



Supporting
Infant & Early Childhood
MENTAL HEALTH

Walking the Path Together



Simcoe County IEMH Pathway Launch

25 March 2025 | Liberty North, Barrie

Hosts: Pathways Co-Chairs Christine VanderByl
(EarlyON Simcoe North) and Kristina Polson (SMFC)

Facilitator: Amy Estill, Collective Results

Thank you to our amazing Simcoe County Implementation Committee...

- Amber King-Robitaille
- Amy St. John
- Annick Brown
- Celeste Gatien
- Chiara Johnson
- Christine VanderByl
- Connie Hogan
- Dr. Robert Meeder

- Kiersta Hazlett
- Kristina Polson
- Kyle Murray
- Lindsay Massicotte
- Rachel Cansino
- Rosslyn Junke
- Shannon Thompson
- Stephanie Cascagnette
- Stephanie Green

From IEMHP:

Hadir Ashry
Dr. Karys Peterson-Katz
Rup Patel



Our Agenda

9:00-9:15 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:15-10:30 am	Keynote Presentation – Dr. Robert Meeder <i>The Importance of Infant Social-Emotional Development</i>
10:30-10:45 am	Break & Networking
10:45-11:15am	Pathways Implementation – Dr. Chaya Kulkarni
11:15-11:35am	Pathway Overview & Tools
11:30am-12:00pm	Applying the Pathways in Practice
12:00-12:15pm	Looking Ahead: Next Steps
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch & Networking



Why we're here...

Infant and Early Mental Health (IEMH) is a child's ability to express emotions, form secure relationships, and explore their environment.

Infant and early childhood mental health is **foundational to lifelong wellbeing.**

Early relationships shape lifelong mental health, emotional resilience, learning, and social development.

Without early intervention, **early mental health concerns can become lifelong challenges.**



We want to hear from you...

How confident do you feel helping the children you work with who are under the age of 4 and their families to navigate early mental health services?

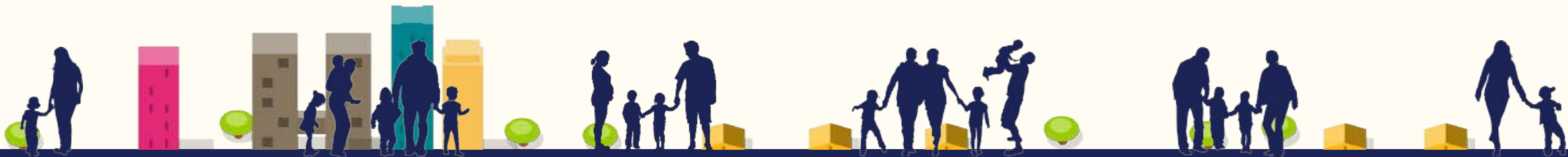


<https://www.menti.com/al2wq3r7njfv>



Introducing...

Dr. Robert Meeder



Let's reflect...

- 1. What is one key takeaway from Dr. Meeder's presentation that applies to your work?**
- 2. How might you support families with these concepts?**



Introducing...

