

# Summary Report

## Kindergarten Parent Survey

2018

Peterborough

**Understanding  
the context in which  
children live, grow,  
and learn.**

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To learn more about the Kindergarten Parent Survey, visit [www.edi.offordcentre.com](http://www.edi.offordcentre.com)

## About the Kindergarten Parent Survey

The need for more information on family characteristics and experiences of children before entering kindergarten led to the development of a Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS) which can be used as a companion document to the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The KPS is a joint initiative by the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University, the Ministry of Education, and Local Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs).

While the EDI provides a snapshot of how children are doing, the KPS provides the context for understanding the outcomes of the EDI. The KPS provides information on specific or unique local factors that may influence a child's developmental health.

# Data Collection

## Development of the KPS

In 2003, the Offord Centre for Child Studies developed the instrument in collaboration with the Halton Region and Halton District School Boards.

## Data Collection

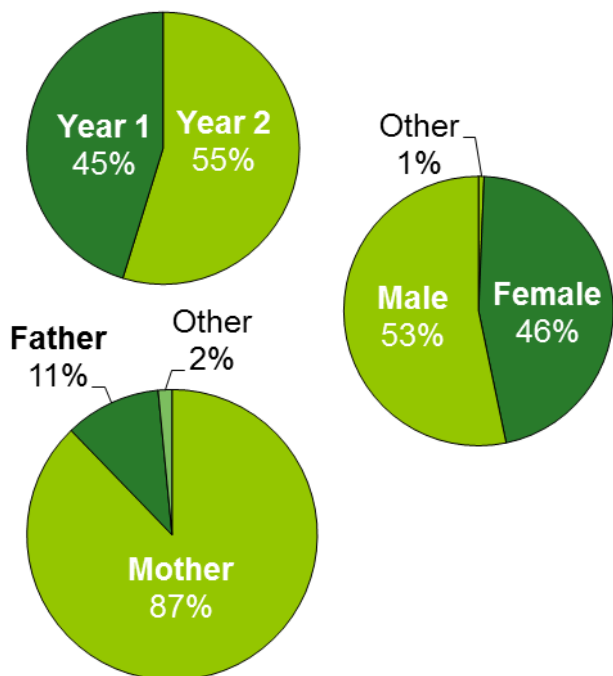
Parents of Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students completed the 83-question survey, on-line or mailed-in, from April through to June of 2018.

## Local Analysis

Local Children's Service System Managers across Ontario analyzed the results. Peterborough results were analyzed by the City of Peterborough Social Services Division.

**Respondents:** The response rate for the KPS in the City and County of Peterborough (henceforth, "Peterborough") was 17%, compared to 10% in participating regions across Ontario. Several families did not complete all portions of the survey, and therefore, sample size varies by question. Due to low response rates for some questions, results should be interpreted with caution. Some comparisons to the Peterborough 2012 KPS and Ontario 2018 KPS results will be used in this report.

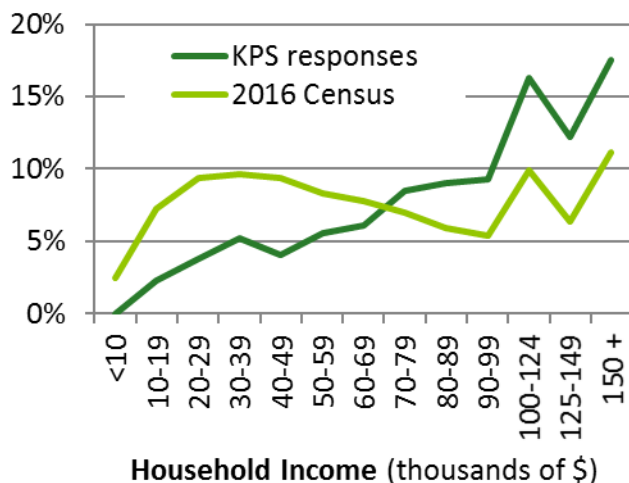
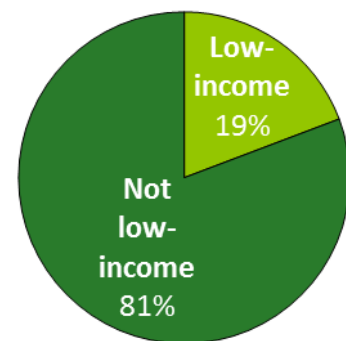
466 parents/guardians of kindergartners in Peterborough responded. In terms of demographics, there were slightly more Year 2 kindergartners compared to Year 1, as well as slightly more male students compared to female students. Lastly, 87% of respondents were the mother of the student.





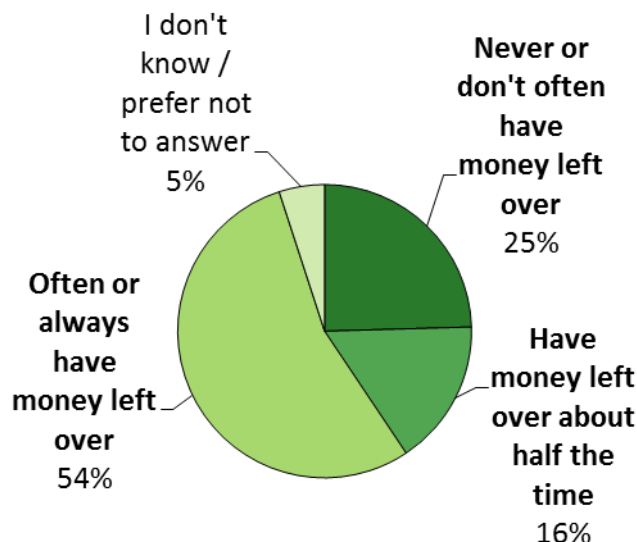
# Children and their Families

**Low-Income:** → The low-income measure, before-tax (LIM-BT) is a median total income of private households, adjusted for household size. For all Peterborough respondents, 81% fall above the LIM-BT (henceforth, “not low-income”), and 19% fall below the LIM-BT (henceforth, “low-income”).



