



# CONSORTIUM FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH & FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

ADVOCACY, COLLABORATION, TRANSFORMATION



## MISSION, STRUCTURE AND GOALS

### Mission

The Consortium for Early Education Research and Family Empowerment seeks to research, identify effective practices, and positively impact the educational future of children and families in the community through policy and practice.

### Structure

In recognition of the critical importance of the first five years of life and the value of familial influence, the Consortium for Early Education Research and Family Empowerment (CEERFE) brings together researchers and practitioners to identify how programs can positively impact the educational future of children and families. The Consortium is a non-profit alliance created through a partnership between Texas A&M University- San Antonio and The City of San Antonio Head Start.

Consortium members serve as a collective voice to inform and advocate for educational policy and practices that positively impact the lives of children and families. Through research, the consortium expands our understanding of current practices and the ecological influence of the society on the child and family.

### Goals

Content-focused and interdisciplinary research teams seek to support the empowerment of teachers as they engage with the children and families they serve through the generation of new knowledge. By expanding the understanding of multiple ways to support young learners, researchers generate systemic change through advocacy efforts and policy.

## THE CEERFE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Texas A&M-San Antonio

Dr. Melissa M Jozwiak  
melissa.jozwiak@tamusa.edu

Dr. Theresa Garfield  
theresa.dorel@tamusa.edu

Dr. Elisabeth Krimbill  
elizabeth.krimbill@tamusa.edu

### Head Start

Four committee members appointed by Head Start serve on the CEERFE Steering Committee. Representation changes, but is coordinated through:

Roger A. Foster Jr. MA  
Program Evaluation and Data Management  
Head Start Division | Department of Human Services  
1227 Brady Blvd | San Antonio, Texas 78207 Tel: 210.206.1056 |  
roger.foster@sanantonio.gov

## STEERING COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- The steering committee meets quarterly to review and approve research proposals.
- The steering committee evaluates areas of need and develops research strategies to target those needs.
- The steering committee considers new consortium partners to strengthen the research collaborative.





## JOINING A RESEARCH TEAM

Potential research partners must submit a written proposal to the Steering Committee at least two weeks prior to a quarterly meeting. Meeting Calendar is available on the website.

Proposals must include a two-page max, single-spaced narrative that outlines the topic of study, evidence of need for the study, expected contributions to the consortium and larger community, a timeline for the study, a completed IRB application, and all support documents (note, the IRB application does not have to be approved at this point, just completed). Proposal forms are available on the CEERFE website and should be e-mailed to the committee CEERFE@tamusa.edu

The Steering Committee will review all applications. Approved consortium research project applications will be forwarded to the University IRB for subsequent approval. The Steering Committee must be informed of any changes to the IRB document as a result of IRB review. A copy of the approved IRB application must be logged in the Consortium database prior to the commencement of any research.



## EDUCATIONAL IMPACT TEAM

**Purpose:** Facilitate the exchange of information and research on the educational impact of early education experiences and interventions on the growth trajectory of young children and their families. Provide information and insight to administrators (local, state & national) and policymakers and practitioners on new research, the interpretation of existing research results, and implications of research for practice; thereby, strengthening the research-practice-policy triad.

### Key Topics:

- Cognitive Learning Outcomes
- Social & Emotional Learning Outcomes
- Physical Learning Outcomes
- Longitudinal Growth trends

## LANGUAGE & LITERACY TEAM

**Purpose:** Facilitate the exchange of information and research on the educational impact of various factors on children's literacy and the larger family literacy contexts. Provide findings and information to administrators, teacher educators, and early childhood organizations on best practices for instruction for early childhood students.

### Key Topics:

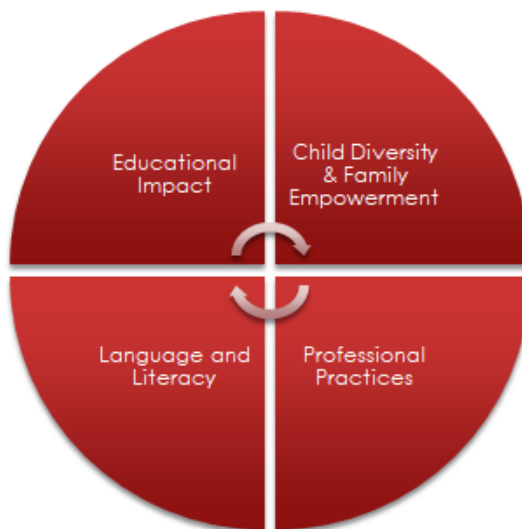
- Non-verbal & verbal language acquisition
- Pedagogical practices used for oral language
- Phonemic awareness, phonics, & vocabulary instruction
- English language learners

## CHILD DIVERSITY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAMS

**Purpose:** Facilitate the exchange of information and research on the educational impact of program and professional practices on children with diverse needs (developmental, familial, and situational). Promote the exchange of information about working with diverse families and work toward the increased empowerment of families.

### Key Topics:

- Children with special needs
- Homelessness
- Engaging with Families – including advocacy, participation, and efficacy



## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES TEAM

**Purpose:** Facilitate the exchange of information and research on the impact of professional practices on the child, family and teacher's growth trajectory. Provide information and insight to administrators (local, state & national) and policymakers and practitioners on new research, the interpretation of existing research results, and implications of research for practice; thereby, strengthening the research-practice-policy triad.

### Key Topics:

- Play-based Instruction
- Assessment & Planning
- Teacher Knowledge
- Professional Development