



Leading Informed Practice

The Learning Bar is dedicated to improving the outcomes of all children and reducing childhood vulnerability. Our student assessments and survey solutions are developed by in-house researchers and educators, whose work on student learning is being used to affect local and national policy. This knowledge is the foundation of our evaluation tools which provide educators with the insight they need to make informed school planning decisions.

Underlying research

The Learning Bar was founded in 2005 by Dr. J. Douglas Willms. His extensive educational knowledge and recent work on student engagement for the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is embodied in the intellectual property of the Early Years Evaluation, Confident Learners and the OurSCHOOL surveys.

We are passionate about equality, equity and educational prosperity for all students. Our aim is to give every child and youth the opportunity to thrive.



Using leading research to create powerful evaluation tools



Enabling schools to deliver informed initiatives for change



Empowering the community to enhance their children's outcomes



The Learning Bar

Measure, assess, act

Early Years Evaluation (EYE):

Supporting a successful transition to school

Identify the developmental skills of children as they prepare for kindergarten with the Early Years Evaluation. Play-based assessment methods gather leading indicator data to help educators guide school planning and monitor each child's progress. Immediate, easy-to-interpret reports empower teachers and multidisciplinary teams to personalize each child's learning experience to ensure a successful transition to school.

Our assessment tools are used to inform educators, guide school planning and decision making, and give a voice to students, parents, and teachers.

Confident Learners:

Unlocking each child's potential

Plan, develop and measure the progress of a child's skill development over time with this whole-school and whole-community program. Confident Learners was developed with Indigenous partner schools to reduce the risk of literacy failure through early literacy assessment, structured learning objectives and evidence-based instruction during the primary school grades. A bank of over five hundred engaging and culturally relevant learning activities, with an online application, allows teachers to plan their lessons to meet the individual needs of their students.

OurSCHOOL (formerly Tell Them From Me):

Informing school improvement

Measure, assess and report insights on your school using reliable and meaningful measures known to affect learning outcomes. These measures were developed by our research team, in consultation with leading experts and panels of students, teachers and principals. The in-depth reporting, subpopulation analysis and actionable data are the reasons why OurSCHOOL is now the largest national survey in Canada. Over 5.4 million students from 6,300 schools have added their voices to our rich data set to inform school improvement initiatives.

