

# A 10-Year Retrospect: The Origins of Baby Talk and the Symbolism of “Listening to Babies”

**USFSP BABY TALK WEEK**

**Educating-Principles: Listening to Babies**  
An interactive workshop and case for engaging all children in a positive early brain development and early learning

**FOR: Pinellas County Infant/Toddler Professionals**

**Friday, March 1, 2013**  
9:00am – 4:00pm

**USF St. Petersburg**  
University Student Center  
200-6th Ave So in St. Pete

**FOR: Family Home and Childcare Center Providers**  
(especially those serving African-American families)

**Saturday, March 2, 2013**  
9:00am – 12:00pm

**USF St. Petersburg**  
University Student Center  
200-6th Ave So in St. Pete

**Free Breakfast & Parking Provided** \*Registration Begins at 8:30am

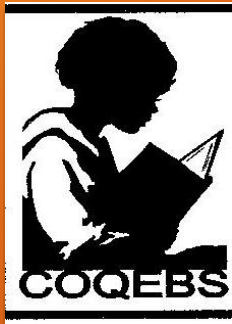
- Nationally recognized speakers
- Groundbreaking approach
- Enhance caregiver/child/teacher interactions to promote early brain development
- Interactive workshop activities
- FREE to attendees
- In-Service Training Hours, PCLB

**Free Breakfast & Parking Provided** \*Registration Begins at 8:30am

- Nationally recognized speakers
- Groundbreaking approach
- Enhance first-time providers' skills in working with infants/toddlers
- Hands-on activities emphasizing practical and useful skills to promote brain development
- FREE to attendees
- In-Service Training Hours, PCLB

To RSVP, Email Liz: [elz@usf.edu](mailto:elz@usf.edu) or call 727-516-5891, Limited Space Remaining

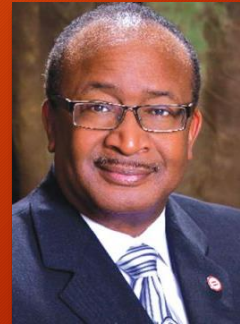
USF St. Petersburg gratefully acknowledges the support of the Tampa Bay Times for this event.



RENEWED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION—STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOR THE QUALITY OF BLACK STUDENTS, INC., AND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

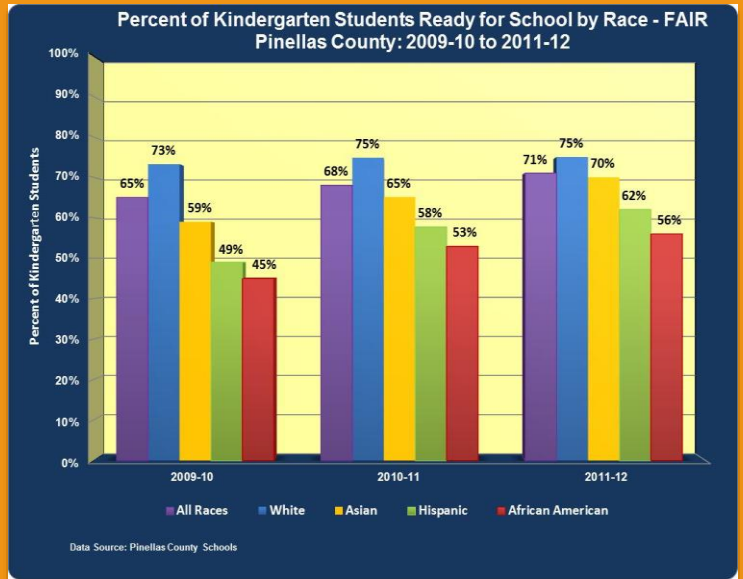
*Renewed Memorandum of Understanding*

U.S. District Court, in the case of **Leon W. Williams v. Pinellas County**, Case No. 8:64-CV-98-T-23T, regarding the Federal Supervision and Granting Unitary Status to Pinellas County, Florida, as embodied in an Amended Order of Consent dated October 22, 1999, and an Amended Stipulation of Dismissal (the "Agreement"); dismissed that case with prejudice, and the provisions of the Agreement, if necessary, to resolve their differences, and the provisions of the Agreement, if necessary, to attempt to resolve their differences,



