

# Wikichild.org: a wiki for research on child well-being

## Wikichild

Wikichild is an online source for child well-being research and data. It draws inspiration from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and serves as an information hub for the community engaged in the development of analysis and research on child well-being in developed as well as developing countries.

Wikichild belongs to a group of wiki-sites, including Wikigender.org, under Wiki-progress. **The plan is to launch Wikichild in November 2009 at the International Society for Child Indicators conference.**

Wiki-progress is an online platform for the global project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies", hosted by the OECD with the collaboration of regional and international partners. The purpose of the wikiprogress initiative is to measure economic, social and environmental development at the international, national and local levels.

## What's a wiki-site and who will use it?

Wiki-sites are built using web-based software tools that allow browsers to contribute to a knowledge database. Wikichild will enable browsers to upload articles, tables and datasets, and explore other data contributions to the site using interactive statistics software. Academics, researchers, policymakers in governments and international organisations, advocacy groups, NGOs, and those with a general interest in child well-being are the intended users of the site.

## How wikichild will work?

Wikichild will complement existing sites on child well-being, child poverty and child development by facilitating linkages

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to such sites and by providing opportunities for wikichild users to become familiar with the range of existing initiatives.

Wikichild will include a section where users can contribute text and analysis, and a section with links to quantitative datasets. Protocols for the inclusion and exclusion of content submitted to the site will be set by a panel of child research experts who will also carry out spot checks of posted material.

There will be three types of wikichild users. Unregistered users will be able to read the content and access data. Registered users will be able to upload articles and data, as well as post comments or suggest amendments to uploaded articles via varied online features. Administrators, such as OECD Social Policy Division and partner institutions, will be able to upload non-editable articles and data.

## The wikichild consortium

A consortium of institutions will manage and contribute to Wikichild in the start-up stages. The consortium includes the OECD Social Policy Division, the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, the International Society of Child Indicators (ISCI), the University of Auckland, New Zealand,

and Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa, New Zealand.

## The consortium will jointly manage the start-up stages of Wikichild by:

- Reviewing, collating, and uploading appropriate in-house research and data to the site;
- Developing processes for monitoring and reviewing content, including setting basic protocols;
- put in place mechanisms to review and monitor content; and
- Promoting the site – and mobilising contributors and experts to widen and deepen content and to ensure the quality integrity of the site.

## Start-up projects are underway:

- The OECD will host the primary Wikichild site.
  - The OECD, UNICEF IRC and ISCI will contribute material and data links to start up the site and invite experts and institutions as contributors to the design, the guiding protocols and with material for posting
- The University of Auckland is developing a concept web to organize contributions to wiki and improve the efficiency of searching for information on the site.
- The University of Auckland is also developing customised software for interactive presentations of child-specific statistics and research.
- A child-friendly version of Wikichild may also be developed in due course.