← **Household Income:** The reported household income (before taxes) from Peterborough KPS respondents was compared to the 2016 Census data for all households within the Peterborough region. Compared to this Census population data, Peterborough respondents of the KPS had higher household incomes.

**Money Left Over:** → Respondents were also asked whether, after they pay for **necessities** (food, housing, hydro, phone, clothes), they have money left over at the end of the month to buy extra items, to save, or to use in an emergency. 25% of respondents (48% of low-income respondents and 21% of not low-income respondents) reported that they never or don't often have money left over after paying for necessities.



## Food Security:

11% of respondents reported that, within the last year, they sometimes or often worried about whether their food would run out before they got money to buy more.



# Children and their Families

## Education: ➔

88% of survey respondents and 78% of the second parent/guardians had completed some type of post-secondary education.

## Employment: ➔

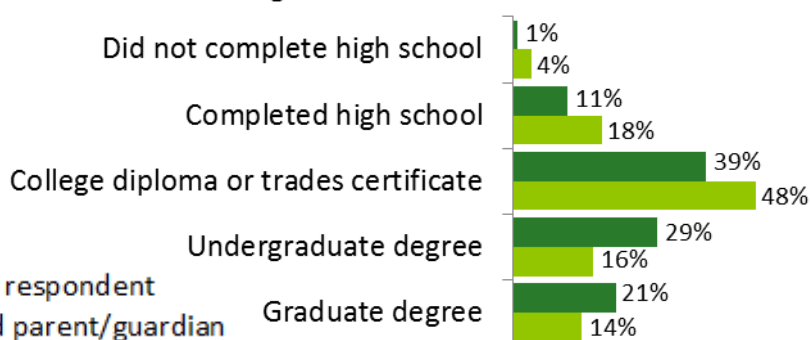
For survey respondents, most worked full-time (62%), with 17% working part-time, and 15% caring for family/homemaking. 88% of the second parent/guardians worked full-time, with 6% working part-time, and 2% caring for family/homemaking.

## Family Structure: ➔

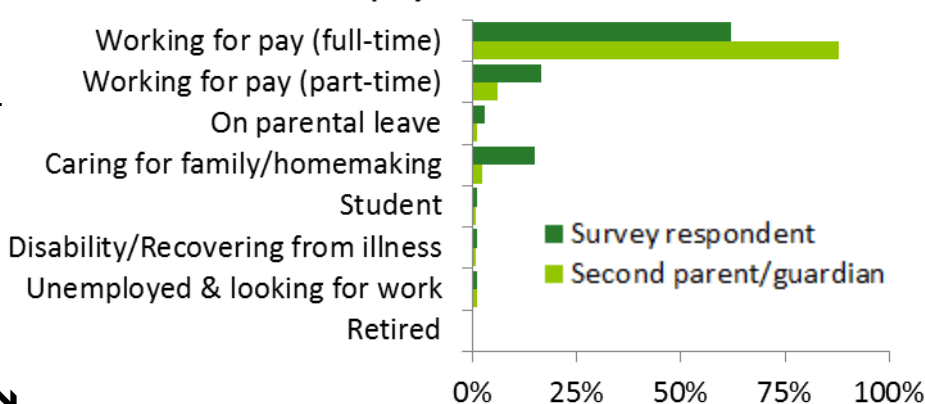
85% of respondents report a two parent household. The average household size is 4.1 people, which includes 2 adults and 2.1 children.

**Smoking:** Including all household members and regular visitors, 3% of respondents reported someone smoking inside the child's home, every day or almost every day (remains unchanged since 2012).