## Origins of Baby Talk: October 2010 COQEBBS General Meeting

# Kindergarten Readiness in 2010



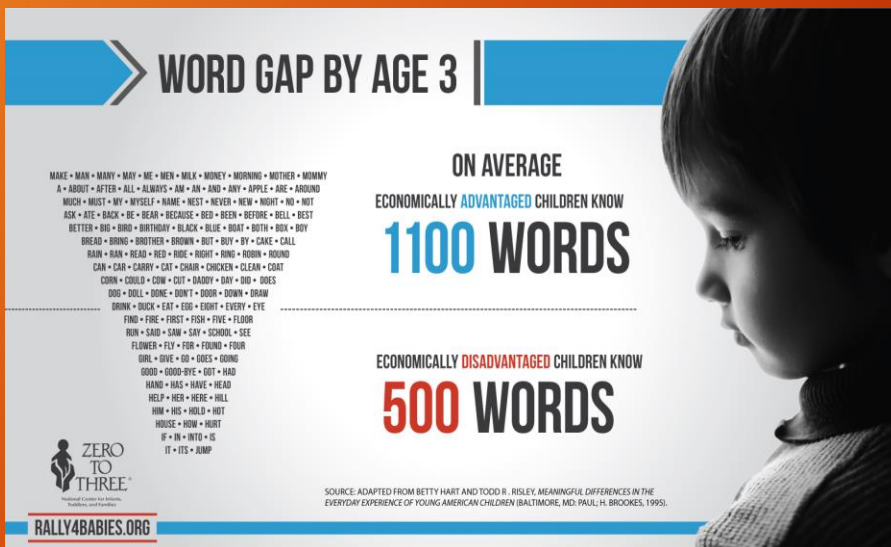
In February 2011  
COQEBS School Readiness Committee presented  
the First Annual “Baby Talk” event

# Closing The Gap: First Three Years of Life Provide Foundation for Brain's Architecture

Talking to Babies:  
Asking Questions,  
Offering Choices,  
Labeling

Reading to with  
Babies

Floor Time



[Video: President Obama on the word gap](#)



## Is it just **HEARING MORE WORDS**



Baby Mozart




What is Listening to Babies?





USF St. Petersburg &  
Concerned Organization for Quality Education  
for Black Students, Inc.  
*Present*

**Listening to Babies**



**Program Schedule**  
**March 1-2, 2013**

USF St. Petersburg  
University Student Center  
200 6th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL



*Polly Elam*, RIE President and Early Childhood Consultant, has served on the Board of Directors since 1986. She studied and worked with Magda Gerber for more than 20 years and has studied at the Pikler Institute with Anna Tardos and her colleagues on a regular basis since 1986. She is a PITC Graduate and Partners for Quality Instructor and has worked extensively with parents and childcare professionals, both nationally and internationally.



*Gail Nadal* is the Chair of the Alliance of RIE Associates. She currently works for the Yolo County Office of Education as the Director of Early Childhood Education. She is a part-time instructor for the Center for Excellence in Child Development at UC Davis Extension and is working with the Yolo County Early Head Start Program to incorporate the EduCaring™ Approach.

## RIE's goal is to help raise authentic infants who are:

- Competent      Focused      peaceful  
                         involved
- Cheerful                      cooperative  
         resourceful                      initiating
- Confident                      aware  
         secure                      attentive
- Curious                      exploring  
         interested                      inner-directed



RESOURCES  
FOR INFANT  
EDUCARERS

# In order to channel and amplify babies' native wisdom, RIE encourages:

Basic trust in the child to be an initiator, an explorer, and a self-learner.

An environment that is physically safe, cognitively challenging, and emotionally nurturing.

Time for uninterrupted play.

Freedom to explore and interact with other infants.

Involvement of the child in all care activities to allow the child to become an **active participant** rather than a passive recipient.

Sensitive observation of the child in order to understand the child's needs.

Consistency and clearly-defined limits and expectations to develop self-discipline.

# RESPECTING BABIES

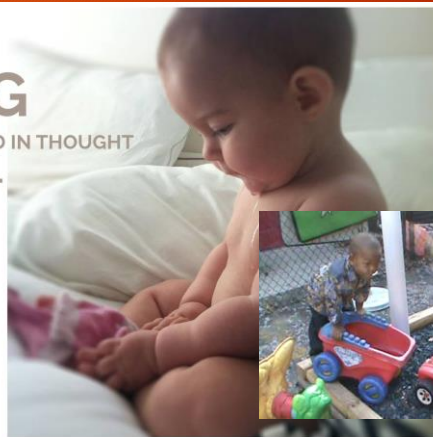
## "RESPECTING

THE MOMENTS OUR INFANT IS ENGAGED IN THOUGHT


– NOT INTERRUPTING –

WILL ENCOURAGE LONGER PERIODS OF PLAY THAT CAN EXTEND TO HOURS AS A BABY GROWS."

