



2020 Annual Report

From the Director:

2020 was a year like no other. We know that the emotional, economical and societal impacts will be felt for years to come. For many families, 2020 brought loss, economic hardships, and an enormous amount of stress. The Center for Children and Families found new ways to share resources for families and to address parenting stress and challenges, helping families cope. We brought virtual parenting conversations, developmental screenings, playful-learning activities, and research-based information to families, supporting children's healthy development. We stayed in contact with the families we served, as they navigated a broad array of concerns about their children's health and welfare. We all learned a lot and gained valuable skills about operating in this new environment. Thankfully, we found that connecting with parents and children, via video conferencing, was an effective alternative to meeting in person for playful learning and developmental screenings—although we long for the time we can connect with families face-to-face, and share in the joy of children's playful learning in Play With Me. We faced new challenges as we taught classes virtually, recorded lectures and class discussions, and enabled students to attend asynchronously as they juggled the new challenges they faced due to the pandemic. Students joined us from their homes and dorms in ways we couldn't have imagined before. We reached out, we listened, and we connected. I'm proud of the work we did in 2020 and know that we will continue to extend our reach as we work, through research, training, and outreach, to prepare children for their best futures.



Sincerely,

Margaret T. Owen

Margaret Tresch Owen, PhD
Director, Center for Children and Families
Robinson Family Professor of Psychology

Our Impact:

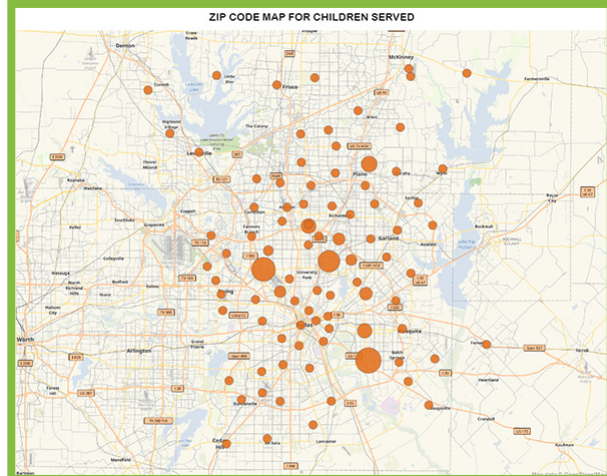
- “Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Gifted Students from Diverse Populations,” our **Spring Lecture** held in February 2020 with Dr. Jaret Hodges, brought 50 parents, practitioners, and students together.
- Parents received support from our **Resource & Referral** program. Parents requested help and resources for a variety of issues, including:



“This was an incredibly clear, organized, and compelling talk.”

mental health, divorce, potty training, bilingualism, sibling rivalry, autism and other special needs, developmental concerns (language), temper tantrums, addiction, learning disabilities, child nutrition, and more...

- With the support of CNM, a local nonprofit consulting company, CCF strengthened our ability to track, analyze, evaluate, and report our outreach program outcomes. A **new logic model** was developed, and a **data dashboard** was created to help visualize our impacts.
- Our **Play With Me** playful-learning program went virtual over the summer and through the fall. Weekly classes for parents and children ages 0-3 supported children’s learning and encouraged parents. Private Facebook groups for new families and past graduates of the program provided fun activities and ideas (over 200 posts) for parents to try at home. On June 20th, we hosted a virtual celebration via Facebook Live for families with songs, stories, a cooking demonstration, and dancing!



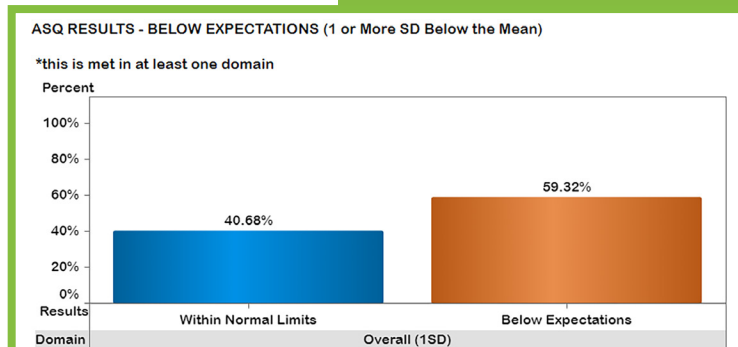
“The Play With Me program has been a very important tool in my motherhood. It has given me a space to share experiences with other moms, with the feeling of being a part of a group with a common goal: the well-being of our children.”

