



Early Years Evaluation (The Learning Bar) – Direct Assessment

Using Data to Inform Programming, Build Relationships, and Engage the Community



Swan River, MB – Swan Valley School Division

Rural and Northern Division in Central MB



The Learning Bar



EYE-DA Early Years Evaluation – Direct Assessment of
Readiness Skills

SVSD uses EYE-DA in Early Learning Programs

Research



Research led by Dr. Fraser Mustard, formed the basis of our Early Learning Pilot Projects in SVSD:

- “Country-wide data shows that more than one in four children arrive at kindergarten with vulnerabilities that make them more likely to fail in school.”

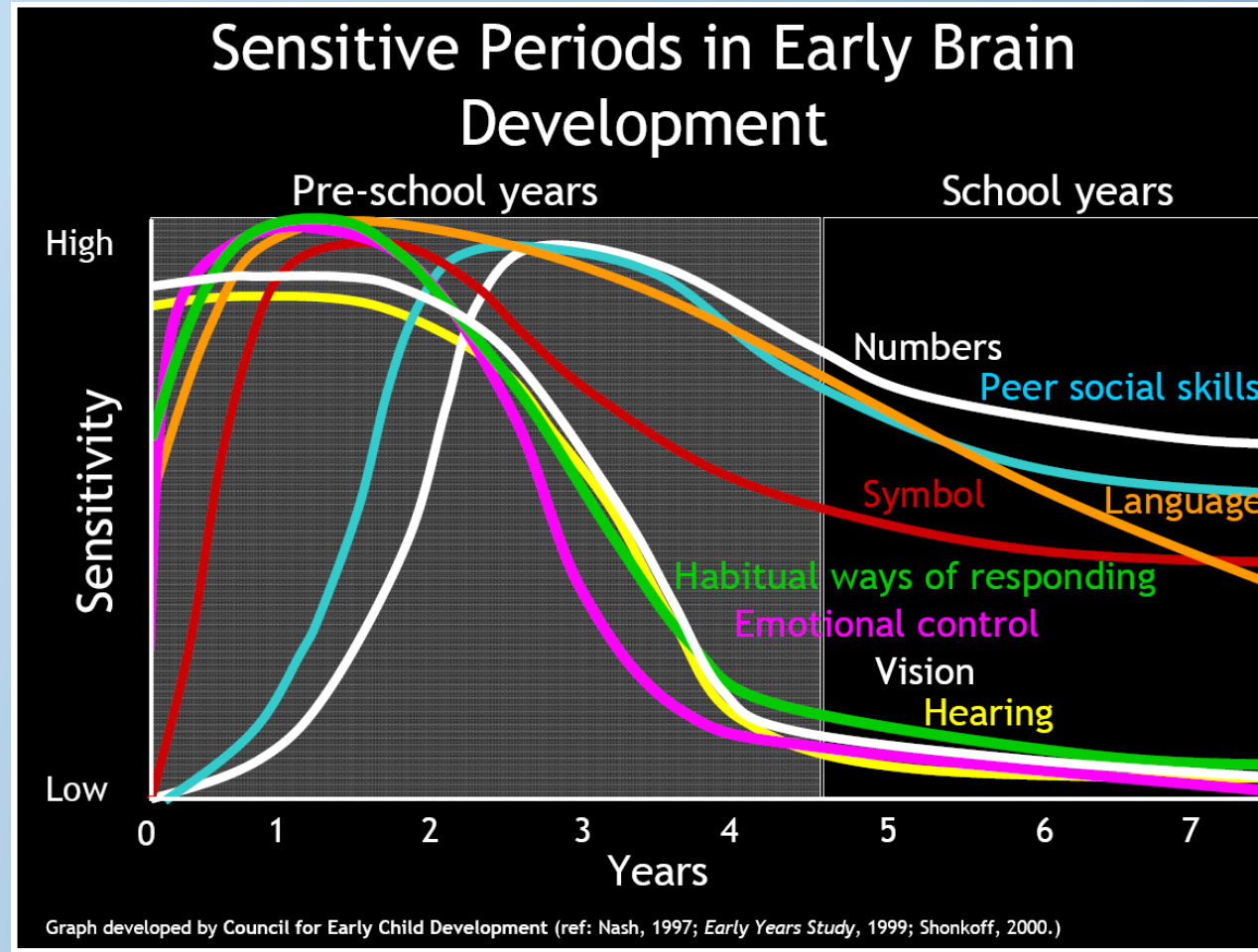
Source: Early Years Study 3, 2011 & The Offord Centre for Child Studies

SVSD EYE-DA Journey

- Early Learning Junior Kindergarten, 2009
- Early Learning full-time Senior Kindergarten, 2009
- Needed an Early Years assessment tool for evidence-based research
- Found EYE-DA, 2012!
- Assessment takes place at pre-screening visit, before students begin school.
- Sent various data & results to Statistical Analyst at School Programs Division, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning
- Continued to use EYE-DA
- Trial of EYE-DA Post assessment, 2017



Early Brain Development



*Significant reason for SVSD Early Learning Pilot Project

More Research...

