



SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 | **VICTORIA**

# SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

2018/2019



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# INTRODUCTION TO THE MDI

## WHY THE MIDDLE YEARS MATTER

Experiences in the middle years, ages 6 to 12, have critical and long lasting effects. They are powerful predictors of adolescent adjustment and future success. During this time, children are experiencing significant cognitive, social and emotional changes that establish their lifelong identity and set the stage for adolescence and adulthood. The overall health and well-being of children in their middle years affects their ability to concentrate and learn, develop and maintain friendships, and make thoughtful decisions.

During the late middle childhood years (also referred to as early adolescence), children have an increased awareness of themselves and others. During middle childhood they are developing ideas about how they may or may not "fit in" to their social and academic environments (Rubin et al., 2006). These ideas have the power to either promote health and academic achievement or lead to negative outcomes such as depression and anxiety in adulthood (Jacobs et al., 2008). Although middle childhood is a time of risk, it is also a time of opportunity. There is mounting evidence to suggest that positive relationships to adults and peers during this critical time act to increase a child's resiliency and school and life success.

## WHAT IS THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT?

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in Grade 4 and Grade 7 about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school and in the community. It is a unique and comprehensive questionnaire that helps us gain a deeper understanding of how children are doing at this stage in their lives. Researchers working at the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) are using results to learn more about children's social-emotional health and well-being. In addition, the MDI is being used across sectors to support collaboration and inform policy and practice.

The MDI uses a strengths-based approach to assess five areas of development that are strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement. In addition, the MDI focuses on highlighting the promotive and protective factors and assets that are known to support and optimize development in middle childhood. These areas are: *Social and Emotional Development*, *Physical Health and Well-Being*, *Connectedness*, *Use of After-School Time* and *School Experiences*. Each of these dimensions is made up of several measures. Each measure is made up of one or more individual questions.

Combining select measures from the MDI helps us paint a more comprehensive portrait of children's overall well-being and the assets that contribute to their healthy development. The results for key MDI measures are summarized by two indices: The Well-Being Index and the Assets Index.

The following illustrates the relationship between MDI dimensions and measures, and highlights which measures contribute to the Well-Being and Assets Indices.

# MDI DIMENSIONS & MEASURES

○ **A measure in the Well-Being Index**

■ **A measure in the Assets Index**

\* A measure in the Grade 7 MDI only



## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Measures

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Optimism</b></li> <li>Empathy</li> <li>Prosocial Behaviour</li> <li>○ <b>Self-Esteem</b></li> <li>○ <b>Happiness</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Absence of Sadness</b></li> <li>Absence of Worries</li> <li>Self-Regulation (Short-Term)</li> <li>Self-Regulation (Long-Term)</li> <li>*Responsible Decision-Making</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Self-Awareness</li> <li>*Perseverance</li> <li>*Assertiveness</li> <li>*Citizenship/Social Responsibility</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|



## PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Measures

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>General Health</b></li> <li>■ <b>Eating Breakfast</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Meals with Adults at Home</b></li> <li>■ <b>Frequency of Good Sleep</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Body Image</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|



## CONNECTEDNESS

### Measures

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Adults at School</b></li> <li>■ <b>Adults in the Neighbourhood</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Adults at Home</b></li> <li>■ <b>Peer Belonging</b></li> <li>■ <b>Friendship Intimacy</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important Adults</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|



## USE OF AFTER-SCHOOL TIME

### Measures

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Organized Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educational Lessons or Activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth Organizations</li> <li>○ Sports</li> <li>○ Music or Arts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How Children Spend their Time</li> <li>After-school People/Places</li> <li>Children's Wishes and Barriers</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|



## SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

### Measures

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Self-Concept</li> <li>School Climate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Belonging</li> <li>Motivation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Goals</li> <li>Victimization and Bullying</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

## CONNECTING THE MDI WITH THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL COMPETENCIES OF THE BC CURRICULUM

Your MDI data provide a unique approach to understanding children's social and emotional development and well-being in relation to the [BC Ministry of Education's Personal and Social Competencies](http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies) (<http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>).

Areas measured by the MDI reflect facets of the "Personal and Social Competency" domain of BC's Redesigned Curriculum, providing valuable information for understanding children's growth and progress within this core competency. The MDI questions provide an opportunity for students to self-assess and reflect on their social and personal competency, including reflecting on MDI concepts, questions, and results.



## PERSONAL & SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

### Positive Personal & Cultural Identity

#### Related MDI Measures:

- Connectedness to Adults at Home, School and Community
- Peer Belonging
- Friendship Intimacy
- Empathy
- School Belonging
- School Climate
- Self-Esteem
- Academic Self-Concept
- Importance of Grades
- Friends & Learning
- Self-Awareness
- Perseverance
- Responsible Decision-Making

### Personal Awareness & Responsibility

#### Related MDI Measures:

- Academic Self-Concept
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Regulation
- General Health
- Optimism
- Self-Awareness
- Perseverance
- Responsible Decision-Making
- Assertiveness
- Use of After-School Time

### Social Responsibility

#### Related MDI Measures:

- Citizenship and Social Responsibility
- Prosocial Behaviour
- Empathy
- School Climate
- Connectedness to Adults at School
- Connectedness to Peers
- Self-Regulation
- Assertiveness

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

## HOW THE RESULTS ARE REPORTED

School district data in this report includes all children who participated within the public school district in 2018/2019. School district data is compared to the **average for all districts**, which includes children from all participating public school districts and any independent schools.

Districts with large populations contribute more in computing the **average for all districts** than districts with smaller populations. Results for large districts tend to be closer to the average for all districts. Please see the table below for a list of participating districts, and note that the average is based on participating districts and **does not** represent all school districts in the entire province.

Where school districts or neighbourhoods contain fewer than 35 children, the results are suppressed. The data in this report have been rounded. Many questions on the MDI allow children to provide multiple responses. Totals for some measures and questions may not equal 100%.

