



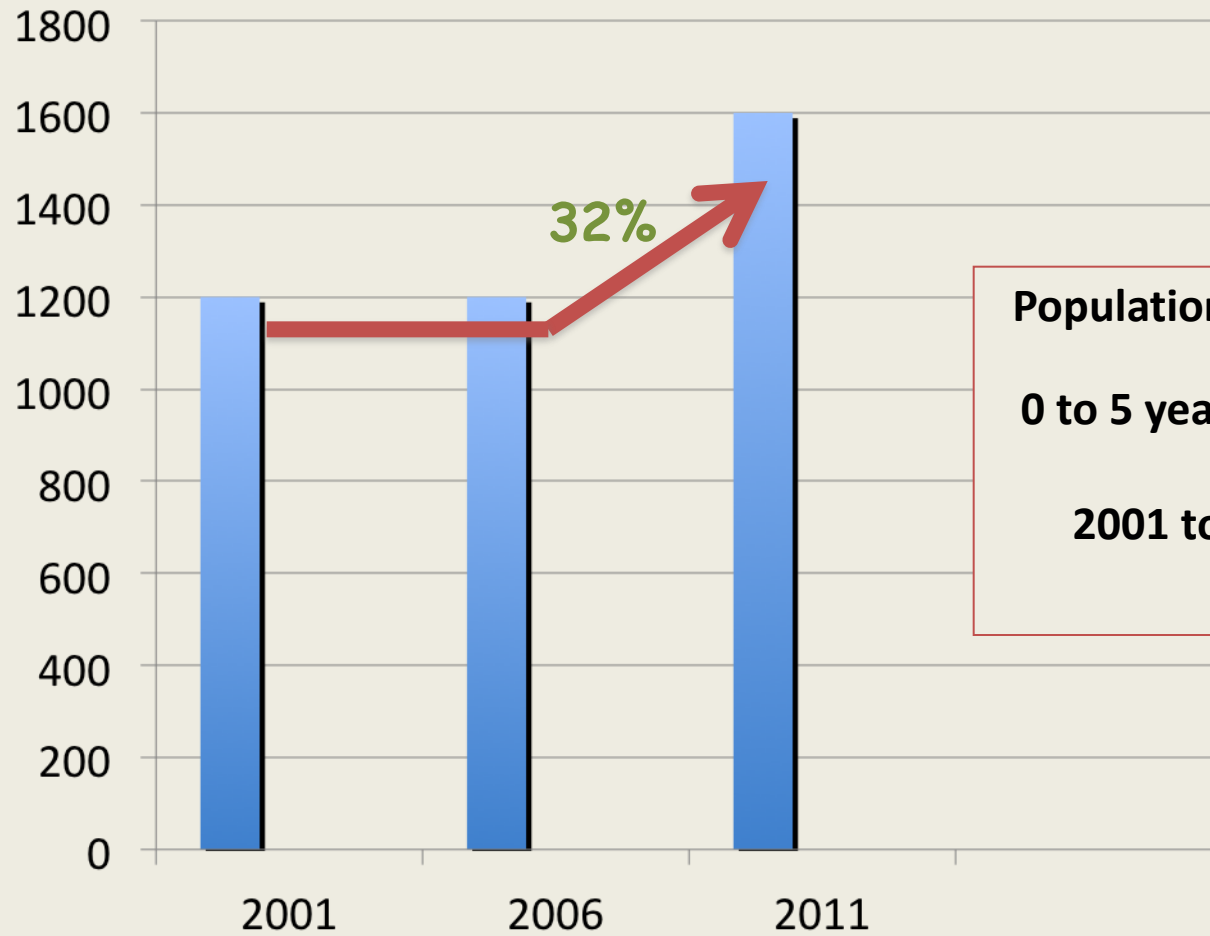
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# Squamish

Promoting healthy  
early childhood  
development

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**Population Growth**

**0 to 5 years of age**

**2001 to 2011**

“The state of the young  
in any city is the  
litmus test of the  
city’s level of  
sustainability and  
vibrancy.”

