

## Childhood at your fingertips

The Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development is the leading resource of the best and most up-to-date knowledge available on the development of young children.

### LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH

Findings collected through scientific research are gathered, analysed, annotated, synthesised, presented in lay language, and, continually updated.

### ACCESSIBLE

The information is presented in three levels of language according to the needs of the reader: experts' articles; simplified syntheses; and key messages.

### MULTILINGUAL

Currently available in English and French, the Encyclopedia will soon be translated into Spanish and Portuguese.

### ON THE WEB

The web-based Encyclopedia allows users to easily shift back and forth between experts' articles and syntheses to access information in varying degrees of lay or specialized language. This also allows for the dissemination of knowledge to the widest possible audience around the world.

### FREE

The Encyclopedia is available free of charge at  
[www.child-encyclopedia.com](http://www.child-encyclopedia.com).



*In the field of early human development and developmental neurobiology, there are very few easy-to-use and complete references. The CEECD Encyclopedia's website is a superb encyclopedia on early childhood development.*

**Fraser Mustard**  
Founder and Chair Emeritus  
Council for Early Child Development

## Early childhood, from A to Z

The Encyclopedia covers a vast range of topics on early childhood, from attachment and welfare reform to language, parenting skills, and school transition.

Each topic is presented in three forms, from specialised to summarised:

### According to experts

This section includes articles written by judiciously selected internationally renowned experts. These articles form the basis of the Encyclopedia. They are subsequently synthesised and simplified to meet the needs of a variety of users.

### Synthesis

The syntheses of the experts' articles address three questions:

- How important is this?
- What do we know?
- What can be done?

### Key messages

This section presents a summary of the key points to help readers grasp essential information at a glance.

## Perspectives

In addition, the Encyclopedia features a complementary component: Voices from the field (or Perspectives). In this section, attention is drawn to a specific environment or region. For instance, under the topic "Child Care," an Aboriginal viewpoint on child care is presented, and under the heading "Obesity", the topic is discussed by the Coordinator of Early Childhood Education at the College of the North Atlantic.



*I work in the field of early childhood and am interested in anything having to do with the development of children from 0-5 years old. I don't have enough time to read, but when I need a reference, I always begin my research on your site.*

From a survey conducted on the Encyclopedia's website February 21, 2008

## The right tools to make enlightened decisions

Early childhood is a crucial stage in the life of a human being. From conception to age five, children undergo a phase of accelerated growth. The groundwork for their future is laid during these formative years.

The quality of their environment, family and social relationships, nutrition, and physical and educational activities greatly influences children's learning and development.

Consequently, decisions made in early childhood have a major impact. Investing in children during these early years yields the highest returns, and the beneficial spin-offs will be felt for life. To quote James J. Heckman, recipient of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences,

*On a purely economic basis, it makes a lot of sense to invest in the young.*

And making the best decisions and investments requires the best available knowledge. Thus, the Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development was born.

*The early childhood experience serves as the foundation of an individual's development, learning, health, and well-being. The Encyclopedia empowers us to make enlightened decisions to help children achieve their full potential and to assist families and communities in supporting the development of their children.*

**Richard E. Tremblay**

Director

Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development



## The inception of the Encyclopedia

The Encyclopedia was developed to provide readers from around the world access to the best information available on the development of young children.

Under the aegis of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD), several hundred internationally renowned experts contribute to this unique virtual resource, available free of charge, that was officially launched in October 2007.

Today, the Encyclopedia also enjoys the support of the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development (SKC-ECD).

### Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) is a consortium of partners from universities, government agencies, community organisations, professional associations, and national and Aboriginal groups working together to promote access to the best knowledge on early childhood.

### Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development

Established in 2007 with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development (SKC-ECD) seeks to further the exchange and mobilisation of knowledge on the development of young children. The organisation carries out its mandate by supporting the establishment of strong inter-disciplinary networks made up of researchers, students, stakeholders, and organisations that promote the dissemination of knowledge.



## Reaching out to the world

Since its launch in October 2007, close to a quarter of a million visitors from some 100 countries have used the Encyclopedia, averaging more than 300 users per day. The number of visitors will increase exponentially as the Encyclopedia grows, becomes available in other languages, and increases its visibility.

The majority of users are people who work with children, including educators, nurses, psychologists, and social workers, regular visitors who, in 80% of cases, use the information they find in their work to develop programs, for example, or in their educational, training, or research activities or simply as a reference they can share with parents. They count on the Encyclopedia to provide them with reliable and current information.

Users also include policy makers, researchers, parents, and grandparents who consult the Encyclopedia to learn, keep up to date, support their work, or make enlightened decisions.

Knowledge about the development of children is essential for the scientific community; it is equally important for educators, parents, and society as a whole. The Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development, available free of charge online, has made a huge contribution to the dissemination of knowledge on early childhood development. This valuable resource, up to now in English and in French, will gradually be translated into Spanish and made available to Chile and the Spanish-speaking world...

**H.E. Michelle Bachelet**

President of the Republic of Chile  
Santiago, November 4, 2008





## Integrity and quality

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development has developed a rigorous process to ensure the Encyclopedia's content is of the highest quality and reflects the most current research. Through this process, leading research by international experts is identified; the experts are subsequently contacted and invited to contribute to the Encyclopedia.

The Encyclopedia's editorial committee, composed of internationally recognised experts and headed by Richard E. Tremblay, Michel Boivin, and Ray DeV. Peters, ensures the quality and integrity of the content and supervises the literature review and the selection of invited authors.

### About the Editors

#### Richard E. Tremblay

One of the most influential Canadian researchers, Richard E. Tremblay is a professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Psychology at Université de Montréal and a professor in the School of Public Health and Population Science at University College Dublin, in Ireland. He directs the Research Unit on Children's Psychosocial Maladjustment, the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, and co-directs the International Laboratory for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Development, established by INSERM (France) and Université de Montréal. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he has, for close to 30 years, been conducting an ambitious program of longitudinal and experimental studies on the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of children, from conception to adulthood. He has published more than 300 articles in scientific journals, 80 book chapters, and 13 books on childhood development. His works have been translated into many languages.

#### Michel Boivin

Michel Boivin is the Canada Research Chair in Child Social Development and a professor of Psychology at Université Laval. He leads a research program looking into the biological, psychological, and social factors in early childhood development. He is the director of the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development, which funds the Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development, and is also the director of Université Laval's Research Unit on Children's Psychosocial Maladjustment. In addition, he heads the Encyclopedia's Scientific Committee and sits on the directing committee of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development.

#### Ray DeV. Peters

Ray DeV. Peters is an Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and has been involved in the field of child development for over 35 years. His main area of interest is the promotion of children's well-being and the prevention of children's mental health problems. He is the Research Director for the Better Beginnings, Better Futures project, which evaluates community-based programs in Ontario that influence the development of young children and their families. He also sits on the directing committee of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development and is a member of the research committee for the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network.