#	School District	# of Children	Participation Rate
5	Southeast Kootenay	379	86%
6	Rocky Mountain	258	91%
10	Arrow Lakes	25	71%
19	Revelstoke	74	90%
20	Kootenay-Columbia	208	74%
33	Chilliwack	933	85%
35	Langley	1434	86%
37	Delta	900	80%
38	Richmond	1093	76%
39	Vancouver	2641	72%
40	New Westminster	461	82%
41	Burnaby	1353	76%
42	Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows	936	85%
43	Coquitlam	1972	81%
46	Sunshine Coast	225	83%
47	Powell River	109	67%
51	Boundary	75	85%
52	Prince Rupert	113	78%
53	Okanagan Similkameen	130	86%
61	Victoria	637	42%
67	Okanagan Skaha	393	89%
70	Alberni	254	84%
71	Comox Valley	494	78%

#	School District	# of Children	Participation Rate
78	Fraser Cascade	114	80%
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	462	92%
84	Vancouver Island West	14	70%
85	Vancouver Island North	79	87%
91	Nechako Lakes	181	72%
	Independent Schools	61	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16008</b>	

# 2018/2019 RESULTS FOR VICTORIA

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Population		Gender Identity	
Total Sample	637	Boys	52%
Participation Rate	42%	Girls	48%
		In another way	1%

### A note on how we are asking about gender identity

In the 2017/18 school year, for the first time, children were able to describe *themselves* through choices that included: "boy," "girl" or "in another way."

Following a review of the responses, this question was refined in the 2018/19 school year to instruct children to describe their *gender* as "boy," "girl" or, if they see themselves "in another way," to describe their gender using their own words. This question may continue to evolve.

### Languages Spoken at Home

Aboriginal	0%	Cantonese	1%
English	95%	French	9%
Hindi	1%	Japanese	1%
Korean	1%	Mandarin	2%
Other	9%	Punjabi	3%
Spanish	2%	Filipino/Tagalog	2%
Vietnamese	1%		

**Total Sample:** Refers to the total number (#) of children represented in this report. Children are included in the sample if they complete a question and the data are reported.

**Participation Rate:** Refers to the percentage of the Grade 4 population that participated in the MDI survey this year.

**Gender Identity:** Children are asked to describe themselves as "Boy," "Girl" or "In another way." Children may choose not to answer the question at all. Children are able to select more than one response and therefore, in some cases, percentages may not add to 100%. Data are suppressed where fewer than 5 children selected the response.

**Languages Spoken at Home:** Children are able to select more than one language spoken at home.

**Aboriginal Languages:** If a child selects "Aboriginal" as a language spoken in the home, they are then asked to identify, if possible, the specific language. Aboriginal Language data are not publicly available.

**Other:** A limited selection of languages is offered on the MDI questionnaire. The "Other" category gives children an opportunity to enter their own response(s).

# WELL-BEING & ASSETS INDICES

Combining select measures from the MDI helps us paint a more comprehensive portrait of children's overall well-being and the assets that contribute to their healthy development. The results for key MDI measures are summarized by two indices. This section of the report focuses on results for the Well-Being Index and the Assets Index. Learn more about the important relationship between individual measures, the well-being index and the assets index [in the MDI Field Guide](http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/mda-data/data-primer/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/mda-data/data-primer/>).

## WELL-BEING INDEX

The Well-Being Index combines MDI measures relating to children's physical health and social and emotional development that are of critical importance during the middle years. These are: Optimism, Happiness, Self-Esteem, Absence of Sadness and General Health.

Scores from these five measures are combined and reported by three categories of well-being, providing a holistic summary of children's mental and physical health.

**MEASURES**  
Optimism  
Happiness  
Self-Esteem  
Absence of Sadness  
General Health



### High Well-Being (Thriving)

Children who score in the high range on at least 4 of the 5 measures of well-being and have no low-range scores.



### Medium Well-Being

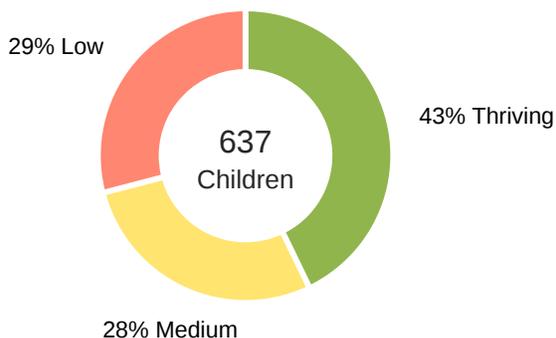
Children who score in the high range on fewer than 4 of the 5 measures of well-being, and have no low-range scores.



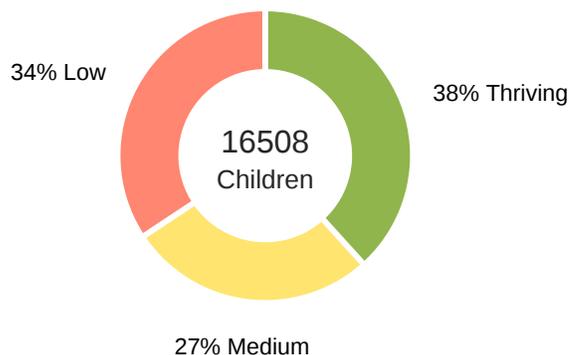
### Low Well-Being

Children who score in the low range on at least 1 of the 5 measures of well-being.

### VICTORIA



### ALL PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS



## ASSETS INDEX

The Assets Index combines MDI measures that highlight four key assets that help to promote children's positive development and well-being. Assets are positive experiences, relationships or behaviours present in children's lives. Assets are considered actionable, meaning that schools and communities can focus their efforts in these areas to create the conditions and contexts where children can thrive.

Note: School Experiences are also considered to be an asset that contribute to children's well-being; however, this asset is not reported as part of the Assets Index to prevent the ranking of individual schools or sites. Please refer to the School Climate and Bullying and Victimization measures for data related to this asset.



