

Appendix B
DESCRIPTION OF BETTER BEGINNINGS, BETTER FUTURES
DEMOGRAPHIC AND OUTCOME VARIABLES USED WITH
CHILDREN, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES
WHEN CHILDREN WERE 0 - 8 YEARS ¹

MEASURE	Source *	AGE OF CHILD								
		Younger Cohort Sites				Older Cohort Sites				
		3 mos	18 mos	33 mos	48 mos	JK	SK	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3
SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS										
Age of Respondent, Partner and children	P	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gender of Respondent, Child	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relationship of Respondent to Child **	P	☐			☐	☐				☐
Marital Status/Single Parenthood	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Size and Composition of Household	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Number of Children Born	P	☐	☐			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Age at First Pregnancy **	P	☐				☐				☐
Country of Birth of Respondent, Child **	P	☐				☐				
Home Language(s) of Respondent, Child **	P	☐			☐	☐			☐	☐
Cultural Group of Respondent & Partner **	P	☐				☐				
Level of Schooling of Respondent & Partner **	P	☐			☐	☐	☐			☐
Labour Force Status of Respondent & Partner	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteering of Respondent & Partner	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐
Occupation of Respondent & Partner	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Monthly Income	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Food and Housing Costs	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Low Income Cut Off Status	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Financial Difficulties	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enumeration Area Characteristics	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dwelling Type	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public/Private Housing	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rooms in House/Apartment / Rooms for Sleeping	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Length of Time in Neighbourhood	P	☐		☐	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐
Number of Moves in Previous Five Years	P	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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** demographic questions were asked only of new recruits after the first wave

Appendix B: Description of Demographic and Outcome Variables

MEASURE	Source *	AGE OF CHILD								
		Younger Cohort Sites				Older Cohort Sites				
		3 mos	18 mos	33 mos	48 mos	JK	SK	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3
CHILD EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONING										
Social Skills Rating Scale (Gresham & Elliot, 1990)	P, T							☒	☒	☒
Preschool Social Behaviour Questionnaire (Tremblay <i>et al.</i> , 1992)	P, T				☒	☒	☒			
Social Problem Solving (Dodge, 1993)	C								☒	
Self-Concept: Self-Description Questionnaire (Marsh, 1988)	C								☒	
Infant Characteristics Questionnaire (Bates <i>et al.</i> , 1979)	P	☒	☒	☒						
Child Behaviour Problems Subscale of the Revised Ontario Child Health Study Scales (Boyle <i>et al.</i> , 1993)	P, T							☒	☒	☒
ABC - Maturity/School Readiness (Toronto Board of Education, 1990)	T				☒	☒	☒			
CHILD DEVELOPMENT										
Scales of Independent Behaviour (Bruininks <i>et al.</i> , 1985)	P					☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Diagnostic Inventory for Screening Children (Amdur <i>et al.</i> , 1990)	P, C		☒	☒	☒					
COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT										
Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (Revised) (Dunn & Dunn, 1981)	C				☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Dudley-Delage (Dudley & Delage, 1980)	C								☒	
Échelle de vocabulaire en images (Dunn <i>et al.</i> , 1993)					☒	☒	☒	☒		☒
WPPSI Block Design (Wechsler, 1967)	C				☒					
WISC Block Design (Wechsler, 1974)	C								☒	☒
WRAT-R (Jastak & Wilkinson, 1984)	C							☒	☒	
Test de Lecture (Commission scolaire des écoles catholiques de Québec, 1990)	C								☒	
Keymath (Connolly, 1991)	C							☒	☒	
Scale of Reading Attitude (Rowell, 1972)	T							☒	☒	☒

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CHILD HEALTH										
Rating of Child's General Health	P	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limitations on Activities	P			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Injuries	P			☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐
Poisoning	P			☐	☐					
CHILD HEALTH PROMOTION/PREVENTION OF INJURIES										
Immunizations	P		☐	☐			☐	☐		
Child's Exposure to Second Hand Smoke	P			☐	☐					
Parent's Sense of Control Over Child's Health (Tinsley & Holtgrave, 1989)	P	☐		☐	☐			☐	☐	☐
Bicycle Helmet Use	P				☐		☐			
Car Seat Use	P		☐							
Crossing Roads/Streets	P									☐
CHILD NUTRITIONAL HEALTH										
Height	C	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Weight	C	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
24-hour Dietary Recall	P, C				☐		☐		☐	
USE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN										
Use of Emergency Room	P			☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	
Doctor Visits	P	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐
Dentist Visits	P				☐		☐	☐	☐	☐
Contacts With Professions/Services for Child	P	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Times When a Profession/Service was not Contacted for Child	P	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐
Sense of Having Received as Good Service as Others for Child	P	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐

