

# LEYC

## *Lethbridge Early Years Coalition—Building Community Support for the Early Years*

**Vote For Kids**—LEYC Article from Feb. 16 edition of *Lethbridge Herald*

With the provincial election approaching quickly, here are some fast facts about child development you can use to start a conversation with candidates and party representatives to help figure out which is the best checkbox for your vote!

Fast facts about early childhood development in our province:

- One in four Lethbridge children are struggling in their development by the time they go to kindergarten
- A higher percentage of young children in Alberta are experiencing developmental difficulties compared to the Canadian norm
- Alberta Early Childhood Coalitions, such as Lethbridge Early Years Coalition, provide local, grass root responses to help better prepare kids for school
- A child who doesn't have a 5,000-word vocabulary by kindergarten is less likely to attain grade level reading by Grade 3 – an important determinant for high school completion

Investing in early childhood development impacts the economy. Did You Know:

- A 1% increase in the high school completion rate in Canada would save \$7.7B annually in social assistance, costs of crime and lost earnings
- For every dollar spent on early education, there is between a \$2 and \$7 return on investment
- Greater skills development in early childhood makes it more likely that children will succeed in education; raising employment prospects and reducing duration of unemployment

Ask candidates and representatives how their party plans to improve school readiness and about their commitment to invest in Early Childhood Development initiatives.



### Quick LEYC Updates:

- 964 caregivers, parents and children have participated in [Roving Gyms](#) so far this season
- LEYC has shared the core story at 7 Baby Steps classes and 5 Brain Architecture Game workshops since December.
- LEYC celebrated over 1000 followers on [Facebook](#) in February
- Combined, over 175 community members participated in Bora Kim's January presentation on [Risky Play](#) and Dr. Pellis' February presentation on [Social Play, The Brain and Resilience](#)
- [Lethbridge Play Charter](#) committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00AM.