JANET LANSBURY








**USFSP**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
ST. PETERSBURG

It's about **BABY TALK WEEK** in Pinellas County!

**Listening to Babies 2014:**  
**A Developmental Approach to Discipline**

To enhance knowledge and skills for engaging with infants to promote early brain development and early learning



**COQEBB**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR: Pinellas County Infant/Toddler Professionals</b></p> <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><b>Friday, February 28, 2014</b> 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> <p><b>USF St. Petersburg</b> University Student Center 200-6<sup>th</sup> Ave So in St. Pete</p> </div> <p><small>* Free Breakfast &amp; Parking Provided      * Registration Begins at 8:30am</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ FREE to attendees</li> <li>➢ Nationally-recognized trainers</li> <li>➢ Learn how routines, interactions and environments lay the foundation for school-readiness in infants and toddlers</li> <li>➢ CEU's and PCLB In-Service Training Hours available</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR: Family Home and Childcare Center Providers</b> (especially those serving African-American families)</p> <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><b>Saturday, March 1, 2014</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm</p> <p><b>USF St. Petersburg</b> University Student Center 200-6<sup>th</sup> Ave So in St. Pete</p> </div> <p><small>* Free Breakfast &amp; Parking Provided      * Registration Begins at 8:30am</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ FREE to attendees</li> <li>➢ Nationally-recognized trainers</li> <li>➢ Culturally-informed approach</li> <li>➢ Enhance front-line providers' skills to help infants and toddlers learn to better self-regulate in order to be school-ready</li> <li>➢ CEU's and PCLB In-Service Training Hours available</li> </ul>
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**To Register:** <http://www.usfsp.edu/fsc/news-events/>  
**Liz Jack** at [emjack@usfsp.edu](mailto:emjack@usfsp.edu) or call 727-515-5891

Co-sponsored through a partnership between USF St. Petersburg and Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students

## 18 months

Children begin responding positively to choices and limits set by an adult to help control their behavior. (Meisels and others 2003; Kaler and Kopp 1990). For example, the child may:

Stop drawing on the wall when a parent asks. (18 mos.; Meisels et al., 2003)

Choose one toy when the infant care teacher asks, "Which one do you want?" even though the child really wants both.

Look to the infant care teacher to see his reaction when the child reaches toward the light switch.

Stop reaching for infant care teacher's eyeglasses when she gently says, "no no." (Scaled score of **10 for 7:16-8:15 mos.; Bayley 2006, 87; 12 mos**)



## 2015, LTB: ACEs, Trauma and Toxic Stress

Understand

Understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma on the young child, their brain development and attachment formation

Understand

Understand why failure to take a coparenting perspective in work with traumatized children runs the risk of creating re-traumatization experiences

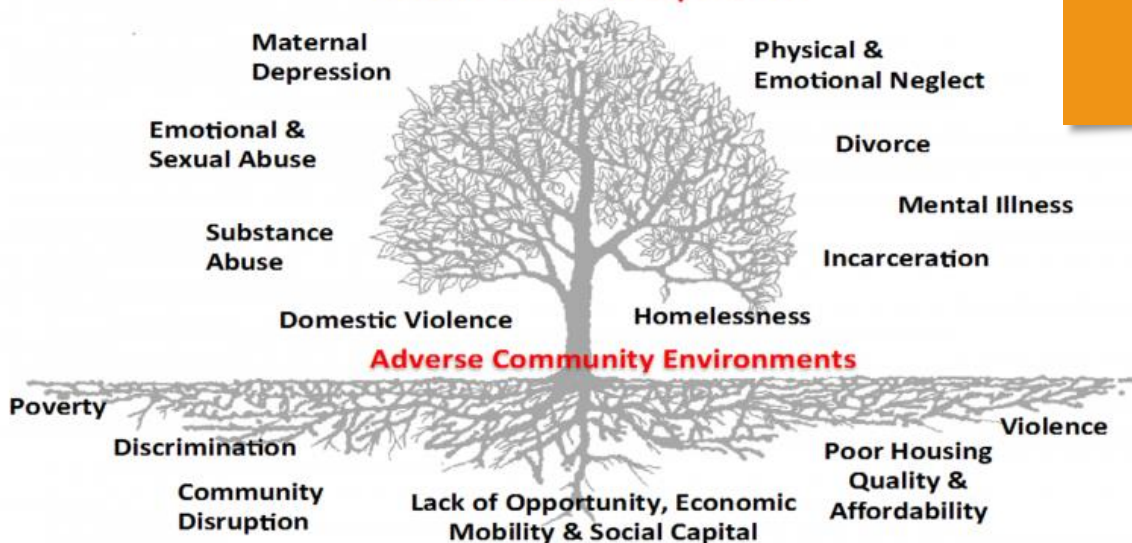
Understand

Understand the importance of the role of the professional in supporting families addressing trauma-based behaviors

