



Hamilton
Early Years

To: Elementary Principals, HWDSB
From: Chris Borst, City of Hamilton
Re: Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS) Parent Letter Distribution
Date: April 25, 2018

The City of Hamilton, in conjunction with the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster and all four Boards in Hamilton, is conducting a survey of the parents of the City's kindergarten children. This provides us with information essential to planning services for children and families during the Early Years, as well as necessary context for the results of the recently collected Early Development Instrument. The 2018 KPS will be the first we have conducted since 2010.

The big change since 2010 is that the 2018 KPS will be conducted electronically, though paper copies will be available on request. A review version of the survey is available for your inspection at <https://surveys.mcmaster.ca/limesurvey/index.php/9999> (the live version is at <http://oursurvey.ca/kps>). All that we request of your staff is to distribute a letter to parents, notifying them of the survey and inviting them to participate, and a follow-up note two weeks later.

The plan:

- Sufficient copies of the parent letter will be provided to your school by April 30 for one copy to go home with every child in either Year 1 or Year 2 of Kindergarten.
- Educators should distribute those to parents by their usual method on April 30 and May 1.
- If your school has electronic means of communicating to parents (e-mail lists, Twitter, Facebook pages, etc.), it would be appreciated if a notice of the survey and a link to it could be posted (a png graphic to use accompanies this memo).
- Sufficient copies of a follow-up note will be provided to your school by May 14.
- Educators should distribute those to parents by their usual method during the week of May 14.
- The survey will close May 31.

If you, educators, or parents have any questions, or are looking for a paper copy, please feel free to contact Chris Borst at chris.borst@hamilton.ca or (905) 546-2424 ext. 5821.



HWDSB



May 1, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten Students:

The City of Hamilton is working with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton's other school boards, and the Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, to conduct a Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS). You have been selected to participate because you have one or more children in the kindergarten program.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the KPS is to ask parents about the early experiences of children and families in Hamilton. The results from the KPS help to better understand the environments, relationships and services that impact children's and families' overall health and well-being. The survey will help us learn:

- Which programs and services children attended before starting school.
- Which neighbourhoods need programs and services for children.
- How experiences in early childhood can help children get ready for school.

What will I be asked to do?

Using your computer, tablet or cell phone, enter the link: <http://oursurvey.ca/kps>. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete. You can exit the survey at any time and your answers will be saved, so you can finish later. The survey will close on May 31, 2018.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please contact Chris Borst at (905) 546-2424 ext. 5821 or chris.borst@hamilton.ca.

Are there any risks to doing this study?

There are no risks to you or your child in filling out the survey. Participation is voluntary. You do not need to answer the questions you do not want to.

Are there any benefits to doing this study?

The information you give will help answer important questions about factors that affect the early development of children in your region. Survey results will help plan future programs and services to improve the well-being of children and families. Data from this survey may be matched with other community-level information, in addition to children's health and academic outcomes to better understand what makes the most difference for children's development.

Will I receive anything for my time?

After you complete the survey, you will be asked if you would like to enter a draw for one of 15 \$50 gift cards from Amazon.ca.

Who will know what I said on the survey?

The survey is anonymous. We do not ask for your name or the name of your child. You will not be identified in any way. Your completed survey will be submitted and stored at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The survey data will be shared with a small team of researchers at the City of Hamilton. Individual survey results will not be seen by your child's teacher or the principal of their school.

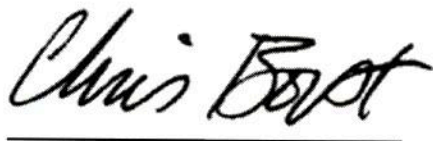
How do I find out what was learned in this study?

The survey will close on May 31, 2018. Your school will receive a summary of results in the fall. The City of Hamilton will also create reports and post them on its website.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions or need more information about the study, please contact Chris Borst at (905) 546-2424 ext. 5821 or chris.borst@hamilton.ca. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the McMaster University Research Ethics Board at 905-521-2100 ext. 23142.

Sincerely,



Chris Borst
City of Hamilton



Magdalena Janus, Ph.D.
Offord Centre for Child Studies