### ADULT RELATIONSHIPS

Adults at School  
Adults in the Neighbourhood  
Adults at Home



### PEER RELATIONSHIPS

Peer Belonging  
Friendship Intimacy



### NUTRITION & SLEEP

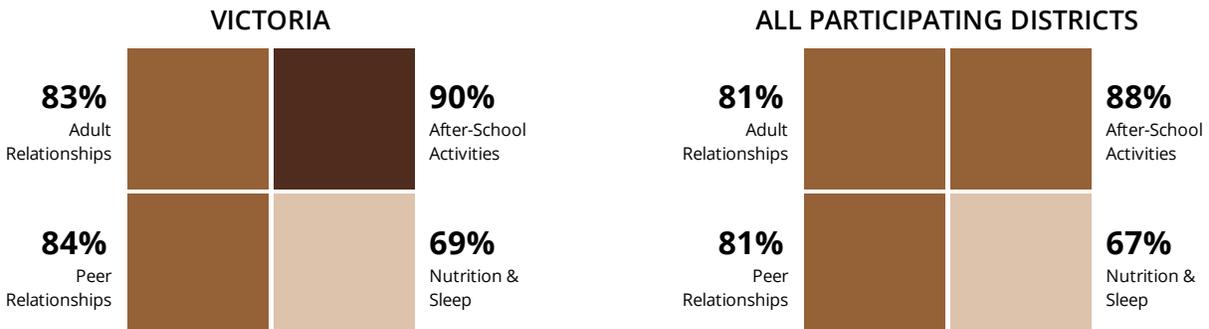
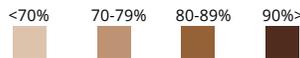
Eating Breakfast  
Meals with Adults at Home  
Frequency of Good Sleep



### AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Organized Activities

Percentage of children reporting the presence of an asset





# SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The development of social and emotional skills, including empathy, optimism and self-esteem, are important for supporting positive mental health during middle childhood and at all ages to follow. These skills help children understand and manage their emotions, build and maintain positive relationships, and regulate their own behaviour. Opportunities to develop social and emotional skills can be created in many supportive environments: at school with teachers and peers, in the home with elders, family or caregivers, and during after-school programs with community members.

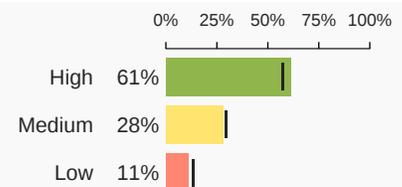
Detailed information on the MDI survey questions and response scales for Social and Emotional Development are available [in the MDI Field Guide \(http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/social-emotional-development\)](http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/social-emotional-development).

## RESULTS FOR VICTORIA

| Average for all districts

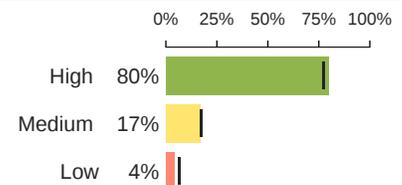
### OPTIMISM

Optimism refers to the mindset of having positive expectations for the future. e.g., "I have more good times than bad times."



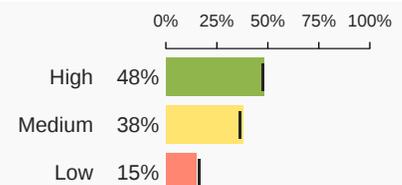
### EMPATHY

Empathy is the experience of understanding and sharing the feelings of others. e.g., "I care about the feelings of others."



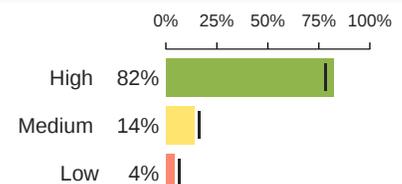
### PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Prosocial behaviour refers to actions that benefit others. e.g., "I helped someone who was hurt."



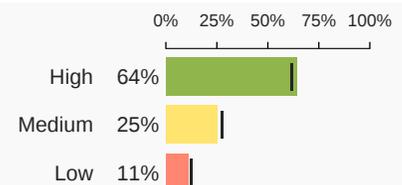
### SELF-ESTEEM

Self-esteem refers to a person's sense of self-worth. e.g., "A lot of things about me are good."



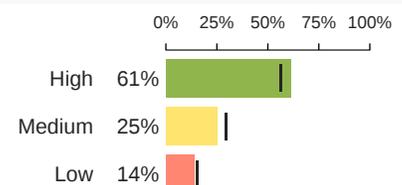
### HAPPINESS

Happiness refers to how content or satisfied children are with their lives. e.g., "I am happy with my life."



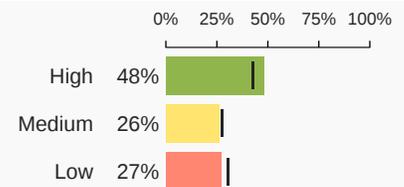
### ABSENCE OF SADNESS

Sadness measures the beginning symptoms of depression. e.g., "I feel unhappy a lot of the time."



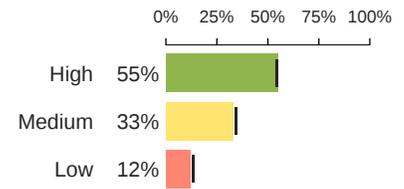
## ABSENCE OF WORRIES

Worries measure the beginning symptoms of anxiety. e.g., "I worry a lot that other people might not like me."



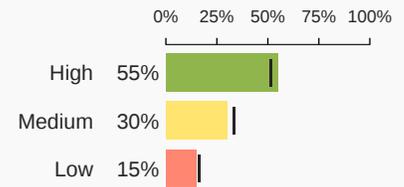
## SELF REGULATION (LONG-TERM)

Long-term self-regulation requires adapting present behaviour to achieve a goal in the future. e.g., "If something isn't going according to my plans, I change my actions to try and reach my goal."



