



Early Childhood Partnerships (ECP)

Forging innovative University-Hospital-Community ventures for young children at developmental risk.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PITTSBURGH
THE UCLID CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Dr. Bagnato and his Early Childhood Partnerships program were recipients of the 2001 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award for their innovative University-Hospital-Community program of consultation and applied program evaluation research in natural settings. The award was sponsored and championed by notable representatives from community-based early care and education agencies in the Pittsburgh region.

WHAT IS ECP?

- Early Childhood Partnerships (ECP) is a University-Hospital-Community leadership collaborative dedicated to innovative interdisciplinary consultation, direct service, professional development mentoring, technical assistance, policy development, and applied program evaluation research on-site within diverse early care and education/early intervention settings and programs.
- ECP addresses the needs of professionals who provide support to families and young children who are at developmental or behavioral risk or who have developmental disabilities and/or chronic medical conditions.
- ECP is a core community-based leadership component of both The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.
- ECP staff includes interdisciplinary professionals, faculty, and fellows from developmental psychology, educational psychology, child clinical psychology, school psychology, child development, early care and education, early intervention, special education, information systems management, social work, community and public health, pediatrics and nursing.
- ECP derives financial support for faculty direction and supervision from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau and for core activities from state and federal government grants, foundation grants, and interagency contracts

WHAT ARE THE MISSIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIPS?

Like its umbrella organization, The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh, Early Childhood Partnerships apply the core principles of The US Maternal and Child Health Bureau: Interdisciplinary; Community-based; Family-centered; Culturally-Competent; and Collaborative.

All ECP partnership initiatives focus on common themes and aims:

- To provide ongoing, on-site consultation to staff, teachers, administrators, and parents in early childhood programs;
- To conduct applied research in natural home and community infant and preschool settings that offers clear guidelines about effective early childhood practices;
- To infuse evidence-based "best practices" into early childhood services and research conducted in community settings, particularly for young children with special developmental needs;

- To champion flexible venues, such as interactive Website options, for responsive professional development training and mentoring for early childhood professionals in their everyday work environments;
- To field-validate system reform models that can be applied to unify the early care and education field and its health and human service supports into a seamless network
- To promote collaborative family-professional and community-based decision-making and consensus-building about important early childhood issues;
- To nurture changes in the quality, scope, and integration of physical healthcare, behavioral/mental healthcare, and developmental, educational, and family support services provided in early childhood programs;
- To forge joint ventures among community agencies and The Hospital-University collaborative that pool human and financial resources to reduce redundancies and to design creative "transagency networks" to expand the expertise available to the early childhood community;
- To advocate for change in public policy, human service systems, and political initiatives that directly shape the quality and scope of early childhood services;
- To serve as a regional "catalyst" for a unified early care and education network by providing government, foundation, and community stakeholders with clear practice guidelines and research outcomes

WHAT ARE THE "CORE" ECP PROGRAMS?

- **Scaling Progress in Early Childhood Settings (SPECS)**
Authentic and developmentally appropriate longitudinal program evaluation research focusing on child, family, program, community, health/nutrition, early literacy, and early school success benchmarks and outcomes for high-risk children in inclusive early childhood, Head Start, early intervention, and early public school settings
- **HealthyCHILD (Collaborative Health Interventions for Learners with Differences) School-Linked Developmental Healthcare Partnership**
Collaborative developmental healthcare support from a mobile, transagency team provided in early childhood and early intervention classrooms, family child care settings, and schools, focusing on children with acute and chronic medical concerns, challenging or atypical behaviors, and developmental delays/disabilities
- **Head Start Inclusion Training Satellite:**
Training and technical assistance to over 100 Head Start and Early Head Start program grantees across Pennsylvania to enhance the quality of inclusive and integrated services to families and young children with disabilities; collaboration with federal partners
- **TRACE Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Assessment**
The TRACE (Tracking, Referral, Assessment Center for Excellence) Center, a five-year, multi-center grant from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs that establishes a national center to conduct evidence-based research on infant and early childhood assessment practices that influence the identification of children with developmental delays/disabilities and their required services and supports; translates evidence-based research into practical guidelines on child find, early identification, referral, and eligibility for use by parents and professionals in early intervention/early childhood

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ECP?

Contact Dr. Stephen J. Bagnato, Ed.D. at (412) 692-6520 or steve.bagnato@chp.edu. More detailed explanation of Early Childhood Partnerships and its core programs can be gained on the website of The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh, www.uclid.org. Click on Programs and Projects and then Early Childhood Partnerships.