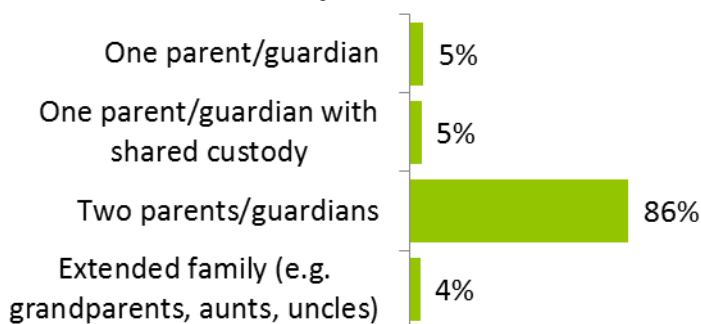
### Highest Education Achieved



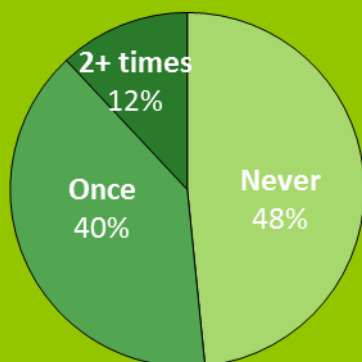
### Employment Status



### Family Structure

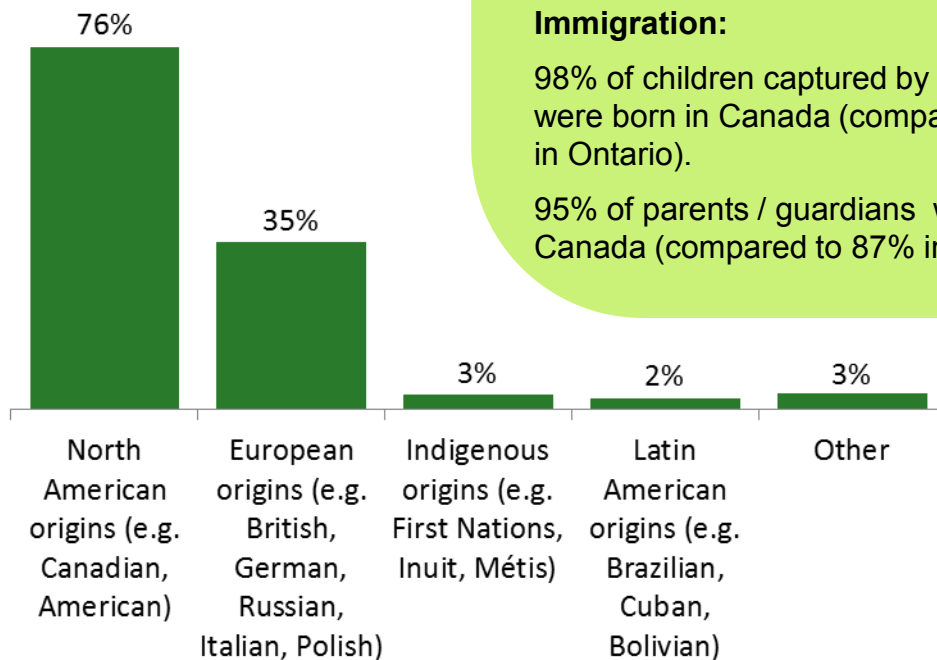


### Family Stability



### Family Stability:

In the past 5 years, 48% of the children captured in this survey had not moved to a different home, 40% had moved once, and 12% of families had moved two or more times. By income, 27% of children in low-income families had moved two or more times, compared to only 9% of children in not low-income families.



## Immigration:

98% of children captured by the survey were born in Canada (compared to 97% in Ontario).

95% of parents / guardians were born in Canada (compared to 87% in Ontario).

**Ethnicity:** ↑ Most parents/ guardians indicated that their family's racial or ethnic group is best described as having North American origins (76%), with several also identifying as having European origins (35%). Other origins included Indigenous (3%), Latin American (2%), East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, African, and Middle Eastern.



## ← Language:

99% of Peterborough children represented in this survey speak English as their **first** language, with a total of 99.7% speaking English (compared to 95% in Ontario). 12% speak French and 4% speak another language, such as Portuguese, Spanish, Anishnaabe, Czech, Italian, German, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hungarian, Persian (Farsi), Tamil, Patois, and American Sign Language.

99.7% of survey respondents (parents/guardians) speak English (compared to 91% in Ontario), 10% speak French, 1% speak an Indigenous language, and 7% speak another language.

## Indigenous Identification:

1.6% of respondents self-identified as Indigenous (compared to 2.5% in Ontario).

1.3% of parents/ guardians reported that their child identifies as Indigenous (compared to 2.1% in Ontario).

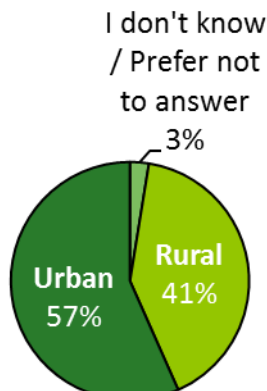
# Neighbourhood

## Community: →

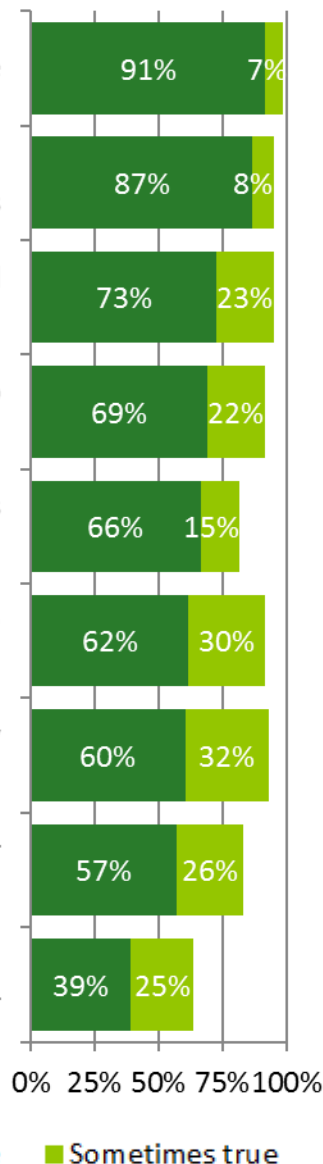
Respondents were asked whether certain statements were true where they live. Communities were regularly seen as safe for children to play outside, and they had safe playgrounds, parks, and play spaces.

## Urban / Rural: →

Just over half (57%) of Peterborough families identify as living in an urban community, with 41% living in a rural community.