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, UN Habitat

# Early Development Instrument (EDI)

*Population-level*

**A developmental assessment of kindergarten kids**

**Reflects kids' early experiences and predicts future performance**

**Highlights areas of strength and vulnerability**

# EDI measures 5 developmental domains

## Physical Health & Well Being

- Dressed appropriately
- Not tired or hungry
- Good gross fine motor skills
- Independent

## Social Competence

- Good social skills
- Self-confident
- Cooperative & respectful
- Follow rules

## Emotional Maturity

- Helping behaviours
- Not anxious or aggressive
- Not hyperactive or inattentive

## Language & Cognitive Dev

- Basic literacy & numeracy skills
- Show an interest in reading & math

## Communication Skills & General Knowledge

- Are understandable & understand others
- Do not have difficulty with English

Data waves: **Wave 2: 2004/05-2006/07**  
**Wave 4: 2009/10-2010/11**

**Wave 3: 2007/08-2008/09**  
**Wave 5: 2011/12-2012/13**

Data waves are comparing DIFFERENT groups of kindergarten kids.

Data is collected on each Kindergarten child at school but data is reported by where the child lives.

# Overall EDI Rate (Wave 5)

Vulnerability found on one or more of the developmental scales

Best rate in BC: Murrayville (Langley): **4%**

Worst rate in BC: Gold Trail East (Gold Trail): **54%**

Pemberton **28%**

Whistler **23%**

**30%**

Squamish North

Increased vulnerability over time

More kids live in Squamish North

Mamquam River (dividing line)

Squamish South

**44%**

No change over time

Wave 5: 2011/12-2012/13

W4: 2009/10-2010/11

W3: 2007/08-2008/09

W2: 2004/05-2006/07

# Physical Health and Well-Being (W5: 2011/12-2012/13)

Pemberton 18%

Best neighbourhood rate in BC: 4%

- Lack of physical literacy (competence, confidence, motivation to move)
- Lack of unstructured play
- Too much screen time
- Poverty
- Food insecurity

Whistler 8%

W4  
7%



W5

13%

Squamish-North

W4  
17%



W5

25%

Squamish-South

W4: 2009/10-2010/11

# Social Competence (W5: 2011/12-2012/13)

Best neighbourhood rate in BC: 2%

- Relationships
- Parent mental health
- Parent use of drugs and alcohol
- Screen time
- Unstructured play
- Socio-economic conditions
- Home and community environments

Pemberton 8%

Whistler  
13%

W3  
4%



W4  
10%



W5  
15%

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W4: 2009/10-2010/11  
W3: 2007/08-2008/09  
W2: 2004/05-2006/07

