

Best Start Resource Centre Launches On Track: A Reference Guide for Professionals in Ontario

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New resource facilitates identification in the early years

TORONTO, August 18 - [The Best Start Resource Centre](#) has launched a new online child development resource. [On Track](#) is a comprehensive online guide that enhances pre-existing identification tools and encourages positive outcomes for children. The resource is designed for professionals working in Ontario.

“What distinguishes this resource from others is the depth of information available to the service providers. It presents many different and culturally sensitive approaches holistically,” says Wendy McAllister, Manager of the Best Start Resource Centre. The resource moves beyond milestones to more specific information, providing more than just the “what” it also includes the “why”. The included directory of local resources available to service providers and parents is Ontario specific, however, it can easily be adapted by other regions across Canada and beyond.

On Track is a synthesis of all the information needed to support healthy child development. The resource helps professionals ensure that the child stays on the right path of his or her development despite any risk factors or challenges. Early identification and intervention are key to elevating a child’s trajectory in life and the involvement of all possible community supports is encouraged throughout the resource. ““Is my child doing okay?” is frequently being asked of doctors and other service providers. This easy to use, engaging resource emphasizes the unique development of all children and helps service providers both check what to look for and why,” explains Dr. Jean Clinton, Associate Clinical Professor of Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neuroscience at McMaster University. “In three clicks physicians and others can check ‘What is typical for a child of this age?’” Although the resource was designed with service providers in mind, it is accessible to any parent who wishes to educate themselves on child development and early identification.

There will be an inaugural training event to launch the new resource on September 12th from 1:30pm to 4pm at the North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street in Toronto. It will feature a presentation by [Dr. Jean Clinton](#), as well as a presentation on social pediatrics by [Dr. Elizabeth Ford-Jones](#) from The Hospital for Sick Kids. The event is open to professionals and individuals. To RSVP please visit the [Best Start website](#). More On Track training events will be held throughout the province. Please keep visiting the Best Start website for details.

The French version of the resource is expected in the fall of 2011.

- 30 -

About Best Start

The Best Start Resource Centre is Ontario’s Maternal Newborn and Early Child Development Resource Centre. Since 1998 it has been supporting service providers across the province working on health promotion projects to improve the health of expectant parents and young children. In addition to service provider tools and multi-lingual resources for parents, Best Start Resource Centre provides workshops, conferences and consultations. Best Start Resource Centre is funded by the Ontario Government and is a key program of Health Nexus; Ontario’s longest standing health promotion organization.

About Health Nexus

Health Nexus is bilingually-designated non-profit health promotion organization. Their broad approach to health includes health equity, chronic disease prevention and early child development. Over the last 25 years they have been supporting health services workers and health promotion organizations develop and implement strategies to improve the health of their communities at little to no cost. Their services include trainings, consultations, workshops and a large collection of resources available in up to 8 languages.