

Newsletter, September 2019

Social Media Study Investigates How Passive Use Relates to Poorer Well-being

UT Dallas psychological sciences doctoral student Kaitlyn Burnell and postdoctoral research associate Justin Vollet recently examined how the experience of social media lurking, or passive use, can lead to negative feelings and described how social comparisons can precipitate the fear of missing out. "When a person is drawn to social media, they first browse other people's content. That process can evoke comparisons between themselves and those people," Burnell said. "Our results suggest that this can yield a fear of missing out - the feeling that others are having more rewarding experiences. That, in turn, is related to depressive symptoms and indicators of poor well-being." [Read more...](#)



Research Analyzes Impact of School Start Times on Children



CCF faculty affiliate [Dr. Alex Piquero](#) and his colleagues recently published an analysis that outlines the association between school start times and delinquency and substance abuse among adolescents, proposing that delaying school start times may reduce delinquency and substance use. "For quite some time, criminologists have overlooked the connection between school start times, juvenile delinquency and drug use," said Piquero, Ashbel Smith Professor of criminology and associate dean of graduate programs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. "This has precluded multidisciplinary collaborations between criminologists and other social and health scientists that might further illuminate emerging policy initiatives." [Read more...](#)

Save the Date for Play with Me @ UTD!

The Center for Children and Families is offering a unique, one-time experience for parents and children ages 1-3 to participate in our Play With Me program... at UTD! Join us during [UT Dallas' Homecoming weekend](#), **November 16th at 10am** for a Play With Me event! Featuring toys, music, movement, and the latest child development information and tips, the program will be a fun, educational, and interactive event for families. A \$25 registration fee will support the continued delivery of our outreach program for at-risk families. More information and registration details coming soon.



Join us for our 10th Annual Forum



[Registration is 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. In addition to a keynote address by [Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek](#), the forum will

include a panel presentation featuring UT Dallas researchers [Drs. Mandy Maguire](#), [Raul Rojas](#), and [Meghan Swanson](#), moderated by [Dr. Lisa Goffman](#), who investigate children's language development (both typical and atypical), bilingualism, and implications for early childhood educators, professionals, and parents. The afternoon will include policy implications presented by [Dr. Kaeley Benson](#) of the Child & Family Research Partnership at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin; a hackathon facilitated by [Dr. Rob Ackerman](#); and lively table discussions led by invited leaders. You won't want to miss this!

Support for the Forum is provided by the [Jerry M. Lewis MD, Mental Health Research Foundation](#), [GoransonBain Ausley PLLC](#), [Mutual of Omaha Bank](#), and [United Way of Metropolitan Dallas](#).

From the Director

I am excited about this new venture - Play With Me at UTD - to engage a greater audience and expand knowledge around the critical importance of children's development in their earliest years, which in turn will help support the delivery of our outreach programs free-of-charge in the community. Part of our goal to become a



nationally recognized research center for child development includes greater recognition of our science-based service delivery and this is one means for doing so. The other half of our goal to become nationally known includes bringing together the research of our 23 faculty affiliates under identified research themes, and conducting and promoting high-quality research to advance the healthy developmental of children in our community and nation. These efforts are underway and momentum is growing! Stay tuned.

[- 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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