



UF

GO GREATER

ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES & ADVOCACY



Anita Zucker Center
for Excellence in Early
Childhood Studies



ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD *at the University of Florida*

Together, we can GO GREATER to support all children and families during the first five years of a child's life. Advancing early childhood is a critical priority and top University of Florida goal shared by academic leaders, faculty and students.

The Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies is UF's central hub for our university-wide work in this area.

Thanks to a transdisciplinary team of scholars, partners and advocates, the Anita Zucker Center can change the paradigm in research, policy and practice. We can create, implement and share solutions that spur transformative change and unleash potential.

Our long-view vision is to close the chronic chasms and build a healthier future for children, families and communities. But we can't do it alone.

With your support, our unique constellation of scholars, partners and advocates can advance early childhood. Together, we can keep children healthy and safe. Open doors to early education and long-term success. Support nurturing caregivers. Advance research and solutions. And foster resiliency for our children and families, our economy, our nation — and our world.

STARTING AHEAD MEANS STAYING AHEAD

THE FIRST 1,825 DAYS OF A CHILD'S LIFE ARE CRITICAL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING.

Buffers like nurturing caregivers, food security, or quality early education programs can mitigate risks and foster resiliency.

For too many children who are vulnerable — those living in poverty or unsafe neighborhoods, with developmental delays or no medical home, or with unstable access to food — these risks negatively affect their futures.

But these challenges are too vast to be overcome by a single academic discipline.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE ANITA ZUCKER CENTER UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO SUCCEED. It brings together transdisciplinary faculty and other key stakeholders within — and outside — the university to build partnerships and generate innovative solutions.

The center's faculty, students and staff bridge the gap between current policies and practices on the books, and the daily experiences of children and families. And in 2017, the center expanded its breadth, depth and expertise even further when it convened the Early Childhood National Summit. With more than 100 peer experts from around the country, we tackled the grandest challenges in early childhood and collaborated on recommended actions to address everything from nurturing early development to caregiver collaboration.

WE FOCUS ON THEIR FUTURE

As an integral part of its mission to support young children's health, development, learning and wellbeing, our university-wide commitment to early childhood focuses on four areas:

GENERATING KNOWLEDGE

From leading investigations of effective interventions to professional development, our research is focused on evidence-informed practices. The center is advancing research in policy development and analysis, promotion, prevention and intervention practices, as well as early learning and neuroscience.

PREPARING LEADERS

Faculty leaders are shaping tomorrow's experts who will inform and transform the future of early childhood studies. Our training and mentorship results in world-class post-doctoral associates, doctoral and master's students.

ENGAGING WITH PARTNERS

Collaboration expands our impact. We work in partnership with local, state, national and global stakeholders, including local providers in Alachua County, the Children's Movement of Florida and the World Health Organization.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Our outcomes bridge the gaps between research, practice — and experience. We partner with the Southwest Advocacy Group (SWAG), the CHILD (Children's Health, Imagination, Learning and Discovery) Center, and the Alachua County Commission to improve local lives.

Our university-wide collaborations include affiliate faculty from the UF College of Education, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), the Levin College of Law, College of Medicine, the College of Public Health & Health Professions, the Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center and the Institute for Child Health Policy (ICHP).





GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, the University of Florida can GO GREATER to foster resiliency, mitigate risk, and create safe, stable and nurturing relationships and quality early care and education opportunities for children in Florida, across the nation and around the world.

Our current resources include private philanthropic gifts, federal grants, and strategic partnerships that ensure our sustainability — and success. These are the priority areas where you can make a difference with us:

PREPARING LEADERS FOR WORK, CITIZENSHIP AND LIFE

Graduate fellowships nourish the pipeline of leadership for students, strengthening research specialties, and playing a critical role in advancing faculty discoveries.

EMBOLDENING PREEMINENT FACULTY

Professorships and endowments help attract and retain diverse and distinguished faculty, growing our preeminence in teaching, scholarship and discovery.

GROWING RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP TO IMPROVE LIVES

Our projects and initiatives seek solutions to major challenges in early childhood, from poverty or unsafe neighborhoods, to developmental delays or no medical home.

STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

Pilot projects and partnerships cultivate opportunities to collaborate and innovate, as we seek to lead the nation's advancement in early childhood research, policy and practice.

UF | **Anita Zucker Center**
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