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## The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire

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The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ) is a questionnaire completed by parents/guardians at the start of the Kindergarten school year. The CHEQ collects information on experiences that are strongly linked to children's health and well-being, education and social outcomes. It is used to help teachers, school administrators and community partners provide and improve targeted supports for children and families in British Columbia. Your school district is partnering with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) to administer the CHEQ. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

### AT A GLANCE

- The CHEQ takes approximately 30 minutes to complete
- Participation is voluntary
- Information is summarized in individual, classroom, school and district reports

**Completing the CHEQ is entirely up to you. You have the right to refuse to complete it. If you choose to complete it, you can stop at any time by clicking "Withdraw" without any negative impact on you or your child. If the CHEQ is completed in part or in full, it will be assumed that consent has been given.**

The CHEQ is available in English, Simplified Chinese and Punjabi with an option for questions to be read aloud in English.

### What happens after you complete the CHEQ?

There are three parts to the CHEQ: Part 1 includes questions about your child's experiences, and is used for individual, classroom, school and district reports. Information from these reports may be shared with school personnel. School personnel follow their professional practice guidelines for safeguarding your child's personal information and these reports are not made public. Part 2 includes questions about different socio-economic factors, (e.g., employment, education, income) and is confidential. Your responses to these questions are not provided to your child's school or district. Identifying information is removed from these responses and these data are used for research purposes only, to better understand the characteristics of your neighborhood and community. Part 3: COVID-19 Pandemic contains questions where your answers will be combined with those

from other parents/caregivers and shared with school personnel at the school, school district and neighbourhood level anonymously.

### **How is your information protected?**

The school uses your child's name to administer the CHEQ and for the school's planning purposes, but does not disclose your child's name to HELP for research purposes. If CHEQ information is used in research publications or public documents, your responses to questions on the CHEQ will be combined with responses from other parents/guardians and your individual responses will not be identified in any way.

HELP is responsible for keeping CHEQ data safe. Your child's personal information is kept in a secure research environment at UBC, to be used for approved research projects **under Federal, Provincial/Territorial privacy laws**. The data from the CHEQ may be linked at the individual level with other data, such as the Early Development Instrument or the Middle Years Development Instrument, to learn about the factors that influence children's well-being, health, and school success, **but can only be used for research, planning or evaluation by HELP approved researchers under an approved Research Agreement**. Individual level data are also shared with BC Ministries of Government to be used at the group level only, for research, program evaluation and planning. For concerns related to the privacy and security of your child's CHEQ data, please contact HELP's Privacy Officer at [privacy@help.ubc.ca](mailto:privacy@help.ubc.ca).

### **How will your school and community benefit?**

Information from the CHEQ can help schools, program planners, and communities become more aware of ways to create early experiences to help children in their community thrive. By completing the CHEQ, parents/guardians are providing the detailed information communities need to strategically support their families. Now is a time like no other for us to be focusing our attention on children's health and well-being. The stress and disruption brought about by COVID-19 are of real concern. The CHEQ will include questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic to help us understand the secondary impacts of the pandemic on children and families. Completion of these questions is voluntary and parents/guardians can choose to skip these when completing the questionnaire.

### **Where can you get more information on the CHEQ Project?**

If you'd like to learn more about the CHEQ please visit: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/cheq/>. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Roberta O'Brien ([Roberta.obrien@ubc.ca](mailto:Roberta.obrien@ubc.ca) or 604-916-1051) or myself ([alisa.almas@ubc.ca](mailto:alisa.almas@ubc.ca) or 604-827-1518).

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at the University of British Columbia at 604-822-8598, or e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Sincerely,

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