Dr. Chaya Kulkarni



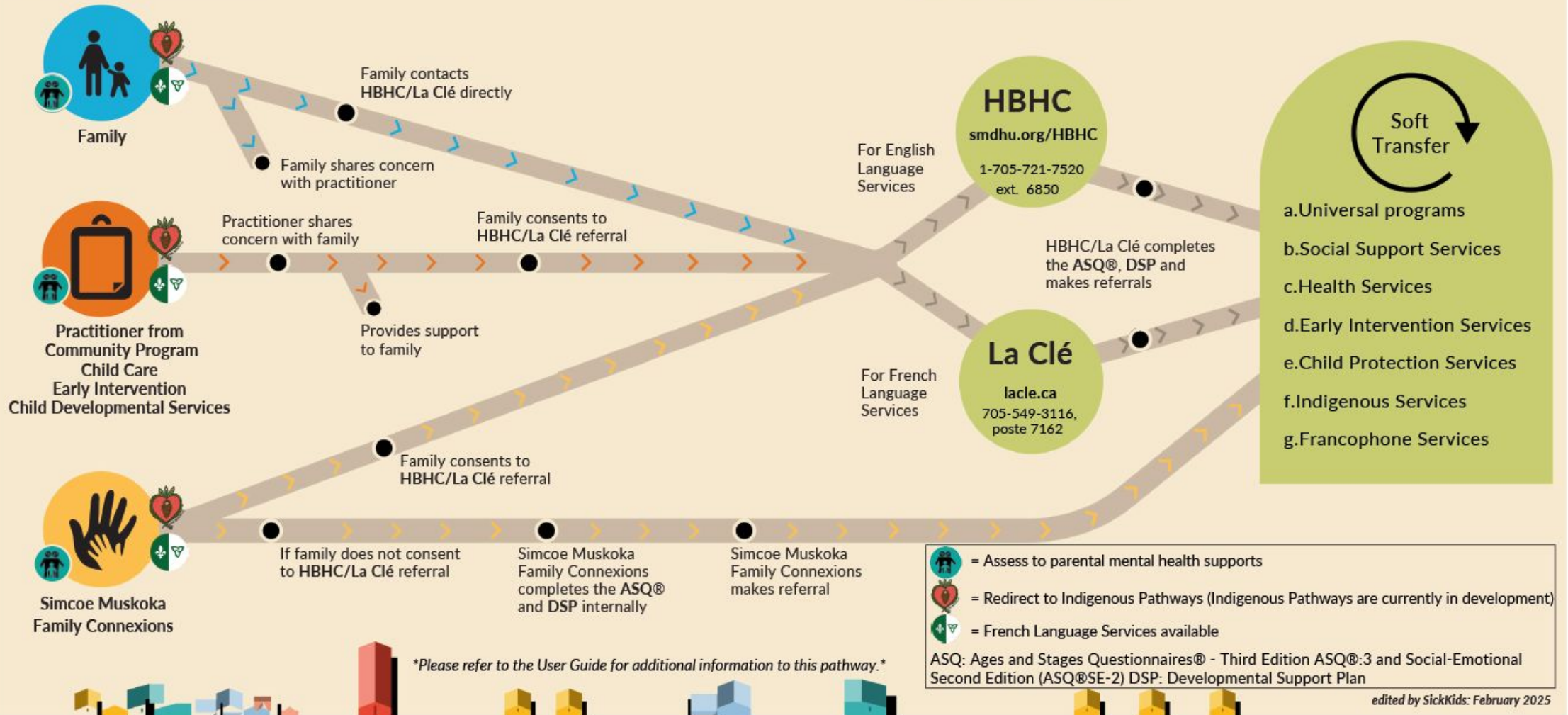
Simcoe County Infant and Early Mental Health Pathway

Prenatal to Preschool (0 – 3.8 years old)

Concern raised about infant/
child's social-emotional
development or mental health:

Completes ASQ screening,
and if required, provides
DSP and makes referrals:

Referral Services:



Step 1:

Who raises the concern and reaches out for support?

Concern raised about infant/child's social-emotional development or mental health:



Family

Family contacts HBHC/La Clé directly

Family shares concern with practitioner



Practitioner from
Community Program
Child Care
Early Intervention
Child Developmental Services

Practitioner shares concern with family

Family consents to HBHC/La Clé referral

Provides support to family



Simcoe Muskoka
Family Connexions

If family does not consent to HBHC/La Clé referral

Simcoe Muskoka
Family Connexions
completes the ASQ®
and DSP internally



Step 2:

ASQ Screening and Initiation of DSP



6 Month Questionnaire
3 months 0 days through 8 months 30 days

ASQ:SE-2
Ages & Stages
Questionnaires
Social-Emotional
SECOND EDITION

Date ASQ:SE-2 completed: _____

Baby's information

Baby's first name: _____ Baby's middle initial: _____ Baby's last name: _____

Baby's date of birth: _____ If baby was born 3 or more weeks premature, please enter the number of weeks: _____

Baby's gender: Male Female

Person filling out questionnaire

First name: _____ Middle initial: _____ Last name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State/province: _____ ZIP/postal code: _____

County: _____ Home telephone number: _____ Other telephone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Relationship to baby: Parent Grandparent/other relative Guardian Foster parent Teacher Child care provider Other: _____

People assisting in questionnaire completion: _____

Program information (For program use only.)