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PARENT HEALTH										
Self-Rating of General Health	P		☒		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Limitations on Activities Due to Health Problems	P		☒		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Health Related Problems Reported	P		☒		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Limitations on Caring for Child	P		☒		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Height	P	☒				☒				
Weight	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Prevalence of Obesity	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Use of Prescription Drugs (Tranquillizers, Sedatives, Antidepressants, Painkillers)	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Dietary Intake of Breastfeeding Mothers	P	☒								
Incidence and Duration of Breastfeeding	P	☒	☒							
PARENT HEALTH PROMOTION										
Most Recent Pap Test	P			☒		☒		☒	☒	
Breast Self-examination	P		☒		☒		☒	☒		☒
Frequency of Exercise	P	☒	☒				☒	☒	☒	☒
Frequency of Exercise During Pregnancy	P	☒								
PARENT HEALTH RISK BEHAVIOURS										
Extent of Smoking	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Number of Smokers in Home	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Alcohol Consumption	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Self-criticism or Criticism From Others About Drinking (Ewing, 1984)	P	☒		☒	☒		☒		☒	☒

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PARENTING										
Parenting Scale (National Longitudinal Survey of Children & Youth, 1994, 1996, 1998) " Consistency " Hostile Ineffective " Positive	P		☒	☒	☒		☒	☒	☒	☒
Mesure des Conduites de Contrôle Parental (Tessier <i>et al.</i> , 1985)	P					☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Parenting Sense of Competence (Johnston & Mash, 1989)	P						☒	☒		☒
Parent/Caregiver Involvement Scale (PCIS) (Farran <i>et al.</i> , 1986)	P		☒	☒	☒					
PARENT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES										
Neighbourhood Activities	P		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Get-togethers with Friends	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Get-togethers with Other Families	P	☒			☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Organized Recreation	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Volunteering in Community	P	☒			☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Attendance at Religious Services	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Attendance at Meetings of Clubs or Organizations	P	☒			☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
PARENT AND FAMILY SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING										
Tension in Juggling Other Responsibilities and Child Care	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Stressful Live Events in Preceding Year (Social Change in Canada Series, 1977, 1979, 1981)	P	☒	☒		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Social Support (Cutrona & Russell, 1987)	P	☒	☒		☒	☒		☒	☒	☒
Parental Depression (CES-D) (Radloff, 1977)	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Dyadic Adjustment/Marital Satisfaction (Spanier, 1976)	P	☒		☒	☒	☒		☒	☒	☒
General Family Functioning: Family Assessment Device (Epstein <i>et al.</i> , 1983)	P	☒		☒	☒	☒		☒	☒	☒
Conflict Tactics/Violence (Straus, 1976)	P		☒		☒		☒		☒	

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USE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES										
Use of Programs (Toy Libraries, Playgrounds, Sports, Drop-in Centres, After School Language Instruction, Libraries, Parent Resource Centres)	P		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
SENSE OF COMMUNITY COHESION										
(Buckner, 1986) " Sense of Belonging " Willingness to Prevent Negative Change " Sense of Importance to Neighbourhood " Willingness to Improve Things " Sense of Similarity to Neighbours " Feeling that Different Cultures/Races Are Accepted " Pride in Being a Community Member	P	☒		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
NEIGHBOURHOOD RATINGS										
Perceived Quality of the Neighbourhood (Social Change in Canada Series, 1977, 1979, 1981)	P	☒	☒	☒	☒		☒	☒	☒	☒
Housing Satisfaction	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Perceptions of Deviant Behaviour in the Neighbourhood	P	☒			☒		☒		☒	
Neighbourhood Satisfaction	P	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
SCHOOL RATINGS										
School Climate: " Children's Social Behaviour " Teaching Climate " Teacher Workload Support " Parent Involvement	T						☒	☒	☒	☒
Parents' Rating of Child's School	P								☒	☒
Parents' Rating of Relationship with Child's Teacher/Involvement in School	P								☒	☒

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MEASURE	YEARS DATA COLLECTED									
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
DATA FROM OTHER SOURCES										
Canadian Institute of Health: " Very Low Birth Weight " Percentage of C-Sections " Use of General Anaesthesia " Normal Deliveries " Child Hospitalization For: ↔ Asthma ↔ All Medical Admissions ↔ All Surgeries ↔ Pneumonia		☒	☒	☒		☒	☒	☒		
Principals Reports: " Percentage of Special Education Students " Percentage with Behavioural Problems " Percentage with Learning Disabilities				☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	
Police Statistics: " Incidents of Wilful Damage Reported to Police " Incidents of Breaking & Entering Reported to Police		☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Child Welfare Services: " Number of Open Child Protection/Family Service Cases " Children Taken into Care by CAS	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Site Provided Parents and Children Participation in Better Beginnings Programs, Meetings and Social Activities								☒		

1. Copies of the parent, teacher and child measures are available from the Better Beginnings, Better Futures Research Coordination Unit.