



The **CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (CEHD)** is based in the Division for Health and Behavior within the Department of Population Health at the New York University School of Medicine.

OUR CHALLENGE AND OUR COMMITMENT

In the US, 80% of the population lives in urban areas, and minority children are 6 to 9 times more likely than White children to live in concentrated poverty. Racial and ethnic minority children living in urban poverty bear a disproportionate burden of costly public health problems. Disparities in health and development are evident early in childhood and increase over time, resulting in high rates of high school dropout, delinquency and obesity.

Science calls for investing in families. Rigorous randomized controlled trials demonstrate that supporting families early in life can ameliorate the potentially devastating impact of poverty-related stressors on learning, behavior and health, especially for children who are at highest risk.

OUR VISION is that CEHD (or “seed”) is a leader in national efforts to reduce the achievement gap and health disparities for vulnerable children, particularly ethnic minority children living in urban poverty.

OUR CORE VALUES. Collaboration. Autonomy. Culture. Community. Evidence.

OUR SPIRIT. We partner. We listen. We respect. We engage.

CEHD faculty and staff include scientists, clinicians and educators from diverse professional backgrounds, working in strong partnership with schools and community-based early educational settings and state, and local leaders in education and health.

CEHD RESEARCH includes efficacy and effectiveness trials, longitudinal and follow-up studies, and implementation and dissemination studies. We conduct studies with Black, Latino and Asian children to advance understanding of cultural and contextual influences on parenting and children’s learning, behavior and health. Over the past two decades, we have developed and tested ParentCorps, a family-centered, school-based intervention, as a population-level approach to mitigating the impact of poverty on early childhood health and development. ParentCorps was designed to be relevant, engaging and effective for culturally diverse families and aims to foster healthy development and school success among young children living in disadvantaged urban neighborhoods.

Grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Institute of Education Sciences support two major initiatives:

- Cluster (school) randomized controlled trials and long-term follow-up studies of ParentCorps impact on Black and Latino children’s health and development in high poverty schools in New York City and formative work to inform implementation in sub-Saharan Africa.
- A longitudinal study of Latino children’s health and development in high poverty schools in New York City

In partnership with the New York State Office of Mental Health, the NYC Department of Education and numerous foundations, we are also conducting implementation and dissemination studies of ParentCorps in elementary schools and large community-based organizations with universal pre-kindergarten programs throughout NYC.



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