



Newsletter, August 2019

Autism Study Stresses Importance of Communicating with Infants

[Dr. Meghan Swanson](#), CCF's newest faculty affiliate and an assistant professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, recently published a study about the relationship between caregiver speech and infant language development among typically developing children and those with autism. The study results directly tied the number of words an infant hears, as well as the conversational turns he or she takes, to their performance on a 24-month language evaluation - for both typical children and those with autism. "If we teach parents how to provide their children with a rich communication environment, it helps support their children's development," Swanson said, "I find that incredibly hopeful - the power that parents have to be these positive role models." [Read more...](#)



CCF Featured in Latest Edition of UT Dallas Magazine



In the latest edition of the [UT Dallas Magazine](#), CCF is featured as an "impactful resource for the community" with lessons to be shared from child development research. Reflecting on CCF's 10 year history and our [Play With Me](#) playful-learning program, program manager Adriana Baird said, "We evolved quickly, developing the program's structure, curriculum, and routines, and we provided a safe space for parents to learn from us and one another." [Read more...](#)

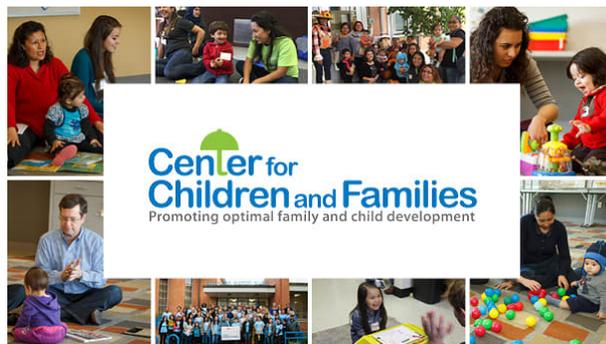
Registration Open for the 10th Annual Forum

Registration is now open for the Center for Children and Families' [10th annual forum](#), titled "**A Communication Foundation: Building Blocks for Lifelong Literacy.**" The forum will be held on **Friday November 1st** at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center at The University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson. With keynote speaker [Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek](#), the focus of the forum will be an understanding of children's verb learning, the study of language in everyday events in children's successful language learning, the critical importance of parent-child "conversational duets," and the role of early social interactions in learning language. The information and networking opportunities at the forum will be beneficial for parents, practitioners, and researchers alike.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Impact UTD Campaign Goal = \$10K by August 31st

To finish our fiscal year strong, CCF is seeking to raise \$10,000 by August 31st. **We are well on our way toward reaching our goal, but still need your help.** Please give TODAY to support our outreach programs serving young children and families. Your gift provides for the continuing operation of the Play With Me weekly program at five program sites, developmental screenings for at-risk children, and program evaluation.



[Make your impact today!](#)



From the Director

We are back in the swing of things with the Fall semester having started and looking forward to the many things that lie ahead. Our Annual Fall Forum will be fantastic and I'm so pleased to have Dr. Hirsh-Pasek, a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker, keynoting the event. Our Play With Me playful-learning program starts the Fall's 12-week class series next week and we have eager, trained students who are looking forward to working directly with parents and children in our programs. And, a Screening Fair is taking shape for the Fall. Stay tuned for details.

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

STAY CONNECTED:



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