especially for rural and northern communities, are highlighted

(O'Sullivan, J. & Goosney, J. 2007).



Cost - Benefit

The favourable effects of early intervention can translate into dollar benefits for the government, participants, and other members of society

(Karoly et al., 2005).





Universal developmental screening

All families and children regardless of socioeconomic status and location should have timely access to diagnostic and assessment services and referrals to appropriate support services. Universal developmental screening would identify those children and families in need of services and would be a first step towards knowing how many children need services and how well their needs are met

(Kienapple, Lyon, & McSorley 2007).



Benefit - Cost

Since it has been shown that interventions are not usually successful once overweight and obesity have occurred, it is important to establish the age at which unhealthy body weights begin to emerge

(Canning, Courage, Frizzell 2004).





Ontario Study

Service concerns listed in an Ontario study of behavioral issue and education (OCCB 2001) include a scarcity of mental health services and long waiting lists for them. The future strength and health of our society depends on our resolution to solve this problem immediately.

(Coulman 2003).



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Why the investment in children?

Why wouldn't we do this if
this is what we know...
what could be more important??

Recommendation 15 of the *Senate Report, Children the Silenced Citizens*: Pursuant to articles 2, 23, 24, 33, and 39 of the CRC, the Committee recommends that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments implement an improved process to improve services to special needs children by July 2008. Working to resolve this crisis on an immediate and on-going basis, governments should develop a consultation process with advocacy groups, service providers, health professionals and special needs children. Early intervention should be a key children. *Early intervention should be a key focus of these consultations.*



UNICEF Special Session on Children

- *We are not the sources of problems; we are the resources that are needed to solve them.*
- *We are not expenses; we are investments.*
- *You call us the future, but we are also the present.*
- *We want a world fit for children because a world fit for us is a world fit for everyone.*



(Message from the Children's Forum, delivered to the UN General Assembly Special Session on children by child delegates, Gabriela Azurduy Arrieta, 13 from Bolivia, and Audrey Cheynut, 17, from Monaco on 8 May 2002).

Enough is Enough

- My spouse recognized in himself all the symptoms of FAS, and he disclosed to a nurse but nothing was done. It is bad enough to disclose, but then there was no follow up, nothing.
- Really, enough is enough

Study Participant – Gitxsan territory, Northern British Columbia.

(De Leeuw & Greenwood 2003)