W2  
25%



W3  
16%



W4  
24%



W5  
19%

Squamish-South



# Emotional Maturity (W5: 2011/12-2012/13)

Best neighbourhood rate in BC: 2%

Pemberton 10%

Whistler 9%

W3  
6%



W4  
14%



W5  
19%

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No change  
over time

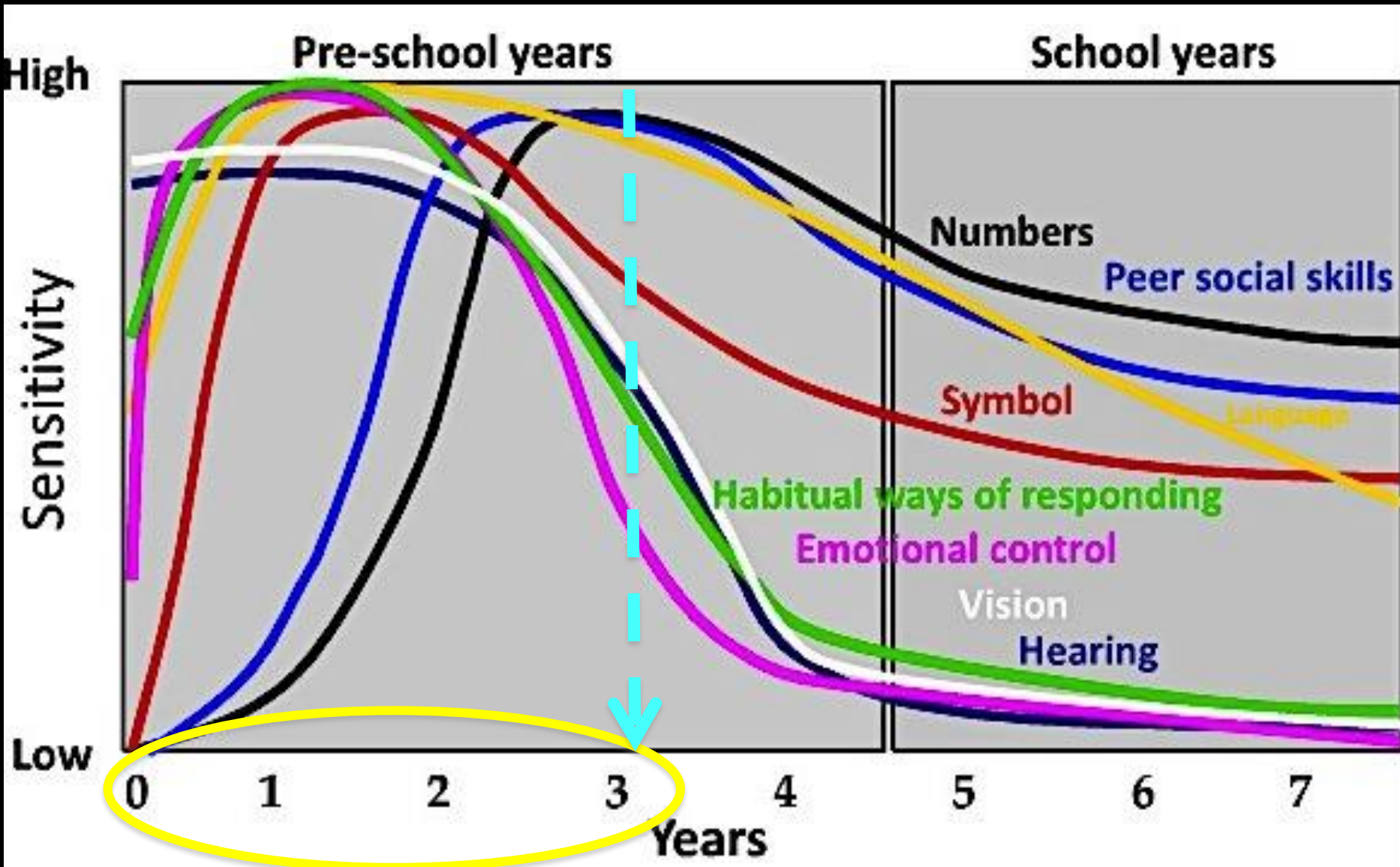
W5  
24%

Squamish-South

Early child  
development is the  
*first and most critical*  
phase of human  
growth.

About half of our health as  
adults is programmed from the  
time of conception to around 2  
years of age.

# Sensitive periods in early brain development



“Early in life, the environment talks to the genes and the genes listen.”

*Clyde Hertzman*

Epigenetics



**Genes** (nature)

**Environment** (nurture)





Relationships



Environments



Nutrition

### 3 Key Areas for Intervention

## Supportive Environments

Housing

Public transit

Employment

Poverty reduction

Food security

Green spaces

Community centres

Safe neighbourhoods

Social cohesion

Child care

Places to play

ECD programs

- Child Lens
- ECD strategic plan or Age-Friendly community strategy
- Monitor and track progress on ECD
- Children's Charter



## New Westminster

### Thinking big

2007: Council declares that it wants to become a municipal leader with regards to child care.

### A focus on child care

- Child Care Needs Assessment
- Child Care Strategy
- Review of Zoning By-Law and other Regulations
- Child Care Reserve Fund
- Civic Child Care Grant Program
- Civic Child Care Facility
- Low Rate Lease of Civic Space for Child Care
- Child Care Protocol (with the School District)
- Official Community Plan
  - Child care: essential community-based service
  - Promotes child care through partnerships
  - Considers child care in neighbourhood planning
- Planning Institute of BC 2013 Award for Excellence in Planning Practice for New West's Child Care Strategy
- 600 child care spaces created since 2009



## New Westminster

### Public Partners Child Development Committee and Child Development Hubs

- United Way funded needs assessments and business plans for all 5 hubs
- 1<sup>st</sup> hub: Development Assistance Compensation (casino) funds were used
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> hubs: Neighbourhood Learning Centre funds (provincial) are being used
- 4<sup>th</sup> hub: developer amenity contributions are being explored

### Queensborough

**EDI W2: 52%**

**EDI W5: 25%**

High proportion of vulnerable kids.  
Many gaps in service.

- Part of an expansion of Queensborough Community Centre
- Hub includes a group child care facility, tiny tot playtime program, library branch, community kitchen, and flex space that is available at no cost to agencies that deliver ECD and family programs



## New Westminster

- Endorsed New Westminster Children's Charter
- Developed Family-Friendly Business Program
- Developing Family-Friendly Housing Policy
- Developing a Child and Youth Friendly Community Strategy





What's the plan  
for healthy ECD  
in Squamish?

