

Newsletter, September 2018

CCF Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

In the Fall of 2008, the Center for Children and Families was established with a mission to promote optimal family and child development through research, practice, and outreach.

Across our first 10 years:

- CCF has conducted over **1,000 developmental screenings** for high-need children under 5. Nearly **40% of those screenings have identified developmental delays or concerns** and those with qualifying delays (~25%) have been referred for intervention services.
- CCF's inclusive *Play With Me* program for children under 3 and their parents has **grown steadily**. Now serving **>450 impoverished children and parents annually**, we're launching our 6th program site this fall in South Dallas with community partners.
- Program evaluation of *Play With Me's* effectiveness, conducted in 2017-18, documented **increases in positive parenting practices** and **parent-child shared play activities**, **growth in parenting efficacy**, and a **reduction in parenting stress**.
- CCF has provided professional learning experiences for **nearly 500 local practitioners and child advocates each year** through its annual fall forum and spring lecture series.
- We've hosted **6 Screening Fairs** in high-need community sites, screening and providing referrals for developmental, vision, hearing, and language delays. The Callier Center for Communication Disorders has collaborated with us.
- **Family celebration events** for parents and children of our playful-learning program are held annually, providing play activities, puppet shows, and many family resources. **Over the past 4 years, 550 children and parents** have joined the fun.
- About **75 students** work with the Center each year, for service learning experiences with our community outreach programs and events.

Over the next year, we plan to celebrate these accomplishments and solidify plans for our future work serving the community and disseminating the latest child and family research. Stay tuned!

Fall Forum Registration Open

REGISTER NOW

Registration is now open for CCF's [annual fall forum](#) on **Friday, October 19th**, featuring [Dr. Ross Thompson](#) as keynote speaker. Dr. Thompson is a distinguished professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and President of the Board of [ZERO TO THREE](#). Dr. Thompson's research focuses on early parent-child relationships, the development of emotion understanding and regulation, and prosocial motivation and the growth of self-understanding in young children.

Dr. Thompson will also be featured in the [Raising of Ft. Worth](#), an alliance to support the quality early development and education of children in Fort Worth, on **Thursday, October 18th**.

Support for the forum is provided by [United Way of Metropolitan Dallas](#), [Momentous Institute](#), and [First3Years](#).



Research & Resource Fair

Want to learn more about the current child and family research at UT Dallas? Looking to gain research experience? Have questions for developmental experts?

Stop by to learn about research and resources that promote optimal family and child development.

Participating agencies and labs include [The Development of Social Cognition Lab](#), [Healthy Development Project](#), [Family Research Lab](#), [Schizophrenia and Social Cognition Lab](#), [The Hearing Health Lab](#), and more!

Thursday, November 1st, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

[Visitor Center Atrium](#), UT Dallas (800 W. Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75080)

Free and open to the public

The event is sponsored by The Center for Children and Families and [School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences](#)

If you are interested in **participating in the fair as a nonprofit group** looking to recruit volunteers and interns from UT Dallas, please [contact us](#).

Healthy Families Project Seeks Study Participants

CCF faculty affiliates Drs. [Jackie Nelson](#) and [Shayla Holub](#) are studying family mealtimes. Their Healthy Families Project is a week-long investigation of typical daily hassles and dinnertime interactions. **Parents of 3- to 5-year olds are invited to participate** by completing brief surveys about their day and recording dinners in their home with a study-provided camera each evening for 7 days. Families can receive up to \$150 for their participation. Please contact healthyfamilies@utdallas.edu or call 972-883-4122 for more information.



Meet Erin

Erin Dougherty is the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the Center for Children and Families, the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences and the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at UTD. An alum of UTD and former staff member, she returned to her alma mater in March and is working to make connections with supporters and friends of these entities. If you would like to meet with Erin, please [send her an email](#) or call her at 972-883-3938.

From the Director

We are back and into the full swing of Fall: welcoming a new group of students participating in our community service-learning class; opening the fall's playful-learning programs (soon to open in a 6th community site); and preparing for our 9th fall forum and annual research fair. As I reflect back on the 10 years the Center has been around, I couldn't be prouder of our outreach accomplishments and growing impact. But, I'm also thinking hard about our future and setting in place new strategic goals for the Center's next decade.



[- Margaret T. Owen, PhD, Robinson Family Professor, Director, Center for Children and Families](#)