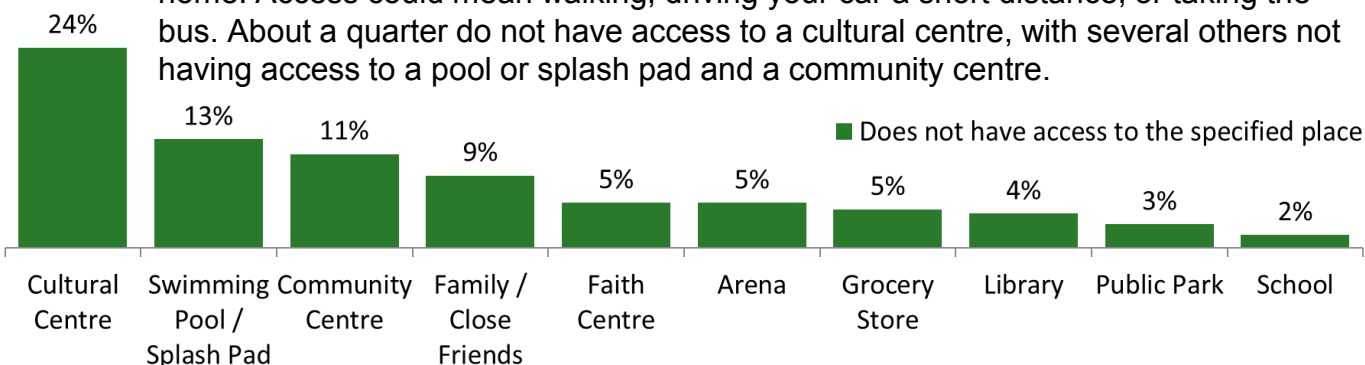


- Safe to play outside
- Safe playgrounds, parks & play spaces
- Community is child friendly
- Neighbours help each other
- Adult role models for children
- Safe to walk alone after dark
- Neighbours know each other
- Adults watch out for children
- Neighbours solve problems together



**Food Access:** 18 families (5%) do not have access to a grocery store near their home. 17 of these families identified as living in a rural community.

**Access:** ↓ Respondents were asked if they had access to certain places near their home. Access could mean walking, driving your car a short distance, or taking the bus. About a quarter do not have access to a cultural centre, with several others not having access to a pool or splash pad and a community centre.



## Health Care Access:

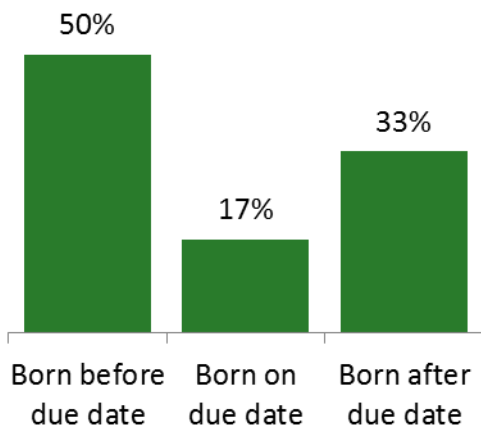
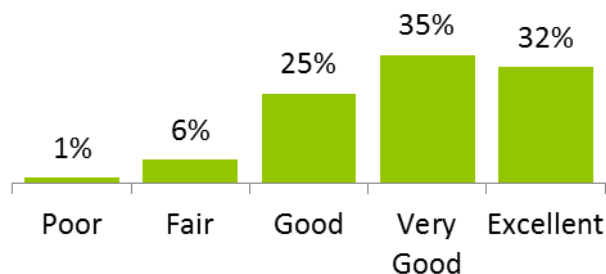
98% of families have a regular family doctor or health care provider (down from 99.5% in 2012).

84% of children had visited a healthcare professional for routine checkups or immunizations in the past year.

78% of respondents (or their health care provider) completed a developmental checklist (Nipissing District Developmental Screen) at their child's 18-month visit, 7% did not complete the checklist, and 15% didn't know or preferred not to answer.

## Perceived Health: ↓

92% of respondents rated their child's health as good, very good, or excellent (down from about 98% in 2012), with 7% rating their child's health as poor or fair over the last year.



## ← Gestational Age:

Half of children were born before their due date, with an average of 13 days early. Based on the World Health Organization definition, 6% of reported births were preterm (more than 3 weeks early).

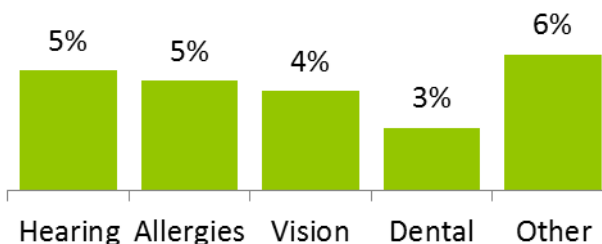
33% of children were born after their due date, with an average of 7 days late.

On average, children in this survey were born 4 days early.



**Concerns:** 77% of families did not have any concerns about their child, while 23% had one or more concerns about allergies, vision, hearing, dental, or other.

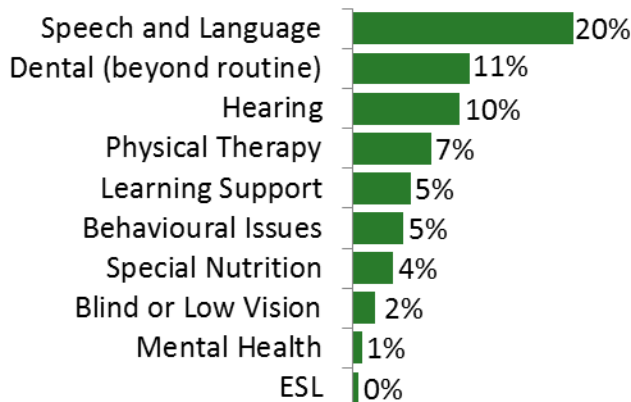
For the “other” category, parents expressed concerns related to Speech (9 respondents), Behaviour (5), Autism (2), Gross/Fine motor skills (2), Breathing, Hypermobility, Bone disease, Digestion, Eczema, Focus, Mobility, and Difficulty learning.



For 13% of children, the school had already expressed concerns to the parent about their child’s behaviour (8%), learning (2%), or both (3%).

**Services:** → Parents were asked if their child had ever needed certain services. The most often used service was Speech and Language. Speech and Language was also the most needed service that was not received (2%), with mental health and learning supports close behind (1% each).

