

CCF-Affiliated Research Spotlight



Dr. Denise Paquette Boots

While most faculty-affiliates of the Center for Children and Families at UT Dallas are associated with the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, a few come from the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences (EPPS). Dr. Denise Paquette Boots is an Associate Professor of Criminology in EPPS and CCF faculty affiliate. Her research focuses on issues related to interpersonal violence and public policy. This includes an emphasis on domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, mental health problems and youth violence, gendered pathways to antisocial behavior and victimization, and outcome and process evaluation of criminal justice programs. As a former Border Patrol Agent trainee and Level 4 juvenile counselor to incarcerated youth, Boots often works with practitioners and has several projects underway with community partners. In December 2014, she was co-awarded a \$530,000 planning grant with Genesis Women's Support and the Conference on Crimes Against Women to create a new institute to train prosecutors, victim advocates and law enforcement in the most underserved communities in Texas to seek better outcomes for victims of domestic violence. As Senior Research Fellow with the Institute for Urban Policy Research at UT Dallas, Boots recently co-authored a report for the Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce, detailing the city's systemic response to this pressing problem. The report, available on the CCF website, presents a cumulative picture of services offered by taskforce members for domestic violence victims as well as detailed metrics from law enforcement, advocacy, and judicial partners highlighting the needs. Data gathered from surveyed shelters indicated a serious lack of shelter space; from June 2014 to May 2015 an average of 631 victims each month were turned away. In early March, Dr. Boots will share her expertise on identifying domestic violence, child abuse and neglect with a training open to CCF faculty-affiliates, their lab members, and CCF staff and volunteers working with children and families. Boots has been awarded for her outstanding teaching, receiving the prestigious University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009.

2016 Spring Lecture Series

Empowering Children and Parents Together

February 12th Doris Luft de Baker, Ph.D.
Enlace: Linking Oral Language Activities in School and at Home

March 4th Shayla Holub, Ph.D.
Promoting Family Health Through the Parent-Child Feeding Relationship

April 1st Adriana Villa Baird, M.S.
Empowering Children and Parents Through Play

April 22nd George W. Holden, Ph.D.
Is There a Better Way to Discipline? Protecting Children and Promoting Positive Behavior

Talks will be held Friday mornings
9:30 to 10:30 am, reception following

Location: UT Dallas Main Campus
Jindal School of Management, Room 1.118*
*Green Hall, 4.428 on April 1st only

Visit ccf.utdallas.edu/programs-resources
for more information



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Research & Resource Fair Highlights Child & Family Research

Thank you to the following for your participation in CCF's annual Research & Resource Fair, held on October 29th:

- The Think Lab
- Close Relationships and Health Lab
- North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy
- Big Thought
- Development of Social Cognition Lab
- Blackberry Project
- Healthy Development Project
- Momentous Institute
- Bilingual Language Laboratory
- Couples Daily Lives Lab
- Assman Lab
- Career Center
- PAIR Lab
- TexProtects
- Discourse in Aphasia and Normal Aging
- Warren Center
- Developmental Neurolinguistics Lab
- Family Research Lab
- Infant Learning Project
- Guadagno Lab
- Playful Learning Project
- Dollaghan Lab
- Dallas Preschool Readiness Project



Students from Dr. Shayla Holub's Healthy Development Project (left) and Dr. Heidi Kane's Close Relationships and Health Lab (right) speak to students about their research at the Fair

Selected Recent Research from CCF Faculty-Affiliates on Language and Development

DeBruin, A., van Kleeck, A. & Gear, S. B. (Eds.) (2015). *Developing early comprehension: Laying the foundation for reading success*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.

Ellis, E. M., Borovsky, A., Elman, J. L., & Evans, J. L. (2015). Novel word learning: An eye-tracking study. Are 18-month-old late talkers really different from their typical peers? *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 58, 143-157.

Heilmann, J. J., Rojas, R., Iglesias, A., & Miller, J. F. (2015). Clinical impact of wordless picture storybooks on bilingual narrative language production: A comparison of the 'Frog' stories. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*.

Hirsh-Pasek, K., Adamson, L. B., Bakeman, R., Owen, M. T., Golinkoff, R. M., Pace, A., Yust, P. K., & Suma, K. (2015). The contribution of early communication quality to low-income children's language success. *Psychological Science*, 26(7), 1071-1083.

