



Research in Early Child Development (RECD) Initiative Led by Dr. Ray Doiron & Dr. Martha Gabriel

The Research in Early Childhood Development (RECD) Initiative was first formed to explore existing knowledge about early child development across PEI, Canada, and the world. Using this data, the research team hope to develop a framework for research and evaluation of early child development of Prince Edward Island.

The Concept of the “Whole Child”

Researchers involved in the RECD Initiative have been working with a modified version of Bronfenbrenner’s bioecological theory, with the Individual Child at the centre of a series of concentric circles. Moving outwards from this centre, the following models have been designed: Individual Child, Child and Family, Child and Community, Child and Society, and Global Child. All elements in this design interact together to produce the Whole Child.

Who Is Involved?

The RECD Initiative unites university researchers, government agencies, non-profit organizations, consulting firms, front-line educators, families, and local communities. Currently, the RECD Initiative is engaging in research meetings with the Networks of the Children’s Secretariat to determine what is already being done on PEI, what data is available, how that data is being used, what would help the networks be more effective, and the information

and/or expertise that is currently needed by the Networks. Research workshops will be developed to assist the Networks develop expertise as requested.

Why are linkages important?

An important strength of early human development organization in Prince Edward Island is the potential for integration and collaboration. On PEI, there is no formal system of integrated programs and service delivery. Networks should be working closely with one another as well as with appropriate government departments. The “whole child” needs to be the focus of programs and services developed and implemented to assure healthy early child development. Evidence-based recommendations for the direction of future PEI programs and services will effectively serve children and parents on Prince Edward Island.



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