Baby's ID #: _____ Age at administration in months and days: _____

Program ID #: _____ If premature, adjusted age in months and days: _____

Program name: _____

P201060000 Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2™), Squires, Bricker, & Twombly © 2015 Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

6 Month Questionnaire 3 months 0 days through 8 months 30 days

ASQ:SE-2

Questions about behaviors babies may have are listed on the following pages. Please read each question carefully and check the box that best describes your baby's behavior. Also, check the circle if the behavior is a concern.

Important Points to Remember:

- Answer questions based on what you know about your baby's behavior.
- Answer questions based on your baby's usual behavior, not behavior when your baby is sick, very tired, or hungry.
- Caregivers who know the baby well and spend more than 15-20 hours per week with the baby should complete ASQ:SE-2.
- Please return this questionnaire by: _____
- If you have any questions or concerns about your baby or about this questionnaire, contact: _____
- Thank you and please look forward to filling out another ASQ:SE-2 in _____ months.

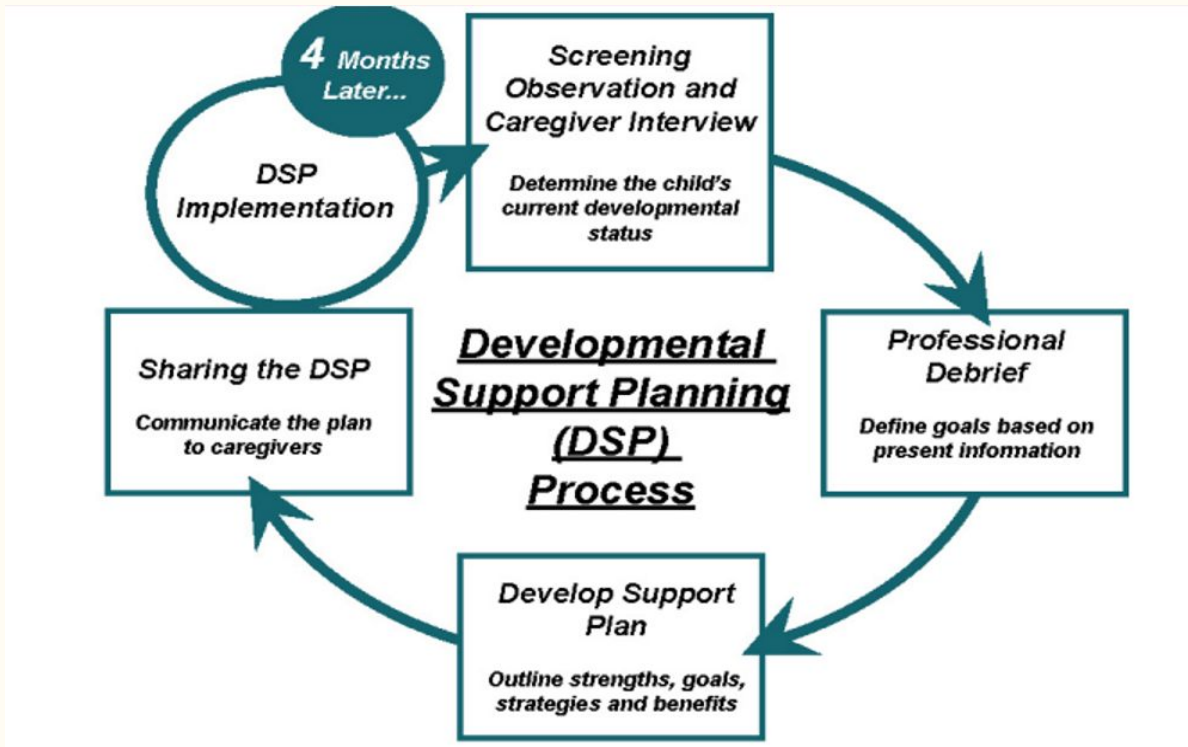
	OFTEN OR ALWAYS	SOME TIMES	RARELY OR NEVER	CHECK IF THIS IS A CONCERN
1. When upset, can your baby calm down within a half hour?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V
2. Does your baby smile at you and other family members?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V
3. Does your baby like to be picked up and held?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V
4. Does your baby stiffen and arch her back when picked up?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V
5. When you talk to your baby, does he look at you and seem to listen?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V
6. Does your baby let you know when she is hungry or sick?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V
7. Does your baby seem to enjoy watching or listening to people? For example, does he turn his head to look at someone talking?	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> V