- “Experience-based brain development in the early years affects, learning, behaviour and mental and physical health.” (p. 27)
- “Evidence to date suggests that early experiences – particularly experiences related to early nurture and nutrition – have the capacity to leave epigenetic marks that are greater than those associated with later experiences.” (p. 30)

Source: Early Years Study 3, 2011 & The Offord Centre for Child Studies

SVSD Early Learning Research Project

- Junior/Senior Kindergarten Research Project: Published in ASCD 2013



Swan Valley School Division

Early Learning:

Every Child, Every Day, Claimed for Success

Jeden Tolentino: Statistical Analyst, Early Childhood Education Unit, Manitoba Education

Candace Bergeson: Doctoral Candidate, University of Manitoba

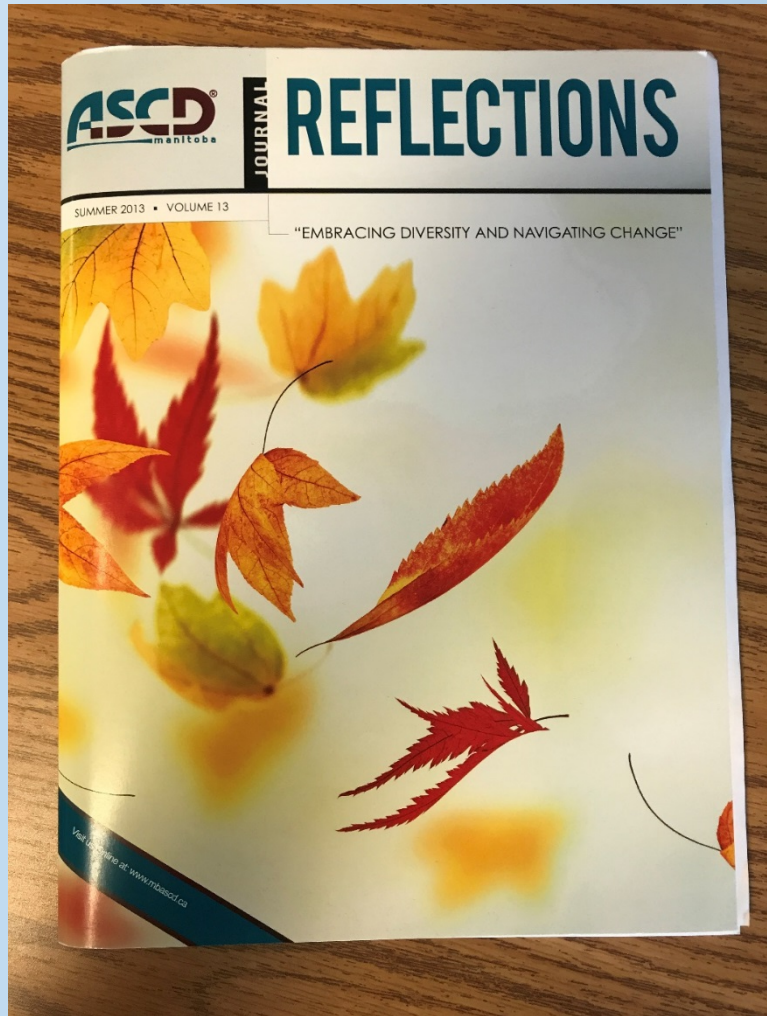
Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Superintendent, Swan Valley School Division