## SELF REGULATION (SHORT-TERM)

Short-term self-regulation is about impulse control. It requires adapting behaviour or emotions to meet an immediate goal. e.g., "I can calm myself down when I'm excited or upset."



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Social and emotional competencies include children's ability to recognize, understand, and effectively respond to emotions, manage stress and be optimistic. They also include showing concern for others, sustaining healthy relationships, and making effective personal and social decisions (Weissberg, Durlak, Domitrovitch, & Gullota, 2015).*

*Middle childhood is an important time for promoting self-regulation and problem-solving strategies to help children persevere in the face of obstacles and setbacks. Related skills and strategies learned during middle childhood tend to stick with children throughout the rest of their lives (Skinner et al., 2016).*

*A Vancouver-based study asked Grade 10 children to volunteer 1-1.5 hours per week with elementary school children. After 10 weeks researchers found participants had significantly decreased their risk for cardiovascular disease. The greatest health benefits were seen in children who displayed the highest self-report measures of empathy and mental health (Schreier, Schonert-Reichl, & Chen, 2013).*



# PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Promoting children’s physical health and well-being in the middle years lays the foundation for a healthy life. Children who report feeling healthy are more likely to be engaged in school, have a feeling of connectedness with their teachers, and are less likely to be bullied or bully others. Children benefit from guidance and opportunities that support the development of healthy habits, which they can carry forward into adolescence and adulthood. These habits include regular physical activity, quality sleep and healthy, social meals.

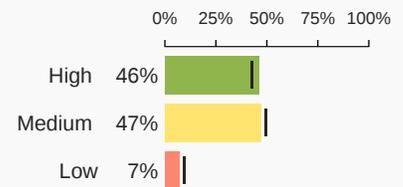
Detailed information on the MDI survey questions and response scales for Physical Health and Well-Being are available [in the MDI Field Guide \(http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/dimensions/physical-health-well-being\)](http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/dimensions/physical-health-well-being).

## RESULTS FOR VICTORIA

| Average for all districts

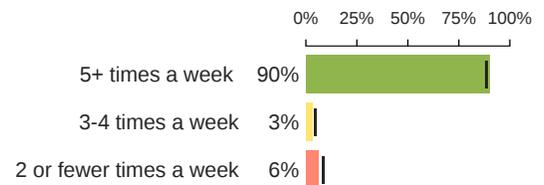
### GENERAL HEALTH

Children are asked, "In general, how would you describe your health?"



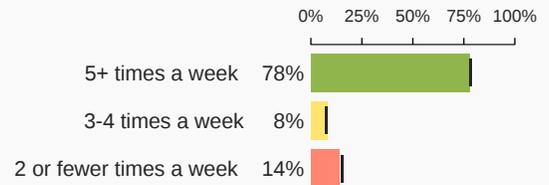
### EATING BREAKFAST

Children are asked, "How often do you eat breakfast?"



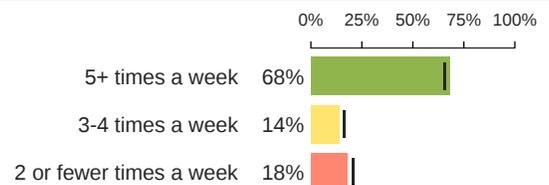
### MEALS WITH ADULTS AT HOME

Children are asked, "How often do your parents or other adult family members eat meals with you?"

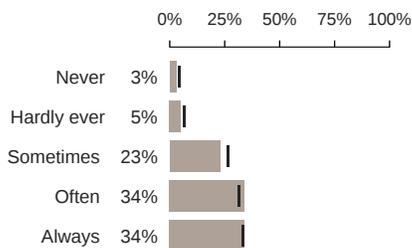


### FREQUENCY OF GOOD SLEEP

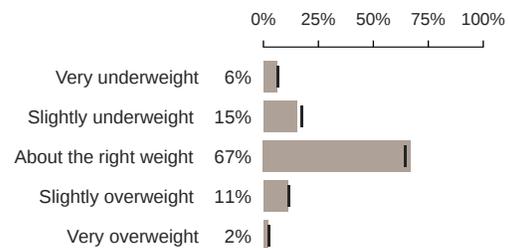
Children are asked, "How often do you get a good night's sleep?"



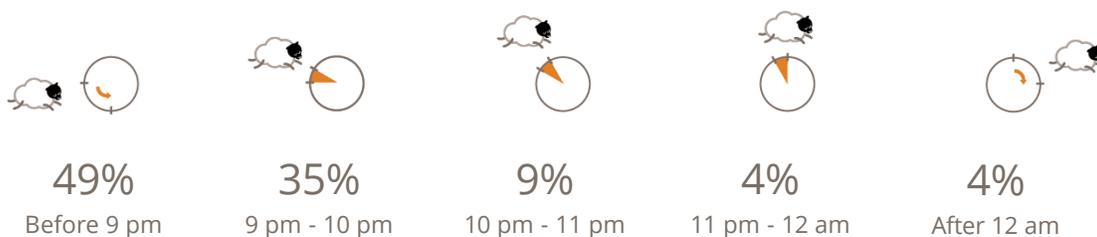
### HOW OFTEN DO YOU LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK?



### HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR BODY WEIGHT?



## WHAT TIME DO YOU USUALLY GO TO BED DURING THE WEEKDAYS?



## HOW OFTEN DO YOU EAT FOOD LIKE POP, CANDY, POTATO CHIPS, OR SOMETHING ELSE?



## DO YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL OR HEALTH CONDITION THAT KEEPS YOU FROM DOING SOME THINGS OTHER KIDS YOUR AGE DO?

For example, school activities, sports, or getting together with friends. (Children can select all of the options that apply.)

No health condition	84%
Yes, a physical disability	5%
Yes, a long-term illness	5%
Yes, overweight	3%
Yes, something else	6%



### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Eating meals together as a family often is related to increased self-esteem and school success, and decreased chance of eating disorders, substance abuse, violent behaviour, and symptoms of depression (Harrison et al., 2015).

