

ENCYCLOPEDIA

on Early Childhood Development

Biography Emis Akbari

Emis Akbari

Professor, George Brown College School of Early Childhood

Emis Akbari is a Professor at George Brown College in the School of Early Childhood and the Coordinator for the 2nd year of the Diploma Program. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at OISE at the University of Toronto.

Emis' initial research examined issues surrounding early life adversity on brain and behavioral development in animal models. Her current research examines determinants of children's early social, emotional, and cognitive development and the buffering effects of early enriching environments in Canada and abroad. She also evaluates current and changes in policy at all levels of government.

Emis is also the co-author of the Early Childhood Education Report. This report provides a snapshot of provincial and territorial preschool services and performance on different criteria including access to child care programs and investments in early education. It also compares Canada to other developed economies. She is ardent and committed to evidence-based change in policy and global development and its connection to improving child education, development and outcome.

She is the co-founder and president of The Naya Sophia Foundation, committed to improving the education, health and needs of young orphans in Haiti. She is also the author of The Mighty O, the story of a boy who was born with a congenital heart defect and the challenges he and his family have overcome.