Deborah Burnside: Student Services Coordinator, Swan Valley School Division

Sheena Blanchard: School Psychologist, Swan Valley School Division

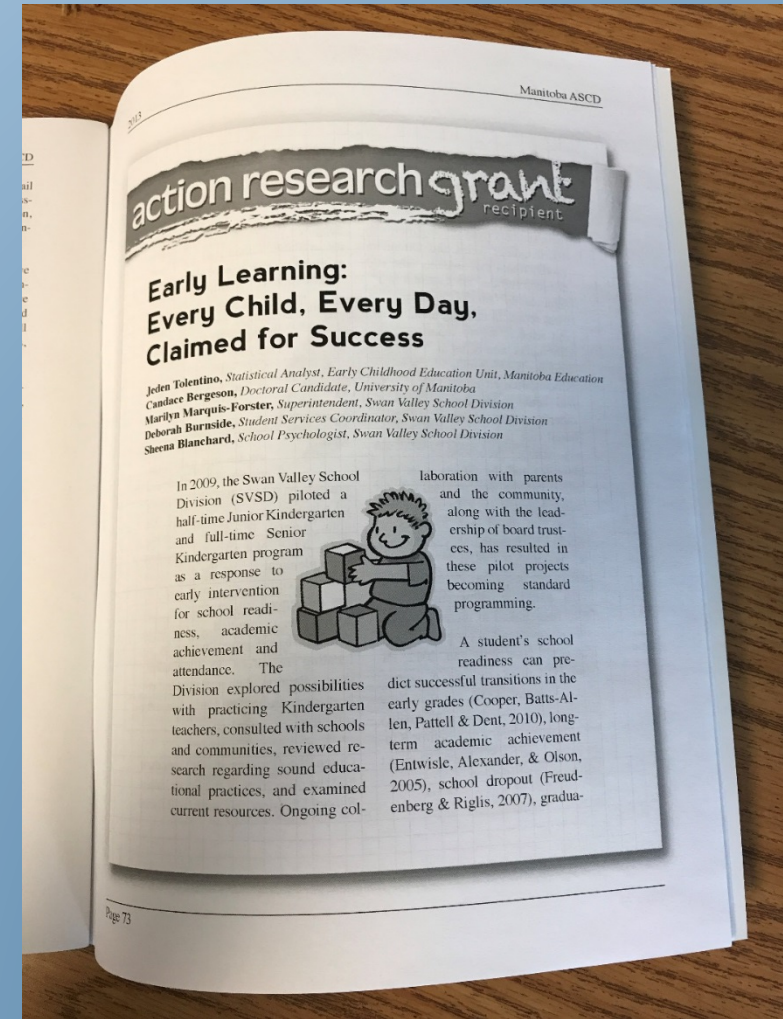
12/04/2013

SVSD Action Research Grant - ASCD



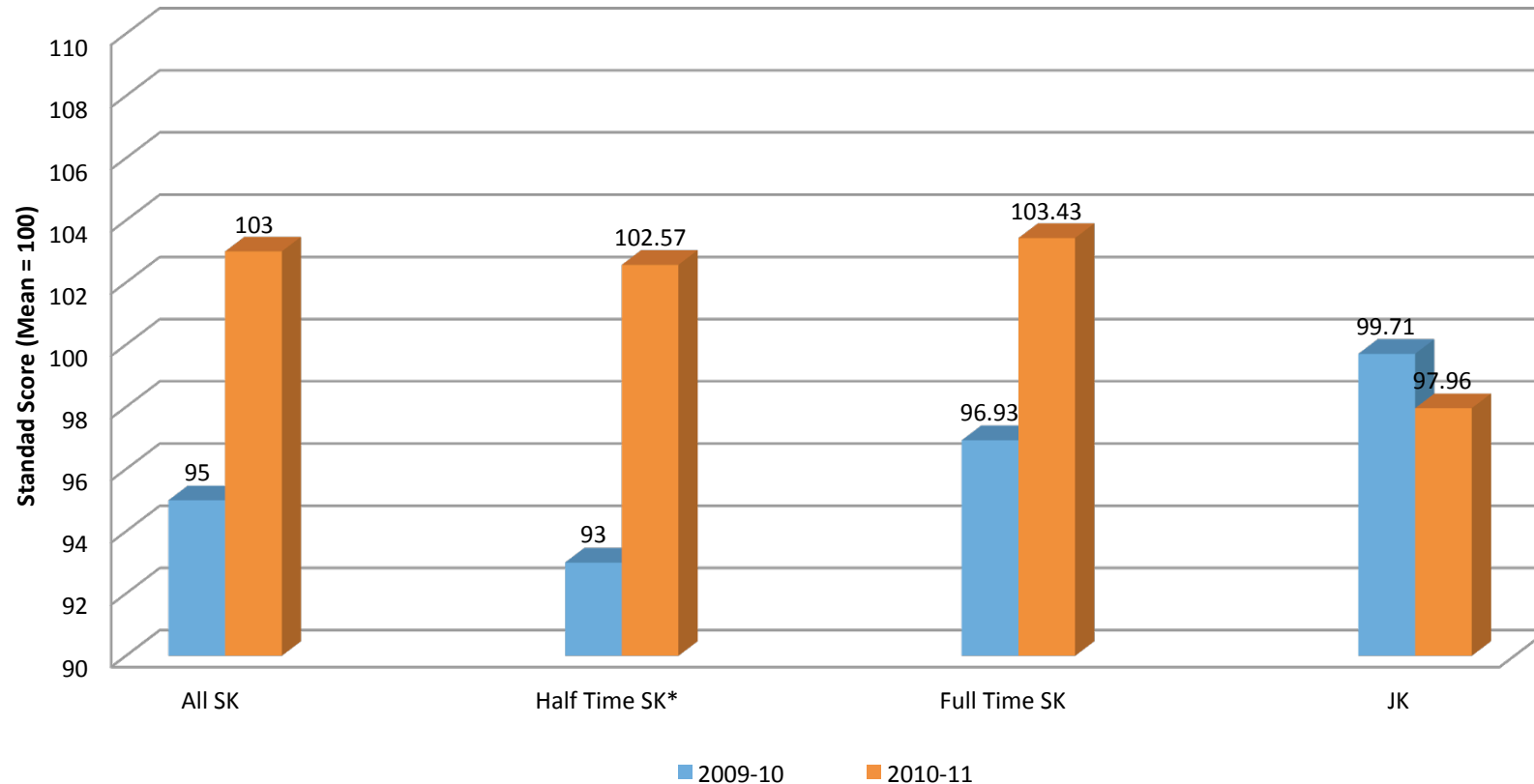
**ASCD MB Summer
2013 – Vol. 3**

**Reflections Journal:
“Embracing Diversity
and Navigating
Change”**



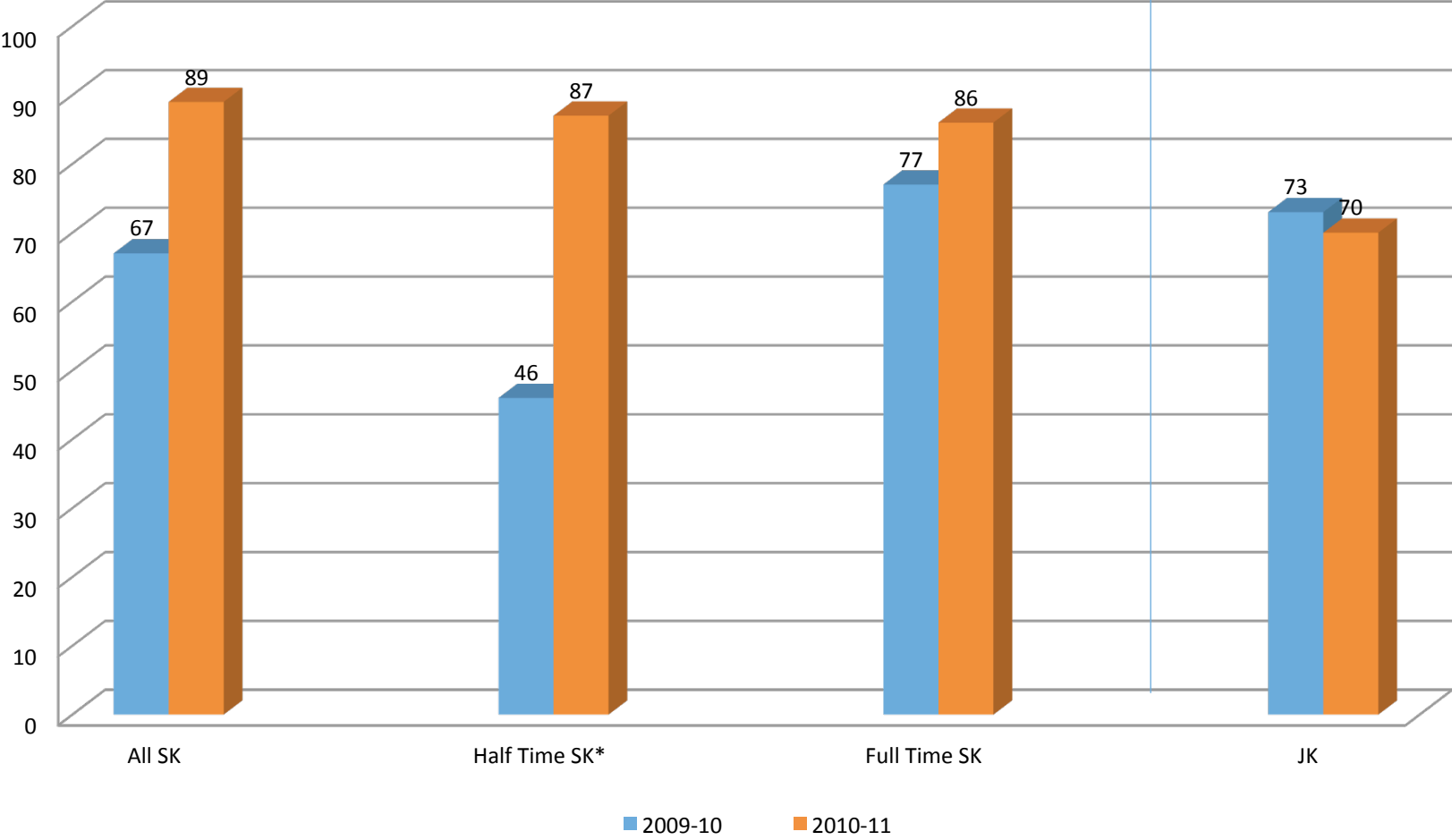
SVSD

Bracken School Readiness Assessment Average Scores



*10/11 SK students received JK; 09/10 students did not

Percentage of Students Scoring in Ranges Average and Above on the BRSA-3



*10/11 SK students received JK; 09/10 students did not

Senior Kindergarten: Half Time Programs

2009-2010 School Year

	VMI 09/10	VMI 10/11	BRSA 09/10
Total AVG	98.36	97.20	93.00
School A	86.25	101.33	98.75
School B	99.50	100.00	88.77
School C	98.36	97.20	93.00
Total Median	97.00	98.00	91.00
School A	87.50	95.50	94.00
School B	103.00	97.50	88.00
School C	92.00	101.50	98.00