Because of changes in the brain that take place around the time of puberty, children are more strongly attracted to junk foods that contain high amounts of fat and sugar than adults (Reichelt, 2016).

Middle childhood is an important time in which children form lasting viewpoints about their bodies as they become increasingly self-aware and self-conscious, comparing themselves to others. Having a healthy body image is strongly linked to healthy self-esteem in both boys and girls (van den Berg et al., 2010).

Children ages 5 to 13 need 9–11 hours of uninterrupted sleep a night (Hirshkowitz et al., 2015). When children do not get enough sleep they are more likely to have troubles at school, be involved in family disagreements, and display symptoms of depression (Smaldone, Honig, & Byrne, 2007).



# CONNECTEDNESS

Strong and supportive social connections play an important role in children's healthy development. Close relationships and a sense of belonging with adults and peers at home, in school, and in the community, can promote positive mental health and minimize risks that may be present in children's lives.

Having one adult, such as a parent or auntie, an elder or a coach, who cares about them, listens to them and believes in them can make a powerful difference in a child's life. For children, connectedness to extended family, community, as well as land, language, and culture also play an important role in encouraging a strong and healthy sense of identity.

Detailed information on the MDI survey questions and response scales for Connectedness is available [in the MDI Field Guide \(http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/connectedness\)](http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/connectedness).

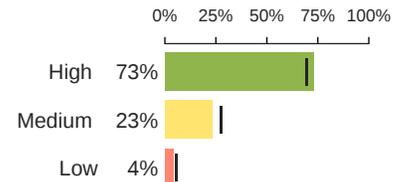
## RESULTS FOR VICTORIA

| Average for all districts

### CONNECTEDNESS WITH ADULTS

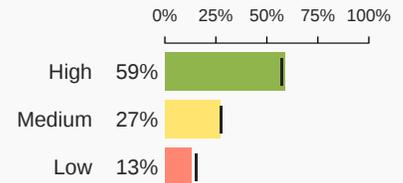
#### ADULTS AT SCHOOL

Assesses the quality of relationships children have with the adults they interact with at school. e.g., "At my school there is an adult who believes I will be a success."



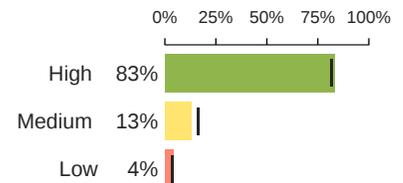
#### ADULTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY

Assesses the quality of relationships children have with the adults they interact with in their neighbourhood or community. e.g., "In my neighbourhood/community there is an adult who really cares about me."



#### ADULTS AT HOME

Assesses the quality of relationships children have with the adults in their home. e.g., "In my home there is a parent or other adult who listens to me when I have something to say."



### NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ADULTS AT SCHOOL



2 or more  
63%  
61%



One  
12%  
10%



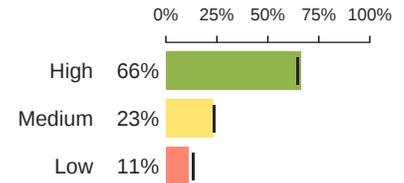
None  
25%  
29%

Average for all districts

## CONNECTEDNESS WITH PEERS

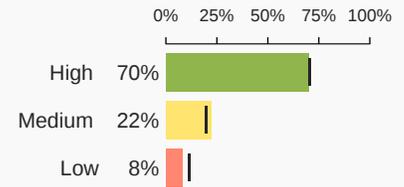
### PEER BELONGING

Measures children's feelings of belonging to a social group. e.g., "When I am with other kids my age, I feel I belong."



### FRIENDSHIP INTIMACY

Assesses the quality of relationships children have with their peers. e.g., "I have a friend I can tell everything to."



### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS CONNECTEDNESS

*Children who do not feel part of a group or feel cast out by their own group are at risk of anxiety and depression. They are also at higher risk of low school attendance and future school drop-out (Viega et al., 2014).*

*Social competencies and friendship-building skills can buffer children against bullying, anxiety and depression (Guhn et al., 2013).*

*Strong social connections in adolescence are a better predictor of well-being in adulthood than their academic achievement (Olsson, 2013).*

*For younger students during elementary and middle school years, a nurturing and caring relationship with a classroom teacher is vital. Connections with warm and accepting teachers enhance emotional well-being, increase motivation, engagement, and success in school for children in early adolescence. They are also buffers for children who are experiencing mental health problems (Oberle, 2018).*



# USE OF AFTER-SCHOOL TIME

Participation in activities after school provides important developmental experiences for children in their middle years. These activities create a variety of opportunities for children to build relationship skills and gain competencies. Research has consistently found that children who are engaged in after-school activities are more likely to experience greater academic and social success.

Detailed information on the MDI survey questions and response scales for Use of After-School Time is available [in the MDI Field Guide \(http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/after-school-time\)](http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/after-school-time).

## RESULTS FOR VICTORIA

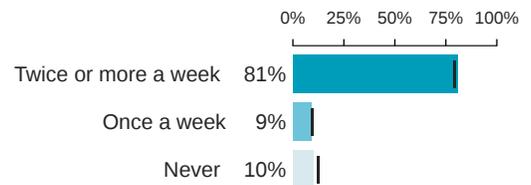
| Average for all districts

### AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Children were asked, "During the last week after school (from 3 pm - 6 pm), how many days did you participate in?":

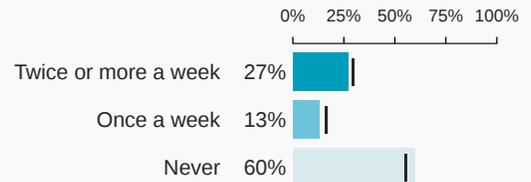
#### ANY ORGANIZED ACTIVITY

Children who participated in any after-school activity that was structured and supervised by an adult. (e.g., educational lessons, youth organizations, music or art lessons and sports practice)



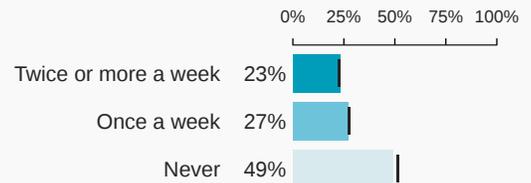
#### EDUCATIONAL LESSONS OR ACTIVITIES

For example: Tutoring, attending a math school, foreign language lessons, or some other academic related activity.