Maguire, M. J., Abel, A. D., Schneider, J. M., Fitzhugh, A., McCord, J., & Jeevakumar, V. (2015). Electroencephalography theta differences between object nouns and action verbs when identifying semantic relations. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 30(6), 673-683.

Mudar, R. A., Chiang, H. S., Maguire, M. J., Spence, J. S., Eroh, J., Kraut, M.A. & Hart, J. (2015). Effects of age on cognitive control during semantic categorization. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 287, 285-293.

Peredo, T. N., Owen, M. T., Rojas, R., & Caughy, M. O. (2015). Child vocabulary, maternal behavior, and inhibitory control development among Spanish-speaking children. *Early Education and Development*, 26(5-6), 749-769.

4th Screening Fair Grows to Record Number Served

On November 7th, CCF's Infant Development Program (IDP) hosted another successful Screening Fair at Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School in Pleasant Grove.



44 hearing screenings

CCF developmental specialists partnered with speech therapists and audiologists from UT Dallas' Callier Center for Communication Disorders and pediatric medical residents from the community to provide 44 hearing screenings, 34 developmental screenings, and 12 language screenings for young children. Volunteers from the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association chapter at UT Dallas provided playful-learning activities for families while they waited to be screened. Representatives from community agencies participated in the Fair, giving information to families and facilitating referrals on-site for those in need of additional services after their screening. The 4th Screening Fair conducted by CCF, the collaborative event brought over 150 people together. Fairs are conducted 3 times per year in at-risk Dallas communities. The next Fair will be held on February 13th in Richardson.



12 speech and language screenings



34 developmental screenings



Aaron Fields

Volunteer Spotlight - Aaron Fields

Aaron Fields is a senior, speech-language pathology and child learning and development double major at UT Dallas. He has been volunteering with CCF since September 2014. Aaron is viewed as a role model by many of the children he has worked with in Center activities. On December 26th, Aaron's house was damaged by the tornado that hit and badly damaged parts of Garland. He is involved in efforts to assist his neighborhood and help them rebuild.

Q: What do you like best about volunteering with *Juega Conmigo*? I love that it allows students like me to provide services for children and their families in varied environments. I am learning the values and perspectives of other cultures, giving me a greater acceptance and understanding of them.

Q: How do you think you've impacted program participants? I've tried to impact program participants in a positive way by using effective communication to build trust with the children and their parents. In this program, it is very important to support the kids and encourage the parents' enthusiasm about their child's development.

Q: What are your future plans? As a speech pathology and child development double major, I have a passion for working with kids and their families and understanding their cognitive, physical, emotional and social development. Following graduation, I am planning to apply to graduate school to learn more about human development and early childhood disorders. It has always been my dream to make an unforgettable impact in the lives of children and their families all over the world.



Student volunteers and staff at the 2015 Annual Fall Forum



From the Director

You'll notice a new feature included in our "Winter" newsletter--a partial listing of some of the most recent, notable child and family research publications authored by faculty affiliates of the Center. A full listing from just the past 6 months would require far more space than the newsletter could allow, so we settled on highlighting only one of the many areas represented among our faculty's recent publications, featuring language learning and development. In the online version of this newsletter, you can access links to the abstracts of the studies' findings. CCF's website also includes a fuller listing of the faculty's numerous recent contributions to the child and family research literature. The Center's mission and vision are firmly based upon the continuous and important contributions made by our faculty to the knowledge of how development happens and how we can improve the healthy development of children, youth, and families. I'm very proud to share this glimpse of the faculty's accomplishments. Watch for more such listings in upcoming newsletters.

- *Margaret T. Owen, Ph.D., Robinson Family Professor, Director, Center for Children and Families*

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The Center for Children and Families was established in 2008 with a generous grant from the Meadows Foundation. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the individuals, foundations and organizations that have given and aided us in our vision.

How to Give

As we work to promote optimal family and child development, our community outreach programs and our child and family research need your support.



To learn more about giving to the Center for Children and Families or how to designate your gift, contact Pagett Gosslee, CFRE at pgosslee@utdallas.edu or 972-883-2837.

We are an important resource for children and families with your support.

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