TOTAL POINTS ON PAGE: _____

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Step 2: ASQ Screening and Initiation of DSP



Hand in Hand

Growing Together Every Day

This Developmental Support Plan is full of activities created to help your child reach his/her developmental goals. These are activities you can do with your child during everyday routines such as:

- Meal time
- Story time
- Play time
- Tidy up time
- Walking and playing outside
- Quiet time

This plan is for: _____

Remember, you are your child's favorite toy.

Goal/ Strategy Summary
Details

Goal/ Strategy Summary
Details

Goal/ Strategy Summary
Details

Goal/ Strategy Summary
Details



Step 2: ASQ Screening and Initiation of DSP

*What to expect
with HBHC*



Completes ASQ screening,
and if required, provides
DSP and makes referrals:

HBHC

smdhu.org/HBHC

1-705-721-7520
ext. 6850

For English
Language
Services

HBHC/La Clé completes
the ASQ®, DSP and
makes referrals

La Clé

lacle.ca

705-549-3116,
poste 7162

For French
Language
Services



Step 2: ASQ Screening and Initiation of DSP

*What to expect
with La Clé*

Completes ASQ screening,
and if required, provides
DSP and makes referrals:

HBHC

smdhu.org/HBHC

1-705-721-7520
ext. 6850

For English
Language
Services

HBHC/La Clé completes
the ASQ®, DSP and
makes referrals

La Clé

lacle.ca

705-549-3116,
poste 7162

For French
Language
Services



Step 3: Referral to Additional Supports, Ongoing Service Coordination, and Re-Screening, as needed



- a. Universal programs
- b. Social Support Services
- c. Health Services
- d. Early Intervention Services
- e. Child Protection Services
- f. Indigenous Services
- g. Francophone Services



Large Group Case Study

Case

*Over a number of visits to an EarlyON a parent of a 6-month old has gotten support from EarlyON team members about their child's behaviour. They've tried a few things, but they still have some concerns and their confidence that they can do something about it is lessening. The EarlyON professional has noticed the parent disengaging/becoming withdrawn from their infant's cues. The parent's confidence is decreasing and they share not knowing where to turn for help. **How could the provider navigate this concern using the pathways?***

Questions

- What steps should the EarlyON provider take next?
- Who should be involved in screening and planning next steps?
- How can the IEMH Pathway help guide this family's journey?



Small Group Case Study Questions

Questions

- Who is raising the concern here?
- What next steps should the provider take?
- Who else in the system has a role to play in this family's journey in the pathway?
- Where might your own organization come into play with this case (if at all)?
- How might your organizational practices need to adapt processes to align with/support the pathways?



Small Group Case Study #1

Case

A licensed childcare provider notices that a 2.5-year-old in their program has frequent emotional outbursts. They have addressed this with the family and they reported the same concerns about the child's behaviour at home but were unsure how to get help. After working with the family for a few months and the family trying different strategies, the outbursts are still happening.

Questions

- Who is raising the concern here?
- What next steps should the provider take?
- Who else in the system has a role to play in this family's journey in the pathway?
- Where might your own organization come into play with this case (if at all)?
- How might your organizational practices need to adapt processes to align with/support the pathways?



Small Group Case Study #2

Case

A child protection worker is supporting a family. The parents express feeling overwhelmed and disconnected from their 18-month-old. The child is withdrawn and slow to engage. The child protection worker has suggested a few different strategies to work with them, but they need additional support. They are hesitant to be referred to other organizations in the community (like HBHC).

Questions

- Who is raising the concern here?
- What next steps should the provider take?
- Who else in the system has a role to play in this family's journey in the pathway?
- Where might your own organization come into play with this case (if at all)?
- How might your organizational practices need to adapt processes to align with/support the pathways?