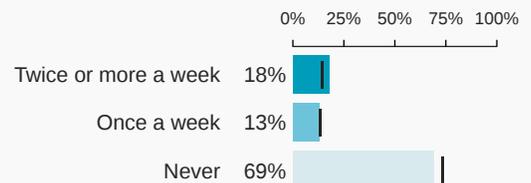
#### MUSIC OR ART LESSONS

For example: Drawing or painting classes, musical instrument lessons or some other activity related to music or art.



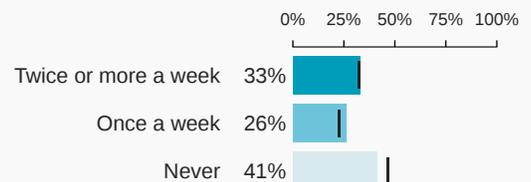
#### YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

For example: Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys and Girls Clubs, or some other group organization.



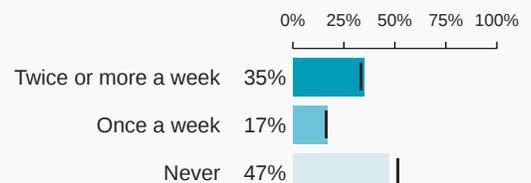
#### INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (WITH A COACH OR INSTRUCTOR)

For example: Swimming, dance, gymnastics, ice skating, tennis or another individual sport.



#### TEAM SPORTS (WITH A COACH OR INSTRUCTOR)

For example: Basketball, hockey, soccer, football, or another team sport.



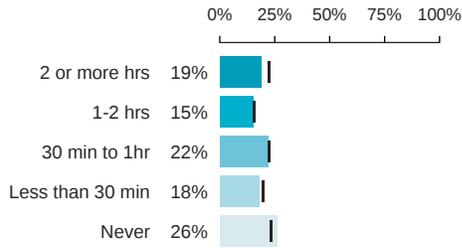
# HOW CHILDREN SPEND THEIR TIME

Children were asked how they spend their time during the after-school hours of 3 pm - 6 pm:

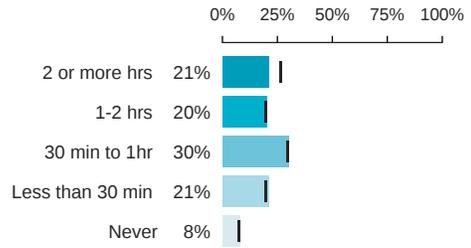
Percentage of children who reported:

## COMPUTER USE & TV

### VIDEO OR COMPUTER GAMES

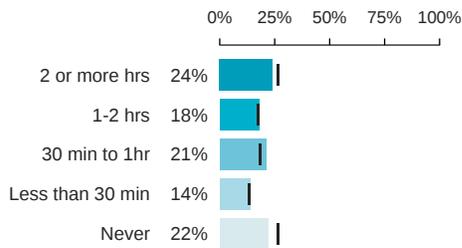


### WATCH TV, NETFLIX, YOUTUBE OR SOMETHING ELSE

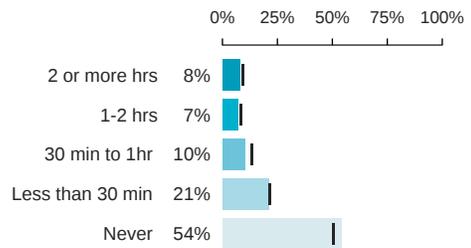


## SOCIALIZING WITH FRIENDS

### HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS

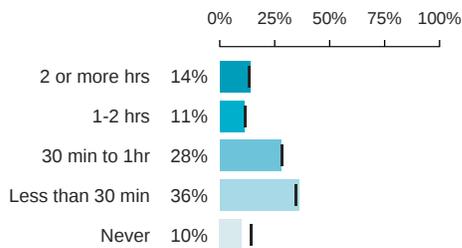


### USE A PHONE OR INTERNET TO TEXT OR CHAT WITH FRIENDS

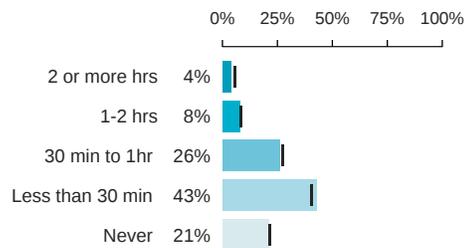


## READING & HOMEWORK

### READ FOR FUN

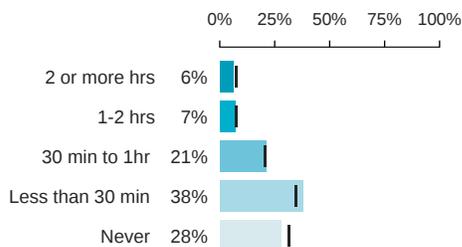


### DO HOMEWORK

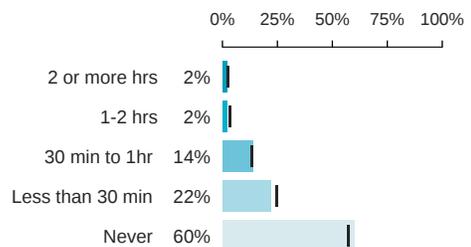


## ARTS & MUSIC

### ARTS & CRAFTS

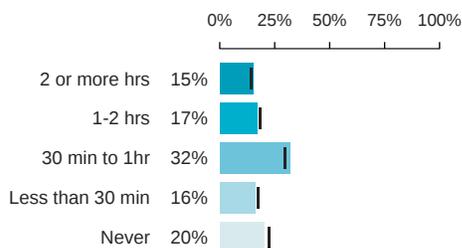


### PRACTICE A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT



## SPORTS

### PLAY SPORTS OR EXERCISE FOR FUN



## WHAT CHILDREN WISH TO BE DOING



Children were asked what they want to be doing during the after-school hours of 3 pm - 6 pm:

**I am already doing the activities I want to be doing**

81%

**I wish I could do additional activities**

24%

**I am doing some of the activities I want, but I wish I could do more**

6%

Children who answered that they wish to be doing additional activities were asked to identify one activity they wish they could do and where they would like to do it. Note: responses are grouped into categories for reporting purposes.

