



Youth
Development
Instrument



HUMAN
EARLY LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Youth Development Instrument (YDI): Predicting Successful Trajectories from Childhood to Young Adulthood

Parent/Guardian Informed Passive Consent Letter

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AT A GLANCE

- Your school is hosting a survey which will ask students questions about their social and emotional development, health, and well-being.
- Your child will be invited to complete the survey unless you explicitly request to withdraw your child.
- Your child will be told that they can choose to complete the survey and can skip questions and stop at any time.

Your school and researchers at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) invite your child to take part in completing the Youth Development Instrument (YDI) – a survey designed to learn about the social and emotional development; health, and well-being of high school students. Students who attend school in person take approximately 45-60 minutes of class time to complete the YDI online supervised by school staff. Students who are not attending school in-person may instead be invited and receive a set of instructions to virtually complete the YDI outside of school. The YDI project is sponsored by your school with funding from SFU.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to better understand aspects of children's social and emotional development, health, and well-being that contribute to their overall success in school and in life. The YDI gives young people a voice in reporting their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in school, at home, and in the community. Your school is participating in the YDI because they want to know more about the health and well-being of their students and identify the ways in which young people's success and well-being can be promoted in schools and communities. They can use the information to improve education, support, and services for all students. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum which includes a focus on promoting young people's personal and social competencies.

The YDI has been developed in collaboration with educators, students, and other stakeholders working to improve youth well-being. If you have any questions about the YDI project or the type of questions on the survey, please contact ydi@sfu.ca.



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Participation is voluntary and consent is passive

The YDI is voluntary and your child can choose whether or not to complete the survey. Participating or not participating in the survey will not affect your child's grades. It will not affect any services that your family receives from the school. Your child may also withdraw from the YDI project after completing the survey by contacting the research team.

If you do not want your child to complete the YDI, please return the attached form to your child's teacher or principal within 4 weeks of receiving this letter. You can also email the YDI project team at ydi@sfu.ca to withdraw your child. Children who do not participate and who attend school in person will work on an activity that is related to their regular school work. We use a passive consent process whereby parents or guardians can opt out their child from participation because the YDI is low risk and provides valuable data to help schools and communities improve adolescent wellbeing.

What will happen?

Because several of the questions ask about children's feelings and relationships, the survey has a place where your child can ask for help with any problems they are having. Your child will also be asked how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their feelings and daily activities to help assess the pandemic's impact on young people's development and well-being. Your child may skip these and any other question(s) on the YDI if they wish. If your child asks for help, researchers will notify the teacher and principal who will follow school procedures for making sure your child gets help.

How will YDI data be used and stored?

The YDI Principal Investigator is responsible for keeping all YDI project data safe. Your school provides information to the YDI research team about your child, including their name, Personal Education Number (PEN), date of birth, gender, and postal code. This information is stored separately from your child's survey answers in a secure research environment at UBC to protect your child's privacy. Your child's personal information will only be used for approved linkage and research projects **under Federal, Provincial/Territorial privacy laws**. Researchers who receive permission to use the YDI data for research purposes will be provided data that cannot be connected to any individual student.

The data from the study may be linked at the individual level with other data to learn about the factors that influence children's well-being, health, and school success. Other data may include education and health information. Once linked, data are "de-identified"; that is, identifying information like names are removed. The data that are linked can *only* be used for research or statistical purposes by researchers approved by the YDI principal investigator.

How is my child's privacy protected?

Your child's responses to the survey questions are **private and confidential**. Neither you nor any school or school staff member will know what your child's answers are. If YDI information is used in research publications or in public documents, your child and your child's school will not be identified.

Project results

School and district-level reports are shared with schools and districts and YDI results will not be used to rank schools, students, or classes in any way. The YDI project will follow a protocol established by HELP's [Aboriginal Steering Committee](#) regarding the reporting of data for Indigenous children. This protocol ensures the data are used to support Indigenous self-determination toward improving developmental outcomes for Indigenous children. The YDI project will never publicly report YDI data for Indigenous children, nor use it for comparison, without engagement/approval of Indigenous partners.



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How will your school and community benefit?

Recent research indicates that children's well-being influences school and life success and future well-being. By completing the survey, students will have a chance to share their experiences and feelings contributing to their sense of well-being. YDI reports will give educators, program planners, and community members, information about the lives of children by capturing children's voices directly through the YDI. Your school and community can use the results to support students and improve their well-being.

Where can I get more information on the project?

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dr. Hasina Samji, the Principal Investigator, or the YDI Team at ydi@sfu.ca. **If you do not want your child to complete the survey, please sign the attached withdrawal form and return it to your child's teacher or principal or email us at ydi@sfu.ca to withdraw your child. If you'd like your child to participate, you don't have to sign and return.**

Research participants complaints or concerns

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Yours sincerely,

Kat Hannah, School Board YDI Contact
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E-mail: kat.hannah@abbyschools.ca
E-mail: hsamji@sfu.ca

Dr. Hasina Samji, PhD
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Simon Fraser University

If you want to withdraw your child, please, sign and return this section to your child's teacher.



Please return this form to the classroom teacher by February 14, 2022 if you do **NOT** want your child to participate.

I do **not** consent for my child [NAME] _____ to participate in the Youth Development Instrument (YDI) survey taking place in February/March 2022

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____