Be

Be better prepared to provide sensitive responses to trauma-based behavior and to support parents and other professionals in providing sensitive responses to children and families

### Adverse Childhood Experiences



### Adverse Childhood Experiences

Reduces the ability to respond, learn, or figure things out, which can result in problems in school.

Lowers tolerance for stress, which can result in behaviors such as fighting, checking out, or defiance.

Increases difficulty in making friends and maintaining relationships

Increases problems with learning and memory, which can be permanent.

Increases stress hormones which affects the body's ability to fight infection.

Toxic stress increases heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing which can cause lasting health problems.



## Also, in Y3: Our Community

*Twanna Monroe, Director, Infinite Potential Learning Center*



**Briggs Brimm, Ed.D.**  
Office of Strategic Partnerships

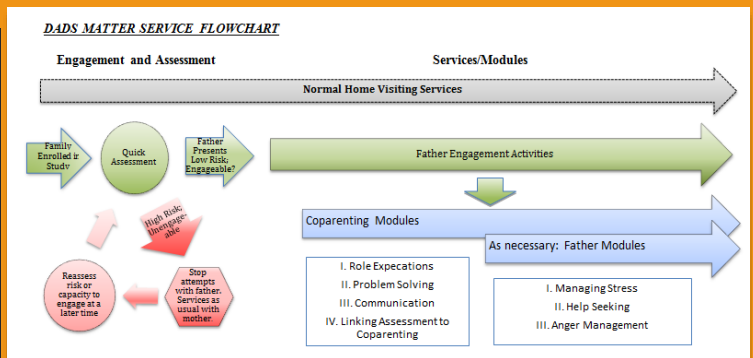
# Years 3 and 4: Listening to Babies: Dads, Coparenting



## Overcoming Agency Roadblocks: Supporting Father Engagement and Participation

Jennifer Bellamy  
University of Denver

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Listening to Babies  
Training Workshop  
February 26, 2016





## In *Our* Community: “Figuring It Out for the Child”

- Curriculum Developers and Clinical Supervisors: Gypsy Gallardo, MPP, Katherine McKay, Ph.D., Vikki Gaskin-Butler, Ph.D.
- Community Partners: Carole Alexander, Next STEPP; Kimberly Brown-Williams, Ray Hensley



## Formative Input from Black Male and Female Community Leaders

- Randolph B. Lewis, Director of Youth & Family Services, Pinellas County Urban League
- Carolyn Hepburn, MS, Healthy Start Project
- Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr., Mt Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church
- James E. Myles, Executive Director, Bethel Community Foundation, Inc.
- Gwendolyn Reese, Founding Chair of The Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas County
- Pastor Michael R. Watkins, Victory Christian Center Church
- Dale Watson, MPH, Pinellas County Health Department
- Dr. Oliver J. Williams, Executive Director, Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, University of Minnesota



**DEAR MOM**  
USF St. Petersburg Family Study Center presents  
**FIGURING IT OUT FOR THE CHILD!**  
FOR SINGLE MOMS & DADS WHO WANT TO BE STRONGER CO-PARENTS

**\$300 TO \$400 IN GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATING PARENTS**  
Parents eligible if mom is currently pregnant and baby will be born before April 30, 2020

**CALL FOR INFO OR TO REGISTER:**  
Mary Kelle  
727-410-3935

**OUR PARTNERS:**  
Family Ready Center  
National Institute of Child Health & Development  
The Sam O'Leary Center  
The 2020 Plus, Inc.  
Community Development & Training Center

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**  
USF 9856 P-000021492

**DADS & MOMS**  
USF St. Petersburg Family Study Center presents  
**FIGURING IT OUT FOR THE CHILD!**  
FOR SINGLE MOMS & DADS WHO WANT TO BE STRONGER CO-PARENTS

