

2014

YMCA

Research Report

YMCA of Greater Toronto & YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford

BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2014, the YMCA of Greater Toronto and YMCA of Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford commissioned a research study on Southern Ontario parents, raising children between the ages of 0 – 5. The report aimed **to gain a better understanding of what parents need** and **identify the challenges parents face** when raising their children in the early developmental years.

KEY FINDINGS:



MORE THAN ONE-THIRD (37%)

of children in Southern Ontario are described by their parents as **BEHIND** in one or more key areas of early child development.

The **BIGGEST CHALLENGE**



parents face when raising young children is **COMPETING PRIORITIES** that limit them from spending quality time with their children.

Parents place a high priority on all areas of early childhood development, but say they need more support to raise their children.



67%

of parents report it's **hard to**

find enough quality time with their kids.



70%

would like **more information**

about services for pre-school-aged children.



59%

are **unsure** which information is best for their kids.



20%

are **uncertain**

about what **developmental milestones** they should look for in the first five years.

Parents of all ages, incomes and backgrounds say they need help fostering their child's development.



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