Faculty Symposium
on Embedding Core Principles of
Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
into Curriculum

PRESENTER/FACILITATOR BIOS

Jane Ellison, MS, LMFT is an early childhood mental health specialist. She has extensive experience working with young children and their families in multiple roles. She has a Masters Degree in Community Counseling, Licensure in Parent Education, Early Childhood Education, and Marriage and Family Therapy and holds clinical endorsement in Infant Mental Health. She has taught at St. Cloud State University, is a University of MN CEED field faculty in infant mental health and has participated in clinical training using the DC 0-3R for diagnosis of early childhood mental health concerns. She has a small private practice working with children birth to age five with social and emotional concerns, and is Project Manager for Greater St. Cloud Area Thrive, a community coalition focusing on healthy social and emotional development of children birth to age five.

Michele Fallon, LICSW is a licensed clinical social worker endorsed at Level IV in infant and early childhood mental health through the MN Association of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (MAIECMH), of which she is currently co-chair. With 40 years of experience with young children and families across a variety of settings, Michele currently provides infant and early childhood mental health reflective consultation, supervision and training for home visitors, early care and education providers, foster parents, early childhood special education, and others working with young children and their families. She is also an online instructor for the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota.

Mary Harrison, Ph.D., LICSW is a Research Associate at the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED). She holds a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Minnesota, a clinical social work license, and a master’s degree in public policy from the Humphrey School. Dr. Harrison researches Reflective Supervision/Consultation, a professional development and support model for practitioners working with infants, young children and their families/caregivers. She has practiced clinically with young children and families in a child abuse prevention program, preschool mental health day treatment program, and as an early childhood mental health consultant for preschoolers. She has also taught social work classes at the University of Minnesota and St. Olaf College. Dr. Harrison is currently designing and implementing an online training program for child welfare workers and other practitioners working with infants and young children, as well as contributing to other projects at CEED.
JoAnn (JJ) Johnson, Ph.D. is a professor at Saint Cloud State University in the Child and Family Studies Department. Her academic studies include a B.S. in Special Education and Elementary Education, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Early Intervention, Special Education from the University of Oregon. Her professional experiences in disabilities services and studies include hospital-, home-, and center-based early intervention and developmental services; developmental assessment and evaluation; supervision and program coordination; and university and outreach training and instruction. Since the 1990s, Dr. Johnson has worked with both federal and numerous state departments of education and provided workshops and training throughout the United States and internationally on the use of the AEPS and activity-based intervention for families and professionals.

Mary Ann Marchel, Ph.D. is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth and teaches undergraduate and graduate level coursework in the Unified Early Childhood Studies Program. She received her Ph. D. in 1996 from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and her MSW from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2013. Dr. Marchel is a member of the Zero to Three Academy of Fellows is certified in the Newborn Brazelton Observation System (NBOS); the Nursing Child Assessment Satellite Training (NCAST). In addition, Dr. Marchel is a certified Infant Massage Instructor. Her research focuses on caregiver child relationships and related intervention programs.

Kelly McKown, MS is a faculty member at Saint Paul College and a board member of Child Care Aware of Minnesota. She has been teaching in technical/community colleges for over 25 years. Before that, she taught in Head Start, child care centers, preschools, ECFE, and family child care. The focus of the courses she teaches is on early brain development, attachment, early intervention, health, safety, and nutrition. She also works with a variety of organizations in their work to improve the access to quality early childhood care and education.

Glen Palm, Ph.D. is a Professor Emeritus of Child and Family Studies at St. Cloud State University where he worked for 30 years from 1983-2013. He taught courses on Child Development, Family Studies and Parent Education and coordinated the Parent Education Licensure Program. He has worked as a parent educator in ECFE programs for 35+ years. As a researcher/practitioner he has studied ethics in parent and family education, fathers and attachment, parent education and incarcerated fathers, the role of fatherhood in influencing men’s values and moral/religious beliefs, fathers and their influence on social emotional development in young children and fathers’ role in early literacy development. Dr. Palm has written extensively about fathers and parent education including co-authoring two books: Fathers and Early Childhood Programs (2004) with Jay Fagan and Group Parent Education: Promoting Parent Learning and Support (2004) with Deborah Campbell.