

2015 Early Development Index

A Countywide Report on Young Children's Kindergarten Readiness



In the first effort of its kind in California, the Children and Families Commission partnered with Orange County school districts to assess the readiness of young learners using a measurement tool pioneered in Australia and Canada called the Early Development Index (EDI). For the first time, the EDI data were reported for 34,288 children with 100 percent of all Orange County public schools with a kindergarten population included in analysis.

What is the Early Development Index?

The EDI is a population measure of school readiness that collects information about kindergarten age children in geographic areas. The data analysis provides an overall snapshot of children's developmental progress. This data communicates how experiences at home and in the community can help prepare children for school. Local leaders use this information to plan programs and supports to better coordinate services for children and their families. This coordination will help children develop and learn before and during their school years.

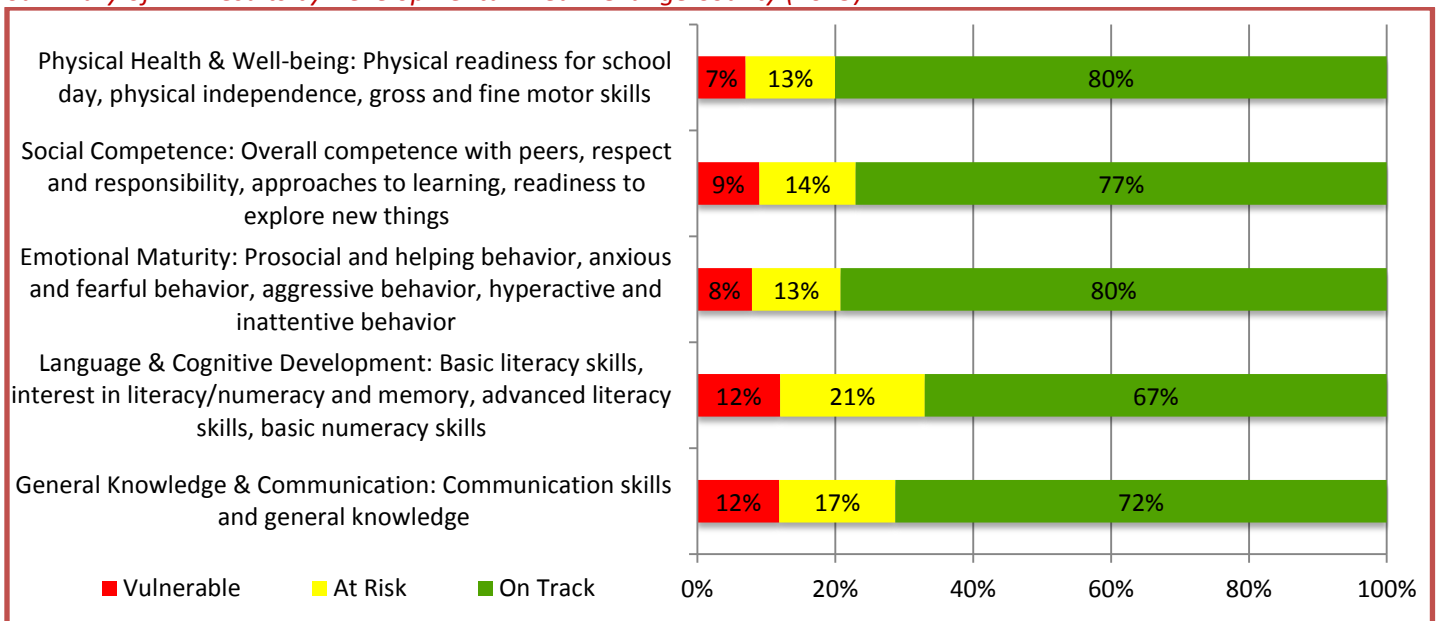
The EDI provides information about children in five developmental areas that are known to affect well-being and school performance:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

