



Early Childhood and Violence Prevention

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National Strategy
on Community Safety
and Crime Prevention



Health
Canada

Université 
de Montréal

Welcome to the "Early Childhood and Violence Prevention" Colloquium

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to Montreal and to introduce this event on aggression in early childhood. We chose this theme because violence is a major problem in today's societies.

The purpose of this colloquium is to share the most recent findings of the best research being done on the development of aggression in young children and on services and policies in this area.

It is also our hope that this will be an opportunity to initiate a discussion with the service and policy planners on ways to translate the research into practice. What are the challenges involved in applying the results of field studies? How can research support the provision of adequate services? How can practice help set directions for future research?

The Centre of Excellence has prepared a program of presentations by internationally-recognized experts selected for the relevance of their work, whether their contribution be in terms of furthering our scientific understanding of the development of aggression, or reflecting on the services that have proven effective or need to be developed, and the policies that exist or will be required to support these services.

We wish everyone a stimulating and rewarding colloquium!

Richard E. Tremblay, Ph. D.
Director, Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development
Professor at the University of Montreal
and Canada Research Chair in Child Development.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Our Mission

The mission of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) is to improve our knowledge of the social and emotional development of young children.

Between the ages of 0 and 5, children experience a phase of accelerated growth. The education, care and attention they receive during this crucial period of development have a decisive effect on their future.

It is therefore extremely important for service providers and policymakers to understand thoroughly the significance of early childhood to ensure that young children's social and emotional needs are fully met.

Our Mandate

The mandate of the CEECDC is to foster the dissemination of scientific knowledge on:

- The social and emotional development of young children
- The policies and services that influence this development.

It also includes formulating recommendations on the services needed to ensure optimum early childhood development.

Organizing Committee

Richard E. Tremblay	Université de Montréal, CEECDC Director
Emmett Francoeur	Canadian Paediatric Society
Sandra Griffin	Canadian Child Care Federation
Karen Kidder	Canadian Institute of Child Health
Johanne Laverdure	Institut national de la santé publique du Québec
John LeBlanc	Dalhousie University IWK Center
Anne Maxwell	Canadian Child Care Federation
Ray DeV. Peters	Queen's University
Dawn Walker	Canadian Institute of Child Health
Allen Zeesman	Human Resources Development Canada






Objectives of the Colloquium






How do children become aggressive? At what age does aggression begin? What impact do genetic, hormonal, and environmental factors play in the development of aggression? Where do we draw the line between normal aggression and problematic aggressive behaviour? How do children learn to control their aggression? Is there a connection between aggression in early childhood and violence in adolescence and adulthood? Experts in development will address these and other questions.






Experts in services will present several programs for parents of 4 and 5 year-olds who are experiencing problems with aggression, as well as programs for children in elementary grades. They will examine the effects of these programs and propose recommendations for adapting them to younger children.







Policy experts will highlight crime prevention policies and compare the attention given to work with young children with that given to work with adolescents and adults. Various aspects of laws pertaining to corporal punishment and services provided to young families will also be discussed.

In a round table discussion, participants will explain how research helps in building or establishing programmes, address the difficulties they have encountered in implementing programs, and provide researchers with suggestions for future research.

