A COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Harnessing DC’s Early Development Instrument Data

You have the opportunity to utilize early childhood data and create more prosperous community conditions for young children and families in DC. Outcomes from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) guide and inform citywide and neighborhood-level conversations on the resources, programs, and policies that help ensure all of our children thrive in school and in life.

WHAT IS THE EDI?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is an internationally recognized tool that provides a holistic, citywide snapshot of young children’s health, development, and school readiness in five key areas, known as domains:

- Physical Health & Well-being
- Social Competence
- Emotional Maturity
- Language & Cognitive Development
- Communications Skills & General Knowledge

Through these domains, the EDI provides a citywide lens for childhood development that helps better understand where DC children are on track, as well as where they are vulnerable.

In Washington, DC, the tool uncovers the proportion of our 4-year-old children who are vulnerable in any of the measured domains by presenting a snapshot of data at the neighborhood cluster level. In 2016, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), in partnership with the Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities at UCLA, first administered the EDI to more than 4,600 students in 116 DC schools and community-based organizations. Teachers at participating locations completed observational assessments of pre-kindergarten 4-year-old students to measure how they fared in each domain, as well as in 16 subdomains.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR DC?

The EDI informs place-based efforts in DC to ensure the healthy development of all young children, regardless of zip code. The outcomes allow us to:

- Look back to understand how well the community can more holistically support the development of DC children
- Look forward to address the needs of incoming kindergarteners as they move through school

Each of us has a role to play in ensuring our children are on track for school and life. With the EDI data, we are helping our community plan for the right supports and resources that will position all DC children for success.

RaiseDC.org/OurChildren
Leaders across DC have used the EDI as a measure of citywide kindergarten readiness and to advocate for stronger infant and toddler services. Cities around the world also use the EDI results to shine a spotlight on equity and early childhood development and have informed policy and practice changes, from such things as literacy programs to systems-wide change.

First launched in 2017, Our Children, Our Community, Our Change is a community engagement partnership created by Raise DC and OSSE that promotes citywide conversations around the EDI and provides tools and next steps for interested community members to apply this data to drive action.

By developing a shared understanding of where vulnerabilities exist, we create responsibility for constructing community conditions that allow all DC children to thrive.

To learn more about the EDI results or lead your own community conversation about this early childhood development snapshot, email ourchildren@raisedc.org or visit RaiseDC.org/OurChildren.