SK Students
who did not
receive JK
programming

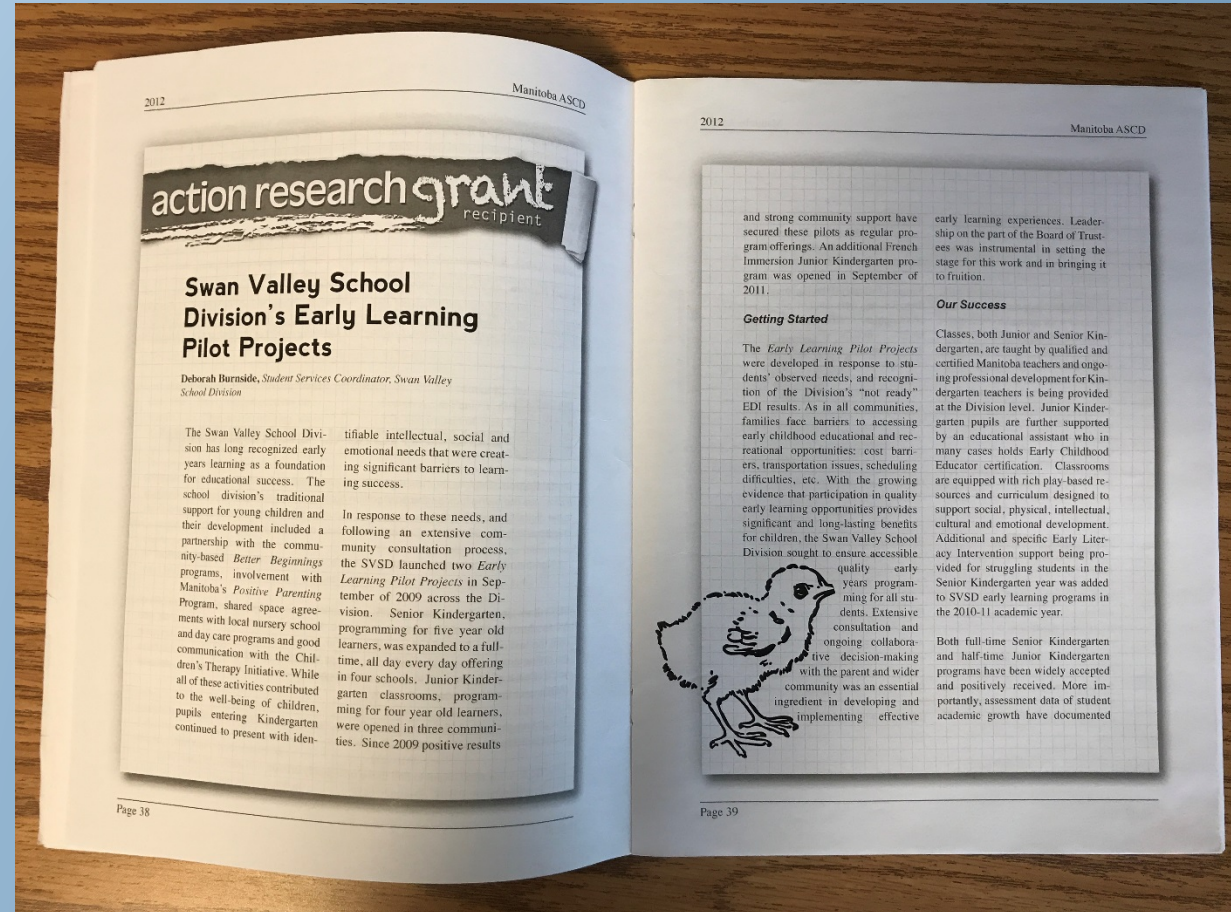
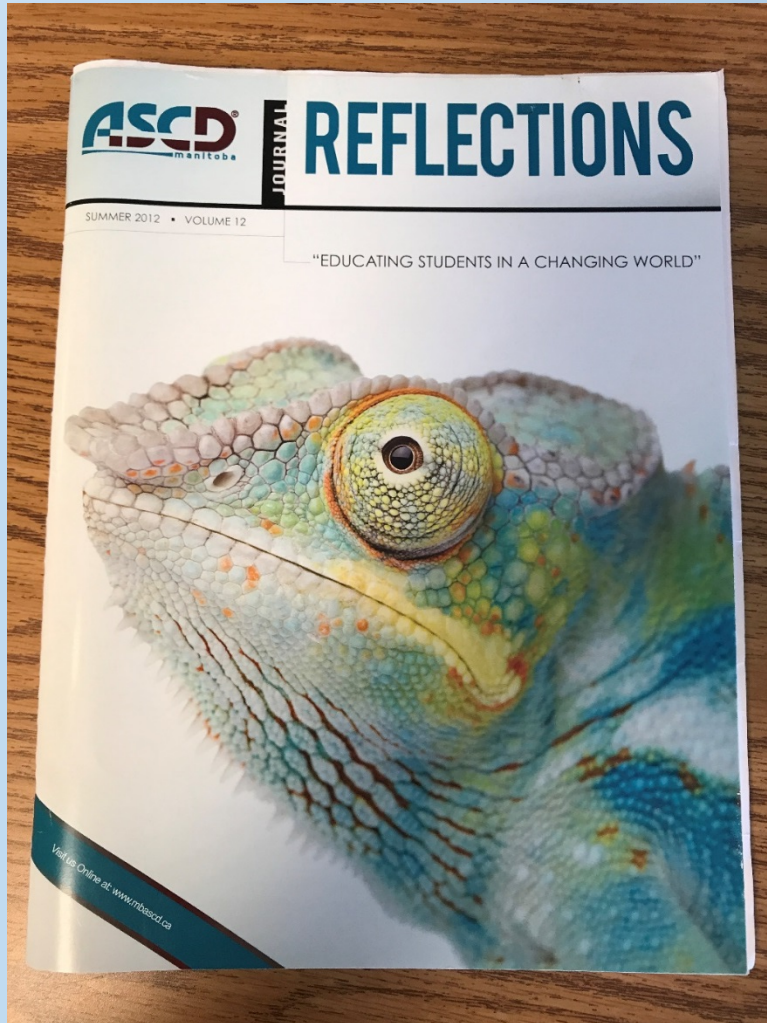
2010-2011 School Year