- Laura and Luna (age 6), Mariel (age 3), and Elise (age 1)



- Our **Grow With Me** program supported parents with developmental screenings and tele-screenings for their children ages 0-5, and referrals for intervention services when needed.

- 🌀 A partnership with Catholic Charities of Dallas was initiated to conduct developmental screenings for children in their *Together We’re Better* mobile parenting and early learning program.
- 🌀 122 screenings were conducted. Nearly 60% of children were scored below expectations.



- 33 students, with undergraduate majors in biology, child learning and development, psychology, neuroscience, and speech, language, and hearing sciences, were trained and contributed to CCF outreach programs.



“I liked being able to connect with families and observe their children grow and develop new skills.”

• **COVID-19 Impact Survey:** In an effort to measure the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on at-risk families with young children, we surveyed

past participants of our Play With Me program in July. Analyses of the responses of the 155 mothers who responded to the survey highlighted the COVID-related stressors that families were experiencing including the ability to pay for basic needs, difficulty balancing responsibilities, decline in family relationship qualities, and loss of income. 58.5% of respondents reported behavioral issues had increased with their youngest child over age 1. To cope with these stressors, many (55.8%) reported finding new ways of connecting with family and friends. Most of the mothers endorsed using coping strategies that included feeling a deeper appreciation for life (87.9%) and being more grateful for each day (89.8%). Exercising positive coping strategies was related to less mental distress among the mothers and, in turn, to fewer behavioral issues of their children. Research results have been used to inform the social and emotional outreach support services we have provided to families in these difficult times.

Revenue & Expenses:

- ⊙ Total Revenue: \$376,987
- ⊙ Total Expenses: \$374,555
- ⊙ 84% of funds supported our education and outreach programs

Affiliated Faculty Research:

CCF faculty affiliate **Dr. Candice Mills** and colleagues created a new web platform for families to find out about research opportunities for children and parents, from anywhere in the world! ChildrenHelpingScience.com features online studies being conducted by various universities, including UT Dallas, for multiple ages on a variety of research topics. The studies are fun for families, and serious for science!



Selected Faculty Grants:

- A new five-year, \$3 million grant will bring together researchers from six institutions to analyze how fathers influence children’s development. The research team, including CCF faculty affiliate **Dr. Raúl Rojas**, and CCF director **Dr. Margaret T. Owen**, will use data from the decade-long Dallas Project on Education Pathways to explore how father-child interactions influence language development and literacy achievement in low-income ethnic-minority communities.
- CCF faculty affiliate **Dr. Lisa Goffman** recently secured a five-year, \$3 million federal grant to study sequential pattern learning in children with developmental language disorder. Developmental language disorder (DLD) affects approximately 7% of 5-year-old children and has long-term negative academic, social and economic outcomes. This research will investigate whether a child’s slower learning of sequential patterns is linked to DLD. Results of the study will help suggest possible intervention strategies.

Selected Faculty Publications:

Osborne, K.R, Caughy, M. O., Oshri, A., Smith, E. P., & Owen, M. T. (2020). Racism and preparation for bias within African American families. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*.

Rollins, P. R., De Froy, A., Campbell, M., & Thibodeau Hoffman, R. (2020). Mutual gaze: An active ingredient for social development in toddlers with ASD: A Randomized Control Trial. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

Meera, S., Donovan, K., Wolff, J., Zwaigenbaum, L., Elison, J., Kinh, T., Shen, M., Estes, A., Hazlett, H., Watson, L., Baranek, G., Swanson, M., St. John, T., Burrows, C., Schultz, R., Dager, S., Botteron, K., Pandey, J., & Piven, J. (2020). Towards a data-driven approach to screen for autism risk at 12 months of age. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*.

