



TRACE Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Assessment: Tracking, Referral, Assessment

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (2002-2007)

EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIPS
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PITTSBURGH
THE UCLID CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

WHAT IS THE TRACE CENTER?

The Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute (North Carolina) in collaboration with the Early Childhood Partnerships program of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh has been awarded a five-year grant from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs to establish a national center with four regional sites to conduct evidence-based research on effective early childhood evaluation practices.

WHO ARE THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATORS IN TRACE?

The newly established center, to be known as TRACE Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Assessment: (Tracking, Referral and Assessment) will unite researchers from the Puckett Institute (Asheville and Morganton, NC) with colleagues at The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA), the Institute for Family-Centered Care (Bethesda, MD), the Family, Infant and Preschool Program (Morganton), and Mission St. Joseph's Health System. Drs. Carl J. Dunst and Carol M. Trivette serve as co-directors of the TRACE Center. Stephen J. Bagnato, Professor of Pediatrics & Psychology and Director of the Early Childhood Partnerships program at UCLID is the director of the Pennsylvania TRACE satellite and research co-investigator.

WHAT WILL TRACE RESEARCHERS STUDY?

The research grant will enable national researchers to study and promote the use of the most beneficial practices for identifying and evaluating infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who have or are at-risk for disabilities or delays. They will also determine the best ways to match young children with disabilities and their families with appropriate supports through inclusive early care and education, early intervention, and early childhood special education programs

WHAT ARE THE MISSIONS OF THE TRACE CENTER?

The central mission of the TRACE Center is to support the healthy development of infants and young children with disabilities through effective early diagnosis, assessment, and intervention. The TRACE Center will conduct evidence-based research on the use of effective early childhood assessment practices regarding child find, early identification, referral, and eligibility in early intervention; practical translations of research to influence government policy reform and professional practices will be a major focus of TRACE. TRACE researchers will collaborate with state and federal government officials to determine how standards and regulatory policies can enhance the use of effective early childhood assessments to identify young children with special needs and to better plan their programs and track their progress.

WHAT ARE SOME ECP PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO TRACE RESEARCH?



Neisworth JT, Bagnato SJ: Recommended practices in assessment (17-28). In Sandall S, McLean ME, Smith BJ (eds): DEC Recommended Practices in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education. Longmont, CO: Sopris West.

Bagnato SJ, Neisworth JT, Munson SM: LINKing assessment and early intervention: An authentic curriculum-based approach (3rd Edition). Baltimore, MD, Paul Brookes, 1997

Neisworth, JT, Bagnato, SJ: The mismeasure of young children: The authentic assessment alternative. *Inf Young Children* (in press).

Bagnato SJ, Neisworth JT: Normative detection of early regulatory disorders and Autism: Empirical confirmation of DC:0-3. *Inf Young Children* 12(2):98-109, 2000

Bagnato SJ, Neisworth JT: Collaboration and teamwork in assessment for early intervention. *Child Adol Psych CI North Am* 8(2):1-17, 1999

Suen H, Logan CR, Neisworth JT, Bagnato SJ: Parent-professional congruence: Is it necessary? *J Early Intervention* 19(3):243-252, 1996

Bagnato SJ, Neisworth JT: A national study of the social and treatment "invalidity" of intelligence testing for early intervention. *School Psych Quarterly* 9(2):81-102, 1995

Suen H, Bagnato SJ, Lu C, Neisworth JT: Measurement of team decision-making through generalizability theory. *J Psychoeduc Assess* 11:120-132, 1993

Bagnato SJ, Neisworth JT: Efficacy of interdisciplinary assessment and treatment for infants and preschoolers with congenital and acquired brain injury. *Analysis and Intervention in Developmental Disabilities* 5(1-2):107-128, 1985

Bagnato SJ: Team congruence in developmental diagnosis and intervention: Comparing clinical judgment and child performance measures. *School Psych Rev* 13(1):7-16, 1984

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRACE?



Contact Dr. Stephen J. Bagnato, Ed.D. at (412) 692-6520 or steve.bagnato@chp.edu. More detailed explanation of TRACE and its parent Early Childhood Partnerships program 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 and TRACE.