	VMI 09/10	VMI 10/11	BRSA 09/10	BRSA 10/11
Total AVG	95.31	99.77	99.71	102.57
School A	98.00	93.50	110.50	101.22
School B	87.50	100.00	86.50	101.50
School C	96.00	103.92	95.44	103.75
Total Median	96.00	100.00	99.00	102.00
School A	95.00	95.00	111.00	98.00
School B	87.50	100.00	86.50	101.50
School C	98.00	103.00	99.00	101.50

SK Students after
one year of half-
time JK
programming

Average and Median Standard Scores on the Bracken School Readiness Assessment

Follow-up Report on SVSD Research in ASCD



SVSD Early Learning Program Research The EDI Teacher Newsletter

SVSD
featured in
Winter 2012
EDI Teacher
Newsletter

The Swan Valley School Division (SVSD)

The Swan Valley School Division (SVSD) has long recognized early years learning as a foundation for educational success. School division traditional support for young children and their development included a partnership with the community based Better Beginnings programs, involvement with Manitoba's Positive Parenting Program, shared space agreements with local nursery school and day care programs and good communication with the Children's Therapy Initiative. While all of these activities contributed to the well-being of children, pupils entering Kindergarten continued to present with identifiable intellectual, social and emotional needs that were creating significant barriers to learning success.

In response to these needs, and following an extensive community consultation process, the SVSD launched two early learning pilot projects in September of 2009 across the division. Senior Kindergarten, programming for five-year-old learners, was expanded to a full time, all-day every day offering in four schools. Junior Kindergarten classrooms, programming for four-year-old learners, were opened in three communities. Since 2009, positive results and strong community

support have secured these pilots as regular program offerings. An additional French Immersion Junior Kindergarten program was opened in September of 2011.

Getting Started

The early learning pilot projects were developed in response to students' observed needs and recognition of the division's "not ready" EDI results. As in all communities, families face barriers to accessing early childhood educational and recreational opportunities. These include: cost barriers, transportation issues, scheduling difficulties, etc. With the growing evidence that participation in quality early learning opportunities provides significant and long-lasting benefits for children, the Swan Valley School Division sought to ensure accessible quality early years programming for all students. Extensive consultation and ongoing collaborative decision making with the parent and wider community was an essential ingredient in developing and implementing effective early learning experiences. Leadership on the part of the board of trustees was instrumental in setting the stage for this work and in bringing it to fruition.

Our Success

Classes, both Junior and Senior Kindergarten, are taught by qualified and certified Manitoba teachers. Ongoing professional development for Kindergarten teachers is being provided at the division level. Junior Kindergarten pupils are further supported by an educational assistant who, in many cases, holds Early Childhood Educator certification. Classrooms are equipped with rich play-based resources and curriculum designed to support social, physical,

"Swan Valley School Division is successfully implementing an Early Learning Program based on the pioneering work of Dr. Fraser Mustard and his Early Years' Studies. The Council for Early Child Development was instrumental in our Division building capacity for improved Early Learning."

Marilyn Marquis-Foster, Superintendent and
Deborah Burnside, Student Services Coordinator



SVSD CAT4 Results - % Above Stanine 4 – Gr. 8



District Administrator's Summary

Grade: 8.5
 Level: 18
 Test Date: 2010/02/05
 District: SWAN VALLEY SD
 Job#: 17101 - 11407

For an explanation of this report, see "Interpreting CAT-4 Reports" in the CAT-4 In-service Folder.