Small Group Case Study #3

Case

A mother whose first language is French is attending a postpartum group mentions that her 15-month-old rarely shows interest in toys or activities. She's worried something might be wrong but doesn't know what to do next. Her group leader and other members of the group ask questions to understand the situation and provide suggestions and support over the next few weeks to see if there are any changes. A few weeks later, the mother still has concerns about her child's engagement with activities and toys and she brings it up again with the group leader.

Questions

- Who is raising the concern here?
- What next steps should the provider take?
- Who else in the system has a role to play in this family's journey in the pathway?
- Where might your own organization come into play with this case (if at all)?
- How might your organizational practices need to adapt processes to align with/support the pathways?



Supports for Pathway implementation in Simcoe...

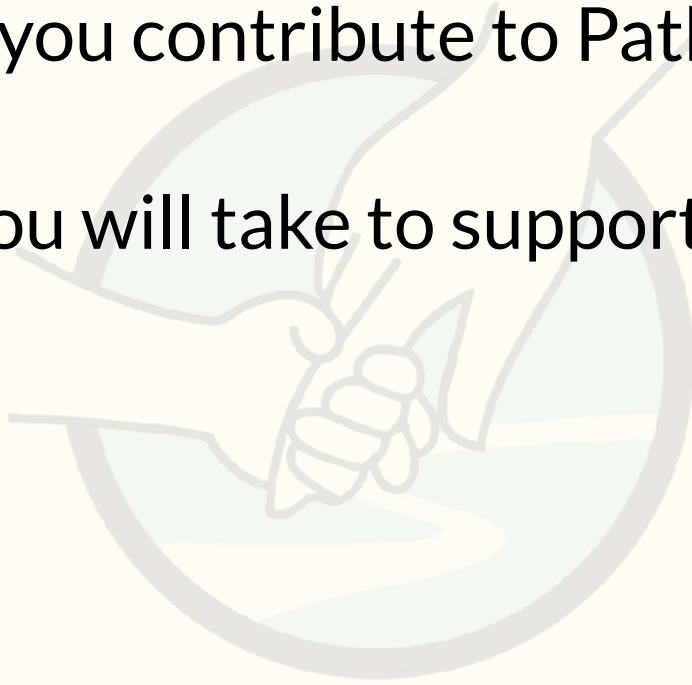
- Simcoe County Infant and Early Childhood Pathway Map 0-3.8 (English/French)
- User guide (English and French)
- Family Friendly poster – (English and French)
- Launch event PPT presentations (English only)
- “On-demand” IEMH Pathways Orientation Presentation (English only) (coming soon!)



We can do this together...

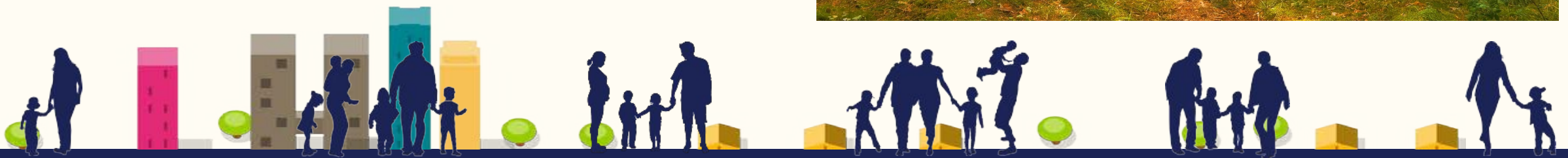
Reflection: How will you contribute to Pathways implementation in Simcoe County?

What is one action you will take to support Pathways implementation?



Looking Ahead - the 3.9-6.0 Pathway

The 3.9-6.0 pathway will support the socio-emotional development of early school-aged children in Simcoe County.



We want to hear from you...

How confident do you feel helping the children you work with who are under the age of 4 and their families to navigate early mental health services?



<https://www.menti.com/al2wq3r7njfv>



Thank you!



Infant and Early Mental
Health Promotion

SickKids®



Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth
Mental Health and Addictions

Institut du savoir sur la santé mentale et les
dépendances chez les enfants et les jeunes



Simcoe Muskoka
Family Connexions

Connexions Familiales
de Simcoe Muskoka