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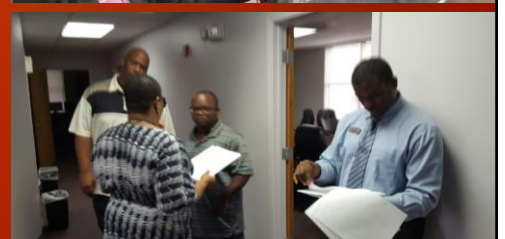
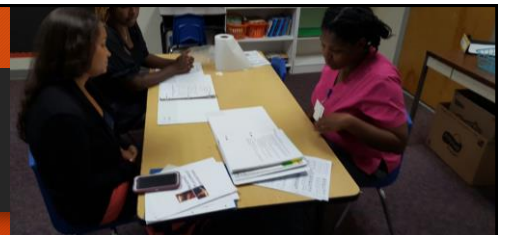
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**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**  
USF 9856 P-000021492

## Mentors were male-female teams, from our community

- Results: Declines in depression (both moms and dads) at 3 months, sustained to 12 months
- Better coparenting teamwork and father involvement at 3 months, better coparenting at 12
- Reductions in psychological aggression (arguing, name-calling) sustained to 12 months
- Both parents rated babies as showing fewer negative emotions, and moms rated their babies as less aggressive at 12 months
- Observations of mother-father problem-solving showed a Time X Group interaction for Male Problem-Solving Communication – Dads showed sustained benefit in using new skills

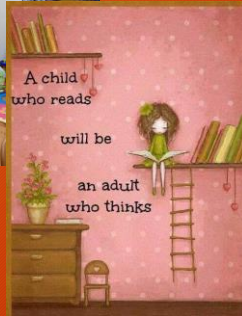








# Helping coparents listen to babies: Baby Talk Academy at Infinite Potential Learning Center

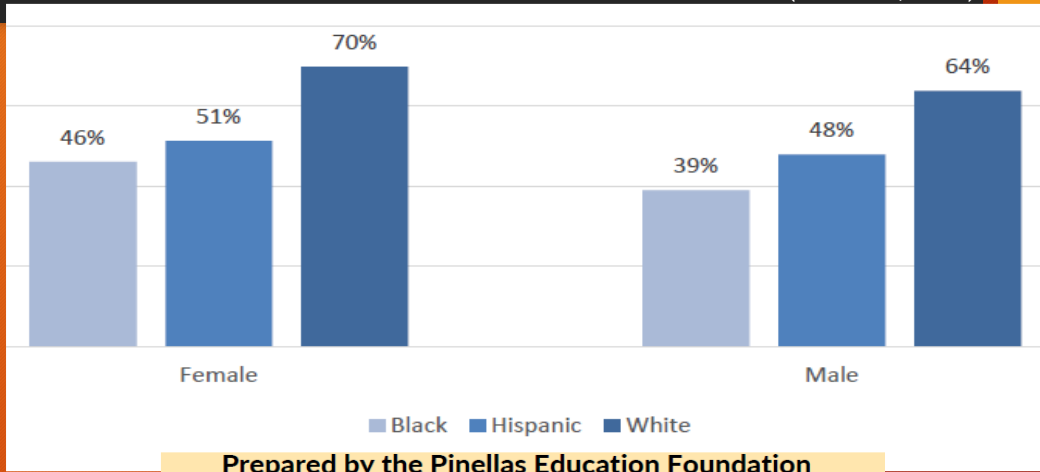


Despite the growing focus on strengths, social and emotional readiness, daycare and VPK behavior challenges, and childcare removals remained prominent topics





# SCHOOL READINESS COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS: AGE 3-4 CATCHUP WAS IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS KINDERGARTENERS IN 2017, 2018, 2019 COMBINED WHO SCORED ABOVE 500 ON THE FLKRS (N = 16,692)



Prepared by the Pinellas Education Foundation  
Supported by the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

## Years 5 and 6 LTB Programs: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, Reflective Supervision



**CHRISTOPHER WATSON, Ph.D.**  
(University of Minnesota - Twin Cities)  
Dr. Christopher Watson is a Research Associate in the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) in the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. His work is centered on professional development with a focus on the social and emotional development of young children, and reflective supervision/consultation to support practitioners working with young children and their families. He led a national team of researchers and clinicians in developing the Reflective Interaction Observation Scale (RIOS) to define and operationalize reflective supervision/consultation, and with funding from the Federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program evaluated the Minnesota Department of Health's system-wide reflective practice capacity building initiative. Dr. Watson directs the Minnesota Department of Education's Early Intervention Summer Institute and is Principal Investigator for a project assisting Minnesota's Department of Education build and maintain their innovative regional professional development system.