### WISHES

(Number of students)

Computer/Video Games/TV	9
Friends and playing	11
Physical and/or outdoor activities	80
Music and arts	23
Time with family at home	2
Free time/relaxing	5
Other	5

### WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE THIS ACTIVITY TO BE?

(Number of students)

Community Centre	43
Home	46
Park or Playground	23
School	26
Other	47

## PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING IN DESIRED AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Children were asked what prevents them from doing the activities they wish to be doing after school (3 pm - 6 pm):

	(Number of students)
I have no barriers	337
I have to go straight home after school	134
I am too busy	80
It costs too much	44
The schedule does not fit the times I can attend	102
My parents do not approve	42
I don't know what's available	48
I need to take care of siblings or do things at home	40
It is too difficult to get there	33
None of my friends are interested or want to go	47
The activity that I want is not offered	56
I have too much homework to do	37
I am afraid I will not be good enough in that activity	44
It is not safe for me to go	20
Other	48

## AFTER-SCHOOL PEOPLE AND PLACES

### WHERE DO YOU GO AFTER SCHOOL? (FROM 3 PM - 6 PM)

	Never	1x /week	2x +/week
Home	5%	6%	89%
Stay at school for an activity	58%	18%	23%
After-school program or child care	64%	7%	29%
Friend's house	32%	47%	21%
Park/playground/community centre	39%	33%	28%
The mall or stores	61%	24%	15%
Someplace else	41%	33%	26%

### WHO ARE YOU WITH AFTER SCHOOL? (FROM 3 PM - 6 PM)

(Children can select all of the options that apply)

By myself	29%
Friends about my age	49%
Younger brothers/sisters	22%
Older brothers/sisters	17%
Mother (or stepmother/foster mother)	47%
Father (or stepfather/foster father)	37%
Other adult (for example, elder, aunt or uncle, coach, babysitter)	7%
Grandparent(s)	12%
Other	10%



**IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY THERE ARE SAFE PLACES WHERE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS:**

78%  
Yes

6%  
No

16%  
Don't know

**IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY THERE ARE PLACES THAT PROVIDE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS YOUR AGE:**

57%  
Yes

12%  
No

31%  
Don't know



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### USE OF AFTER-SCHOOL TIME

*Participation in after-school programs can result in greater connectedness to school and success in school as well as decreased negative behaviours (Durlak et al., 2010).*

*Quiet reflection time and daydreaming is just as essential to brain health and development as active and focused activities (Immordino-Yang, 2012).*

*Children who demonstrate a lack of self-control and problem solving skills may experience the greatest benefit from activities such as music, arts, and sports that help to develop these skills (Diamond, 2014).*

*A study examining the experiences of children in Grades 1–5 who participated in after-school programs found that children who participated in high-quality, structured after-school programs had increased social-emotional skills, in addition to fewer conduct problems and higher social self-control and assertion (Wade, 2015).*

*Challenging and enjoyable after school activities can improve youth's ability to reason and problem solve, exercise choice and discipline, and be creative and flexible, which are strong predictors of academic, career, and life success (Diamond, 2014).*



# SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

Children's school experiences are important for their personal well-being and academic success. When children have positive experiences at school they are more likely to believe they have a valued role in the school, feel more engaged in class and achieve higher academic performance. Understanding children's school experiences improves our ability to cultivate school environments that are safe, caring, and supportive.

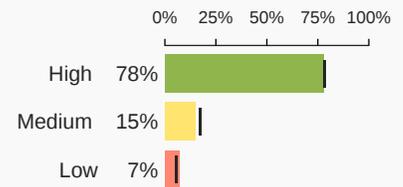
Detailed information on the MDI survey questions and response scales for School Experiences are available [in the MDI Field Guide](http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/school-experiences) (<http://discovermdi.ca/making-sense/school-experiences>).

## RESULTS FOR VICTORIA

| Average for all districts

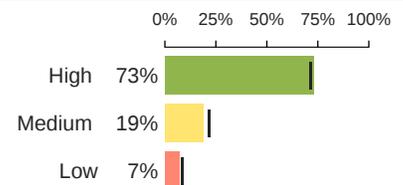
### ACADEMIC SELF CONCEPT

Children's beliefs about their academic ability, including their perceptions of themselves as students and how interested and confident they feel in school. e.g., "I am certain I can learn the skills taught in school this year."



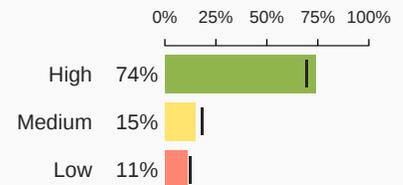
### SCHOOL CLIMATE

The overall tone of the school environment, including the way teachers and students interact and how students treat each other. e.g., "People care about each other in this school."



### SCHOOL BELONGING

School belonging is the degree to which children feel connected and valued at their school. e.g., "I feel like I am important to this school."



Percentage of children who feel it is **very important** to:



68%

make friends



66%

get good grades



78%

learn new things

Percentage of children who **agree a little** or **agree a lot** that:

When I grow up, I have goals and plans for the future.

