Message from Our Director

2022 was a year of re-connecting and re-igniting our mission to advance children's optimal development through our research, training, and outreach initiatives. In the spring, we hosted our 14th annual series of lectures, both online and in-person, centered on the theme of “Fostering Resilience in the Face of Adversity.” The lectures explored the impact of noise on children's language development, the importance of sleep health, the impactful work of For Oak Cliff in Dallas, and how poverty reduction improves children's brain development. In the summer, we welcomed parents and children to UT Dallas for our annual family celebration. It was hot but a lot of fun, and the families enjoyed learning about the child and family research of our faculty, signing up to participate in research studies, and taking home many items from our free yard sale (thank you to those who donated!). We were excited to welcome our outstanding second cohort of National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates student fellows in the fall, providing them with theoretical and applied experiences in developmental science. In the winter, we hosted our first ever “Holiday Extravaganza,” planned and executed by our many student volunteers. The fundraising campaign aligned with this event more than doubled its initial goal. I'm so thankful for the work of the Center in 2022, stimulating culturally responsive research and working to advance the healthy development of children and families. We look forward to connecting and growing our mission through 2023.
Our Outreach

Over 275 children served across the DFW Metroplex

Ages of Children served
- Ages < 1 (12%)
- Ages 1 to 2 (21%)
- Ages 2 to 3 (36%)
- Ages 3 to 4 (23%)
- Ages 4 to 5 (9%)

Race/Ethnicity of Children served
- Black 2%
- Caucasian 3%
- Asian 4%
- Hispanic 91%

Family Household Income
- Other 11%
- Low income 40%
- Federal Poverty 49%

Play With Me Program

Playful-learning program for children ages 0-3 together with their parents.

Over 200 children and their parents served in 12-week programs, in-person and virtually. Play With Me programs returned to all in-person programs in Summer 2022.

“My child started to interact with other kids; he learned to share his toys and he started to make eye contact with other people.”

The program helped improve parents’ confidence, effectiveness, and understanding of their children.

100% reported improvements in the effectiveness of their parenting strategies.

96% reported improvements in managing the stresses of parenting.

93% reported improvements in understanding their child’s development.

“I would say I learned new things to better play with and understand my daughter—to have more patience with her in her different stages.”
Grow With Me Program

Developmental screenings program for children ages 0-5.

In 2022, we conducted 269 developmental screenings and 65% of children scored below developmental expectations in at least one area (≥ 1 or more standard deviations below the mean).

28% of developmental concerns fell into the communication domain.

127 children were referred for early intervention services and/or provided individualized developmental resources based on their screening result.

After screenings, parents felt more informed about their child’s development and opportunities for early intervention.

99% reported improvements in their ability to stand up for their child’s needs.

99% reported improvements in their knowledge about resources available to support their child.

“These programs and screenings really help me understand my children better and their needs.”

In collaboration with community partners at Casa del Lago in the Bachman Lake area of Dallas, 27 children received developmental, speech, vision, hearing, and/or language screenings at our Screening Fair event.

CNM Certification

CCF was CNM Certified in 2022, showing that we are using valid procedures for data collection, analysis, and reporting, and making data-driven decisions. CCF was nominated for CNM’s Night of Light nonprofit awards of excellence. The event honors the organizations who have demonstrated real, positive change in communities across DFW. CCF was nominated for an award for “Continuous Improvement.”
Our Faculty Impact

Dr. Alva Tang
New faculty affiliate who researches developmental changes in social-emotional development.

Dr. Pumpki Lei Su
New faculty affiliate who studies language development and caregiver-child interaction in children with autism and bilingual children.

Selected Faculty Research and Accolades

Grants:
Dr. Pam Rollins received a two-year, $854,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a randomized control trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pathways Early Autism Intervention program on social orienting, joint attention, and social language.

Dr. Meghan Swanson received a five-year, $3.7 million grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to identify language and communication markers for autism in infants.

Accolades:
Dr. Lisa Goffman received a 2022 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Honors of the Association Award, which recognizes members for their well-known contributions to communication sciences and disorders. It is the highest honor granted by the Association.

Dr. Mandy Maguire was awarded the 2022 Aage Møller Teaching Award for outstanding undergraduate teaching and was nominated for the UT Dallas Provost's award for faculty excellence in research mentoring.

Selected Faculty Publications


Our Student Impact

Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program

2021 - 2022 Cohort:
In the spring and summer, our inaugural cohort of National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) students joined faculty research mentors to design and conduct culturally responsive research projects in developmental science. The students presented their work at a capstone research event in July. Research mentors Drs. Jackie Nelson, Shayla Holub, and Raúl Rojas provided support and guidance.

Student Accolades:
Aurora Rochin received the NSF REU Honors Presentation Award for her research on the effect of reported household chaos on parenting behaviors among Latine mothers.

Paloma Salas received the NSF REU Poster Award for her research on Latinx mothers' perceptions of chaos, acculturation, and parenting stress.

2022 - 2023 Cohort:
11 new REU students joined the program in the Fall. They learned about and experienced working with children and parents in our Play With Me programs and participated in weekly discussions with CCF faculty affiliates on research topics related to child development and parenting through a culturally responsive lens.
Support

2022 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue: $443,624
Expenses: $420,704

96% of funds raised supported our education and outreach programs

Donor Supported Events

Annual Family Celebration

Past and present families served by CCF gathered in the Bert S. Moore Memorial Courtyard at UT Dallas in June to celebrate fathers at our annual family celebration. Children and parents enjoyed games, activities, a bounce house, and a 'yard sale' with free items for families. Thank you to the many generous donors who provided toys, books, and clothing for the event, to the UT Dallas research labs and community agencies who provided activities and information for families, to our many students and volunteers who helped at the event, and to our families for braving the heat to celebrate with us! We had a blast!

Holiday Extravaganza

Center for Children and Families undergraduate students initiated and led an Impact UTD campaign to support the children and families served by CCF outreach programs. The students organized a “Holiday Extravaganza” event in support of the campaign, with live music, playful activities, and a bilingual book reading. Children of many ages joined in the fun. The students more than doubled their $2,500 fundraising goal!
Thank You to Our 2022 Donors

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