**DORRINDA WILLIAMS, Ph.D., LCSW-C, LICSW**  
(Georgetown University, Washington, DC)  
Dr. Dorrinda Williams is an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development (CCHD). She currently serves as the Faculty FAN Lead for the integration of reflective practice into DC-MIECHV home visits. Prior to her work at CCHD, Dr. Williams served as the Director of Military Family Programs at JAGT 10 THREE (JTF). During her tenure at JTF, Dr. Williams developed print materials, produced audioconferences, authored children's books, co-developed a parent app, contributed to curricula, provided training and consultation, and spearheaded new initiatives. Dr. Williams is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a comprehensive background in infant and early childhood mental health, parent-child attachment, reflective practice, home visitation, family stress and trauma, and military social work.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Listening to Babies:**  
*Applying the Science of Development to Innovative Practices for Babies and Families: Is Your Agency Ready?*

February 24, 2017  
8:30am-4:00pm

Sponsored by:  
USFID Family Health Center  
63252 Fisher Blvd., Clearwater Beach  
34617 • 771 West Coast  
St. Petersburg, FL

9:30 - 10:30 am Christopher Watson, Ph.D. and Co-presenter  
Dorrinda Williams, Ph.D.: Nurturing a Culture of Relationship & Reflection in Supervision, Practice and Programs

- What is Reflective Practice?
- What is Reflective Supervision and why is it so important?
- Using Reflective Supervision across disciplines



## Something was missing

- The latest, greatest ideas were fast becoming accessible in our county, agencies and providers showed interest in and signs of uptake, but the needle didn't seem to be moving

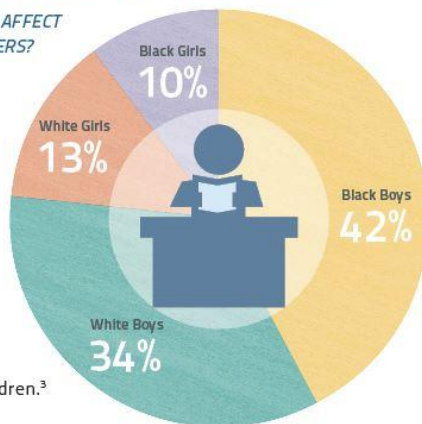


SRC Discussions 2018: Even well-prepared 5-year-olds from our higher quality programs were sometimes encountering kindergarten challenges

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BY DR. GILLIAM: Implicit Bias

#### DOES IMPLICIT BIAS AFFECT PRESCHOOL TEACHERS?

Recent research suggests yes, showing that when teachers were primed to expect bad behavior, they watched the black children, particularly black boys (42%), more than the white children.<sup>3</sup>



LTB Years 7, 8 and 9:  
Expanding from a focus  
just on changing the child,  
to also changing us...How  
are we perceiving and  
receiving children - and  
their parents?



ELEVATING CONSCIOUSNESS AND INFLUENCING PRACTICE

USF ST. PETERSBURG FAMILY STUDY CENTER  
**8TH ANNUAL LISTENING TO BABIES**



Please join us for our annual FREE training day for professionals working with babies, young children and their families. This year we welcome two nationally recognized trainers back to our community!

- Maureen Joseph, LMSW from New Orleans, LA (founder of TransSpire, Inc.)
- Haji Shearer from Boston, MA (author of "Facilitating Fathers' Groups: 22 Keys to Group Mastery")

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020  
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

WHERE: PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
(use 11th Ave entrance)  
901 34th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

REGISTER ONLINE:  
[bit.ly/listening2020](http://bit.ly/listening2020)

For more information, contact:  
ebonymiller@mail.usf.edu | 727-973-4848

8:30 am Registration with coffee provided.  
Lunch is on your own or is available for \$10  
purchase through the registration link.

Attendees will leave with increased knowledge about culturally sensitive practices in work with African American families, including fathers and other coparenting members of young children's family systems:

- Cross-sector discussion of the roles that historical trauma and implicit bias have on relationship-based practices
  - Acknowledging and honoring the culture and traditions of the families that we serve
  - Exploring evidence-informed practices that support culturally responsive service delivery
  - Reflecting on our collective experiences of bias and resiliency
- 6 FREE CE's offered (Board of Social Work, Mental Health, Marriage and Family) with PCLB hours available and CEUs donated in-kind by ELC

USF St. Petersburg Family Study Center  
BABY TALK WEEK 2019

**7th ANNUAL LISTENING TO BABIES**

A Promising Time: Cultural Considerations in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



Please join us for our 7th Annual FREE training day for professionals working with babies, young children and their families.