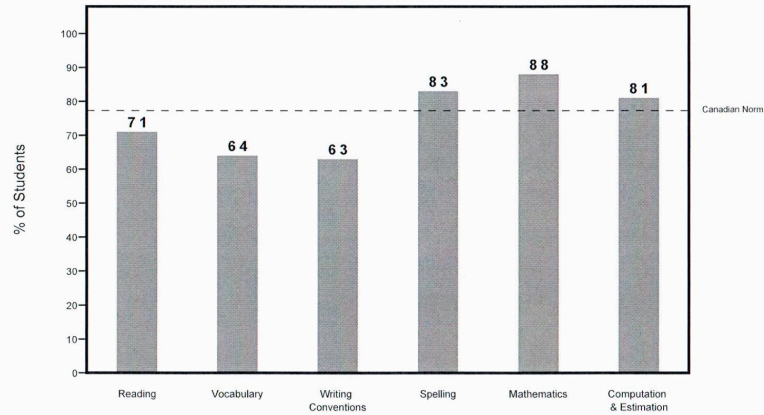


Norm-Referenced Scores

SWAN VALLEY SD

Grade 8, Winter

Percent of Students at Stanine 4 and Above



% of Students at Stanine 4 & Above	71	64	63	83	88	81
Mean National Percentile Rank	38	38	32	54	43	47
Mean Grade Equivalent	7.2	7.4	7.3	8.7	7.9	7.9
Mean Scale Score	527	516	512	540	535	531
Scale Score Standard Deviation	37	49	43	45	23	30
Number of Items	48	40	40	30	60	36
Mean Number Correct	24.2	20.5	19.2	23.4	23.7	15.5
Number-Correct Standard Deviation	8.0	7.2	6.2	5.2	7.1	5.6
Number-Correct Range	6-39	7-36	8-33	2-30	3-46	3-27
Group Size	111	111	111	111	111	111

(page 1 of 6)

2010



District Administrator's Summary

Grade: 8.4
 Level: 18
 Test Date: 2017/01/31
 District: SWAN VALLEY SD
 Job#: 34458 - 46404

For an explanation of this report, see "Interpreting CAT-4 Reports" in the CAT-4 In-service Folder.

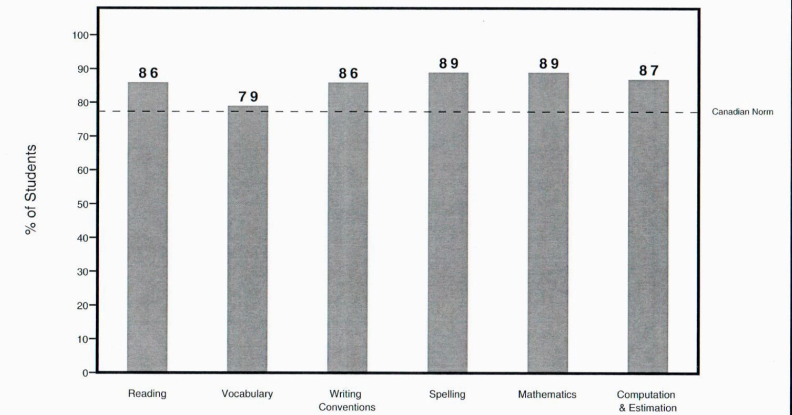


Norm-Referenced Scores

SWAN VALLEY SD

Grade 8, Winter

Percent of Students at Stanine 4 and Above



% of Students at Stanine 4 & Above	86	79	86	89	89	87
Mean National Percentile Rank	56	47	49	58	54	62
Mean Grade Equivalent	8.9	8.1	8.9	9.1	8.7	9.1
Mean Scale Score	545	526	534	544	546	546
Scale Score Standard Deviation	36	46	44	34	27	32
Number of Items	48	40	40	30	60	36
Mean Number Correct	27.9	21.9	22.3	24.2	27.2	18.4
Number-Correct Standard Deviation	7.5	6.5	5.6	3.4	8.8	6.3
Number-Correct Range	6-42	5-38	8-39	14-30	12-52	6-30
Group Size	71	71	71	71	71	71

(page 1 of 6)

2017

EYE-DA



- Training for Divisional Staff
- Purchased supplies and materials to implement
- Complete in May/June with pre-school children
- Measures readiness before they enter our schools
- Parent reports
- Divisional Reports
- School Reports
- Share general results with OT and PT, SLP, Psychologist and community

Early Years - Assessments

- EYE (Early Years Evaluation - Direct Assessment) - Pre-Kindergarten
- EDI (Early Developmental Instrument) - Kindergarten (every other year)
- VMI – (Visual Motor Integration) - completed in JK and SK in Fall
- BSRA – (Bracken School Readiness Assessment) - completed in JK and SK in Spring
- SLP – Pre-school screening and ongoing caseload assessments
- Tiny Eye – On-line Speech and Language services includes assessments
- Observation Surveys – Gr. 1 and in Early Literacy Interventions
- Early Literacy Interventions (ELI) - development of literacy skills
- CAT4 – (Canadian Achievement Tests) – Grades 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10
- Gr. 3 Provincial Assessment and Evaluation

Early Years - Interventions

- **The goal is for the interventions to occur as soon as need is identified.**
 - Use of evidence-based programming
 - Play-based learning – participated in NOW Play Project
-
- ✓ Animated Literacy
 - ✓ Literacy Place
 - ✓ Buddy Reading
 - ✓ Shared Reading
 - ✓ Phonemic Awareness
 - ✓ Guided Reading
 - ✓ Guided Writing
- ✓ Renaissance Reading
 - ✓ Nelson Literacy
 - ✓ Soar To Success
 - ✓ First Steps Developmental Continuum
 - ✓ Learning Language & Loving It
 - ✓ Leveled Literacy Intervention
 - ✓ and others...