## Received Services for:



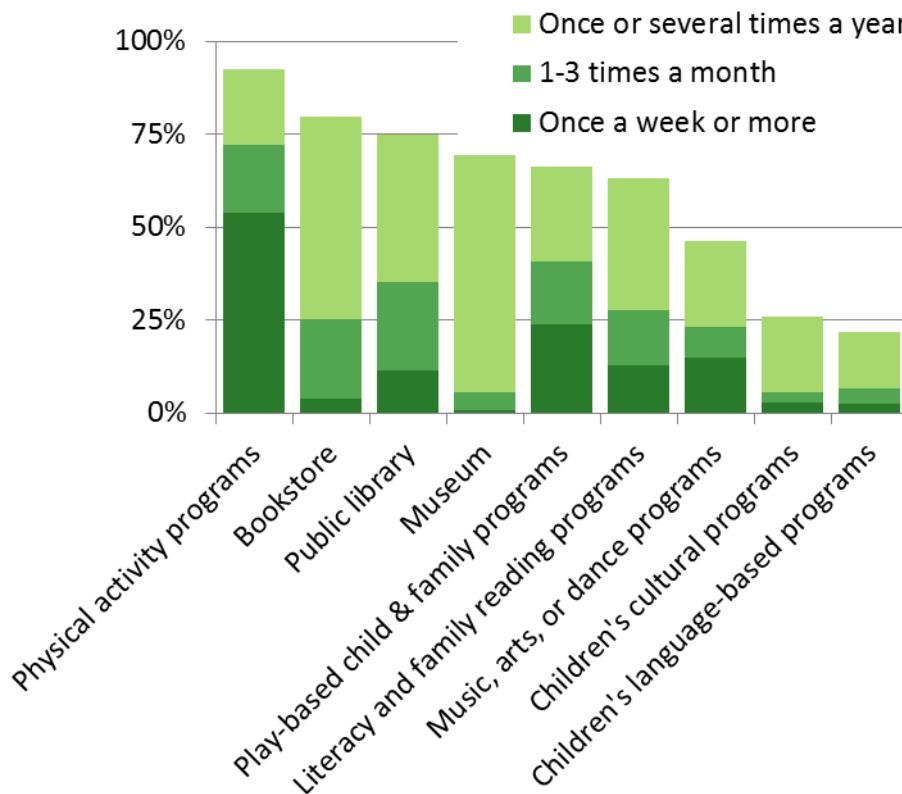
## Special Needs: ↓

7% of children have been diagnosed with special needs related to health, with another 2% suspected but not yet diagnosed. For special needs related to education, 4% of children were diagnosed, with an additional 5% suspected. The table below breaks down special health and education needs by income level. Low-income families are more likely to report a suspected, but not yet diagnosed, special health or education need.

		Percent Reported	
		Diagnosed	Suspected
Special Health Need	Low-Income	8%	5%
	Not Low-Income	8%	1%
Special Education Need	Low-Income	5%	9%
	Not Low-Income	4%	4%



**Programs:** Respondents were asked to indicate the frequency that their child visited or attended various types of programs in the year prior to starting school. Peterborough families regularly attended physical activity programs. They tended to not attend children's language-based or cultural programs.



## Learning and Friendship:

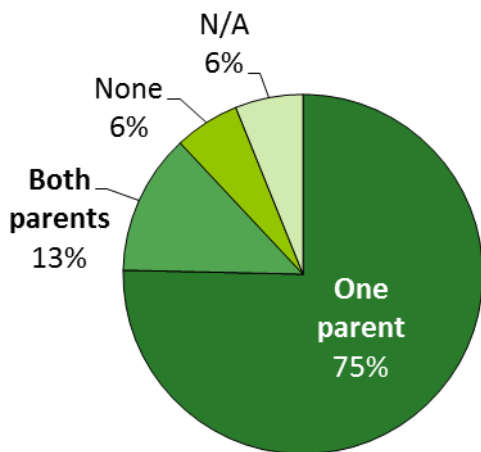
Respondents overwhelmingly agreed or strongly agreed with many positive statements about their child's friendship and early learning attitude.

Statement	% Total
My child is excited about learning	98%
My child gets along with others his/her own age	97%
My child has many friends	93%



## Parental Leave: ↓

75% of families had one parent or guardian take a parental leave when their child was born, with an additional 13% of families having a second parent or guardian take a leave. Only 6% of families did not take a parental leave (down from 20% in 2012).

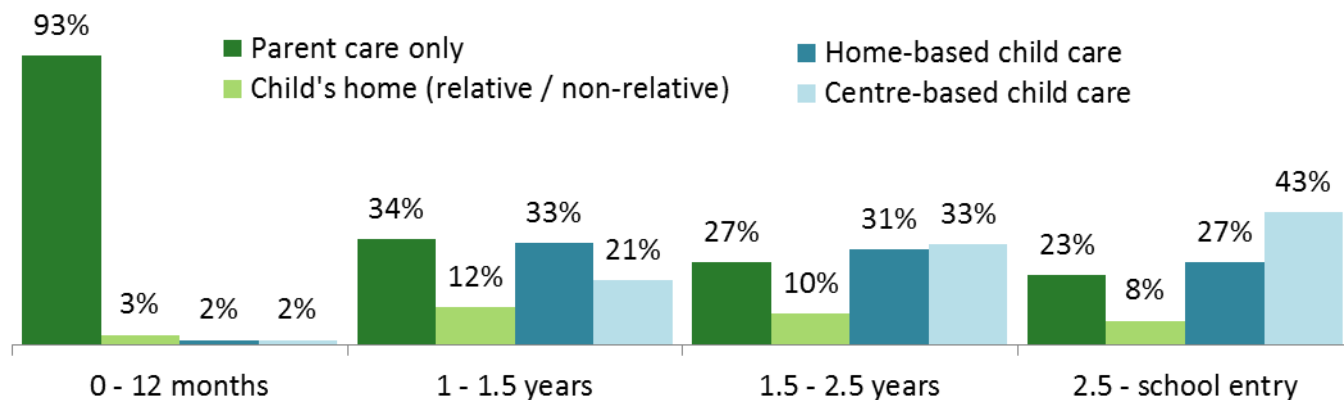


Of those families who took a parental leave, 29% took a leave longer than a year, 66% took a leave 6 months-1 year in length, and 4% took less than 6 months leave, total.