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 1  
LOCATION:  
SPC Allstate Center (The Florida Room)  
3200 34TH Street S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Attendees will leave with enhanced understanding of how culture impacts our life experiences and relationships with others and how we, as professionals working with infants, toddlers and families, can improve the ways we serve families and community.

- 8:30 am Registration & Coffee
- 9:00 am – 9:45 pm Anne Hogan, Ph.D. - Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children, and Families
- 9:45 am – 12:00 Maureen Joseph, LMSW – Historical and Race Based Trauma: An Intergenerational Model and Shifting our Cultural Perspectives
- 12:00 – 1:15 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
- 1:15 pm – 4:00 pm Maureen Joseph, LMSW and LaDonna Butler, Ed.D. – Collective Strategies for Transforming our Work with Innovative Practices in Cultural Attunement
- 6 FREE CE's (Board of Social Work, Mental Health and M & F) and CEUs donated in-kind by Early Learning Coalition

Invited Guest Speaker – Maureen Joseph, LMSW from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA and founder of Trans-Spire, Inc.

- 0-3: Experiences of children during the first 3 years of their lives, especially in out-of-home care, and maximizing quality of in-home and out-of-home early experiences
- Pre-K readiness: Attending to both socio-emotional and cognitive status of children before they enter pre-K, the overlooked age 3-4 years, especially those 3-4-year-olds who didn't have educaring or RIE-inspired childcare experiences from 0-3
- The Kindergarten Year: Finding ways to offer the same validation, respect and honoring of voice that occurred in the infant, toddler and VPK years for children once they did enter kindergarten

## Sankofa: Major Recurring Themes for SRC

### Other urgent and structural considerations



Those who care for children  
- honoring and supporting  
them with adequate pay



Adequate **hands** in the  
childcare center and pre-K  
classroom to LTB



Strengthening retention and  
preventing caregiver burnout



**The Washington Post**  
D.C. Politics

## D.C. government will send \$10,000 checks to the city's day-care workers

The council also voted to allow any senior citizen to buy medical marijuana without a doctor's note.



**BE SAFE**  
SYNÍD ABGÁT DUH  
FACHOWUJ BACZNOŚCI  
VAR PÓRDKTIG 安全  
BE SAFE  
BE SAFE  
BE SAFE

© 2022 The Washington Post. All rights reserved. This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2022/02/22/dc-council-votes-to-send-10k-checks-to-day-care-workers/>

**The Washington Post**  
February 22, 2022 | Updated on Feb 22, 2022 at 4:23 a.m. EDT

Thousands of day-care workers in Washington will get personal checks from the D.C. government for at least \$10,000, after the D.C. Council voted unanimously Tuesday to redirect tax dollars from the city's richest residents to child-care workers, who legislators say they believe are underpaid.

The council raised taxes on the city's highest earners last year, and the members voted at that time to set aside \$33 million in the first year of that tax to somehow raise the pay of day-care workers, saying that their work was vital to the city's families but not sufficiently compensated by their current salaries.

## Other urgent and structural considerations

**Access:** Meeting families where they are, not where we are, making supports and services accessible to them in ways they can use

**Lived experience:** Recognizing and addressing the structural context that affects families and their lived experiences

**Poverty and wealth:** Reckoning with the realities that living in poverty is the greatest factor determining the outcome of children's well-being.

# City of St. Petersburg Structural Racism Study

[https://www.stpete.org/residents/current\\_projects/planning\\_projects/structural\\_racism\\_study.php](https://www.stpete.org/residents/current_projects/planning_projects/structural_racism_study.php)


