



Media Release

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Kindergarten Parent Survey gives parents a voice in decisions about services for families and children

Burlington, ON – **Our Kids Network is reaching out to parents and caregivers of Kindergarten students to increase their participation in the fifth Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS).** Every child who attends Kindergarten in the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board will receive a story book along with information to draw parents' attention to the importance of the survey.

The Kindergarten Parent Survey, conducted by Our Kids Network, will be available online from March 31, 2015 to April 17, 2015 and is completely voluntary. Parents with children in Kindergarten should contact their school for more information.

Our Kids Network is a Halton-wide partnership of individuals, organizations and agencies serving children and youth. Director Elena DiBattista says that the Halton-specific data can have a greater an impact on creating the right services and supports for families.

“Schools, early learning and child care, libraries, child and family services, faith-based organizations, and mental health services all use the KPS, along with other data, for planning,” she says. “We want parents to tell us what they think and about their experiences. The KPS is their chance to influence decisions that service providers are making”.

The Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS) was designed by Halton researchers to examine the specific experiences of Halton families that cannot be measured in provincial or national surveys. Since 2003, it has been conducted every three years and is used to compare data and to track progress over time on specific issues and topics such as child care, nutrition and parenting. Our Kids Network works in partnership with both school boards and Halton Region Children's Services to collect and distribute the results.

Halton service providers use data from the Kindergarten Parent Survey to make decisions about planning and services. For example:

- Ready Set Go! Web pages with checklists, community supports and programs, printable resources and more are available to help families and their children with the transition to Kindergarten. The Halton District School Board, the Halton Catholic District School Board, Ontario Early Years Centres and Halton Public Health all collaborated to create this important resource using information from the KPS and other sources. <http://www.halton.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=28888>

More...

- Halton iparent provides direct access to online parenting listings geared to strengthening and enhancing parenting knowledge and skills. Parents can access information on a wide range of topics from parent support groups to child development. <http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Halton-iparent>
- Halton service providers use the OKN Data Portal to access, better understand and interpret Halton-specific data like the KPS. They can then plan and design evidence-based services and programs, turning research into action.

Our Kids Network has provided these [recent facts](#) about families with 5-year-olds in Halton.

For more information about the Kindergarten Parents Survey and other OKN research, visit www.ourkidsnetwork.ca.

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Our Kids Network is a Halton-wide partnership of organizations and agencies serving children and youth. Guided by research, the network provides leadership for planning and integrating services and supports so all children thrive. www.ourkidsnetwork.ca