Parental leave also varied by income level. 15% of low-income families did not take a parental leave, compared to only 3% of not low-income families.

## Child Care: ↓

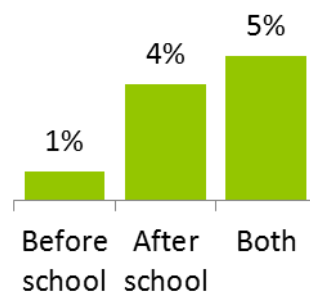
The type of care used by families for their child from birth through school entry varies by age group. For the first year, the main type of care is by the parent for 93% of the children. From 1-1.5 years of age, most families used parent care or home-based child care. From 1.5-2.5 years, a greater proportion of families began to use centre-based child care, with many still using home-based child care or parent-only care. From 2.5 years through to school entry, Peterborough children were mostly using centre-based child care, with a smaller proportion using home-based child care or parent-only care.



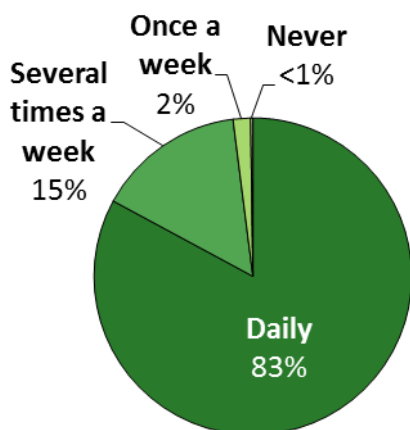
## Before & After School Care:

Currently, 38% of Peterborough Kindergarten students captured by the survey use before and/or after school care. About 10% reported they need before and/or after school care, but do not currently have access to it (compared to 12% in Ontario).

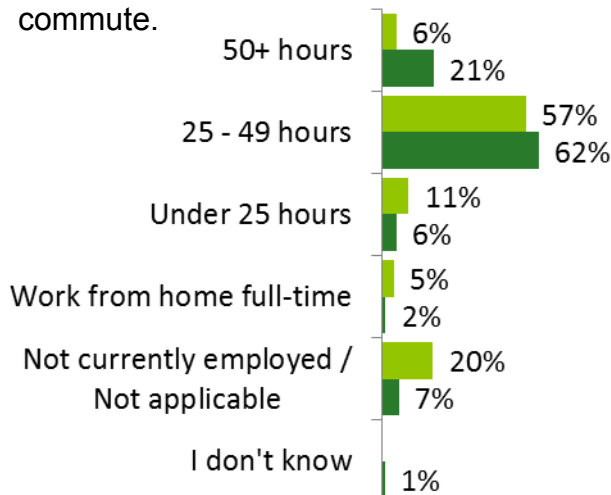
### Respondents currently need:



**Eat Together:** ↓ 83% of families eat together every day. 2% of families eat together once a week or less.



**Time Away:** ↓ Most of the survey respondents (57%) spent 25 to 49 hours away from home for work, including their commute.

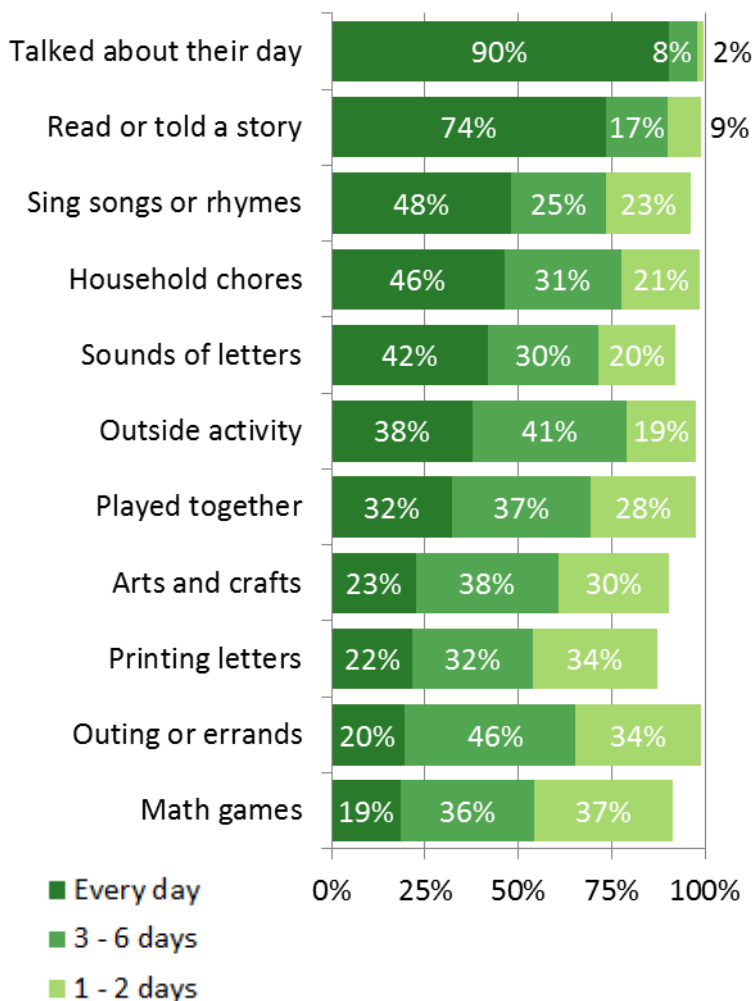


## Adult-Child Engagement: →

Respondents were asked, in the past 7 days, how often they (or another adult outside of school) and their child did the following activities together. The vast majority of respondents engaged in all of these activities in the past week.

