

Newsletter, November 2019

Service Learning Students Initiate Impact UTD Campaign

UT Dallas students in our Fall 2019 [service learning class](#), who participate in our [Play With Me program](#), have initiated a fundraising campaign via ImpactUTD to help replace broken toys and purchase activity supplies for the program.

Marcela: "The Play with Me program opens so many doors for parents trying to connect. Whether it's connecting with their children by learning how to bond with them, or connecting with other parents who are on the same journey of parenthood as they are. Parents are introduced to an environment committed to helping them succeed at being parents. As a student in the program, we are all assigned children to observe where they are developmentally and how they grow within the 12 weeks. Yet, when you observe a child, you also observe their parents. I witnessed parents step out of their comfort zone just as much as I witnessed little ones coming out of their shells. It felt like a win whenever a mom would voice how she is normally shy and yet felt comfortable enough to take part in a group conversation on whatever the topic was that week. It was beautiful and heartwarming to see one little boy learn to share toys and understanding the meaning of waiting your turn. I genuinely love this program because it gives these families the attention and guidance they need in order to be the best parents they can be."

Nancy: "I have observed this program and actively participated in it. From my personal experience with the Play with Me program, I can truly say that it impacts families and it definitely impacts the children that participate. Parents and children get an hour together that consists of learning, playing, but most importantly, it builds the relationship between parent and child. It's amazing what you hear from parents on the first week about how they didn't have knowledge of certain topics, but we're all learning together. As a student, I have observed these families strengthen their bonds. I have also observed parents have "aha!" moments with learning NEW things to encourage their child's growth and development. The Play With Me program provides a wonderful learning experience, but also a safe



UTD students Marcela and Nancy with CCF Director Dr. Margaret Owen

environment, and a developmentally appropriate environment for everyone: children, parents, and students!"

To support the students' fundraising goal of \$1,000 by December 6, 2019:

DONATE NOW

CCF Annual Forum Materials Posted



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 10th Annual Forum on "A Communication Foundation: Building Blocks for Lifelong Literacy" on November 1st. Handouts, slides, and videos from the event [are now available on our website](#). We look forward to seeing you next year at this event!

Screening Fair Highlights



On Saturday, October 26th, we held our 10th Screening Fair at Felix G. Botello Elementary School, in partnership with [AVANCE Dallas](#), [the Callier Center for Communication Disorders](#), the [UTD Social Communication Lab](#), and students from the [UTD Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders master's program](#).

24 children were screened for developmental, speech-language and/or autism concerns. Based on the results of the screenings, 12 children were referred for intervention services. Thank you to everyone who participated!



From the Director

I'm so proud of the service learning students this semester, not only for their initiative in supporting the program, but for their engagement and desire to make an impact in children and families' lives. Students in the service learning class come from a variety of majors in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences - child learning and development, psychology, speech-language pathology, and neuroscience - and receive important training and practical experiences working with children and parents in our program. Educating the next generation of child development specialists is a crucial part of what we do.



- [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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