Thank You to Our 2020 Donors:

The Founders Society (f) celebrates those who donate at least \$1,000 annually. The Sustainers Society (s) honors those who donate year after year. (*) denotes CCF 2020-2021 Advisory Council member.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Julianne Allen (s)
 Dr. Sylvia M. Allgaier (f, s)
 Anonymous (s)
 Ms. Suzanne D. Armstrong (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Austell
 Mr. and Mrs. Josh and Rachel Berglund (s)
 Dr. Deborah L. Bonner (s)
 Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm and Beverly Bonnheim (s)
 Dr. Salena Brody
 Dr. David L. Brown
 Communities Foundation of Texas (s)
 Mrs. Ashley N. DiFabio-Borthick (s)
 Ms. Daisy Dominguez
 Ms. Emily Dominguez
 Ms. Kate Dominguez
 Ms. Cara Dougherty
 Ms. Erin Dougherty and Mr. Ray Mitchel (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Francis K. Dougherty
 Ms. Monami Dutta
 Ms. Rebecca R. Egbert (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Ira and Barbara* Einsohn (s)
 Ms. Lynn D. Erickson (f, s)
 Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Regen Fearon (s)
 Fidelity Brokerage Services (s)
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund (s)
 Ms. Susan Fienberg
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel* and Cathy* Foyt (f, s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerome and Sue* Gainer (s)
 Mr. Girish Gangadharan
 Dr. Joanna and Mr. John F. Gentsch (s)
 Dr. Lisa Goffman
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Pagett* Gosslee (f, s)
 Ms. Girija Govindaraju
 Ms. Edna M. Gutierrez
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hayden
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Hemler (f, s)
 Dr. Shayla C. Holub and Mr. Vijay Sachdev (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. John and Rusty Jagers (f, s)
 Ms. Susan S. Jamieson
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Hope Jensen (f, s)
 Ms. Kathryn H. Jordan (f, s)
 Dr. Nancy Kelly (s)

Ms. Beatrice Kimani
 Dr. Lynne A. Kirk (s)
 Drs. Dennis and Abby Kratz
 Mr. Fernando Labastida

Mr. Jeffrey M. Robinson and Ms. Stefanie N. Schneider (f, s)
 Dr. and Mrs. Howard and Melanie* Rubin (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. David W. Rude (s)



Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Paula* Larsen (f, s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Rick and Anna LeBlanc (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Josh and Kara Leonard (s)
 Mr. Habib Lorient-Bettaieb & Ms. Nicola Longford (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. David and Patty* Miller (f, s)
 Dr. Candice M. Mills and Mr. James Detzel (s)
 Dr. Jackie A. Nelson Taylor and Mr. Andrew Taylor (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Nancy Orlowski (s)
 Drs. Margaret and Stuart Owen (f, s)
 Dr. Daniel Pacheco and Mr. John O'Dea (f, s)
 Dr. Susan B. Palmer (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Rex and Mariel Peterson (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Julie Piccirillo (s)
 Dr. Benjamin A. Porter (s)
 Posey-Glickert Foundation (f, s)
 Ms. Alba Ramirez (s)
 Mr. Kiran Rangarajan
 Mrs. Carol L. Redeker & Dr. Maynard Redeker (f, s)
 Mr. Francisco A. Rivera
 Dr. Dana and Mr. Robert C. Roark
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Joan Roberts

Schwab Charitable Fund
 Mrs. Nancy Shelton (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. John D. Solana
 Dr. Melanie J. Spence (s)
 Dr. Norma Stone and Mr. Donald Stone (f, s)
 Mr. Aravinth Thavamani
 The Dallas Foundation (f, s)
 The Lamplighter School (s)
 Dr. Linda K. Thibodeau (s)
 Drs. David and Emily Touchstone (s)
 Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin and Lena Uhing (s)
 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (s)
 Ms. Hannah Valle
 Dr. Toosje VanBeveren (s)
 Mr. Srinivas Vishnubhotla
 Ms. Tania Vuelas-Barreto (s)
 Ms. Chunning Wang and Mr. Jiahui Jiang (s)
 Ms. Hongchang Wang
 Dr. Andrea D. Warner-Czyz & Mr. Joe Warner-Czyz (s)
 Mr. and Dr. Bradley Watts
 Mr. and Mrs. John and Amy* Zuniga (s)