Of note, talking about their day and reading or telling stories are the most common activities performed by Peterborough families on a daily basis.

On the other hand, few families participate in math games, go on outings, print letters, or do arts and crafts together on a daily basis.



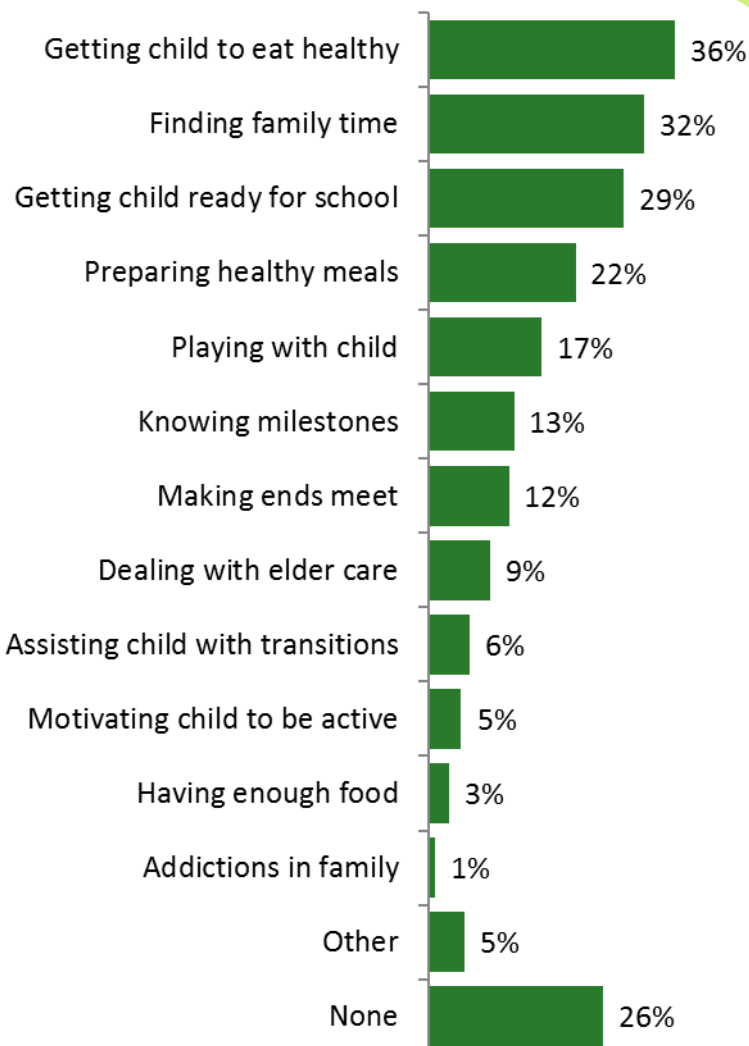


## Parenting Challenges:

The most common parenting challenges for Peterborough families include getting children to eat healthy (36%, up from 31% in 2012) and finding family time to spend together (32%, down from 36% in 2012).

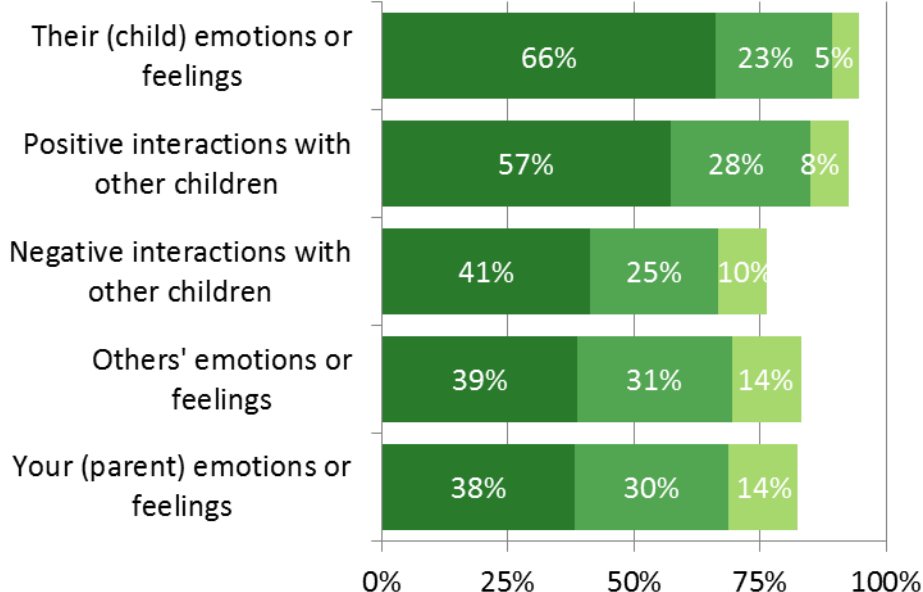
The “other” category included child behavioural and emotional challenges (6 responses), sibling rivalry and balancing the needs of multiple children (4), time management / getting everything done (3), finding child care (2), work-life balance (2), fatigue, parent health, sick pet, sleep, and limiting technology.

26% of respondents had no parenting challenges.



**Talk:** Parents were asked how often they had a chance to talk to their child about interactions and emotions. Peterborough families more often talk about their child's emotions and positive interactions, and less often about negative interactions and other peoples emotions.

- Most days
- A few times a week
- Once a week



## Sleep:

The Canadian Paediatric Society recommends children 3 – 5 years old receive 10 – 13 hours of sleep every day.

