

## *EDI Data Security and Confidentiality*

Since 1999/2000, Early Development Instrument (EDI) data have been collected for individual students across the province of British Columbia.

### *How the EDI Data are Collected:*

Kindergarten teachers complete the Instrument on behalf of the individual students in their classes. The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) generally refers to the EDI data as being collected at the *individual level*. This means that the collected data are *specific to individual students*.

### *What the Raw EDI Data Do and Do Not Contain:*

Although student-specific, the raw EDI data are received by HELP in an anonymised form, meaning that the raw data do *not* contain individual students' names. HELP refrains from collecting students' names purposefully, so as to help protect individual students' identities.

The raw data do, however, contain individual students' dates of birth and various demographic identifiers (such as gender, whether or not the student is ESL, whether or not the student is Aboriginal, etc.) and, most recently, Provincial Education Numbers (PENs).

### *Why Collecting the PEN is Important:*

The collection of individual students' PENs is useful for two reasons. First, the PEN means that individual students will not be publicly identifiable to HELP staff. Second, the PEN allows HELP to combine the individual level EDI data with other data sources or to share the EDI with partner organisations in such a way that individual students cannot be publicly identified. Combining EDI data with other data sources allows HELP to explore more fully how BC children grow and develop from birth to high school graduation and how our communities support early child development. It should be noted that the PENs are stored separately from the rest of the raw data, so as to further ensure the protection of individual students' identities.

### *How the Raw Data are Utilised:*

Once the raw data (containing date of birth, demographic identifiers, and PENs) are received by HELP, the data are utilised at the *school, school district, or neighbourhood level* only. In other words, although the data are *collected* at the individual student level, HELP only analyses and reports the EDI *results* at the group or aggregate level. This means that the individual level EDI results are not the research focus of HELP, and that the student-specific results will not be disclosed or reported.

### *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:*

All EDI data are collected, used and/or disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and held in accordance with strict government security standards.

To learn more about HELP, please visit [www.earlylearning.ubc.ca](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca). If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the EDI research, please contact HELP by dialling 604-822-1278 or by emailing [earlylearning@ubc.ca](mailto:earlylearning@ubc.ca). Thank you.