

THE QUEBEC SURVEY OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN KINDERGARTEN

LSN* of la Pommeraiie



*Local Services Network



Summary of the Survey

Early childhood is a pivotal period in development. The experiences of children—positive and negative—affect the development of motor, cognitive, social, and language skills. Studies have shown that vulnerability in kindergarten is associated with past social adjustment and school success.¹ Indeed, nearly half of the vulnerable children in kindergarten will have lower-than-average school performance in the fourth grade.

The *Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten* (QSCDK)²—conducted in 2012, 2017, and 2022 by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) in all English- and French-language public and private schools in the province (excluding students with special needs or learning difficulties)—measures the development of groups of children. As part of this study, teachers filled out a questionnaire consisting of 103 questions that had been validated and used in other provinces and countries for each of their students.³ It should be pointed out that this questionnaire was based on observable behaviours related to developmental norms and was not designed to evaluate the educational program or teacher or school performance.

5 Domains Assessed

The questionnaire made it possible to assess the proportion of vulnerable children in the following five domains:

Domain	Topics of Interest
Physical health and well-being	General physical development, motor skills, diet and dress, cleanliness, punctuality, alertness
Social competence	Social skills; self-confidence; sense of responsibility; respect of peers, adults, rules, and routines; work habits and autonomy; curiosity
Emotional maturity	Prosocial behaviour and mutual help, fear and anxiety, aggressive behaviour, hyperactivity and inattention, expression of emotions
Cognitive and language development	Interest and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics; adequate language use
Communication skills and general knowledge	Ability to communicate so as to make themselves understood, capacity to understand others, clear articulation, general knowledge



We should keep in mind that not all children considered vulnerable in kindergarten will present difficulties throughout primary school.

Children are considered vulnerable when their score in a domain of development is equal to or lower than the threshold established in Quebec in 2012 (10th percentile of the distribution of results in the first cycle of the survey).

These children are:

- facing a challenge because their mastery of certain aptitudes or skills falls short.
- less well equipped to take full advantage of what school can offer.
- more likely to experience difficulties in school.

Information and mobilization activities will also be provided starting in fall 2023.

Findings for the LSN of la Pommeraiie



In the Estrie health and social services region, **316 kindergarten teachers** completed a questionnaire for **4,676 children** in **146 schools** between February and May 2022. That's a 94.5% response rate. The following table shows the proportion of vulnerable children in kindergarten for 5 year olds by developmental area in at least one developmental area within the local services network (RLS).

In 2022, in RLS de La Pommeraiie, **31.8%** of children (**nearly 220**) in kindergarten for 5 year olds were at risk in at least one developmental area. That proportion is statistically comparable to the rest of Quebec for the 2022 collection period of the survey.

Children in the RLS are especially vulnerable in the areas of physical health and well-being - 14.5% compared to 10.3% for the rest of Québec. That difference is statistically significant. The four other developmental areas are comparable with the rest of Québec.

Due to the rezoning of RLS de la Haute-Yamaska and RLS de la Pommeraiie (addition of Bromont to La Pommeraiie), the data is not comparable with the previous editions of the survey.

Proportion of Vulnerable Children by Developmental Domain

Domain	LSN OF LA POMMERAIE				ESTRIE				QUEBEC			
	2012	2017	2022 †	Change	2012	2017	2022	Change	2012	2017	2022	Change
Physical health and well-being	11,9	15,1 (+)	14,5 (◇)	↑ (n.s.)	9,8	11,4	11,6 (+)	↑ (n.s.)	9,5	10,6	10,3	↓ (n.s.)
Emotional maturity	13,1	17,6 (+)	14,3	↑ (s)	10,1	13,3 (+)	12,9 (+)	↓ (n.s.)	9,7	11,5	11,7	↑ (n.s.)
Social skills	9,7	16,8 (+)	12,7	↑ (n.s.)	9,7	12,6 (+)	11,8 (+)	↓ (n.s.)	9	10,2	10,6	↑ (s)
Cognitive and language development	10	15,8 (+)	11,3	↑ (s)	10,7	13,2 (+)	13,3 (+)	↑ (n.s.)	10	11,1	12,1	↑ (s)
Communication skills and general knowledge	12,1	16,3 (+)	12	↑ (n.s.)	10	11,4	9,8 (-)	↓ (s)	10,8	11,1	11,5	↑ (s)
At least 1 domain	28,7	35,9 (+)	31,8	↑ (n.s.)	26,8	29,4 (+)	30,2 (+)	↑ (n.s.)	25,6	27,7	28,7	↑ (s)

† Due to a particular territorial breakdown for the RLS de la Haute-Yamaska and de la Pommeraiie (inclusion of Bromont in la Pommeraiie), the data is not comparable to past editions of the survey.

