

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

**Development in Infancy and Childhood**

*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.

*Clancy Blair*

Research Interests

**Associate Professor  
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **CBB11@PSU.EDU**

Design and evaluation of preventive interventions; developmental relation between emotion and cognition in early childhood; application of epidemiological methods to the study of child development.

*Ingrid Blood*

Research Interests

**Professor  
Communication Sciences & Disorders** Email Address: **i2b@psu.edu**

Pediatric audiology, genetics of hearing loss, early hearing detection and intervention, psychosocial aspects of communication sciences and disorders; auditory dysfunction in children and adults who stutter; curriculum reform in undergraduate education.

*J. Douglas Coatsworth*

Research Interests

**Associate Professor  
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **JDC15@PSU.EDU**

Prevention research and theory; design and evaluation of family-based interventions to promote development and to prevent mental health and behavioral problems in children and adolescents; resilience.

*Ann Crouter*

Research Interests

**Professor  
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **AC1@PSU.EDU**

Interrelationships of parents' employment situations, family processes, and children's and adolescent's social development; gender socialization in middle childhood and adolescence.

*Jami Dellifraire*

Research Interests

**Assistant Professor  
Health Policy & Administration** Email Address: **jld40@psu.edu**

Children's health/hospital research, quality of care, underserved and uninsured populations, safety-net facilities, volume-outcome relationships.

*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.

*Scott Gest*

Research Interests

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

Reading and social competence in elementary school; peer relations; early preventive intervention; risk and adaptation from childhood to adulthood; behavioral inhibition.

*Douglas Granger*

Research Interests

**Professor  
Biobehavioral Health** Email Address: **DAG11@PSU.EDU**

Mechanisms and consequences of interactions between the central nervous and immune systems in animals and man; behavioral and cognitive correlates of children's adrenocortical reactivity to naturalistic psychosocial challenges; role of cytokines in the emergence of, and continuity in atypical development.

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<i>Mark Greenberg</i>	<b>Edna Peterson Bennett Endowed Chair in Prevention Research; Director, Prevention Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development Human Development &amp; Family Studies</b>	Email Address: <b>MXG47@PSU.EDU</b>
Research Interests	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.	
<i>Kim Haidet</i>	<b>Assistant Professor Nursing</b>	Email Address: <b>kkh1@psu.edu</b>
Research Interests	Developmental psychobiology, perinatal/neonatal care, infants' biobehavioral responses and health outcomes, parent-infant interactions and family dynamics, women's health issues.	
<i>Linda Hatfield</i>	<b>Assistant Professor Nursing</b>	Email Address: <b>lal153@psu.edu</b>
Research Interests	Analgesia elicited by behavioral and environmental interventions in acute and persistent pain models, efficacy and effectiveness of behavioral and environmental interventions during acute pain in infants and young children, pharmacological pain management of infants and young	
<i>Marianne Hillemeier</i>	<b>Assistant Professor Health Policy &amp; Administration</b>	Email Address: <b>MMH18@PSU.EDU</b>
Research Interests	Disparities in child and adolescent health; effects of context on health and health-related behavior; disparities in children's health care access and utilization; provider-family interaction in health care encounters; chronic conditions among children and adolescents including asthma and	
<i>Susan Mc Hale</i>	<b>Professor Human Development &amp; Family Studies</b>	Email Address: <b>X2U@PSU.EDU</b>
Research Interests	Family relationships and family roles (particularly gender roles) in childhood and adolescence; differential socialization of siblings.	
<i>Carol Miller</i>	<b>Associate Professor Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders</b>	Email Address: <b>CAM47@PSU.EDU</b>
Research Interests	Typical and atypical language development; children with specific language impairment; cognitive processes in communication disorders, with emphasis on speed of processing in children and adults with language disorders.	
<i>Maya Misra</i>	<b>Assistant Professor Health Policy &amp; Administration</b>	Email Address: <b>mmm35@psu.edu</b>
Research Interests	Behavioral and cognitive neuroscience (ERP and fMRI) investigations of the language processing system; reading development, reading skill, and reading impairment (e.g., developmental dyslexia); automatic components of lexical access; development of proficiency and cognitive control in bilinguals; bridging theory and practice in the field of reading disorders.	
<i>John Moran</i>	<b>Assistant Professor Health Policy &amp; Administration</b>	Email Address: <b>JRM12@PSU.EDU</b>
Research Interests	Health insurance; hospital care for children; use of medical care by the elderly; alcohol and tobacco policy.	
<i>Karl Newell</i>	<b>Professor and Associate Dean Deans Office</b>	Email Address: <b>KMN1@PSU.EDU</b>
Research Interests	Coordination, control and skill of normal and abnormal human movement across the life-span; development of coordination, acquisition of skill, information and movement dynamics, mental retardation and motor skills, drug exercise influences on movement control.	

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*Emilie Phillips Smith*

**Associate Professor; Interim Director, Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Contexts**

**Human Development & Family Studies**

Email Address: **eps10@psu.edu**

Research Interests

Preventing youth violence and aggression and promoting positive child and family development, approaches that develop partnerships across the home, school, and community contexts.

*Cynthia Stifter*

**Professor**

**Human Development & Family Studies**

Email Address: **TVR@PSU.EDU**

Research Interests

Socio-emotional development in infants, toddlers, and preschool children, specifically focused on emotion regulation and the emergence of behavior problems, psychophysiology, infant crying and colic, and parental regulation strategies.

*Douglas Teti*

**Professor**

**Human Development & Family Studies**

Email Address: **DTETI@PSU.EDU**

Research Interests

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