Children at Risk

Leann Birch  
Distinguished Professor; Director, Center for Childhood Obesity Research  
Human Development & Family Studies  
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Research Interests  
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  
Professor  
Recreation, Park and Tourism  
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Research Interests  
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  
Associate Professor  
Health Policy & Administration  
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Research Interests  
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  
Assistant Professor  
Biobehavioral Health  
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Research Interests  
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  
Edna Peterson Bennett Endowed Chair in Prevention Research; Director, Prevention Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development  
Human Development & Family Studies  
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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.

Janice Light  
Distinguished Professor  
Communication Sciences & Disorders  
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Research Interests  
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  
Professor  
Biobehavioral Health  
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Research Interests  
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  
Professor  
Human Development & Family Studies  
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Research Interests  
Socioemotional development in infancy and early childhood, parenting, and intervention strategies designed to promote early development and parent-child relations.