(+/-): Figure significantly higher/lower than in the rest of Quebec (threshold of 0.05)

(◇): Figure significantly higher than in Quebec overall (threshold 0.05)

(s): Significant difference between the 2017 and 2022 cycles (threshold of 0.05 for Estrie and RLSs; 0.01 for Quebec)

(n.s.): Difference not significant between the 2017 and 2022 cycles (threshold of 0.05 for Estrie and RLSs; 0.01 for Quebec)

* Coefficient of variation greater than 15% and less than or equal to 25%

Legend:
Increase ↑
Decrease ↓

For the 2022 edition of the survey, the rezoning includes the municipality of Bromont within the territory of RLS de la Pommeraiie in order to faithfully represent service use within the territory. The result is that, owing to the geographical difference, it is no longer possible to compare the previous cycles of the survey for the RLS. The data shown above cannot be compared to the previous collection periods. The other data is posted for information purposes only.



Most Vulnerable Subgroups

In the RLS, the proportion of vulnerable children in kindergarten for 5 years olds in at least one area is more significant among certain subgroups: boys, children aged less than 6 years old, and children who did not attend regular day care before going to school.



Percentage of Vulnerable Children in at least One Domain (2022)



CHARACTERISTICS	LSN OF LA POMMERAIE	ESTRIE	QUEBEC
	% of vulnerable children	% of vulnerable children	% of vulnerable children
Population breakdown	31,8	30,2 (+)	28,7
By sex			
Boys	39,4	36,6	35,6
Girls	24,9	23,5 (+)	21,6
By age			
Under 6 years of age	37,1	34,4	32,7
6 years or older	26,4	26,1	24,7
By spoken languages			
At least French	29	29,2 (◇)	27,1
English but not French	54,1 (◇)	44,9	37,5
Neither French nor English	NP	51,7 (◇)	38,4
By place of birth			
Canada	31,6	29,6 (◇)	28
Outside of Canada	43**	42,3	37,3
Regular day-care attendance before starting school			
Yes	30,1 (◇)	27	25,8
No	36,1	40,8	40,9

(+): Figure significantly higher than in the rest of Quebec (threshold of 0.05).

(◇): Figure significantly higher than in Quebec overall (threshold 0.05)

* Coefficient of variation greater than 15% and less than or equal to 25%

** Coefficient of variation greater than 25%. The proportion is given only as an indication.

NP: Due to the low number of children or to respect confidentiality, the data is not presented.

In the RLS, the proportion of vulnerable children in kindergarten for 5 year olds in at least one area is more significant among certain subgroups, although the differences are not statistically significant for all intersecting variables when compared with the rest of Québec.

Nearly 4 out of every 10 boys is at risk in at least one developmental area (39.4%). The proportion is also greater among children aged less than 6 years old (37.1% compared to 26.4% among children aged 6 years or older).

Finally, the proportion of children at risk in at least one developmental area is greater among those who did not regularly attend day care before going to school (36.1% compared to 30.1% among children who attended a day care).



The response rate reached **94,3%** in the LSN of la Pommeraie

Redaction

Direction de santé publique

Revision and layout

Service des communications et des relations médias

Direction générale

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References

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- 2 Gouvernement du Québec. *Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la maternelle* <http://www.eqdem.stat.gouv.qc.ca/> [Online.] (Accessed September 19, 2023).
- 3 Instrument de mesure du développement de la petite enfance, © 2000, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. http://www.eqdem.stat.gouv.qc.ca/enquete_2017/documentation/guide-imdpe-eqdem2017.pdf/ [Online.] (Accessed September 19, 2023).