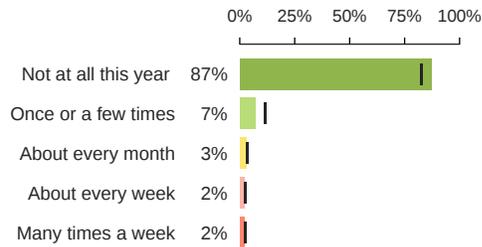


82%

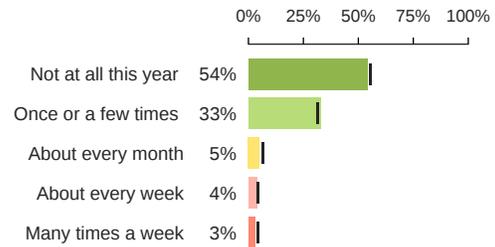
## VICTIMIZATION AND BULLYING AT SCHOOL

Children are asked: "During this school year, how often have you been bullied by other students in the following ways?":

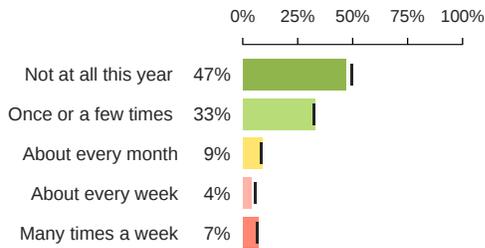
### CYBER



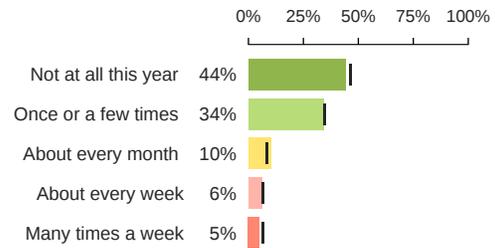
### PHYSICAL



### SOCIAL



### VERBAL



### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

Children's perception of kindness within a school is a consistent indicator of a positive school climate. Students who see kind behaviours in students, teachers and staff also describe their school environments as being safe and encouraging places to learn. As children transition from Grade 4 to Grade 8, perceptions of kindness in schools decrease (Binfet, Gadermann & Schonert-Reichl, 2016).

Feelings of belonging are associated with lower emotional distress, the reduction of negative behaviours (such as bullying and mental health issues), and are associated to rates of higher resilience later in life (van Harmelen et al., 2016).

Children and youth who demonstrate empathy are less likely to bully others and are more likely to defend against bullying. Research shows that specific empathy skills differ between those who bully, are victimized, defend or are bystanders. Focusing on developing children's understanding of what others feel results both in less bullying and more defending behaviours (van Noorden et al, 2015).

# MOVING TO ACTION

MDI data can support planning, foster collaboration and inform action across schools, organizations and communities. There are many opportunities for working with your MDI results and there are examples of successful initiatives from across the province to learn from.

We encourage you to take time to visit Discover MDI: A Field Guide to Well-Being in Middle Childhood at [discovermdi.ca](http://discovermdi.ca), an online resource where you can access information and research on the many aspects of well-being in middle childhood, resources and tools for understanding and sharing MDI data, and to connect with MDI Champions who are working on similar issues in their schools and communities. Here are some key resources and tools to get you started:

## UNDERSTAND YOUR MDI RESULTS

MDI reports provide information with both detail and depth into the social and emotional lives of children. Approach the results with a lens of curiosity, inquiry and appreciation. The MDI Field Guide can [help walk you through how to read the results](http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/mdi-data/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/mdi-data/>), and provide background information during your meaning-making process.

## CHOOSING A FOCUS: THINK BIG, START SMALL

It may be overwhelming to consider the many opportunities for change presented in the MDI data. Where will your focus be? What results do you have some control or influence over? How will you make change? We suggest narrowing your efforts to one or two key focus areas for improvement. The MDI Field Guide provides in depth information on the [MDI and its dimensions and measures](http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/mdi-101/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/understanding-the-mdi/mdi-101/>), or access a [full list of research publications](http://www.discovermdi.ca/mdi-references/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/mdi-references/>) to help you start this process.

## ENGAGING OTHERS

Increasing local dialogue on the importance of child well-being in the middle years is an excellent way to start improving outcomes for children. Once you are ready, review your MDI report with multiple audiences: children, parents and elders, caregivers and teachers, school administrators, after-school programmers, local early/middle childhood committees, local government and other community stakeholders. Visit the MDI Field Guide for tips and tools to [widen the conversation and to think critically about the data together](http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/sharing/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/sharing/>).

## MAKING CHANGE

The MDI provides opportunities to weave together data and local knowledge to create a change process that reflects the unique context of your school, district or community. The Field Guide's 'Making Change Workshops' [support school](http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/school/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/school/>), and [community change-makers](http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/community/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/community/>), through the process of facilitating exploration of MDI data, creating action teams, and turning ideas into concrete plans. There are full facilitation guides for each workshop, paired with worksheets and companion slide decks. [Explore Approaches to Making Change](http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/making-change/>).

## SHARING DATA WITH CHILDREN

Do the results surprise you or raise further questions? Conversations with children will help explore and clarify results in these areas. Sharing data with children will provide them with an opportunity to share their perspectives and ideas on how to create environments and interactions that help them thrive. If you are wondering how to involve children of all ages and their families in exploring these results, [explore our Tools page](http://www.discovermdi.ca/resources/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/resources/>).

## BE INSPIRED AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Innovation happens when people build on ideas, rather than simply duplicating them. Discover MDI provides opportunities to connect with seasoned [MDI Champions](http://www.discovermdi.ca/connect/mdi-champions/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/connect/mdi-champions/>) – check out their advice and submit your burning questions, explore the growing collection of [MDI examples, stories, and downloadable tools](http://www.discovermdi.ca/resources/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/resources/>), and [access training opportunities and webinars](http://www.discovermdi.ca/connect/events-training/) (<http://www.discovermdi.ca/connect/events-training/>). Be inspired, edit, adapt or create new!

If you have any additional questions about the MDI project, please visit our website at [earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi) or contact the MDI team at [mdi@help.ubc.ca](mailto:mdi@help.ubc.ca).