

Editor's Introduction to Issue 2: Research on Practices that Support Learning and Development of Children Living in First Nations Communities in Western Canada

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One of the aims of *Child Health and Education* is to highlight studies that further understandings of the practices, programs and policies that support the development and learning of young children living in diverse cultures throughout the world. In this issue, we highlight findings from research on the development of Indigenous children taking place in First Nations communities in western Canada. Specifically, research teams led by Dr. Jessica Ball, at the University of Victoria, and Dr. Margaret MacDonald, at Simon Fraser University, explore alternatives to the traditional, individual-centred and non-integrated practices and programs that dominate Canadian early childhood policy. These researchers are unique in their approach, for rather than evaluating child development in relation to expectations framed by the dominant Anglo culture in western Canada, they explore how an emphasis on Indigenous knowledge is important to transmission of the goals, values, and understandings that uniquely define a place for young Indigenous children within local First Nations communities. We welcome the publication of these studies in *Child Health and Education*, for they are illustrative of the quality of research that is sorely needed to broaden the scope of our current understandings of practices that support development of Indigenous children within the families and communities that they live and grow.