



Parent Child Coalitions

Across Manitoba, Parent Child Coalitions have been established in all rural and northern regions and Winnipeg community areas to promote and support local community-based programs for young children and their families.



Based on the shared philosophy that strengthening families can strengthen communities, the coalitions focus on culturally-appropriate programs to support positive parenting, nutrition and physical health, literacy and learning, and community capacity building. Each parent child coalition plans programs and activities determined through community consultation, needs assessments and evidence based practice. Province-wide data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) is available for use by coalitions in their planning processes.



Coalition francophone de la petite enfance provides services to francophone families in the province.



“ I believe that the Coalitions have had a solid, positive impact on the communities they service. It has been a very interesting journey that has provided numerous successes for our efforts. ”

(North Assiniboine Coalition)

“ The Coalition partners with community members in advocating for and creating programs for early childhood development based upon specific community need. This builds capacity within community and also a network of support, knowledge and expertise across the region. This collaboration has encouraged local partnerships and a sense of community ownership. ”

(Central Coalition)

“ The most wonderful aspect of the Parent Child Coalitions is the ability to support all children and families in our region to reach their fullest potential, regardless of what jurisdiction they fall under. It is our hope that the way in which we view our relationships with each other and our responsibility to help all children will become “Best Practice” in the future. ”

(NorMan Coalition)

“ Our journey has been about creating a community of learners through which we have come to see our common goals and values. With that vision firm and established, the prevailing orientation and attitude has become a positive one with the emphasis on what participants can offer, rather than on what they own. ”

(River East and Transcona)

“ The commendable progress that has been made in the area of early child development in Manitoba is a tribute to the commitment of the provincial government and the energy and effort of our various communities. The mutually supportive and respectful partnership that has evolved among all parties has resulted in the establishment of a strong network of supports and services for the children and families of our province. ”

(Strini Reddy- Chair, Healthy Child Advisory Committee)



Healthy Child Manitoba Investing in Our Future



The Manitoba Government is committed to putting children and families first. Responding to research indicating the first five years of life are critical to a child's future development, the provincial government implemented the Healthy Child Manitoba (HCM) Strategy – a network of programs and supports for children, youth and families.

Established in March 2000, Manitoba's Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet is the only cabinet committee in Canada dedicated to the well-being of children and youth. The committee includes the ministers of Family Services and Housing; Health and Healthy Living; Justice; Aboriginal and Northern Affairs; Labour and Immigration; Status of Women; Education, Citizenship and Youth; and Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport and is supported by the Healthy Child Deputy Ministers' Committee and the Healthy Child Manitoba Office. This nationally recognized strategy was set in legislation under *The Healthy Child Manitoba Act* in 2007.

HCM works across government departments, in partnership with the community, to help ensure the best possible outcomes for Manitoba children. HCM seeks to help all of our province's children be:

- physically and emotionally healthy
- safe and secure
- successful at learning
- socially engaged and responsible



Bridging Government and Community: Intersectoral Structures in Manitoba

Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet
Healthy Child Deputy Ministers' Committee
Healthy Child Interdepartmental Committees



Citizens and communities
Parents and families
Children and youth
Community agencies
Healthy Child Advisory Committee
Parent Child Coalitions and Council of Coalitions



manitoba.ca/healthychild



For Coalition contact information in your region, visit www.manitoba.ca/healthychild/parentchild



Early Childhood Development in Manitoba.

Since April 2000, Manitoba increased investments in early childhood development by more than \$64 million.



Preparing Manitoba Children for School



Early Development Instrument (EDI) – Schools and communities working together for Manitoba’s children.

The first 5 years of children’s lives are very important in preparing them for future success in school and life. Ensuring Manitoba children get the best start in life is one of the key reasons for using the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI is an annual questionnaire measuring Kindergarten children’s ‘readiness for school’ across several areas of child development. EDI results assist communities in planning for the services and programs children need in order to learn and enjoy their school experience.



Parent Child Coalitions – Parent Child Coalitions exist in all regions of the province. Coalitions bring together community partners to collaborate in providing programs and services to meet the needs of families with young children.

Healthy Baby – This two-part program includes the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit and Healthy Baby Community Support Programs. The Prenatal Benefit is a monthly financial benefit to help pregnant, low-income women buy nutritious foods. Community programs support women and families during pregnancy and the first year of parenthood.

Families First – Public Health Nurses visit all families either prenatally or at the time of birth to discuss their strengths and needs. Families with children from the prenatal period to five years of age can receive weekly home visits by trained paraprofessional home visitors for up to three years.

FASD Strategy – HCM focuses on public education and awareness, prevention and intervention programs and services to support families and individuals. Stop FASD is a three-year mentoring program for women that use alcohol and drugs heavily throughout pregnancy.

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – This province-wide initiative provides parents with access to parenting supports, information and strategies. Service providers from various sectors are being trained to offer the program.



Early Childhood Health Promotion – Manitoba Health and Healthy Living supports regional health authorities and community partners in providing maternal health, prenatal, newborn and early childhood services. Early childhood health promotion efforts emphasize prenatal and infant nutrition, physical activity promotion and injury prevention.

Manitoba Child Care – The Manitoba Child Care Program oversees the operation of licensed child care facilities in the province. It is committed to accessible, high quality early learning and child care for children aged 3 months to 12 years. It provides inclusion supports for children with special needs and parent fee subsidies, including a nursery school subsidy for families with a stay-at-home parent.

Children’s Programs – The Children’s Special Services Program provides services and supports to birth, adoptive or extended families raising children with developmental and/or physical disabilities.

ECDI – The Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth assists school divisions in providing preschool services such as family literacy, child development and health information for parents, and resources for use by and with children to prepare them for successful school entry.

National Child Benefit Restoration –The National Child Benefit (NCB), once deducted from provincial income assistance benefits, has been restored for all families. The NCB restoration was completed in stages between 2001 and 2004.



What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

- The EDI measures how a **group** of Kindergarten children is developing compared to children in other communities.
- The EDI is used to help **communities** identify their strengths and needs so they can best support early childhood development.

Why is the EDI important?

- To know how to best support healthy child development, we need to know how children are doing right now.
- The EDI helps individual communities guide programs and services for children and parents based on the community’s identified **strengths and needs**.

How is the EDI collected?

- Kindergarten teachers complete the EDI questionnaire for all children in their classroom.
- EDI results are presented for groups of children; the EDI is never used to assess the development of individual children.

What information does the EDI collect?

- The EDI tells us how children are doing in the following areas of **child development**:
 - physical health and well-being
 - social competency
 - emotional maturity
 - language and thinking skills
 - communication skills and general knowledge

What do we do with the EDI results?

- The EDI results are shared with:
 - **Schools and School Divisions** including school boards, teachers, administrators and resource workers
 - **Communities** including parent child coalitions, parents, early childhood educators, community residents, health professionals, community development and resource workers and policy makers
- Access to local level EDI results will help communities make **informed decisions** about how to support the development of their children, so that every child is able to fully benefit from their first school experiences.