



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INSTITUTE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA - TULSA



The ECEI is an applied research group focused on early childhood, specifically research on young children birth to age 8. Our team of researchers and data collectors specializes in longitudinal studies, understanding early childhood workforce characteristics, and piloting measures to examine early childhood practice leading to improved child outcomes. We work in partnership with community agencies and researchers from affiliated fields to infuse multiple and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Vision

To understand and advance equity in early childhood

Mission

To advance and support equity in early childhood by generating and disseminating high-quality meaningful research



Our Research Priorities

Our goal is to conduct meaningful research focused on young children birth through age 8, with a concentration on infants and toddlers in the following areas:

- **Longitudinal determinants of child equity:** Identify features of diverse children's characteristics and their experiences at home and school that lead to positive outcomes
- **Early childhood services and quality of care:** Investigate aspects of classrooms and experiences most important to children's development and examine precursors of best practice
- **Early childhood workforce characteristics and well-being:** Expand understanding of teacher well-being and its importance by identifying the scope and nature of the struggles, strengths, and supports of early childhood professionals
- **The intersection of early childhood care and health:** Explore links between children's developmental and health outcomes by leveraging available resources of clinical and biomarker data and expertise
- **Early childhood measurement development:** Develop and refine measures of children's development and experiences by building on data collection and measurement expertise



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STRATEGY ONE

Enhance Reputation and Visibility

- Attract nationally-recognized research and community partners
- Expand scholarly impact in focal research areas by increasing the number of publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at national and international conferences
- Develop and disseminate research-to-practice briefs and engage with local and national partners to reach policy and program audiences
- Enhance our digital strategies and distribution channels to reach a larger and more varied audience with strategic messages

2 STRATEGY TWO

Increase and Diversify Funding

- Cultivate a strong network of collaborators by expanding productive partnerships and developing new connections
- Launch landmark projects that garner funding from federal agencies and national foundations
- Secure endowment funding to ensure strength of organization and invest in key positions and people
- Continue prudent stewardship of resources; deploy discretionary funds to seed or build new research activities





STRATEGY THREE

3 Build Organizational Capacity and Capabilities

- Recruit and retain a diverse, high-quality team including research faculty, staff, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate research assistants
- Build a strong infrastructure; focusing on data systems and management, communications, work environments and fiscal responsibility
- Plan for leadership succession and continued growth of our organization and staff
- Strengthen our team with targeted professional development including project management skills, technical competencies in research, statistics and measurement, budget development and management, and diversity and inclusion



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