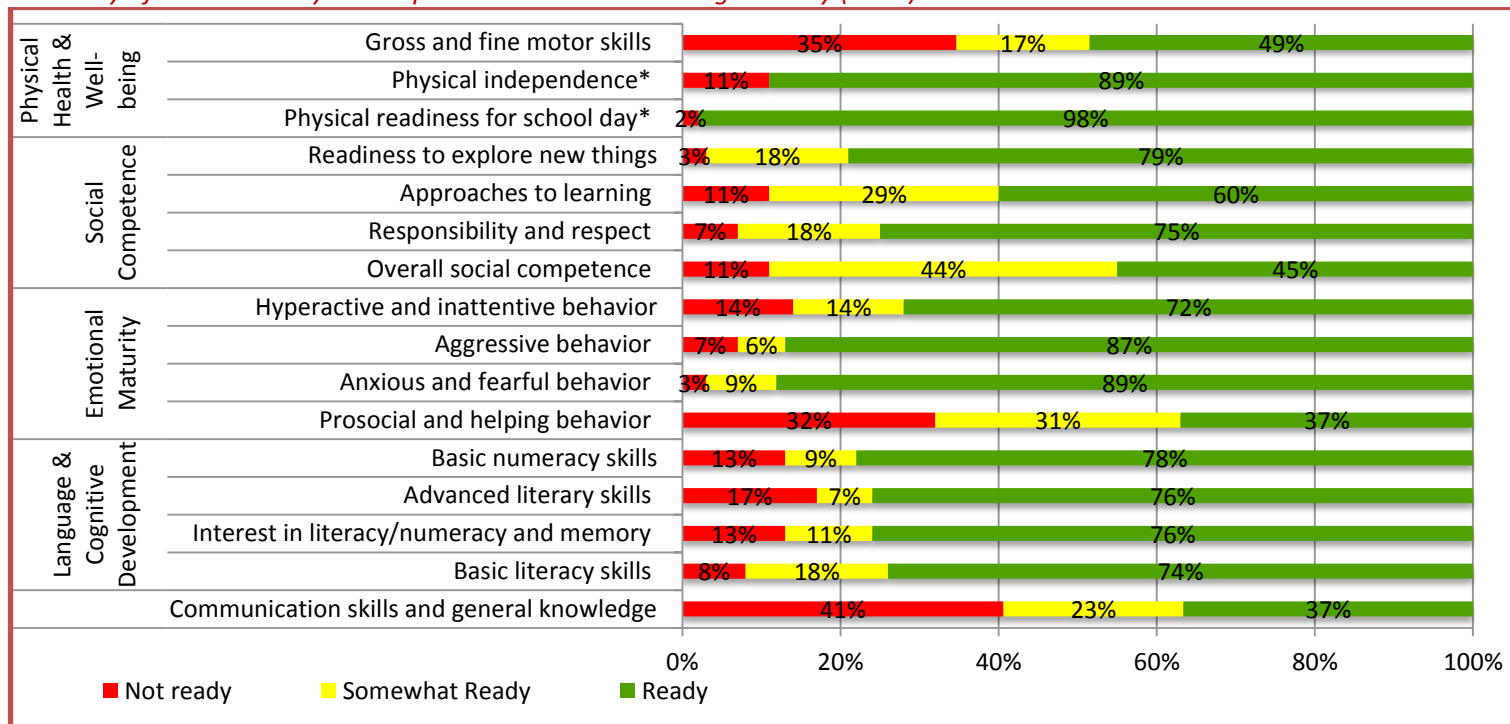
How Are Orange County Children Doing?

The summary of the EDI results by developmental area are simultaneously encouraging and challenging. Almost half of Orange County Children (48%) are developmentally on track in all five areas, while more than half (52%) are not ready when they enter kindergarten.

Summary of EDI Results by Developmental Area – Orange County (2015)



Summary of EDI Results by Developmental Sub-Area – Orange County (2015)



What Are the Next Steps?

The Commission is currently working with four pilot cities on partnerships in their local school districts to explore how the Early Development Index data can inform local decision making. The UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities is providing the technical assistance. Case studies will be presented at the *Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow Summit* on May 6, 2016 in Irvine, California

What is the Children & Families Commission of Orange County?

Also known as “First 5” throughout the state of California, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County oversees the allocation of funds from the 1998 Proposition 10 tobacco tax. Since 2000, the Commission has partnered with school districts, nonprofit organizations, health institutions, and educational agencies to achieve the vision that **all children are healthy and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten**. The Commission’s early adoption of the EDI reflects the ongoing commitment to that critical goal. For more information about the commission visit the website at occhildrenandfamilies.com.

Early investments today result in healthy, educated leaders tomorrow