Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the OKN Data Portal?
The OKN Data Portal an online inventory of community-level data. It is a leading-edge tool that puts data at your fingertips and is a powerful resource for planning.

Who uses the OKN Data Portal?
The OKN Data Portal is an important resource for people who work in the early learning and care field; library systems; child, youth and family services; faith-based organization and the public, education, mental health and children's services.

The information in the OKN Data Portal can help tell compelling and meaningful stories about the work you do and help make a stronger case for proposals and reports. Service providers can use the OKN Data Portal to better understand and interpret data to plan and design evidence-based services and programs, turning research into action. Watch our videos featuring Halton organizations sharing how they've used the data portal to tell their story behind the numbers.

What data is in the OKN Data Portal?
Users will find community and neighbourhood-level information, demographics, OKN research data on health, safety, education, Developmental Assets®, Census data and more.

OKN has invested in a significant amount of research to identify the key components of healthy growth and development for all children and youth. This quality, local data is based on the Halton 7, which represent ideal living conditions for children and youth in Halton. Each of the Halton 7 is measured by a set of indicators. The indicators were selected by Our Kids Network as the most important ways to measure how well Halton supports child and youth development. A detailed description of each indicator is listed in the Data Portal indicators definitions.

How to use the data
The OKN Data Portal contains quality, local-level data. Although data are subject to limitations, we made every effort to ensure the most accurate data is available. Limitations of the data include limited data points over time and self-reported information. To help you better understand the data, download the guidelines for interpretation.

How were the 21 neighbourhoods created?
There are 21 Halton neighbourhoods that were created by Our Kids Network. The neighbourhoods were originally derived from Statistics Canada Census data, and were based on two criteria:
1) Each neighbourhood must have at least 50 children who are five years old
2) The neighbourhood boundaries must be meaningful and recognizable to the community residents.

How often will the Data Portal be updated?
OKN has traditionally used a 3-year monitoring schedule. For many of our indicators, we currently have data for the following reference periods: 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012. Demographics data will be updated according

to the Census schedule. The most recent demographics data is from the 2011 Census. The next scheduled Census is 2016. Information about the years and source for each indicator is available from the 'about' link listed beside each indicator.

Why are there holes in the map?
Sometimes a neighbourhood may not have a reportable value for an indicator because the sample size at the neighbourhood level is too low to protect the confidentiality of those who participated in the survey.

Where is the OKN data for 15-year olds?
We cannot report the Grade 10 data at the neighbourhood level because of the data sharing agreement with the school boards. Even in our hard copy reports, the neighbourhood results are based solely on Grade 7 data as release of neighbourhood data may result in individual secondary schools being identified, which is not permitted under the existing OKN data sharing agreement.

Where can I get more information?
Please consult the quick start guide for help in getting started with the data portal. Our video tutorials offer step by instructions for learning more including overviews of the data portal, mapping data and adding secondary indicators. For more complex queries, please contact the OKN research associate at elisabeth@ourkidsnetwork.ca

System requirements
The data portal is best viewed in more recent versions of Windows Internet Explorer, Firefox or Chrome with the latest Flash version. If you are running older versions, you may encounter problems with certain sections of the site. The application works best with a minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768.

Suggested citation
Our Kids Network (2014). OKN Data Portal: ***Indicator name. Indicator year***. Burlington, ON: HealthLandscape. Available from: http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/DataPortal.html