

**College of Health and Human Development
Faculty Research Themes**

Children at Risk

Leann Birch

Research Interests

**Distinguished Professor; Director, Center for Childhood Obesity Research
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **LLB15@PSU.EDU**

The links among parents' own eating and weight status, parenting practices, and child outcomes from infancy through adolescence, with a current focus on the emergence of dieting and problems of energy balance in girls during middle childhood and early adolescence.

Linda Caldwell

Research Interests

**Professor
Recreation, Park and Tourism** Email Address: **LLC7@PSU.EDU**

Leisure education & developmental affordances of leisure, leisure time use in middle school youth, development of youth competencies, healthy lifestyle & democratic behavior through leisure.

Elizabeth Farmer

Research Interests

**Associate Professor
Health Policy & Administration** Email Address: **emf13@psu.edu**

Children's mental health services, effectiveness of mental health interventions, mental health in life course trajectories, community-based services for youth, role of schools in children's mental health services.

Lori Francis

Research Interests

**Assistant Professor
Biobehavioral Health** Email Address: **LAF169@PSU.EDU**

Sociocultural factors influencing the development of obesity in low-income and minority children, including family environment, neighborhood characteristics and socioeconomic status; family-based interventions to reduce and prevent obesity and related morbidities in children; understanding biobehavioral, family environmental and cultural factors that influence self-regulation of energy intake and body weight in young children.

Mark Greenberg

Research Interests

**Edna Peterson Bennett Endowed Chair in Prevention Research; Director, Prevention
Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **MXG47@PSU.EDU**

Intervening in the developmental processes in risk and non-risk populations with a specific emphasis on aggression, violence, and externalizing disorders; promoting healthy social and emotional development; school-based prevention; development of deaf children.

Janice Light

Research Interests

**Distinguished Professor
Communication Sciences & Disorders** Email Address: **JCL4@PSU.EDU**

Improving communication outcomes and enhancing quality of life for individuals who have significant speech and language impairments and require augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) (e.g., signs, communication boards, voice output assistive technologies).

Stephen Petrill

Research Interests

**Professor
Biobehavioral Health** Email Address: **SAP27@PSU.EDU**

Cognitive development across the lifespan, adoption, recovery from health problems in infancy and early childhood, links between elementary cognitive processes and complex cognitive skills.

Douglas Teti

Research Interests

**Professor
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **DTETI@PSU.EDU**

Socioemotional development in infancy and early childhood, parenting, and intervention strategies designed to promote early development and parent-child relations.