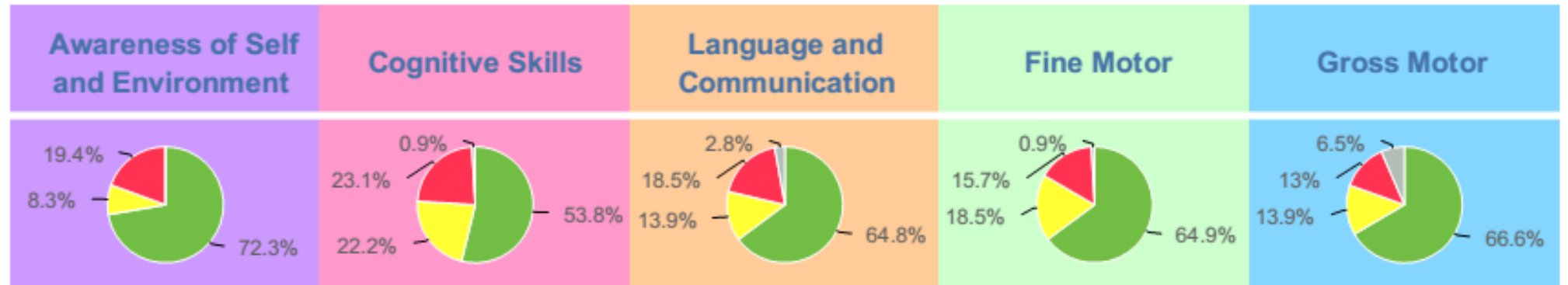
Division EYE-DA Results – 2016 example

Direct Assessment Overall Domain Results

Swan Valley School Division, as of 28 Apr, 2016 - 12 Oct, 2016

Legend:

- Percentage of children who are 'Experiencing significant difficulty'
- Percentage of children who are 'Experiencing some difficulty'
- Percentage of children who have demonstrated 'Appropriate development'
- Percentage of children whose 'Assessment was not completed'



Swan Valley School
Division
(n = 108)

EYE Post Assessment Growth Results 2016-2017

Pre Assessment					Post Assessment						
Awareness of Self and Environment	Cognitive Skills	Language and Communication	Fine Motor	Gross Motor		Awareness of Self and Environment	Cognitive Skills	Language and Communication	Fine Motor	Gross Motor	
Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	High Levels of Growth
Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Green	Green	Red	Red		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Red	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Red	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Medium Levels of Growth
Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green		Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	
Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	
Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	
Red	Red	Red	Red	Green		Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Lower Levels of Growth
Red	Red	Red	Red	Red		Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	
Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow		Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	
Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Not Complete		Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	

PRE

POST

NOWPlay Research Project 2012-2017



- NOWPlay: Assessing and Supporting Young Children's Oral Language and Writing Development through Play in Classrooms, Childcares and Homes in Northern Rural Communities - Partnered with U of T OISE and Brandon U
- (now-play.org)
- Presented at the 2016 CAP Conference in Winnipeg, the MERN Conference in Brandon, and presented a Poster Presentation at the International Literacy Conference, Orlando, Florida – July 15-17, 2017
- No longer involved in project – focus remains a priority

NOW Play Focus (now-play.org)

- Improving the literacy achievement of all children in northern rural communities – Partnered with Child Care and Head Start.
- Working together to develop a play-based framework for assessment & instruction that is culturally responsive
- Curriculum connections:
 - Play-Based Written Language Development,
 - Culturally-Relevant Play-based Learning, &
 - Play-Based Oral Language Development

Role Play, Written Text, Oral Text, Construction, Puppet Shows, Song, Dance, Cooking, Video, Photographs, Art, Sculpture, etc.

Conceptual Base

- Oral language and early writing are foundational to literacy development
- Children learn best through play in their early years
- Teaching and assessment of young children should be culturally appropriate and strength-based
- Assessment and instruction should be closely linked

- CCCA's: Collaborative, Creative, Curriculum Activities – learning activities (now-play.org)

Culturally-Relevant Materials



Benito School applied for Grant \$\$ to purchase culturally-relevant books.

It Takes a **Village** to Raise a Child/
It Takes a **Child** to Raise a Village!



Factors influencing child outcomes:

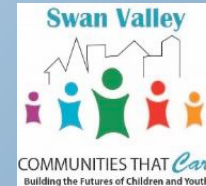
- Social Economic Status (SES)
- Maternal Health
- Family Function/Dysfunction
- Parenting Styles
- Neighbourhoods/Communities
- Funding Support for
Early Learning Education

Swan Valley Community Programs

- Swan Valley Inter-Agency



- Swan Valley Communities That Care



– 2013 Youth Survey Results identified two risk factors: Family Conflict and Rewards for Anti-Social Behaviour (perceive that they accept or condone anti-social behaviour in relation to peer pressure)

- Triple P Parenting Program & Guiding Good Choices



- Botvin Life Skills Program



- APPLE Schools



- Swan Valley Community Mobilization – Multi-Agency Response to Risk



www.svsd.ca

Contact:

Box 995
Swan Valley School
Division
Swan River, MB R0L 1Z0
(204) 734-4531

Student Services Coordinator:

Deborah Burnside

dburnside@svsd.ca