<p><b>Dr. Ruthmae Sears</b> Principal Investigator, Professor of Mathematics, Co-Chair of the National Accelerating Systemic Change Network</p>	<p><b>Dr. Johannes Reichgelt</b> Co-Principal Investigator of Information Systems, Director of Institute for Data Analytics</p>	<p><b>Dr. James McHale</b> Co-Principal Investigator, Professor of Psychology, Executive Director of the USF St. Petersburg Infant-Family Mental Health Center</p>	<p><b>Ms. Gwendolyn Reese</b> Co-Principal Investigator, President of the African American Heritage Association</p>	<p><b>Ms. Gypsy Gallardo</b> Co-Principal Investigator, Author and CEO of the Power Broker Media Group, One Plan Community and Urban Market Analytics</p>	<p><b>Mr. Tim Dutton</b> Co-Principal Investigator, Foundation for a Healthy St Petersburg</p>
<p><b>Dr. Fenda Akiwumi</b> Co-Principal Investigator, Professor of Geosciences, Director of the Institute on Black Life</p>	<p><b>Dr. Dana Thompson-Dorsey</b> Co-Principal Investigator, Professor of Education, Director of Anchin Center</p>	<p><b>Dr. Michelle Bradham-Cousar</b> Project Manager</p>	<p><b>Mr. Jabaar Edmond</b> Community Partner, VP Childs Park N.A. Program Director CDAT Center</p>	<p><b>Mr. Casey Lepak</b> Student Collaborator</p>	<p><b>Ms. Jalessa Blackshear</b> Student Collaborator</p>

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			<p><b>CANDIDATES 2020</b> </p>







Other invisible barriers:  
The infant mental health field























# ZERO TO THREE®


National Center for Infants,  
Toddlers, and Families

BOARD OFFICERS

			
Walter S. Gilliam <i>Chair of the Executive Search Committee</i>	Bronze Jones Hansen <i>Vice President</i>	Matthew Holmes <i>Executive Director</i>	Eden A. Haseok <i>Treasurer</i>
			
Paul Spicer		Kim A. Thompson	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

			
Walter S. Gilliam <i>Chair of the Board</i>	Michelle Daniels <i>President and CEO</i>	Christina Johnson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Mary Margaret Johnson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>
			
John DeMeyer <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Christine Davis <i>Executive Director</i>	John W. Latta <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Brent Rife <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>
			
James D. Johnson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Liz Kessler <i>Executive Director</i>	Michelle Peterson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Katherine Ryan <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>
			
William E. Dennis <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Ray Peterson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Eugene F. Ryan <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Barbara Peterson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>
			
Christine Davis <i>Executive Director</i>	Michelle Peterson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Katherine Ryan <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>	Barbara Peterson <i>Executive Director of the Zero to Three National Program</i>



## ZERO TO THREE

Early connections last a lifetime



## So...Are We Listening?

### LISTENING TO BABIES 2021 "ARE YOU LISTENING?"



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Venue: Conference offered online  
via ZOOM

During this year's interactive conference, participants will explore the strengths, struggles and strategies of "listening" to families, especially during times of crisis. This year's event will specifically attend to the influence of culture and trauma, experiences of babies and families and strategies to enhance our listening skills.

Open to all professionals who serve children and families prenatally through age 5, the training promotes culturally sensitive practice in supporting the social-emotional development of young African American children.

*Free CE's available (Board of Social Work, Mental Health, Marriage & Family) and CEUs donated in-kind by the Early Learning Coalition! Pinellas County Licensing Board hours available.*

Please register in  
advance for this meeting:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



**Keynote: Dr. Barbara Stroud**

Barbara Stroud, PhD, is a renowned trainer, consultant, author, co-founder of California's Association of Infant Mental Health (CAAIMH), and a member of the Academy of ZERO TO THREE Fellows.

## LTB and Sankofa: Things Not to Forget

- The big 3 Listening to Babies emphases that none of us must leave behind: 0-3 respect, 3-4 catchup, the K year script flip
- Always keeping a trauma lens remember for families - it's life, just life
- Accept that there is also trauma related to differential experiences of being Black in America, including being Black in Pinellas County and its service systems





## LTB and Sankofa: Things Not to Forget

- Self-reflect if “must fix that child, why won’t that family engage with us?” becomes your mantra. Self-determination metaphors disregard **context**
- Without abandoning the LTB Big 3, also aggressively aim to transform that context: insufficient resources, putting money in hands of parents, having it follow the child, generating more childcare workers who are better supported with respectful wages, placing more caring hands on the ground



## LTB and Sankofa: Things Not to Forget

- Acknowledge that filtering the work that must get done through the eyes of white agency heads and managers has an effect
- Own that it is hard to achieve collective impact when only some advance ideas others haven’t vetted, but must ascribe to
- Know everybody is trying, there’s no culprit, but it will take thick skin, hard work and regular self-reflection to build a functional and inclusive coalition
- Commit to honoring, receiving and abetting parent and community self-determination





Henceforth, in all we do,  
listen to babies