HELP created the British Columbia Atlas of Child Development, a web print publication, to explore the relationship between EDI results and socioeconomic status. The Atlas presents a comprehensive planning resource for provincial, municipal, and federal governments, BC school boards, regional health authorities, social service agencies, and communities.

The Atlas visually presents early childhood development trends in a manner that makes complex social science and population health data accessible to a broad audience. Colour maps depict information about the socioeconomic, natural, cultural, and political characteristics of the environments, in which BC families reside and young children grow. Collectively, the maps aim to enable readers to identify the diverse range of environments that frame the lives of children and their families and to understand how these settings are sensitive to policy, economic and other changes and how they are associated with developmental outcomes of children.

With the publication of the Atlas, BC is now the only jurisdiction in the world that has maps of early development that can illuminate the relationships between vulnerability patterns and socioeconomic conditions for every school district in the province. HELP invites everyone to use the Atlas to better understand the opportunities and challenges available to diverse families in their communities and to carefully consider what it takes to create and sustain nurturing neighbourhoods. To view the Atlas or order a print copy please visit http://ecdportal.help.ubc.ca.

Chapter One: The ABCs of Early Childhood Development Maps

Chapter Two presents a brief demographic survey of early childhood in British Columbia so that readers can acquaint themselves with the population of young children, including where they live, the share of the total population they represent and their ethnic and language diversity.

Chapter Three engages with the EDI, reports results and provides readers with a conceptual framework to interpret what the results reveal about recent ECD patterns, as well as the kinds of developmental opportunities and challenges that communities can anticipate in the near future.

Chapter Four focuses on the social and economic characteristics of neighbourhoods that co-occur with favourable and worrisome EDI trends. This chapter represents the heart of the publication and is a must-read for anyone interested to consider in detail the associations between child development and socioeconomic patterns in and across school districts. To assist readers with this task, there is a second layer of socioeconomic data added to the framework introduced in the previous chapter so that readers can efficiently interpret associations between community socioeconomic status and local child development.

Chapter Five: Implications for Community Action and Public Policy

Chapter One of the Atlas introduces readers to the geography of BC, the kind of information found in the Atlas, and provides information about the establishment and appropriate interpretation of map boundaries.