9:00 - 10:15		The development of aggression
9:00		<p>Kate Keenan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Chicago (English)</p> <p><u>The development and socialization of aggression in the first five years of life</u></p> <p>Children are socialized to unlearn aggressive patterns of behaviour that emerge very early in life. Strategies that increase emotional regulation and serve as more adaptive alternatives to aggression develop in social contexts very early in life. When there are significant impediments to the development of such strategies, sub-optimal emotional and behavioural functioning develops, resulting in significant deficits in social relations with caregivers and peers. Preschoolers who have not successfully developed age-appropriate strategies for regulating aggressive behaviour are at high risk for embarking on a trajectory to chronic antisocial and aggressive behaviour.</p>
9:20		<p>Dale Hay, Professor, Cardiff University, School of Psychology (English)</p> <p><u>Would Facilitating Early Prosocial Behaviour Help Prevent Later Violence?</u></p> <p>The aim of the presentation is to examine links between prosocial and antisocial behaviour in the early childhood period, and over time. I shall summarise research on early prosocial development and present new findings from the South London Child Development Study, which suggests that early prosocial behaviour is a proactive factor against later conduct problems, even when early behavioural problems are taken into account. Implications for home- and preschool classroom-based interventions are then discussed.</p>
9:40		<p>Rolf Loeber, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh and Professor of Developmental Psychopathology, Free University (English)</p> <p><u>Why do some youth escalate from aggression to violence and homicide?</u></p> <p>Violence in young males tends to develop according to a sequence in which earlier patterns of aggression are a necessary step toward violence. Only a minority of aggressive young males escalate to violence. The presentation will focus on predictors which can explain why some youth become violent, and how this varies in different neighbourhood contexts. The presentation also highlights factors that influence why some violent young males eventually commit homicides.</p>
10:00		Dialogue with audience
10:15 - 10:30		Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00		Early childhood services to prevent violence
10:30		<p>Nazli Baydar, Visiting Associate, Koc University FOR Carolyn Webster-Stratton, Ph.D., Professor of Nursing, University of Washington, Director Parenting research Affiliate, Center on Human Development and Disability (English)</p> <p><u>Programs Proven Effective in Preventing and Treating Aggression in Young Children</u></p> <p>This paper will briefly review empirically validated parent, child and teacher interventions designed to treat and prevent aggression in young children (5 years or younger). The important distinction between type of prevention (universal, indicated, selected) for treatment programs will be discussed and its implications for future research. Recent studies with Incredible Years Multi-focussed Programs and component analysis will be briefly reviewed relative to ways to understand the most effective interventions strategies for reducing aggression in young children.</p>
10:50		<p>John Lochman, Professor and Saxon Chairholder in Clinical Psychology, University of Alabama (English)</p> <p><u>Programs and Services Effective in Reducing Aggression in Young Children</u></p> <p>Aggressive behaviour in the childhood years is a relatively stable risk predictor for later serious conduct problems in adolescence. Risk factors contributing to the development and maintenance of children’s aggressive behaviour, can be the targets of early intervention efforts. Home visiting interventions provided during the prenatal and infancy periods may be useful in reducing conduct problems.</p>
11:10		<p>Karen Bierman, Ph.D., Director, Children, Youth, and Families Consortium, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University (English)</p> <p><u>Preventing violence by promoting competence: A developmental perspective</u></p> <p>Most children display aggressive behaviours when they are first learning to get along with others (age 2-3). Not surprisingly, children who remain highly aggressive often show delays in the development of other competencies, most notably in areas of emotion regulation, social competence, and language skills. These developmental findings have implications for preventive interventions during the early childhood years, which need to focus not only on decreasing aggression, but also on promoting the development of a broad set of competencies that allow children to become positive members of their family, peer, and school communities.</p>
11:30		Dialogue with the audience
12:00 - 1:30		Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:45		Early childhood policies to prevent violence
13:30		<p>Patricia Bégin, Director, Research and Evaluation, National Crime Prevention Centre (English)</p> <p><u>Canada's Early childhood Development Policy and Programs: Guiding Principles</u></p> <p>With respect to my presentation, I will set out the guiding principles and theoretical rationale of Canada's Early Childhood Development Agreement (2000) between the federal, provincial and territorial governments to improve and expand services and programs for children under 6 years of age and their families. As well, I will summarize some of the key research findings on prenatal, family, parent, teacher/school and personal risk factors for criminal offending behaviour and relate them to the approach of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.</p>
13:50		<p>Alain-Robert Nadeau, Ph.D. in Constitutional Law; Columnist, LeDevoir Newspaper (French)</p> <p><u>Rights and Children: The advancement of children's rights in Canada</u></p> <p>The author will examine the advancement of children's rights in Canada beginning with a document of international Law, the International Convention on Children's Rights, to domestic Law, with a specific focus on the establishment of the Convention using certain legislative measures of Canadian Law, particularly in regard with Correctional Law of section 43 of the Criminal Code.</p>
14:10		<p>Dan Offord, CM, MD, Director, Canadian Centre for Studies of Children at Risk (English)</p> <p><u>Policy Issues Related to Early Prevention of Violence in Children</u></p> <p>This presentation will review preschool intervention initiatives in Canada aimed at prevention, among other morbidities, violence in children. Difficulties in operationalizing a policy aimed at prevention of violence in young children will be covered, and suggestions for improvement outlined.</p>
14:30		Dialogue with the audience
14:45 - 15:00		Coffee Break

15:00 16:50		Roundtable: How can we provide Canadian children with an adequate level of basic services to prevent violence?
		Moderator: Joan McCord, Ph.D., Temple University
		<p>Rob Santos, Senior Policy Analyst, Healthy Child Manitoba (English)</p> <p><u>From Parents to Premiers: A Provincial Perspective on Improving Services for Children to Prevent Violence in Canada</u></p> <p>Researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and communities must work together to exchange the best available knowledge across all sectors of society, from families to the highest levels of government. Common themes from a review of six expert research papers on aggression (development and prevention services) are highlighted. Extant research has facilitated Manitoba’s inter-sectoral achievements for children, and has provided important answers to implementation questions of who, what, where, and when.</p>
		<p>Betty Kashima, Executive Director, Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre (English)</p> <p><u>A View from the Field</u></p> <p>We will provide examples from a children’s mental health agency of work that we are doing to address violence prevention in young children (parenting groups, family play interventions). We have also developed a comprehensive violence prevention program that involves making changes to a whole school environment. This presentation will also address some of the challenges of delivering evidence-based programs.</p>
		<p>Linda Périgny, Director of the Prevention Promotion Department, Direction de la santé publique de l’Estrie (French)</p> <p><u>Prevention services for the most vulnerable young children yes...but!</u></p> <p>A range of ongoing prevention services targeting 0-5 year-olds and their families, from the mother’s pregnancy to the child’s school entry, has been established in the Eastern Townships. These programs involve multiple components and objectives and fulfil the requirements of successful outcomes as determined by the scientific literature. Several questions are raised with regard to the implementation of such measures: How intensive should the family follow-ups be? How does one control the quality of the services when they are offered by professionals from different disciplines? Can the expected results be applied to the province of Quebec?</p>
		<p>Marjolaine Sioui, Early Childhood Coordinator, Health and Social Services Commission of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. (French)</p> <p><u>Strategic initiatives against violence within the First Nations communities</u></p> <p>Several strategies and initiatives towards reducing violence have been adopted by different communities and professionals with young children, their families and their communities. It is a holistic approach geared towards the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of each individual.</p>
		<p>Dawn Walker, Executive Director, Canadian Institute of Child Health (English)</p> <p><u>Turning Research into Change</u></p> <p>We will focus on the application of knowledge translation and social marketing research and strategies to the issue of childhood aggression. As such, we will examine the process of change. We will examine change in terms of individuals, families, communities and society.</p>
16:50 17:00		Closure