Survey respondents reported that Peterborough children average 10.5 hours of sleep every day, with 16% receiving less than the minimum recommended time of 10 hours of sleep.

In addition, 93% of children go to bed at the same time every night.

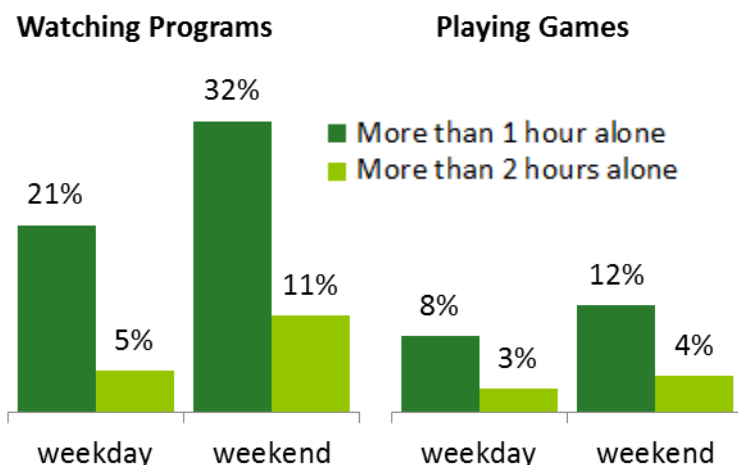


## Screen Time:

The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommend 2 – 4 year olds receive less than 1 hour of total screen time and 5 – 17 year olds receive less than 2 hours of total screen time.

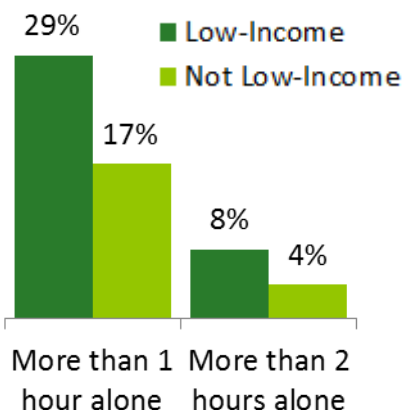
The data presented here is only for children watching and playing on screens by themselves and does not include any additional time in front of screens with friends or family.

On weekdays, 21% of children watch more than 1 hour of programs and 5% watch more than 2 hours. On weekends, this bumps up to 32% and 11%, respectively.



Screen time varied by income level. For example, on weekdays, 29% of children from low-income families watch more than 1 hour of programs alone, versus 17% of children from not low-income families.

### Watching Programs - Weekday



## Eating:

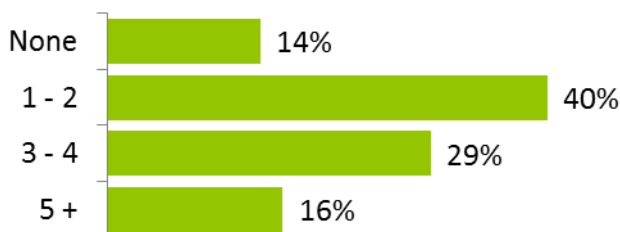
94% of Peterborough children eat breakfast on a daily basis, while 5% eat breakfast several times a week, and only 1% eat breakfast once a week or never.



## Exercise:

Respondents of the KPS survey indicated that 16% of them (the parents) exercise for at least 30 minutes, 5 or more times a week. Most respondents exercise once or twice a week.

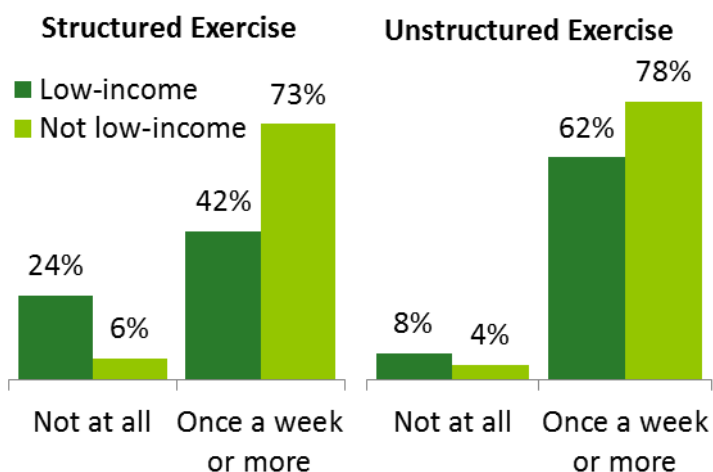
How many days of the week do you participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes?



66% of children participate in structured physical activities once a week or more (e.g., swimming lessons, baseball, hockey). When split by income, 24% of children in low-income families do **not** participate in any structured exercise, compared to only 6% of children from not low-income families.

72% of children participate in unstructured physical activities once a week or more (e.g., biking, skateboarding). This is down from 85% in 2012. When split by income, 8% of children in low-income families do **not** participate in any unstructured exercise, compared to only 4% of children from not low-income families.

This shows that children from low-income families are less likely to participate in all forms of exercise compared to their peers.



# Acknowledgements

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Kindergarten Parent Survey. A very special thanks to the parents who took the time to complete the survey, the Offord Centre for Child Studies for designing and hosting the survey, and the teachers and administrators at local school boards for supporting the implementation of the survey.

The City of Peterborough Social Services acknowledges the hard work put forth by the members of the Data Analysis Coordinator Working Group who collaborated on this project. This was a joint effort between the Region of Durham, City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, and the City of Peterborough.

## Contact information

For questions regarding the content of this document, please contact the Social Services Division at the City of Peterborough at [socialservices@peterborough.ca](mailto:socialservices@peterborough.ca).

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