



Center for Child & Family Studies

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The Center for Child & Family Studies (CCFS) is dedicated to helping children get a healthy and intellectually rich start in life, with a particular focus on children and families living in poverty, dual language learners, and those with disabilities or other special needs.

CCFS is a leader in promoting high-quality, research-based early care and education services, and its work informs national, state, and local child and family policies.

For the California Department of Education (CDE), WestEd leads the development of the California Early Learning and Development System components—foundations, curriculum frameworks, formative assessments, program guidelines, and professional development programs. CCFS led the development of similar early education resources for other states.

CCFS's acclaimed Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) is the most widely used training system for infant and toddler caregivers in the country, and PITC DVD/video and print materials are distributed worldwide.

Selected Highlights

- Developed for the California Department of Education the *Infant/Toddler Curriculum Framework; California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 2; and Infant/Toddler Caregiving: A Guide to Cognitive Development and Learning, 2nd Edition*.
- Collaborated with Educare Learning Network to develop training materials, implementation guides, webcasts, online workgroups, and seminars for Educare.
- Offered PITC Home Visiting training to home visiting practitioners, supervisors, and managers across the country.
- Provided Teaching Pyramid training to early educators to support appropriate behavior, prevent challenging behavior, and address problematic behavior of children.
- Developed, in collaboration with Berkeley Evaluation Assessment Research, the Desired Results Developmental Profile–School Readiness© (DRDP-SR©) for the California Department of Education. CCFS is supporting the Illinois State Board of Education's adaptation of the DRDP-SR as the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) in all Illinois public schools that offer kindergarten.
- Launched For Our Babies, a national movement to improve the way America supports infants and toddlers.

Selected Success Stories

WestEd's Mangione Takes Quality Child Care Message to Singapore

WestEd's Peter Mangione traveled to Singapore to deliver the keynote address on quality early care and education at the annual early education conference conducted by the Singapore Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

While in the country, Mangione also trained early childhood teachers, trainers, and caregivers in the Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) approach. PITC teaches educators, caregivers, and parents how to get in tune with an infant to establish a connection and respond to the child's needs and interests, promoting development and learning.

"It's important to build a relationship with the baby and follow his cues," says Mangione, Co-Director of the Center for Child & Family Studies at WestEd.

WestEd's Harvey and Lally Write Editorial on Early Childhood Care

Waiting until children reach school age before we attend to their ability to learn is waiting too long. That's the message of a *Mercury News* opinion piece written by WestEd CEO Glen Harvey and Ron Lally, Co-Director of the agency's Center for Child & Family Studies.

The human brain grows to 85 percent of its adult size between birth to 3 years of age. This unique development period is the time to create a healthy emotional, social, and intellectual foundation for life.

According to Harvey and Lally, later attempts to correct early developmental problems are more costly and less effective than supporting healthy development at the start.

WestEd's PITC Team Conducts Study Tour in Italy

Peter Mangione and Alicia Tuesta led a study tour of the internationally acclaimed Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of Reggio Emilia. Participants worked with Reggio Emilia leaders, teachers, and pedagogists learning about the operation of their infant/toddler centers and how they observe, document, and plan their daily interactions with babies.

In Pistoia, the study group visited infant/toddler centers, discussing their community engagement and innovative environments. Pistoia is also well-known for the unique ways very young children participate in groups and the role peers play in early learning.

Selected Services

Home Visiting the PITC Way

The Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) prepares home visitors to support parents in understanding, promoting, and delighting in their children's healthy development.

Child Assessment

WestEd develops child assessment systems, trains practitioners to implement the assessments, and also conducts program assessments.

PITC Trainer Institutes

The PITC Trainer Institutes help educators, program managers, and caregiver trainers give high-quality care for all children. PITC Partners for Quality provides on-site training and coaching for early care teachers on a responsive, relationship-based curriculum.

Selected Resources

For Our Babies: Ending the Invisible Neglect of America's Infants

Getting to Know You Through Observation

Infant and Toddler Spaces: Design for a Quality Classroom

Infant/Toddler Learning & Development: Program Guidelines

Power of Preschool in Santa Clara County: Making the First Five Years Count

Preparing Our Infant and Toddler Professional Workforce for the 21st Century: An Action Plan for the District of Columbia

Selected Projects

Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)

PITC is a comprehensive training system that promotes responsive, caring relationships for infants and toddlers.

Desired Results Development, Training and Technical Assistance Project

The DRDP Training and Technical Assistance team provides training on research-based assessment instruments and supports statewide implementation of infant/toddler, preschool, and kindergarten entry assessments.

E3 Institute: Advancing Excellence in Early Education

The E3 Institute supports and strengthens early childhood professional development through education, recruitment, and financial incentives.