

Offord Centre's 10th percentile cut-off from 2008 national cohort VERSUS HELP's cut-offs published 2006

Domains

Physical Health and Well-Being	7 vs 7.12
Social Competence	5.58 vs 5.58
Emotional Maturity	6.00 vs 5.83
Language and Cognitive Development	5.77 vs 5.38
Communication Skills and General Knowledge	3.75 vs 4.72

HELP – 2006 - BC Atlas of Child Development P 26 http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/wp-uploads/web.help.ubc.ca/2010/02/BCAtlasofChildDevelopment_CD_22-01-06.pdf

Offord Centre – 2008 – p.3

SCHOOL READINESS TO LEARN NATIONAL SK COHORT RESULTS

Based on the Early Development Instrument Data Collection for Senior

Kindergarten Students in Canada

Spring 2008

http://www.offordcentre.com/readiness/pubs/2008_11_12_National_SK_Cohort.pdf

HELP says (p 26 above) that the 10th percentile cut offs "shifted slightly over the past several years". So the strict 'percentile' method was dropped, or rather "permanently fixed" "as a result of our work in BC": thus HELP does not explain how its cut offs were finally exactly derived/selected.

Offord Centre - "The EDI was completed for 45,379 non-special needs Senior Kindergarten students in Canada. The table below illustrates the descriptive statistics of the Canadian cohort."

A higher cut-offs mean more children will fall below the cut-off.

More children below even one cut-off out of the 5 increases the overall "vulnerability" rate.

The "cut-offs" were originally based on (equal to) the 10th percentile - ie the lowest 10 percent of scores - on the Offord Centre's "national cohort" (some provinces did not participate eg Que).

(Have not yet found a document explaining how EDI questions are scored)

Using different cut-offs means changing the 'baseline' and makes comparison of "vulnerability" rates very difficult. It renders statements like 'vulnerability is rising' meaningless.

What were the "vulnerability" cut-offs HELP used in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2010?

Have the cut-offs changed?

How have the cut-offs changed?

What effect do the changes have on HELP's over-all "vulnerability" rate? do they raise or lower it?

Were "special needs" children included in HELP's calculations? (they were not in Offord calculations)